

## EMS Leadership Conference Call

September 5, 2013

Present: Mike Leyden, Dylan Hudson, Jess Freire, Ray Walker, Emily Lubell, Donna Jacob, John Vose, John Kueffner, Meg Austin, Tom Goddard, Bobby Maynard, Scott Brinkman, Alan Beebe, Walter Krul, Kate Soons, Erin Ingebretsen, Michelle from Village Ambulance, Jim Finger, Amy Akerlind.

### **Program Updates**

Ambulance Inspections (Ray): Going very well--more than half done and very pleased so far. Doing Districts 10 and 11 today, and Districts 12 and 13 next week. In general ambulances are in good shape and staff is enjoying quality conversations with service leaders. Mike added that the office appreciates the ambassadors on site so we can tear through trucks. Once the round of inspections is complete, Ray will be compiling a tracking sheet for small deficits as well as guidance on some issues, such as the mandatory equipment list. Typical of the questions that needs to be answered is why is a folding stretcher mandatory on the list? Is the inclusion actually just a statement that alternate equipment for moving a patient be required? Michelle from Village Ambulance in Williamstown, MA asked about ambulance inspections from Vermont personnel. Ray said that VT has typically relied on the home state's inspection process for services based outside VT.

Service licenses (Donna): Renewal packets have been printed and will hit the post office by Friday afternoon, September 6. Any service not receiving a packet by midweek next week should contact their post office or the VT EMS Office. It was noted that again this year we are using a form that needs to be manually completed, and providing a list of instructions as well as a list of personnel from the data base. This year, however, a fillable pdf is available for those that would rather complete the application via computer. The form is posted to the homepage of our website. As the office moves forward with an RFP for a new system, it is hoped that the licensure process will become more streamlined and electronic in nature.

Protocol education (Jess): Approximately 13 topic areas need to be covered that aren't covered in the transition education, and the office staff has been busy developing that training. Mike noted that over 2 dozen individuals took the time to comment on the draft protocols—great feedback, and everything from typo's to content questions and comments. The protocol education will cover not only the education but also allow diverse methods of learning.

Conference Planning (Jess): Tuesday and Wednesday, October 22 and 23 – Preconference workshops will probably include PHTLS, Farm Medic and CEVO. Weds afternoon will likely include Pediatric Disaster Triage. PEPP is tentatively being planned as well, but there will be a different registration process for this course. Thursday, October 24 - Healthcare Preparedness Conference – This day will host broad array of disaster and healthcare topics. Friday, October 25 is a co-sponsored Trauma Day with Fletcher Allen Health Care. The plan is to have trauma-specific topics as well as hands-on trainings.

Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27 will offer more clinical topics, as well as speakers who can address the new protocol changes. Mike – a vendor reception will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday, to include light refreshments. Then 7 p.m. to about 9 p.m., our group has exclusive use of the waterpark. Saturday night a family-inclusive dining option will be offered in lieu of the formal seated banquet. If awards are tried again, we'll migrate them to EMS week in May. Governor is already there to speak to the EMS audience so we'll try it there.

New classes starting (Jess): There has been a rush of new courses starting during September and October, and Jess reminded everyone that the office needs to receive a course application and syllabus at least 2 weeks before the course starts. It takes time to get courses reviewed, approved, announced and to get manuals and information to course coordinators in a timely manner.

EMS Special Fund (Jess): After discussions with the Business Office, it has been determined that funds to districts will be coming in grant format. Working to get the wording moved to a grant so that the process can progress. DCs and DTCs were sent out drafts of the special fund restrictions; we will continue to refine the grant in our system and then immediately look at next year's funding. The funding process should work much more simply in future years.

PEPP at the EMS Conference (Emily): EMSC expects to launch the first PEPP course at the conference, and then hold courses in the other 3 corners of the state. The previous edition of PEPP books and instructor manuals have been returned to the publisher, and the new editions are being awaited. Once they arrive, we'll arrange disbursement.

Child Passenger Safety Program (Emily): "The office has taken over the child passenger safety program; that program continues to develop.

EMSC Needs Assessment Survey (Emily): She thanked services who have completed the EMSC needs assessment survey, but noted that thus far the state is just above the halfway mark for completion. This is information that is very helpful to us—it is used nationally to determine where EMSC funds are needed in the future as well as where gaps exist. We did a similar assessment with the hospitals in VT a couple of years ago. VT came in at 71% with national average at 69%. Please encourage services to complete the survey.

Alan Beebe – can you send out the link again? Emily – yes. Preparing a reminder email and will include the link to the survey.

Field Bridge Update (Mike on Jenna's behalf): Field Bridge amendment still working through the contract process. Jenna's also making plans for webinar trainings once services have their license keys and she has created a "Getting Started with Field Bridge" resource on the SIRENEMS home page. Also if anyone on the phone is using TriTech as a third party-vendor, please contact Jenna with your representative's name and contact information so that we can run the bridging issues to ground. Jenna's also working on a training for service admins to QA tools on siren.

### **Questions from the Audience**

Alan Beebe said he is being told by providers that they can gain all of their continuing education credits using Centrelearn. Can they use that for 72 hours? Jess – no. Mike – see the NREMT guidelines for each level. That will describe how much distributive learning they can do...depends on the level of licensure. For at least one level it's 10 hours as part of the 24 hour refresher and another 12 hours toward elective credits, for a total of 22 hours. She offered to share the numbers with Alan if he couldn't locate them.

Alan Beebe asked if Field Bridge was expected out in September or more like October/November? Mike said it would be great to have a show and tell at the conference, and that the contract really is working its way through the process. There's nothing we can do to speed up the process, so best guess is October/November.

Scott Brinkman – new patches? Mike noted that staff had just talked yesterday about the plan to move forward. The personnel database is ready to accept data entry at the new levels, including the capability to print cards. We have a backlog of folks trained and licensed or transitioned to the new levels that need to get caught up on, plus we're talking about patches and when to begin distribution. More news as we develop the plan.

Alan? AEMT testing and how who supplies evaluators? Ray noted that the responsibility for getting evaluators remains with the course coordinator. We did some reach-out to districts about offering their help across district borders, but no follow-up is planned. Mike – it's a district/local thing to harness your resources. AEMT performance scores can be shared with DTCs.

Kate –Feedback for EMS Advisory Committee? Mike thanked her and reminded service leaders that they all should have heard from their area representative before the meeting at the end of the month, in order to allow that representative to give feedback to the EMS Advisory Committee in regard to district consolidation, or outstanding issues.

Kate – any thought to gathering different interest groups at the conference, such as ICs or DCs? Mike – we don't want to take folks out of continuing education sessions, but there will be some meetings happening that are already planned. DMAs will meet on Fri afternoon for 4-5 hours and the MRC (Med Reserve Corps) leadership on Thurs for a half-day session. For ICs, there's a vision to offer an educator track on the Saturday of the conference, so we may see the same people in the same rooms. If there's a desire to see other meetings pulled off during the conference, send us a note.

District Training Coordinator Bi-Monthly Calls (Jess): The first two conference calls with DTCs have taken place and attendance has been less than 50%. Jess is communicating regularly with DTCs and working on how to get better attendance. The pipeline that pushes out information from the office to DTCs to squads needs to be improved. Mike – at conference, we may need to look at Sat or Sun for meeting times, since Thurs and Fri are pretty booked.

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Page 4

Next EMS advisory is Monday, 9/23 at 1 p.m. If you're coming, rsvp so we have the room size correct.  
All are welcome to come or call in.