

EMS Leadership Call
December 6, 2012 – 11 a.m.

Attendees:

Chris Bell
Emily Lubell
Ray Walker
Mark Podgwaite
Bill Hathaway
Adam Heuslein

Donna Jacob
Mike Leyden
John Kueffner
Scott Brinkman
Frank Erdman

EMS Advisory

2nd meeting was held yesterday. Productive discussion on a number of issues. Made progress on activities that they need to report on by January 2014. Minutes will be posted shortly. Chris reminded leadership that EMS Advisory Committee meetings are open to anyone interested, either in person or via a conference line.

Transition Courses:

A majority of Vermont's ICs were given a transition course update on October 28. Power points are being burned on thumb drives as we speak, and will be available for mailing soon to transitioned ICs. Just a reminder that new skills cannot be performed until protocols have been released.

Ambulance Services to Receive Toughbooks:

A supply of Toughbooks have been ordered; they are being manufactured now and expected to arrive in February. All agencies will receive one Toughbook, either new or used, to be determined randomly.

SIREN

Feedback from users and stakeholders (internal and external) have resulted in changes to the SIREN system. More information will be sent out to service-based administrators and heads of service in the coming weeks, as well as a timeline. We hope these changes will be helpful to you and result in more efficient data entry for crews. SIREN reporting is mandatory for all transporting services starting January 1, 2013. If your agency anticipates a problem, please contact Jenna to discuss that and your plan for implementation.

PEPP

The state office has purchased a set of 20 PEPP textbooks and an instructor kit for each district. We are actively working to coordinate a couple PEPP courses around the state in order to increase the number of PEPP instructors at either the BLS or ALS level. We hope this will make PEPP a more sustainable course around the state. If this program is successful, it will make it more feasible to offer future pediatric programs like this one.

Sandy Response

Thanks to the 7 agencies who responded vehicles and crews to NJ. They will get their reimbursement paperwork today from the office. This also refocuses us on the concept of disaster preparedness and a mechanism to provide aid if needed, for both to out-of-state and in-state responses.

License Patches

Soliciting ideas for new patch designs for the various levels. Offering as a gift to the State of Vermont—recognition but no compensation. Please encourage submission of patch ideas amongst your members and send them to ytems@state.vt.us

LMS

Still in the contracting stages within the VDH system, and still probably 2 months away from a completed contract. Once the dollar amounts are known, we'll be able to assess the remainder of the funds to be directed to districts for continuing education. This information will be discussed with the district officials once available.

Protocols

Public comment meeting dates will be held on Tuesday, January 15th from 6-8 p.m and Wednesday, Jan 16th from 1-3 p.m. Both meetings are at 108 Cherry Street and will have a call-in line available as well. We would like to hear about evidence-based protocols you feel should be implemented state wide. We hope statewide protocols will remain statewide with as little variation from district to district as possible.

After those meetings, we'll be discussing specifics with district medical advisors in February, again working to make protocols as broadly applicable as possible. Releasing protocols in May with go-live a couple of months afterward.

Again, until a provider has transitioned, they are not able to perform any new skills until they have transitioned **and** the new protocols are in place.

Pertussis/Whooping Cough/Flu

Currently the number of Pertussis cases in Vermont are at 10-12 times the number of cases as seen either last year or the average of the last 5 years. In the next 2 weeks, VDH will be making wide public media announcements to discuss this and hopefully move to stem the tide.

Please encourage personnel to have up to date Tdap. It's generally the young and old who get these vaccines but encourage providers to be vaccinated as they see patients and run risks of infection. Also Vermont is beginning to see the signs of influenza. These numbers are also elevated, already representing the highest levels as we've seen in the last 5 years, so we're encouraging flu vaccines as well.

Adam Heuslein aside if there was anything VDH can do to assist financially with Tdap shots since they're about \$150. Chris responded that either a provider's personal medical insurance could be used or perhaps assistance through the low-income program. There is early talk about vaccination clinics around the state, but can't confirm at this point.

Holiday Season

Staff will remain available throughout the holidays and someone will be in the office should a need arise.

Chris wished everyone happy holidays and adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.