



PREHOSPITAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report
11 May 2017
1000 hours
EHSF Conference Room

Attendance

Present:	Scott Buchle	Chair
	Darrell Fisher	Lancaster County EMS Council
	Kelly Altland	Northeastern Area EMS
	Ray Birkmire	JeffStat
	Eric Durham	Hanover Hospital ALS
	Devin Flickinger	Holy Spirit EMS
	Matthew Hauck	Silver Spring Ambulance
	Liz Heller	Fayetteville Fire Department EMS
	Jerry Schramm	Lancaster EMS
	Newt Shirker	North West EMS
	Andrew Snavely	Holy Spirit EMS
	Joshua Worth	Susquehanna Valley EMS
Staff:	Megan A. Ruby	Director of System Operations
	Michael J. Guerra	Resource Coordinator
	Timothy S. Melton	System Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Buchle called the meeting to order at 1001 hours and asked for introductions.

OLD BUSINESS

ePCR Project Update

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF is evaluating alternative funding sources for project sustainability. Based on the current funding and anticipated funding in the future, the EHSF will not be able to absorb all costs of the ePCR program. EMS agencies can anticipate the ePCR project to be fully funded by the EHSF until the end of Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Healthcare (CP/MIH)

Ms. Ruby announced the EHSF will be postponing the CP/MIH Summit to later in the summer or early autumn.

Coroner Interaction with EMS

Mr. Melton reported on his progress with the creation of the EMS Guide for Coroner Interaction. Mr. Melton highlighted some of the information within the guidelines. The document will be shared electronically for review by the committee members prior to the next meeting.

PA Train

Ms. Ruby reported more courses are being added to the site. There are two EMSVO courses available at this time.

Ms. Ruby also announced the EHSF received inquiries about setting up groups similar to the old learning management through Centrelearn. The EHSF will provide information about groups to the EMS agencies once information is provided by the Department of Health, Bureau of EMS.

Proposal for Syringe Epinephrine Kits by EMTs

Ms. Ruby stated the proposal for syringe epinephrine kits by EMTs was forwarded to the State MAC and is being considered. The State MAC is inquiring if a stop-gap syringe exists to avoid overdose of epinephrine.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Survivor Event

Ms. Ruby announced the sudden cardiac arrest survivor event will be held Saturday, 20 May 2017. The response of survivors attending is lower than intended. The EHSF is asking for EMS agencies with known survivors to consider attending the event in Lancaster.

Ms. Ruby reported through the event planning, the EHSF learned the difficulty of obtaining contact information for cardiac arrest survivors. The EHSF recognizes the need for a regional cardiac arrest repository and will evaluate if they can gather survivor information. The EHSF would like to host a regional event in the future.

Ms. Ruby provided the EHSF is going to work with the hospital representatives to provide patient outcomes to EMS. Some EMS agencies provided their hospitals do not provide patient outcomes for cardiac arrest patients.

Public Service Calls

Mr. Buchle discussed the concerns of public service calls. He explained the Penn State Hershey Medical Center was unable to secure a graduate student to evaluate the data for the fall and spring semester. They intend to try again in the fall.

NEW BUSINESS

Intermediate ALS (IALS)

Ms. Ruby reported the use of IALS will continue to be a topic of discussion. Ms. Ruby reported a new interpretation of the EMS Rules and Regulations provides IALS may not have to be in service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The section of the Rules and Regulations speaking to EMS planning provides if an agency operates a BLS agency, they may operate IALS less than 24 hours a day if the BLS agency is always in service. Ms. Ruby provided the EHSF is awaiting a response from the Bureau of EMS regarding the interpretation as this is different direction than received before.

Ms. Ruby reported the consensus of stakeholders in the region is the operations of IALS will not change dispatching at this time. EMS agencies will continue to be dispatched class I, II, and III. If an EMS agency has IALS capabilities for a class I dispatch, the EMS agency can cancel IALS when it is determined a Paramedic level or higher certification is not required to manage the patient. Ms. Ruby provided the EHSF will create a working group to include Dr. Reihart to further review dispatching in the region.

Certification Processing

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF is educating providers and EMS agencies regarding certification changes as outlined in the EMS Act and Rules and Regulations. Ms. Kauffman has been e-mailing providers at least 90 days before their certification expiration date as a reminder. The reminder cites the Rules and Regulations requirements to submit requirements at least 30 days prior to the expiration. This requirement provides regional council staff time to process certifications and helps EMS agency managers have ample time to schedule staffing.

Ms. Ruby also reported the EMSVO requirements. According to the Rules and Regulations, EMSVO continuing education is required. Ms. Kauffman is communicating this requirement with providers.

Continuing Education Sponsors

Ms. Ruby reported the requirements to submit courses for continuing education. Ms. Kauffman is communicating with continuing education sponsors regarding the 30-day requirement, public domain, and expiration dates.

Certification by Endorsement

Ms. Ruby announced the Department of Health, Bureau of EMS distributed a new certification by endorsement process. Providers are now required to obtain background checks from the state(s) of current certification and state of residence. The affiliate form is still a requirement.

Staffing Requirements

Ms. Ruby reminded the leadership the driver of an emergency vehicle must have the EMSVO certification.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

EHSF Staffing

Ms. Ruby announced a program coordinator position in education and certification is now vacant.

DOH Staffing

Ms. Ruby announced the State EMS Director, Richard Gibbons, resigned from his position. The Deputy Secretary of Health, Raphael Barishansky, is acting as the interim director.

2017 Protocols

Ms. Ruby provided the EMS protocols are scheduled to be released on 15 May 2017. The EHSF will distribute the materials as soon as they are received. The effective date is scheduled for 01 September 2017.

EMS Week

Ms. Ruby announced EMS Week is May 21 to 27, 2017 and provided an overview of activities.

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

Ms. Ruby announced the tentative meeting dates for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Buchle adjourned the meeting at 1130 hours.

The next Prehospital Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for 14 September 2017 at 1000 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan A. Ruby
Director of System Operations