



PREHOSPITAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report
14 May 2015
1000 hours
EHSF Conference Room

Attendance

Present:	Scott Buchle	Chair
	Duane Nieves	Cumberland County EMS Council
	Kevin Dalpiaz	Perry County EMS Council
	Shannon Fouts	York County EMS Council
	Phillip Beck	East Pennsboro EMS
	John Brindle	Community Life Team
	Nathan Harig	Cumberland Goodwill Fire EMS
	Suzette Kreider	Northwest EMS
	Mark Moody	Memorial Hospital-Medic 102
	Robert Patterson	Lancaster EMS
	Dennis Shelly	WellSpan
Staff:	Megan A. Hollinger	Director of System Operations
	Katelyn M. Galer	Program Coordinator
	Michael J. Guerra	Resource Coordinator
	Matthew S. Sterndale	System Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Buchle called the meeting to order at 1003 hours and asked for introductions. Mr. Buchle announced the death of Paramedic Ralph Backenstoos and asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

OLD BUSINESS

ePCR Project Update

Ms. Hollinger reported many EMS agencies are still working through the implementation process. Ms. Hollinger reminded EMS agencies to contact ESO directly if they have technical questions.

Ms. Fouts mentioned the discussion from the Medical Advisory Committee meeting to reconvene the ePCR project working group to discuss best practices. Those present were in favor of a future meeting.

Mr. Moody stated Memorial Hospital has an interest knowing how many EMS agencies are live to determine the value of Hospital Link Up. Ms. Hollinger will work with ESO for a list to share with hospitals.

Mr. Buchle discussed Hershey Medical Center's concerns with the contract. They are working with ESO's legal counsel to make some amendments to the contract.

Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Healthcare (CP/MIH)

Ms. Hollinger discussed the status of CP/MIH in our region. Ms. Hollinger mentioned highlights from the 2nd Annual Penn State Public Health Day Symposium discussing the Affordable Care Act and the 2015 Community Health Worker Summit. She mentioned the topic of CP/MIH has caught the attention of legislators.

Mr. Harig announced House Bill 339 amends the insurance law for managed care services to reimburse for treatment with no transport. House Bill 347 provides direct payment to the EMS agencies.

EMS Resource Utilization

Ms. Hollinger reported the working group is working to identify potential solutions for addressing public service calls. A future meeting will be scheduled to discuss the use of the omega response. Dr. Reihart will be included in this meeting.

Naloxone

Ms. Hollinger advised the online training for fire and law enforcement personnel is not always generating certificates upon completion. Ms. Hollinger suggested if this was presented to EMS agencies, they may accept a roster of personnel who completed the training from the department's police or fire chief. The approved training can be found at www.getnaloxonenow.org.

Ms. Hollinger reported the eight PSAPs are aware of the operational changes involving naloxone administration by fire personnel, law enforcement officers, and citizens and the importance to communicate if naloxone was administered prior to EMS arrival.

Ms. Hollinger announced at the Public Health Symposium, the Physician General, Dr. Levine, plans to sign a standing order to allow any citizens in Pennsylvania to obtain Naloxone regardless of their relationship with a known opioid user.

Ms. Hollinger clarified fire personnel who also hold EMS certification and work with a QRS agency are required to complete the Naloxone training on the Learning Management System. Fire personnel who do not have EMS certification and work with a fire department are required to complete the Department of Health approved training at getnaloxonenow.org.

ALS Provider Expirations

Ms. Hollinger reported the first quarter requiring ALS providers to re-register their certification has passed. 57 of 112 Paramedics re-registered and 25 of 35 PHRNs re-registered. EMS agency managers are encouraged to remind their ALS providers of the next certification expiration date of 01 July 2015.

PA Scope of Practice

Ms. Hollinger announced the letter addressing concerns with the scope of practice, as discussed at the previous MAC meeting, was sent to Director Gibbons. EHSF has not received a response to the letter. The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) submitted a VTR to delay the ventilator changes until July 2016. The Bureau of EMS (BEMS) responded with a modified ventilator protocol. ALS agencies should see minimal operational impact to the ventilator changes.

EMS Protocols

Ms. Hollinger announced the 2015 statewide protocols for BLS providers have been released. However, the required training is not yet available. Once the training is complete, it will be available on the learning management system. The PowerPoint for the training will be released to the EMS agency's medical director, who will determine authorized personnel to conduct training internally. However, since we do not have contact information for every EMS agency medical director, we will be releasing the PowerPoint to the licensure point of contact with a message to work with the EMS agency medical director.

Ms. Hollinger reports the AEMT and ALS protocols should soon be available.

Ms. Kreider asked if the pocket sized protocol books would be printed. Ms. Hollinger responded EHSF did not intend to print the protocol books.

NEW BUSINESS

Cribs for Kids – Children's Miracle Network

Ms. Hollinger discussed the regional initiative for safe sleep education through EHSF's partnership with Cribs for Kids, Hershey Medical Center (HMC) Children's Hospital, and the Children's Miracle Network. On 03 June 2015, HMC will provide safe sleep training to EMS

agencies wishing to participate in the program. The length of the training is two-hours. Following the training, EMS agencies will receive pack n plays to distribute to families in need.

Child Abuse Reporting and Background Checks

Ms. Hollinger provided a FAQ document sent by the BEMS to explain the requirements. Some highlights include:

1. EMS providers are mandatory reports. If there are signs of child abuse, a report by the paper form, website, or telephone call is required. The BEMS suggest best practice is for every provider on the call to complete a report because if the primary care provider fails to complete the report, every provider will be held accountable. The EMS agency management team is responsible for ensuring a report is completed by the providers.
2. EMS providers are not required to take the training at this time.
3. EMS providers will be required to obtain criminal history and child abuse clearances. The BEMS stated the EMS agencies are not required to cover the cost of the clearances but ensure every provider has the initial clearances and repeats every three years. Compliance of this requirement will be checked at the time of licensure.
 - a. Volunteer providers living in Pennsylvania for more than ten years are required to have a Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) criminal history and child abuse clearance.
 - b. Volunteer providers living in Pennsylvania for less than ten years are required to have a PSP criminal history, child abuse, and FBI clearance.
 - c. Paid providers are required to have a PSP criminal history, child abuse, and FBI clearance regardless of their length of residency in the Commonwealth.
 - d. These reports must be repeated every three years.

Ms. Hollinger cautioned EMS agency managers of agencies entering into field and clinical agreements with training institutes to ensure the EMS candidates have the appropriate clearances for their clinical time in the field. The training institutes are not required to ensure EMS candidates have the clearances. However, once the EMS candidate could potentially interact with children, they are required to have the clearances.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

EMS Week

Ms. Hollinger announced the upcoming EMS week activities.

Digital Planet Software

Members present expressed concern with the status of Digital Planet software products. EMS managers are interested to know the future of Rick Shaw and the membership drive program. Ms. Hollinger will determine the status.

2015-2016 Meeting Schedule

Ms. Hollinger provided tentative dates for the FY 2015-2016 meeting schedule. The September meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday rather than the second Thursday to avoid conflict with the Pennsylvania State EMS Conference and the Ambulance Association's 9/11 Memorial Service.

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Mr. Buchle adjourned the meeting at 1123 hours.

The next Prehospital Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for 17 September 2015 at 1000 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan A. Hollinger
Director of System Operations