

EMS Advisory Committee
March 20, 2013

Attendees:

William Hathaway	Mark Considine, EMS District 8, 9, 11 & 13
Jim Finger, EMS District 10	Debra Bach, Nurse Manager
Mike Leyden, VDH EMS	Seth Lasker
Mike Paradis, EMS District 2 & 5	Ray Walker, VDH EMS
Will Moran	Steve Jeffrey, VLCT
Patrick Malone, IREMS	Adam Heuslein
Dan Wolfson, MD, VDH EMS	Dan Manz, Essex Rescue
William Brunelli, MD	Chris Bell, OPHP & EMS
Erin Ingebretsen, VSFA	

Meeting called to order by Chris Bell at 1302.

Minutes from the 12/5/12 meeting were reviewed. There were no suggestions or corrections.

Work Plan for Committee

1) EMS Plans for Towns

At the last meeting, the committee discussed surveying town officials to determine their awareness level of EMS in their communities. Committee members were asked to submit questions to include in the survey. Randy Terk submitted the following list:

Questions on EMS for VT Towns submitted for consideration by VT EMSAC (Dec 2012):

1. How is EMS provided in your town?
2. What is the cost to the town?
3. How did you (the town) determine the service(s) to be utilized for EMS?
4. In an emergency, how will your EMS service(s) provide adequate resources?
5. How is mutual aid (back-up) provided to your EMS service?
6. Which EMS services are available to provide resources?

Additional questions were suggested:

How do towns fund EMS?

Should towns be required to have an EMS plan?

The committee agreed to keep the survey to no more than 10 questions.

Chris reminded the group that the survey's purposes were to ascertain town leaders' level of EMS awareness and to initiate discussions with towns about the need for an EMS plan.

ACTION: EMS staff will use Survey Monkey to create the survey and send the link to committee members for review.

Steve Jeffrey recommended that a cover letter be attached explaining the purpose of the survey, to explain acronyms and terminology and explain what the EMS plan would entail. Chris Bell said that it is unclear at this point what the plan would entail.

The committee agreed that a survey should be sent out, but there was not unanimity about whether to recommend towns have an EMS plan. Those who expressed opposition stated that town officials probably don't have the expertise to formulate an EMS plan and that recommending they create an EMS plan could be perceived as an unfunded state mandate.

The lack of consensus raised a discussion about whether the committee should adopt parliamentary procedures so that votes can be recorded. Chris explained that we could take votes, but it might also be acceptable not to reach consensus and to report varied viewpoints. Pat Malone suggested that this be an agenda item for the next meeting.

ACTION: Add to next meeting agenda: Discuss formalizing the process by which the committee makes recommendations.

2) District consolidation recommendations

Chris reported that a survey of other states shows that the responsibilities of EMS districts or regions and the ways they were established vary widely. No states other than Vermont use hospital catchment areas. Some district offices are satellite state offices funded by and staffed by the state. Others play more of a coordinating role; in still other states, medical direction is provided through district or regional entities.

Mike Leyden reported that at their February meeting, District Medical Advisors expressed support for retaining the existing 13 districts. Dr. Brunelli stated that expanding the size of the districts would create more work for DMAs and might expand the number of advanced level providers they would need to manage beyond their comfort level. Although most committee members expressed support for the status quo, others questioned whether consolidation might bring more administrative efficiencies. There was general consensus that medical control should remain aligned with hospital catchment areas.

ACTION: Committee members representing the EMS districts will approach the districts they represent to discuss consolidation. The EMS office will provide talking points based on the discussion at this meeting.

3) Response times

The committee is not charged with making a recommendation about response times. The EMS office will provide response times using SIREN data.

EMS Updates

Online LMS- Centrelearn Solutions, LLC

The state contract with Centrelearn Solutions was recently signed after a process that began last July. The EMS office will create accounts on the system for all licensed EMS personnel. NREMT allows a generous amount of online CE – check the NREMT website for information. Instructors can post recorded training sessions on the LMS. The system will allow users to track LMS and non-LMS CE, and the system will be able to export data in a format that NREMT and other systems use. The EMS office is working with NREMT to automate that transaction, but to date, NREMT has been resistant to this sort of connection. The remainder of the special funds not spent on the LMS will be distributed to districts. The EMS office will follow up with districts.

Transition courses

Transition courses continue around the state. FAQs are on now the VTEMS website – EMT-I's transitioning to AEMT should pay special attention to CE and NREMT transition information.

Instructor/Coordinator Bridge course

The EMS office has developed an 8-hour bridge course for VT EMS I/C licensure targeted to people who have completed an instructor course in another discipline or have other education credentials. One session was held in Stowe earlier this month and another will take place next week in Rutland. After completing the 1-day course, the candidates will participate in 4 – 8 hours of mentored peer reviewed teaching.

Protocols

Protocol revisions are on track more or less. In addition to collecting feedback from the VT EMS community, EMS office leaders met with 11 of the 13 district medical advisors in February and achieved a great deal of consensus. Now the EMS office is updating and revising the draft protocols and expects to have a version ready for review by the EMS community by the end of April. The expected go live date will be this summer.

Credentialing

No report

EMS Conference

A request for proposals will be going out shortly for a conference planner. The Sheraton in Burlington will not be available this year, so the EMS office is looking at 3 or 4 other sites. The conference will take place in October or November.

SIREN

All ambulance services which are not already using another electronic incident reporting system are entering data into SIREN. The data dictionary is finally completed and will be sent to EMS agencies shortly. Field Bridge updates: the original plan was to send out

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new and used laptops to ambulance services, but a recent allocation of funding will now allow the EMS office to provide all new laptops and then allocate used ones later. The EMS office is also working to obtain a statewide Field Bridge license so that all ambulance services will have access to Field Bridge at no cost. Field Bridge allows a user to create an incident report without an internet connection. Now that these implementation tasks are nearing completion, Jenna will soon be working with agencies on QA/QI and other activities.

EMS for Children Program

The EMSC program has issued an RFP to hold 4 PEPP courses in the near future with the goal of training new PEPP instructors

EMS State Training Coordinator

The search for a new STC is ongoing.

Rulemaking

No report.

Recruitment and Retention:

No report.

Ambulance inspections

The EMS office received public health block grant money to restart the ambulance inspection program. The office will hire a part-time inspection team to do ambulance inspections over the summer.

Other Business

Adam Heuslein asked if the EMS special fund could be used to reimburse districts for the cost of running courses. Chris answered that this fund was created to increase the amount of training that occurs in the districts. Districts will get an allocation from the special fund for future training that is in addition to education already being offered. The office will work with districts to define how the funds are allotted and justified.

Next Meeting

The next EMSAC meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 19 from 1PM until 3PM.