

## **EMS Advisory Committee Minutes**

April 8, 2015

Attending: Chris Bell, Ray Walker, Dr. Wolfson, Kate Soons, Ben O'Brien, Mike Paradis, Scott Brinkman, Jim Finger, Forest Weyen, Mark Considine, Bill Hathaway, Erin Ingebretsen, Pat Malone, Dan Manz

### **Minutes of January 14, 2015**

- Approved without changes.

### **EMS Updates**

- Governor Shumlin was holding a Press Conference on Wed. afternoon, 4/8 to discuss the rising cost of Naloxone. Mike Leyden was attending the Press Conference.

### **Rulemaking**

- Rules are still in process internally, working with our Legal team before going out for public comment. No major updates on rules.

### **Protocols**

- Dr. Wolfson just met with all DMA's on 4/1/15 and went over all of the final changes. These will be put together with the original document and the public version will be sent out beginning of May.
- Putting together training modules. There is a 2 or 3 month window of time – you must have done the training before you start using them. All of the New England states are participating and adopting.
- All new pocket-sized protocol booklets will be printed for trucks.
- We can send something that points out all of the changes, but you should read the whole protocol revision document to compare updates with the current version.

### **IFT Scope/CCP Programs**

- Still working on IFT Scope. Had some requests to start doing CCP. We'll know what the scope/course look like within the next 30 days.
- There are some things that the 'old' Paramedic can do that the 'new' Paramedic can't do. (Fill in the blank on discussion surrounding Heparin).

### **EMS Training**

- The posting for the EMS Training Coordinator position closed one week ago. We will review the list of applicants and start interviews as soon as possible.

- The Evaluator Training Program was very well received (over 20 attended in Rutland). This evaluator training program is available and we're very happy to work with Districts to set it up.
- There was discussion regarding lack of trained evaluators, and whether these evaluators could go through the evaluator training program and we pay them. How would we finance this? It was suggested that everybody pay \$10.00 to pay the cost to cover these people. Too many inconsistencies with volunteers, people not trained to do it. Chris Bell mentioned that if the Committee wants to make a recommendation to the Legislature, we'd discuss and provide advice to the Health Commissioner with a plan of action for next legislative session for funding payment of evaluators.
- Failure/Success Rate – we seem to get plenty of people to take courses, but the retesting has dragged on and on. Is there a way to make this more efficient? Everything used to be done on the same day.
- New Testing Sites – New Hampshire had a mobile testing facility but was decommissioned because it wasn't working. We looked at one of the State Colleges – we can approach the State Colleges as a group.
- Pat Malone offered to work on a plan to fund evaluators for Practical Tests.
- National Registry – all EMTs whose NREMT certification expired on 3/31/15 were required to transition by this past 3/31/15. Half of our EMTs had to complete a transition course by 3/31/15. Only 3 people had to move down to EMR, from EMT, since they hadn't transitioned by 3/31.
  - Vermont EMS has reached an agreement with the National Registry for Vermont EMS personnel to begin recertifying through the National Continued Competency Program, effective immediately. The NCCP changes the categories and number of required continuing education hours:
 

EMR: increases from 12 hours to 16 hours

EMT: decreases from 72 hours to 40 hours

AEMT: decreases from 72 hours to 50 hours

Paramedic: decreases from 72 hours to 60 hours

33% of the total hours required can be obtained through distributive/distance learning.

Details of the NCCP are still in development, and the program will be rolled out in the next several weeks.

## **SIREN**

- Working on Version 3 – should be done so 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors can do their work, towards the end of this year.

### **EMS-Based Mobile Integrated Healthcare: Falls Prevention Program**

- The Department has received a 2-year, \$525K grant centered on initial and subsequent falls' prevention in the elderly. 19 providers from 12 agencies were at the first 2-day training in March. They will practice for one month, and then attend a 1-day training in May. We are close to hiring for this position.....more to come.
- National funding opportunity – Acute Stroke (5-year Grant) – It will be 6-9 months before we receive word.

### **Open Discussion**

- Discussion took place regarding the DMA Meeting recently held, and why others could not attend as visitors. Chris Bell explained that this is a group of Physicians that meet to discuss medical care – it's not a State Government Group; it's not a public meeting. Chris did not ask if the DMA's wanted to have visitors at their meeting on 4/1/15.
- The State EMS Office writes and approves the protocols, not the DMA's, after receiving input from the public.

### **Next Meeting**

- July 15 from 1-3 pm