

EMS Advisory Meeting

2/12/2020

Waterbury, Vermont

Meeting called to order: 1300

Members Present: Alan Beebe (D9), Dan Batsie (VTMES), Pat Malone (IREMS), Gwenn (VLCT), Mark Podgwaite (D13)

Members on the phone: Drew Hazelton (D13), Bob Maynard (D12), Jim Finger (D10), Adam (Glover)

Additions/Deletions to agenda:

none

Legislative Report:

Drew states that it has been submitted, there are four different committees. Much interest and well received so far. Working to keep interest up

Drew received praise for his work from the committee and specifically Gwenn and Dan.

Attrition Data: Dan states 2 parts: Total of new licenses and total of expired and not renewed in 6 months.

2015: 341 new, 340 lost

2016: 336 new, 463 lost

2017: 396 new, 334 lost

2018: 383 new, 456 lost

Total new: 1456, Total lost: 1593 for a net loss of 137 over four years

Data suggests that recruitment is not the problem and that retention is the problem.

Drew agreed and added that that info along with the increase in run numbers makes the loss feel more significant.

Dan stated that they have raw data on the poll that took place on why people leave EMS. Dan does not have exact numbers, but about ½ are leaving because of the culture in the workplace, their employers and/or colleagues. UVM is to have the actual data back to VTEMS this week.

Another study on student attrition showed that about 1/3 are dropping out of classes for various reasons. Dan stated that this was done with students that were enrolled but never became certified for any reason (examples: broken leg, not enough time to complete, grades not sufficient, cannot pass the test)

Dan stated that there was a question that went out to agencies about how much help do you need to do the job. It was difficult to get accurate answers. More education needs to be done to help people understand what is being asked.

Jim asked if we could get numbers on who comes into EMS, but is not active. Dan stated that as long as we could define an “active member”, we could possibly get those numbers.

Update on EMS stakeholders Guide:

Dan states that language edits and changes have been done. He stated that he needs a snapshot of billing revenue for ambulance services to complete the guide. Jim stated that he had that information and would send it to Dan.

Dan states that he will take the raw data info and make it look presentable.

Dan stated that he was hoping to have it back for next week and be posted as a PDF. Drew stated that it would be valuable to have toward the end of the legislative session.

Gwenn stated that she could help with distribution once complete.

Dan will be looking for final feedback toward the end of next week.

Special Fund:

Dan states that they looked at four years of data on what has been used. About 45% of the funds have remained unspent.

Possible reasons for this: Process to obtain funds is difficult. Is the existing process working? Is there a better way to use the funds? Dan states that there is no requirement on how to distribute the funds.

Jim stated that he is in favor of finding a better way to distribute the funds.

Dan had a few suggestions on distribution process: possibly create a dissemination process and should it be used for initial and continuing education rather than testing processes?

Drew recommended using it to fund leadership training in EMS since retention seems to be an issue.

Dan agreed with this statement.

Dan asked that this topic be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mark asked why it was labeled as a “grant” to begin with that created restrictions on distribution. Dan stated that he did not know the answer, but could not find anywhere that it needed to be called a “grant”.

Gwenn added that if we, as a group, can create a distribution design and have it in place, she feels that the legislature would support it.

VTC:

Inge Luce not present in person or by phone. Dan states that he does not know of any major changes since our last meeting. Pat Malone states that the Fire Science program is not being continued at VTC.

And that he is concerned about the lack of participation from leadership (administration) at VTC.

Dan agrees that VTC administration has had limited participation and probably should have been included in the advisory committee from the beginning. Dan stated that he would reach out to VTC leadership about this.

Drew stated that Inge's letter had changes wondering what is happening with those changes.

Leadership Training:

Dan states that he has met with Peter Lynch of the VFA about this. VTEMS and the VFA would like to start a joint venture of Fire/EMS to develop and teach best practices and leadership. Both agencies agree to split the cost in order to fund the education. The plan is to team up some EMS folks with VFA curriculum advisors. Dan is looking for two more people to be part of this. Alan agreed to assist. There will be a meeting at the VA on March 30th to begin the process.

The training would start with the Attributes of Leaders. The training would be available as a Train the Trainer to all Districts and upon request.

The name of the overall course would be something like Public Safety Leader Course to include all aspects of public safety.

Jim Finger made a motion to support and proceed with the course.

Second made by Pat Malone

All in favor, motion passed.

Pat mentioned that he has heard of a similar course developed elsewhere and will share that information with Dan.

EMS Office Updates:

VTEMS wishes to rotate the annual conference from the north to the south every other year. However, none of the venues that could host the conference have any availability. (Mt. Snow & Killington).

Dan assured everyone that a conference will occur this year but it may not be done in the southern part of that state as promised.

There was talk of the possibility of moving it to the spring as most state and national EMS conferences are in the fall. Dan was looking for feedback.

Dan also stated that they may look at doing some sort of NCCP weekend training (mini-conference) one year followed by the typical 4-5 day conference the following year. The every-other year two-day conference would make it easier to plan and coordinate as well offer up other venues that maybe could not do the entire conference, but could be able to host a two day conference.

Dan is looking for feedback. There was some discussion on the topic.

Coronavirus: Dan states that VTEMS has been fielding many calls on this. He wanted to educate people that there are two types of coronavirus. Many people have the normal coronavirus and deal with it like any other flu-like sickness. However, what came from China is called Novel coronavirus. VTEMS should be seeing some guidance from the CDC on this and will distribute to providers.

Next meeting:

Next meeting will be at Upper Valley Ambulance in Fairlee, April 8th, 1300 hrs.

Gwen mentioned that should be enough time before the legislative session ends.