

In attendance: Dan Batsie, Dan Wolfson, Ray Walker, Lindsey Simpson, Chelsea Dubie and Kari Hancock

I. Training Update – Lindsey Simpson

- a. Credentialing – Services should have received an email recently with regard to credentialing. With the adoption of the new EMS rules, annual credentialing is now a requirement. Many services are already doing some type of credentialing, and the office would like to offer as much feedback and guidance as possible.

A training will be offered on January 31st at Middlebury Regional EMS from 1 – 3 p.m. The purpose is to create a dialogue and assist services in formalizing the credentialing process. At the end of the training, everyone will walk away with a set of tools that should better assist them in developing their own system.

A list of further trainings will be published once details are firmed up. If folks are interested in a particularly central location, please reach out to Lindsey.

- b. Psychomotor exam changes – the pilot of randomized exams skills took place in Thetford in December with a small exam group. No significant issues arose at that exam. That being said, the process will be repeated later this year with a larger exam.

II. Data Update – Chelsea Dubie

Chelsea explained she has been receiving lots of requests for year end reports as well as fielding many software issues. She asked for patience as she chips away at the requests. Still ongoing are issues like the CQI forms and 10-93 forms.

III. EMS-C Update – Kari Hancock

Kari thanked services for completing the needs assessment survey. The raw data has been sent for analysis and results should be received in a couple of months.

- a. Safe Sleep – Along with other state resources like Maternal & Child Health, Vermont is embarking on a program already being done by EMS providers in Michigan, Georgia and Florida. As with the falls program, it's been determined that EMS providers are in an ideal situation to spot infant safe sleep issues and bring them to the attention of agencies and resources that can best address them. The voluntary project comes with training and resources and would be performed when providers have "down time." Guidance is being generated now and more will be announced soon.

- b. EMT Class – Dan Batsie announced that Kari will be beginning an EMT class soon. He thanked her for her willingness to participate in the education, noting it will enrich the EMSC program and the staff.

IV. Licensing Operations Update – Ray Walker

Ray asked services to review personnel licenses now – EMRs expire on December 31, as do other providers who might have been on an extension from June 30.

When asked, Ray indicated that personnel reports can be run for services upon request.

The EMS staff will be attending the regional meeting at Stowe Rescue on Monday, January 8 at 6 p.m. Please stop in!

V. Medical Director Update – Dr. Daniel Wolfson

- a. Protocol Roll out schedule – An email regarding the 2018 draft EMS Protocols was sent out on 12/22 and the protocols are posted on the EMS website (www.vermontems.org).
 - i. Comments close Feb 1 - Comments are being collected until February 1. No new protocols are being considered, but please submit any questions, concerns, comments or grammatical errors to vtems@vermont.gov by February 1.
 - ii. Ongoing plan – depending on the comments received, the plan is to revise and release the protocols on March 1st. That would begin the 90-day training window. Services whose personnel are trained (apart from those who might be on extended leave or deployed) would be able to implement the new protocols; all services would be required to implement the protocols within 90 days of release.

VI. CARES/VTACHR Update – Dr. Daniel Wolfson

- a. March 17 Resuscitation Academy – One of the new protocols included in the 2018 draft is High Performance CPR. This is a team approach to CPR that, along with rapid dispatch, telephone instructions, therapeutic hypothermia and the CARES Registry has been shown to improve cardiac arrest survival by 10-50%. District 3 has received a grant, and together with the EMS Office will be touring the state providing training in the form of the Resuscitation Academy. Because only 30-60 people can participate in the Academy at any given time due to the nature of the training, it will take 1 to 2 years to train all the personnel in the state.

On March 17th, the first Academy will take place and invitations will be sent out shortly. This first training will focus on training state leadership and will serve as a train-the-trainer event. Once this core group of leaders and instructors has been trained, a schedule will be put together and the Academy will be offered around the entire state.

This project is called VTACHR and more will be forthcoming soon.

VII. General – Dan Batsie

- a. 2018 Strategic Planning – Dan explained that here in state government, January and February are reserved for strategic planning. In that vein, he asked that the group let him know of any feedback, thoughts or ideas that could be used to aid in this process.

- b. Conference Review/Planning – A review meeting will take place in late January. As always, we appreciate ideas and feedback. It is ever the goal of the EMS Office to offer high quality education and the best instructors.
- c. MCI Meetings – A series of meetings will take place around the state. Those with an interest in improving multi-casualty response in Vermont are encouraged to attend and offer opinions. The goal of these meetings and the subsequent work group that will be formed is to identify deficiencies and needs, and identify tools and resources to improve MCI responses.

Meetings are as follows:

- i. Wed Jan 10 1600-1800 at Rescue Inc in Brattleboro.
 - ii. Fri Jan 12 1300-1500 at the EMS office in Burlington. (note this meeting will have conference call capabilities. Please call 1 (877) 273-4202 and use conference room number 3128070).
 - iii. Wed Jan 17 1800-2000 at Brandon EMS
- d. EMS Week – Dan Batsie
 - i. Resources – The office is in the process of creating a Buyer’s Guide to EMS. This tool will be geared toward state and local government leadership, the goal being a better explanation of EMS, the costs and limitations involved, and an overall education for those who are decision-makers within their government structures. Anyone possessing expertise in this type of writing is urged to contact Dan Batsie.
 - ii. Celebration Plans – As most folks are aware, the annual state celebration at the State House did not occur this year. While this is a change from past years, it did afford the office staff an opportunity to visit the individual services to present awards.

Staff is currently seeking ideas on how to better celebrate EMS Week here in VT.

- iii. Recruitment and Retention – Dr. Daniel Wolfson
The EMS Office is undertaking a recruitment/retention research project with the state of Maine and a survey was recently sent out. Please complete it and return it as soon as possible.

No other topics were raised.

Dan Batsie thanked all for participating, urged continued involvement and feedback, and thanked folks for their participation.