

EMS Leadership Conference Call
Thursday, February 2, 2012 - 11 a.m.

Attendees: Tracy Dolan, Chris Bell, Mike Ball, Donna Jacob, Bill Hathaway, Chris McCarthy, Kate Soons, Mark Podgwaite, Matt Vinci, and other district chairs and training coordinators.

Preventative Block Grant

Tracy Dolan, Deputy Commissioner, thanked the group for allowing her to join them to speak about the Preventative Block Grant. Originally cut from the federal budget, an amount of \$190,000 has been awarded for the period 10/1/11 to 10/1/12. With the grant's broad guidelines, funds can be used to help fill gaps in health care needs. This year funding will be used for several perceived gaps, including EMS training. School wellness will be targeted through a series of projects, flags, awards and medals. The network of THO volunteers are those individuals dealing with housing and environmental issues in their own communities. The funding will be used for training, in conjunction with the VT League of Cities and Towns. The fourth project that the grant will help to fund is sexual assault prevention and training for nurses who respond to sexual assault.

Chris Bell explained that 3 Instructor/Coordinator (I/C) courses will be fully or partially subsidized around the state, held before the October 1 deadline.

Train-the-Trainer courses such as GEMS or PEPP are being discussed. The hope is to fully or partially fund those as well. Some course materials are expensive, so various packages will be considered. Someone suggested the Jones & Bartlett website as being a source, saying students could register online and obtain completion cards. Another suggestion was to springboard off NAEMT. Chris said that after some investigation, a Survey Monkey would be issued. He added that the funds may not cover a text for each student, but perhaps a bank of loaner books for each district could be considered.

Tracy explained that the due date is February 17 to submit the plans; discussions regarding future years' grant funds will take place later in the year.

Staffing Updates

- Ongoing Deputy Director interviews: 7 are done, and one more will be held soon. Will begin inviting in folks for a second round of interviews. Hoping to offer the position by the end of February.
- Training Coordinator position is posted; the pay grade has been raised.
- Data Manager interviews are taking place next week.
- Emily Lubell, new EMS-C coordinator, is working on past performance measures and perceived needs around the state. She welcomes any and all input in the area of EMS for children and injury prevention.

Mobile Inflatable Hospital

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This is a 20-bed mobile hospital designed to inflate in about 10 minutes, and be functional within 1-2 hours. Staff received training earlier this week in its deployment.

The intent is to use the facility for med/surge, pandemic or triage needs. If you have a use where you would normally set up a medical tent for a concert, marathon or other event, let us know. The hope is to set up the hospital 4-6 times per year so that folks around the state recognize its capacity. CVMC also has the same model and these two hospitals are completely connectable in case of emergencies.

When asked, Chris explained that 6-8 individuals can set up this complete facility, using only one staff member that's been trained in the deployment of the facility as well as the printed materials provided. The trailer will be housed in Chittenden County and the state is arranging contracts with various transportation companies. If used for a community or regional event, consumables will be reimbursable by the user. If deployed for a declared emergency, the state will arrange for supplies to be replenished. As far as damage, the user should maintain adequate insurance coverage.

Activation of the mobile hospital for an emergency will be handled by the VEM Duty Officer.

There was some discussion about IMAT, MMRS and VT Task Force 1 teams, and what structures those groups are using. Chris said he will research the question.

EMS Conference

Still looking at a couple of different venues, but it is likely that the conference this fall will be October 26 through 30th in the Burlington area. The FAHC Department of Surgery would like to combine a one day trauma conference with 4 days of EMS conference. Each day would be a stand-alone event. The goal is to get more providers more continuing education. Grant amounts have been confirmed and a good portion of the fees will be covered by grants. The hope is to significantly reduce the cost of the conference itself. Chris explained that we are still very early in the development process. A speaker call will be put out when that point is reached.

When asked, Chris explained that the Friday through Tuesday format this fall was due primarily to the availability of the venue. After this next conference, timing will be reviewed.

Mike Ball asked about a CISD or CISM session at the conference. Chris said the topic would be considered for the conference. He explained that locally, the contract with Washington County Mental Health has expired, but the state is in the process of contracting with the Department of Mental Health for outreach services.

Along that subject, the following resources were mentioned:

Bill Elwell	LAST (Local Assistance Support Team)
ESS Chaplaincy program	Bob Kilpeck
Green Mtn CISD Team	

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Chris said that as staffing numbers increase, more resource coordination through the website and workgroups will be possible. The hope is to identify and fill gaps.

Transition

Software changes are underway to allow certification at the new levels. Transition hours will count toward refresher for each level within the provider's next recert cycle, but only hour for hour. For example, an EMT owes 72 hours of credit over a 2 year period, with 24 of those hours being refresher. The EMT transition is likely to be approximately 16 hours. The 16 hours would count as the entire refresher, but the remaining 8 hours of credit would have to be made up in elective subjects, ultimately resulting in 72 total hours.

EMR – approximately a 12 hour transition and can be held in squad, taught by an EMT approved by the district.

EMT through Paramedic – all transition courses will be between 13-18 hours. EMT transition will be held in squad by an EMT or higher who has been transitioned. Intermediate and Paramedic transitions will be coordinated by a Paramedic I/C, with the use of appropriate instructors.

I/Cs around the state are developing courses, and materials should be available in a couple of months. Also, statewide protocols will require revision before providers are able to function at the new levels.

I-90s and I-03s will take the same transition to AEMT, using a model from NR I-85 to AEMT. This transition will also be between 13-15 hours.

When asked about testing, Chris explained that testing is not envisioned as part of transition. However, after transitioning to the VT AEMT level, a provider will have the opportunity to test for National Registry AEMT. The state will cover the cost of the exam and it will be considered no-fault. This basically means that the provider will still hold Vermont AEMT even if they fail to complete the NR AEMT exam process successfully. The NR AEMT exam has approximately a 75% pass rate.

Any provider who ever held National Registry will be required to regain it or maintain it going forward.

Legislation and Funding

Chris said that the Act 142 consulting group report included proposed legislation as well as an EMS special fund. However, it did not create a funding stream. Because the budget has already been submitted, there was not an EMS component included. It is hoped that it can be included in the next budget, but there is no definite answer.

The Health Department is watching a number of bills, currently listed on Chris' white board. Some directly affect EMS, while others are broader.

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ListServ

A list serve has been created, and providers can request to be added or can opt out. Chris said he will create a list of the upcoming legislation, and will send it out along with an introductory listserv test message.

Chris said the listserv is presently set up as a blind mailbox. Reply to sender may be possible, but reply to all is not.

Other Questions/Issues

Mike Ball asked about a course that was taught by Connie White at Vernon Fire in August 2011. He said he believed that the students had taken the new EMR curriculum, but they had been issued FR-ECA certifications.

[2/10/12 note: Ray Walker researched the question and the office followed up with Mike by email. The students in question took an approved FR-ECA course and tested well before the NR EMR exam was made available on January 1, 2012.]

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.