

REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report

11 February 2014

1000 Hours

EHSF Conference Room

## ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Bryan Stevenson Chair- Franklin County PSAP

John Eline Adams County

Michael Kurtz Hershey Medical Center

Keri Zeigler Dauphin County PSAP

Mark Rothermel Dauphin County PSAP

Timothy Baldwin Lancaster County PSAP

Gary Dressler Cumberland County PSAP

Doug Glass Cumberland County PSAP

John Sheaffer Cumberland County PSAP

Steve Yingst Lebanon County PSAP

Eric Fahler Lebanon County PSAP

**Staff:** Ernest S. Powell Director of System Operations

Michael J. Guerra Resource Coordinator

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## CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Stevenson called the Regional Communications Committee meeting to order at 1003 hours. Mr. Stevenson acknowledged the day change and thanked the Committee for their attendance. This meeting was initially going to be a joint meeting with the SCTF Communications Work Group and the Tactical Interoperable Communications Committee; this did not occur.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*EMD*

Mr. Stevenson opened the meeting inquiring the need for an EMD course. The group agreed one was needed; however requested the timeline be moved to mid to late April 2014. Mr. Powell advised the Emergency Health Services Federation (EHSF) would begin the planning to host a course in that timeframe.

*Action Item:* *EHSF to schedule an EMD course mid to late April 2014.*

*Regional Communications Manual*

Mr. Baldwin inquired as to the status of the Regional Communications Manual. Mr. Powell advised it is waiting for the EHSF Board of Directors approval.

*Interleaved Frequencies*

Mr. Powell provided an update regarding the interleaved frequencies. Essentially the EHSF’s application was denied; however, the contractor made contact with the South Central Task Force (SCTF) and amended the license, which was sub sequentially approved. EHSF voiced concerns in paying coordination fees for something that EHSF would not have care, custody, and control over. The committee explained securing these frequencies, although in the name of the SCTF, would afford EHSF the same voice currently privileged to with the med-radio frequencies. Mr. Baldwin offered to have additional conversations to explain further.

NEW BUSINESS

*EMS Class dispatch for staged events*

Mr. Fahler inquired as to how other PSAP’s dispatched EMS to “staged events” (those events which require law enforcement to secure the scene). PSAP’s in general advise responding units; however, do not “downgrade” to a lower class response. The use of lights and sirens are used at the discretion of the EMS Unit. Currently, EMD does not allow for dispatch center discretion.

*PSP Agreement for interoperations*

In the wake of closing the PSP Consolidated Dispatch Centers, PSP distributed an agreement they wished to enter into with Lancaster County’s PSAP.  Among other things, the document discusses PSAP infrastructure, operational considerations, access to audio recordings, etc.  Reportedly, all PSAPs will be receiving this document.  Lancaster County opposes a number of the initiatives mentioned in the document and will be meeting with the PSP.

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Additionally, PSP will be running a pilot project with both Cumberland and Franklin counties that would open the local PSP barracks dispatch voice group to the county PSAP.  The voice group is only intended for situational awareness, not daily operations.  The proposed agreement does state PSP can give temporary authorization for patching to local police dispatch channels for inter-ops for joint operations.  The pilot project is to work out any operational concerns before it is offered statewide.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

*York and Adams County ALS*

Mr. Powell gave a brief update regarding the EMS activities in York County and Adams County. Currently, there have been no changes made. Mr. Powell offered, as soon as, information was made available to him; he would pass this information along.

*EMS Act Rules and Regulations*

Mr. Powell provided a targeted brief overview of the Rules and Regulations to the committee. The focal points were EMS Agencies, EMS Agency Dispatch Centers, and 24/7 response requirements. The conversation focused on:

* The types of EMS resources an EMS Agency could place in service, and the effects on the current EMD system.
* Resource/ Unit designation

Mr. Rothermel requested a resource/unit designation be created for the new units so that the PSAP’s are aligned in terminology.

Additionally, it was advised that a significant review of the EMD system would need to occur to incorporate the new levels of service.

*Meeting dates 2014/15*

Mr. Powell provided the following meeting dates for 2014 and 2015. The Committee offered no objections.

* 05 September 2014
* 07 November 2014
* 06 February 2015
* 01 May 2015

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Regional Communication Committee meeting is scheduled for 02 May 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stevenson adjourned the meeting at 1130 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest S. Powell

Director of System Operations