

EMS Leadership Call Minutes 8/1/2019

Attendance: Dan Batsie, Dan Wolfson (phone), Ray Walker, Chelsea Dubie, Merrill Pine, Jamie Benson, Donna Jacob

Dan B. opened the meeting by thanking everyone on the call their time, and then asked staff to introduce themselves.

Licensing – Ray

- Agency license renewal applications went out in the mail 2 weeks ago. If anyone has not received theirs, reach out to Ray.

Data – Chelsea

- Just back with Ray Walker from the ImageTrend conference in St. Paul and have a couple of updates:
 - NEMESIS is gearing up to roll out V3.5, most likely in January 2021. This roll-out should not be as complex as the change from the old SIREN platform to Elite, but it still will require data element and perhaps platform modifications. More information to follow.
 - Currently, states are paying a good deal of money to maintain the old SIREN V2.2 system, and it is becoming less and less secure. ImageTrend has created a secure platform called Vault, which states would maintain. It looks similar to Elite. This change is still a year or so away. NJ has already switched over and says that Vault operates much faster and data retrieval goes much quicker than the old V2.2 system.
- Continue using siren@vermont.gov for support requests.
- One of the data managers, Tom, has been extended for 3 months to assist. Emily Fisher is headed to nursing school. If you happen to see or interact with her, please thank her for her strong work. We wish her well!

EMSC – Merrill

- A Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) course will be offered at the conference.
- 13 of 14 hospitals currently have a PEC Coordinator in place, and now the focus is shifting to increasing the number of agencies with a PECC.
- Work continues on a pediatric safety initiative similar to HeartSAFE—creating best practices for towns and residents to become a pediatric-safe community. One of the requirements will be for the primary service in the community to have a PECC.
- Two SIM Mom train-the-trainer courses have been set for next month.

Medical Director – Dan W.

- Protocol work continues. Great input from DMAs, workgroup and from regional meetings. Lots of excellent discussion and research being offered.
- Next regional meeting is In Newport on August 12 at 6 p.m.

General EMS Office Updates – Dan B.

- The search for a state training coordinator continues; negotiations reached an impasse so the search is starting again. Apologies for the damper on training activities, but the office remains confident that the right person will surface
- Special fund grants have only been enacted by 4 of the 13 districts. Only 2 forms are required to complete the paperwork, and we'd love to hand out funds: certificate of insurance and a W-9. Please submit the paperwork so we can give you funds.
- Protocol revision process has been going very well. DB reminded administrators that as they prepare their training budgets and agendas, there will be an educational component required to put the new protocols in place. Too soon to tell to what extent training will be required, but it's a good time to keep that in mind.
- Conference planning is going well. The first meeting of the selection process was held yesterday, with another one scheduled for later today. More agenda information will be out in a couple of weeks, once schedules and contracts are more firm. Couple items of note:
 - Friday's keynote speaker will be Jessa Dillow Crisp, a human trafficking survivor. Following her address, Vermont will roll out the first of several human trafficking awareness classes at the conference. There will also be a similar class on CentreLearn, but the focus will be on in-person education.
 - Saturday's keynote speaker is Ken Williams. Dr. Williams is the medical director for Rhode Island, and has devoted extensive time and research to the treatment of opioid overdose and the use of naloxone.
 - Keith Hermiz will hold the first Pediatric Resuscitation Academy at the conference, which will dovetail with the new VT Pediatric Arrest Care initiative in 2020.
 - Also on Saturday, there will be the first Adult Resuscitation Academy refresher course. While not mandatory, it will be a good opportunity to refresh and hone skills for anyone interested.
 - A regular Adult Resuscitation Academy will be held at the conference (most likely on Thursday but not yet definite.)
 - Sunday's keynote is Lillian Bonsignore. Lillian was recently promoted to the role of FDNY EMS Chief and is the first woman to hold the position. She will address gender issues in EMS, among other topics.
 - The conference will serve as one of the kick-off events for the new Pediatric Safe Community initiative.
- A new law went into effect the first of the year that would allow AEMTs to perform evidentiary blood draws for law enforcement. This law went into effect without consultation or knowledge, and it raises some areas for thought:
 - Remember that the AEMT level is not specifically trained or credentialed in phlebotomy. If an agency wants to create a training and credentialing program, that is certainly not outside the realm of possibility. However, it is important to consider where the liability will lie in the case of the patient developing an infection from the site of the blood draw, or some other less than favorable outcome.
 - Blood draws are not part of the AEMT scope of practice, nor should assisting in this task take the AEMT away from their patient care responsibilities or delay transport.
 - No more than \$75 has been allotted as payment for blood draws. While this might seem generous, also consider that an evidentiary blood draw will likely result in the AEMT receiving a subpoena, making a court appearance, and taking time off from work. How or whether compensation will be arranged for these additional responsibilities has yet to be determined.

- When asked, Dan noted that the blood draw is not an EMS task, but rather being done at the request of law enforcement. It is unclear how or if documentation of this draw will be captured in SIREN.
- **The link to the law is here**; please call Dan with any questions

Hearing nothing further, the meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Meeting adjourned 11:24 a.m.