

VT EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 21, 2020

10:00 am

In attendance:

Drew Hazelton	Jim Finger	Gwynn Zakov
Pat Malone	Alan Beebee	Scott Brinkman
Charlene Phelps	Mark Considine	Adam Heuslein
Leonard Stell	Mark Podgwaite	Ray Walker
Brad Reed	Roger or David - PPFV	Dan Batsie
Paul Ethier	Bobby Maynard	Leslie Lindquist
Marc Schauber	Paul Stagner	Inge Luce-Smith
	Jeff Johansen	

Meeting focus: information to be presented to Senate Government Operations Committee – S.124

Portfolio Based Competency (see attached proposal)

- Access to training and burden of training was identified as being factors to issues with workforce development
 - EMS testing was a top priority in the legislative report
 - Psychomotor testing is still standard, however there are allowances for portfolio-based competency that would help lower the overall costs and personnel needed for testing
 - Timeline: 6 months to get pilot program up, 6 months of trial, with implementation in a year
- Questions/Comments from group
- Concern that if there are students struggling this could become costly if instructors are paid hourly for remediation
 - Can individual students be tested? (outside of a group) A: it could be possible in the early stages of the program but long term the goal is to shift competency determinations to the instructors
 - Appeal process has not been determined but will be an important element for students that do not pass in the class to be evaluated by a 3rd party. It may be reasonable to have this student test.
 - Programs that opt in should be going with the model of the portfolio, testing may come into play if the program is not living up to the standards. State would reserve the right to require testing. Appeals may be an exception
 - Documentation would be important – standards showing skill progressions, etc. May add to work that existing programs are already doing. Standards and guidelines would be established
 - There was a concern brought up that ICs and Instructors may not have the competency to see through this kind of program. There would need to be oversight (there was concern that there was not the capacity to oversee this program)

-COVID19 could bring forward additional testing restraints in the future so a program like this could help with continuation of EMS education. Bottom line is trying to augment work force going forward

-Could this portfolio program be a part of the EMS online hybrid education program?

A: unlikely due to the amount of work to put this program together. But likely for future iterations of the hybrid program

- Motion: Pat Malone makes motion to accept the proposal and timeline. Jim Finger seconds. Motion passes

Vermont EMS Responder Concept (see attached proposal)

- Vermont level first responder would allow people in communities to get level of training to assist citizens in their communities for life-threatening emergencies: CPR, bleeding control and Narcan administration

- Trainings that already exist CPR, Stop-the-Bleed, VT Narcan administration course

Questions/Comments:

-would this license meet requirement of two licensed providers on an ambulance? What is the intention of the program? A: Not intended to provide a level that would be working on an ambulance, intent is for first responders. There are areas that are already doing this, would formalize the process and provide oversight by district medical advisors

-may encourage people to get into field, small time requirement to see if they would want to commit to a longer EMR or EMT class

-Programs requirements will need to be looked at further as some are much more robust than hours – ie Outdoor emergency care vs. wilderness first aid

-Is there a testing component? A: Not a specific testing model, competencies demonstrated during certification classes

- What would be the requirements around affiliation? A: Likely would have to partner with an existing licensed agency. This question needs to be discussed more for situations such as a police department who may only choose to offer this level

- There are already people working under this role, adding an official oversight would apply more consistent standards

-The numbers of people providing treatment and responding in the State is a lot larger number if we capture these responders.

-Vermont EMS member card? Could we do a program where people who are trained in some fashion and affiliated with an agency could apply for a status and then education could roll out to these people under a timeline

-people that get this card have Good Samaritan behind them? No, complication if they are on a schedule or dispatched. Legal will need to review this

- this would not be a new curriculum – could be a combination of multiple different courses that could be approved – more flexible

- would be part of Vermont EMS with Vermont EMS oversight. Has not been discussed to DMAs at this point

- would this give access to more grant funds? EMS provider numbers could be doubled or tripled, should be considering what this does for access to funding and opportunities
- policy could be created to clarify that these providers would not qualify as a licensed provider on an ambulance

- Why does this need legislative action? A: Legislative training dollars are very specifically assigned to certain programs – EMT, AEMT, etc. A way needs to be cleared for training money for this program. VT license levels are established in rules. There is a risk they may not fund it in the future as they are looking hard at EMS now, it could fall off the radar. This would be funding on top of current

- From a liability standpoint, it does provide an opportunity to protect people

- Point was made that legislation language states it is a certification (not a license).

Where does certification come from? State issues licenses

-Could districts opt in or out? A: they could not dictate whether people could obtain the license, they could decide if they were going to include it in their response plan. Would require discussion

- Motion by Adam Heuslein - Allow proposal to go forward to legislature, details will be worked out. Second. 8 ayes, 3 nos. Motion passes

-Approval of minutes: April 3, April 14, April 20, and May 4

- Motion to approve by Leonard Stell. Adam Heuslein Seconds. Minutes are approved

Meeting Adjourned 11:43 am