

EMS Advisory Committee Minutes
June 19, 2013

Attendees

Mark Considine, EMS Districts 8, 9, 11 & 13
Mike Leyden, VDH EMS
Will Moran
Adam Heuslein
William Brunelli MD, ED Directors
Erin Ingebretsen, VSFA
Scott Brinkman
John Vose, VAA
Jessica Freire, VDH EMS

Seth Lasker
Mike Paradis, EMS District 2 & 5
Steve Jeffrey, VLCT
Dan Wolfson MD, VDH EMS
Chris Bell, VDH OPHP/EMS
Ben O'Brien
Michael Skaza
Tracy Dolan, VDH
Ray Walker, VDH EMS

Meeting called to order by Chris Bell at 1306.

Minutes from the March 20 meeting were reviewed. There were no suggestions or corrections. A request was made for follow up on the action item related to talking points for EMS Districts. VDH reported that they would be distributed by 6/21/13.

EMS Plan for the Committee

- 1) EMS Plans for Towns: A draft of a 10-question survey for town administrators and select boards was distributed and discussed. Committee members were asked to submit comments by Friday so the survey can be sent out to towns and to EMS agency leaders (for their information) by the end of the week. Towns will have about a month to respond and results will be discussed at the next advisory committee meeting.
- 2) EMS District Consolidation: The EMS office will send out talking points this week to the committee's district representatives to facilitate discussions with each of the state's EMS district boards regarding the possibility of consolidating EMS districts along Public Safety District lines. The district reps will be asked to report back in the next month or so for discussion at the next meeting.

The committee is charged with reporting to the legislature on these two items in January 2014. The other two work items, EMS response times and a recommendation for requiring agencies to ensure 911 backup when taking non-emergency calls have already been discussed and completed.

EMS Updates

EMS State Training Coordinator Jessica Freire is in her second week on the job.

- 1) Online Learning Management System (LMS): emails and letters were sent to all licensed EMS personnel with login and other information about the new online education system. The EMS office is following up on implementation issues and will soon be working on curriculum for the system.
- 2) Regional/district training funds: the balance of this year's allotment of the EMS Special Fund not spent on the LMS will be distributed to the districts in the amount of roughly \$9,000 per district to create new initial and continuing education programs. A work plan is in development.
- 3) Requests to hold EMS transition courses continue to come in. Some districts are waiting for the protocols to come out to roll in any additional training that may be required by the new protocols.
- 4) EMS Protocols: A draft will be sent to the District Medical Advisors and other stakeholders at the end of this week for their review, followed by edits as needed. The revised document will be distributed electronically to the entire EMS community later in July for their comments. In mid-August, the final document will be sent out. After a period of training – perhaps a couple of months - the new protocols will “go live”.
- 5) Credentialing: Jessica is looking at the current plans that exist around the state. Credentialing will be addressed in the upcoming rule-making process.
- 6) EMS Conference: This year's conference will take place at Jay Peak Resort from October 24 through 27 with two days of pre-conference workshops on October 22 and 23. Next year's conference will be in the southern part of the state. Anyone interesting in being on the conference planning committee should contact the EMS office. This information will be emailed to all EMS personnel shortly.
- 7) SIREN
 - a. The dynamic run form was recently updated to reflect the revised data dictionary
 - b. Toughbook distribution is nearly complete – only 4 agencies still need to arrange for pick-up of their laptops
 - c. The statewide license for Field Bridge is coming soon – the contract amendment is still working its way through the state approval process. Agencies will be able to license up to 5 devices
 - d. The tablet (iPad) version of Field Bridge is a new technology that VT EMS is not currently using. It is uncertain whether this version would be expansive enough for the amount of data we need to collect.
 - e. The Active Protocols are being updated to reflect the new statewide protocols that are about to be released. Active protocols are prompts within SIREN that coach the EMS provider through the assessment and treatment of patients. In addition to the active protocols, SIREN is acquiring new electronic tools such a drop-form, STEMI and non-transport forms that are very useful. Agencies that are using other electronic PCR systems may find they are missing important data-capturing tools and should take another look at SIREN.

- 8) EMS For Children
 - a. The pediatric readiness survey sent out to all of Vermont's emergency departments is completed, and aggregate data analysis will be coming soon
 - b. 4 PEPP courses will be taking place in the 4 quadrants of the state in the fall (including an instructor development program)
 - c. In July, we will be sending out a survey to all EMS agencies to assess their pediatric capabilities. This survey is sent out once every 5 years.
- 9) Rule Making: Discussions about EMS Rule revisions are beginning. There are a number of current rules that are to be phased out, including the transition from the old National Standard Curriculum license levels to the National Scope of Practice Model levels. New rules about reporting criminal convictions are under consideration. There will be plenty of opportunity for the EMS community to participate in the rule making process.
- 10) Recruitment/Retention: The EMS office is in the process of hiring a position that will focus on this.
- 11) Instructor/Coordinator Bridge Course: In addition to doubling the number of licensed Instructor/Coordinators last year through a contract with the Rural Initiative for EMS at UVM, we offered two courses for 27 EMS personnel who already have training in adult education. These "bridge" courses consisted of 8 hours in the classroom and now the candidates are in the process of delivering peer-mentored classroom presentations and evaluations. At the conclusion of this program, the number of EMS I/Cs in Vermont will have risen from 37 a year ago to over 100.
- 12) Ambulance inspections will take place this summer once the EMS office has hired and trained temporary employees to conduct the inspections. Agencies should refer to the EMS Equipment list included in the EMS Rules to prepare for these inspections.

Other Topics

- 1) Ben O'Brien asked if the EMS office was aware of any talk about moving EMS licensing to the Office of Professional Regulation at the Secretary of State's office. The EMS office had not heard about this, and Ben did not have any details.
- 2) Will Moran asked if the \$9,000 allocation to EMS districts from the EMS Special Fund was a one-time or annual allocation. The expectation is that it will be available in future years. The EMS office will report to the Legislature how the money is being used and how it plans to use the money for needs identified in the future. Will suggested that the more information we provide the Legislature about our needs, the better chance there will be to get the funds.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 23, 1300-1500

Meeting adjourned at 1400