



## REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report  
05 May 2017  
1000 Hours  
EHSF Conference Room

### ATTENDANCE

<b>Present:</b>	Eric Fahler	Chair / Lebanon County PSAP
	Shawn Melhorn	Cumberland County PSAP
	John Quirk	Cumberland County PSAP
	David (Tom) Vogelsong	Cumberland County PSAP
	Mark Rothermel	Dauphin County PSAP
	David Shade	Dauphin County PSAP
	Bart Shellenhamer	Dauphin County PSAP
	Bryan Stevenson	Franklin County PSAP
	Tim Baldwin	Lancaster County PSAP
	Kristie Burkett	Lancaster County PSAP
	Ann Weller	Lancaster County PSAP
	Shelley Creasy	York County PSAP
	Amy Smith	York County PSAP
	Roxie Tate	York County PSAP
<b>Staff:</b>	Megan A. Ruby	Director of System Operations
	Michael J. Guerra	Resource Coordinator
	Timothy S. Melton	System Coordinator

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### EMD Training Needs

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF recently hosted the spring EMD course.

### Intermediate ALS (IALS)

Ms. Ruby reported the use of IALS will continue to be a topic of discussion. Ms. Ruby reported a new interpretation of the EMS Rules and Regulations provides IALS may not have to be in service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The section of the Rules and Regulations speaking to EMS planning provides if an agency operates a BLS agency, they may operate IALS less than 24 hours a day if the BLS agency is always in service. Ms. Ruby provided the EHSF is awaiting a response from the Bureau of EMS regarding the interpretation as this is different direction than received before.

Ms. Ruby reported the consensus of stakeholders in the region is the operations of IALS will not change dispatching at this time. EMS agencies will continue to be dispatched class I, II, and III. If an EMS agency has IALS capabilities for a class I dispatch, the EMS agency can cancel IALS when it is determined a Paramedic level or higher certification is not required to manage the patient. Ms. Ruby provided the EHSF will create a working group to include Dr. Reihart to further review dispatching in the region.

### Hospital Status

Ms. Ruby provided the EHSF continues to monitor hospital status in the region. Ms. Ruby communicated with hospitals questioning the communications center when attempting to use divert status. The facility better understood the regional concept of hospital status versus the need for a true divert. Ms. Ruby stated EMS agencies and hospitals will need continued education and communication to reinforce the message.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### EMD-Q

Ms. Ruby announced Cumberland County will host an EMD-Q course on June 1 and 2.

### Unit Identifier

Ms. Ruby reported the desire by IALS agencies to have a special unit identifier for dispatching. Discussion ensued regarding the conflicts with CAD systems and a region-wide identification for consistency with the recognition. The topic will be discussed in the IALS working group.

Ms. Ruby also discussed the new licensure level of BLS squad. A BLS squad is basically a QRS unit with a different minimum staffing requirement. The minimum staffing for a QRS unit is one provider at the EMR level. However, a BLS squad requires one provider at the EMT level. There is also the IALS squad and ALS squad levels of licensure. The EHSF has a future inspection for a QRS agency to achieve the BLS squad level of licensure. Discussion ensued providing the difference between a QRS and BLS squad does not impact the PSAP for dispatching. After further discussion, the committee desired to create a position statement regarding unit identifiers.

### **Action Item**

The EHSF will develop a position statement regarding unit identifiers for the IALS level of licensure and the BLS squad level of licensure providing for the purposes of dispatching by the PSAPS, the unit identifiers to identify an IALS ambulance or BLS squad will not impact the dispatching through EMD. The PSAP will continue to dispatch EMS agencies as BLS or ALS with the ability for a responding IALS unit to cancel the incoming ALS agency. The PSAP will dispatch BLS squads with their current QRS unit identifier. The action item was motioned by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Shellenhamer. The motioned was carried by the committee.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

#### Legislation Update

Mr. Baldwin reported he distributed an e-mail with current legislative activities.

Mr. Baldwin reported he was invited to an event at the Pennsylvania Commission for Crime and Delinquency. They wanted to learn the 9-1-1 call-taking process. Their interest stems from the two law enforcement officers shot in Northeast Pennsylvania. The triggers to determine an escalation of violence were discussed. Discussion ensued regarding Priority Dispatch standards versus county created standards for dispatching.

Mr. Baldwin also discussed the 2-1-1 program is attempting to provide services statewide and are seeking funding.

Mr. Baldwin also announced there is a current house bill to encourage insurance companies to reimburse EMS when treatment is provided on scene and the patient is not transported to a hospital.

#### 9-1-1 Advisory Board

Mr. Rothermel and Ms. Weller provided an update from the training subcommittee regarding the standards for training and the standards for call-taking protocols. The next meeting will be held in June.

#### EHSF Future Growth

Ms. Ruby provided the growth of the EHSF region by two additional counties (Chester and Delaware Counties) effective 01 July 2017, is now on hold. Hearings occurred in February. The Department will not be forcing any consolidation. However, voluntary consolidation efforts are still permitted.

#### EHSF Staffing Updates

Ms. Ruby announced a program coordinator position in education and certification is now vacant.

#### DOH Staffing Updates

Ms. Ruby announced the State EMS Director, Richard Gibbons, resigned from his position. The Deputy Secretary of Health, Raphael Barishansky, is acting as the interim director.

#### EMS Week

Ms. Ruby announced EMS Week is May 21-27, 2017. The EHSF will continue to recognize EMS dispatching personnel for the 25 years or more of service award.

2017-18 Meeting Dates

Ms. Ruby announced the tentative meeting dates for the Fiscal Year 2017-18.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Baldwin adjourned the meeting at 1130 hours.

The next Regional Communication Committee meeting is scheduled for 25 August 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan A. Ruby  
Director of System Operations