



## VT EMS Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday March 20, 2019

Meeting called to order 1303

On phone:

Brad Reed

Charlene Phelps

Mark Podgwaite

Leonard Stell

Scott Cooney

Jim Finger

Leslie Lindquist

In room:

Drew Hazelton

Dan Batsie

Mark Considine

Pat Malone

### **Updates to agenda**

Confirming dates/locations of meetings for the year

Work plan for year

Format for and preparation of next year's report

No other additions to agenda

### **Advisory Committee Meetings**

April 10 1:00 pm – District 5 – Brad Reed will confirm location

June 12 1:00 pm– District 3 - UVM

August 14 1:00pm – District 10 – Regional Ambulance

October 9 1:00 pm – District 9 – Hartford Station

October 1- 4:00 pm – EMS conference meeting

Dec 11 1:00 pm– District 13 – Brattleboro

### **Legislative Report Update:**

Vermont Senate Committee on Government Operations is taking up report

## **Data on EMS office staffing:**

Dan Batsie: Similar states EMS office staffing: WY – 6, AK – 7, ND – 6, SD – 5, DE – 10, MT – 10 , RI – 5, ME - 6

VT EMS office has 4 staff and 2 admin. Not currently fully staffed. One person is out on maternity leave. Next week interviews will start for training administrator.

Hard to compare based on how different states set it up. The comparison states are the ones closest to population of VT. VT EMS office is not far off, within 1 or 2 staff members.

This does not take in to account what goes on at district or county levels in the other states. It's hard to quantify.

Level of staff is relative to what kind of output the districts are looking for: Quality Management person? Dedicated licensing person?

The group needs to come up with their recommendations for the staffing.

## **District Medical Advisors and their roles:**

Dan Batsie: Protocol advisory committee meeting makeups– made up providers to give their input on the protocols. Lots of good information coming in. DMAs also advise on the protocols

New Hampshire and Maine have different make ups. Heavier bureaucracy could slow things down

A suggestion was made that the DMA meetings should be open for transparency.

Several districts are satisfied with the way things are now.

## **Update on VTC Program:**

Paramedic program at VTC has been continued for a year.

Still expensive, \$25,000.

Senate committee took some testimony from VTC and does have interest.

How community colleges are funded in VT make this an issue (credit hour costs)

There is precedent in health care programs receiving tuition offsets – nursing, dental hygiene, respiratory therapists – as they are critical infrastructure.

Quality education will be costly but should not be cost prohibitive

Legislators want recommendations for long term solutions for paramedic education in Vermont.

Education cost is also an issue for lower level providers (volunteers)

June meeting will be dedicated to EMS education discussion

Information needed for June meeting:

Dan Batsie will get info on amounts/percentages of allocations of tuition for other health programs

Demand for classes is there. Paramedic program had many inquiries.

Can we measure success of students through to licensing process?

Educators are also in need

Another way to do program attached to college? Drew will look in to

Other ways to finance all EMS education – Leonard Stell and Dan work on that

## **Review Questions 1 – 3 of legislative report**

*Question 1: Whether every Vermont municipality should be required to have in effect an emergency medical services plan providing for timely and competent emergency responses.*

Mark Considine: some years ago, Vermont League took up a position on this and wrote a report. Mark said there was trepidation on requiring this.

Drew will reach out to League representative to look for this information

The first part of this question will be discussed at April meeting

There is no legal requirement for a town to provide EMS

Timely and competent emergency response? Hard to define and too prohibitive to define

Dan can look into other states to see if there are any requirement to provide EMS

*Question 2: Whether the state should establish directives addressing when an agency can respond to a nonemergency request for transportation of a patient if doing so will leave the service area unattended or unable to respond to an emergency call in a timely fashion.*

Proposed to skip for this year. Consensus agreed.

*Question 3: How the EMS system is functioning statewide and the current state of recruitment and workforce development.*

Recruitment/Retention topic to be discussed at August meeting

Drew will keep track of new legislation

Dan will look into getting info on how many providers do not recertify as well as current number of providers who have relicensed for June

Dan said they could possibly bring in a third-party company to create the polls needed. He is working on this.

April Agenda to include the questions so they can be edited or added to.

Question 4 will be reviewed at October conference meeting

Agenda item for April meeting will include coming up with a plan for Questions 5-10

### **EMS Office Update:**

Training administrator interviews will start next week – 7 candidates.

Chelsea Dubie is on maternity leave six weeks early, two system data managers were hired to cover the position. Big and complex data questions may be delayed.

New EMS for Children hire: Merrill Pine

Protocol suggestions or concerns are welcomed at the regional meetings coming up

### **Legislative Report Format and Plan:**

Report format discussions need to be finalized by August meeting.

August meeting – finalizing format and chunking out areas of work for people

Minutes from December 13, 2018 minutes approved

### **Other business:**

Mark Podgwaite requested information to be sent out before meeting. Drew will try to send information as it comes in.

EMS Under the Dome: 5 posters regarding cost of EMS in Vermont. Talked about different financial challenges: reimbursements, reimbursement models, education costs, shrinking volunteerism, and paid staff challenges. Legislators had varying degrees of interest. VT digger article and Dan Batsie was on the Graham show on news radio. Continue with our “little messages”

EMS Educator Day in Bennington was successful.

Adjourn: 1437