



REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report
03 February 2017
1000 Hours
EHSF Conference Room

ATTENDANCE

Present:	John Eline	Adams County PSAP
	Jim Shenk	Adams County PSAP
	Shawn Melhorn	Cumberland County PSAP
	John Quirk	Cumberland County PSAP
	Mark Rothermel	Dauphin County PSAP
	David Shade	Dauphin County PSAP
	Bryan Stevenson	Franklin County PSAP
	Tim Baldwin	Lancaster County PSAP
	Kristie Burkett	Lancaster County PSAP
	Jeff Garner	Lancaster County PSAP
	Mike Weaver	Lancaster County PSAP
	Ann Weller	Lancaster County PSAP
	Eddie Orris	Perry County PSAP
	Esther Rowe	Perry County PSAP
	Amy Smith	York County PSAP
	Roxie Tate	York County PSAP
Staff:	Megan A. Ruby	Director of System Operations via Telephone
	Raphael W. Caloia II	Education Specialist
	Michael J. Guerra	Resource Coordinator
	Timothy S. Melton	System Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Baldwin called the Regional Communications Committee (RCC) meeting to order at 1000 hours.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Baldwin announced Rachel Pinsker of the Coalition against Domestic Violence. Ms. Pinsker provided a presentation to the Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Reports on EMS Response Times

Mr. Melton reported on the EMS response time project. He provided tracking failure rates is difficult to determine based on the PSAPs he met with in the past few months.

Communications Manual Review

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF Advisory Council accepted the Regional Communications Manual during the December 2016 meeting.

EMD Training Needs

Mr. Guerra reminded the committee the spring course will be hosted on March 27-29, 2017. The final roster must be submitted to Priority Dispatch three weeks prior to the course start date. Discussion among the Committee resulted in asking to have the course postponed until April.

Intermediate ALS

Mr. Guerra provided there are currently two ALS services licensed as Intermediate ALS. There is a third ALS agency interested but has not started the process. One BLS agency inquired to upgrade to Intermediate ALS but decided to postpone the additional level of service when they determined the additional costs involved. There is no change with the current dispatch procedures. Therefore, all ALS dispatches must have an ALS unit dispatched.

NEW BUSINESS

National Telecommunicators Week

Mr. Baldwin announced the National Telecommunicators Week is April 9 to 15, 2017.

Public Service Calls

Mr. Baldwin provided the topic of public service calls was discussed at the previous Prehospital Operations Committee. Hershey Medical Center was unable to provide a graduate student to analyze data. The EHSF is considering reconvening a working group in future. Discussion ensued regarding public service calls across the region.

Hospital Status

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF received concerns from EMS agencies regarding hospitals within the region going on divert. Mr. Lyle and Ms. Ruby are communicating with EMS agencies about hospitals on divert or experiencing high patient census. The EHSF is gathering information at this time about the status. The EHSF does not recognize divert unless the hospital goes through Knowledge Center and documents the internal disaster status. However, we encourage hospitals to communicate extended waits, so EMS can educate their patients on destination decisions.

There is a lot of work to do in this area depending on how severe the flu season becomes. The EHSF is trying to get EMS agencies to be a part of the hospital's internal discharge process, so the hospitals better understand EMS resource capabilities (i.e. they cannot expect 20 patients to be discharged from a facility within one hour), and second, so EMS agencies can assist with a planning model to move patients more efficiently. Mr. Powell is working with the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania to use Knowledge Center in the prehospital field.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Legislation Update

Mr. Baldwin reported recent activity in the State for the 9-1-1 board. The subcommittee for training and quality assurance met to discuss future standards and provide recommendations to the 9-1-1 Advisory Board. Discussion ensued regarding various changes, concerns, and encouragement for each county PSAP to send comments for the upcoming meetings.

EHSF Future Growth

Mr. Baldwin reported the growth of the EHSF region by two additional counties (Chester and Delaware Counties) effective 01 July 2017, is now on hold. Ms. Ruby provided the Pennsylvania Department of Health shared the legislators asked to hold meetings to further discuss the planning prior to any changes. Those hearings are scheduled for later this month.

EHSF Staffing Updates

Mr. Baldwin announced Mr. Caloia as the new Education Specialist. The EHSF hopes to hire an additional system position by July 2017.

EMS Week

Ms. Ruby announced EMS Week is May 21-27, 2017. The EHSF will continue to recognize EMS Dispatchers for the 25 years or more of service award. More details are forthcoming regarding the event.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Baldwin adjourned the meeting at 1155 hours.

The next Regional Communication Committee meeting is scheduled for 05 May 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan A. Ruby
Director of System Operations