

## VT EMS Advisory Committee

### Minutes

August 19, 2020

12:00pm

#### In Attendance:

Charlene Phelps

Adam Heuslein

Mark Podgwaite

Dan Batsie

Ray Walker

Jim Finger

Drew Hazelton

Inge Luce-Smith

Leslie Lindquist

Pat Malone

Bobby Maynard

Gwynn Zakov

Alan Beebe

Billy Smith

Jen Piette

#### COVID Response Update – Dan Batsie

- Case Count – 1,530. 58 deaths. Peak has been flat – about 200 cases in last 30 days. Vermont had lowest case rate in all of US as of last Wednesday. Only 2 deaths in last 30 days. Hospitalization rates low. Some small outbreaks. Students going back to school, and college students coming back could lead to more outbreaks. State is geared up with surge capacity
- EMS absenteeism has been low. A small district 2 service had a small interruption. There have been some COVID related quarantines – almost all resulted from improper use of PPE.
- Call volumes have crept up. Volume was down about 30% during the response period, they have started to creep back up

#### Work Plan Discussion

- Jim Finger puts out a motion to approve the work plan put out by Drew Hazelton
- Pat Malone seconds. Motion passes

#### Education

- Most of restrictions have been lifted. Still following Governor's program. Facilities and schools still have restrictions. Clinical related restrictions still exist, however things are moving forward
- Bennington Rescue will be vendor for hybrid EMT program. 3 programs beginning between now and end of year.
- Voucher Program is moving forward. 16 paramedic voucher applications. Applications being approved upon affiliation and operational status with organizations. Grants will be between State of Vermont and the teaching facility. Voucher does not enroll student in the course, student must follow course application process. Approx 30 applications for EMT and AEMT vouchers. Out of State residents that work/affiliate with a Vermont EMS service are eligible.
- Approved courses can be found on the EMS office website
- Update on suspended programs – most have been resolved. Nothing at this point that is blocking these programs on the State level

- VTC program has received 16 new paramedic students. May open a second cohort. Long term solution to cost still needs to be worked out. Out of State student tuition is \$51,000 significant impact on border towns EMS.

#### Education Committee Update

- Member List: Mark Considine, Mark Podgwaite, Pat Malone, Inge Luce-Smith, Joey Stell,
- Dan Batsie is acting intern Vermont EMS Chief. He will continue to support the education and advisory committees. Vermont currently has a hiring freeze; the EMS office has asked for exception to this for the Chief's and Training Administrator's position (Chief's position has priority). There are currently no candidates for the Training Administrator position
- Assignments – Instructor Coordinator level to be divided up. Model of education for licensure level of Vermont Emergency Responder.
- Conversation about how districts are recommending approvals. There are about 13 different ways its being done. Dan Batsie mentions that the new instructor coordinator levels would involve teaching core education principals to a wider spectrum of people which may help districts with their approval process. A more in-depth discussion will be assigned to education committee
- Drew assigned formal Chair position and minutes responsibility to Pat Malone

#### Workforce Development

- Workforce surveys data – Dan Batsie will distribute this data and can talk about it at our next meeting.
- Dan Batsie mentions diversity survey done among first responders, feels there is valuable info there that may be worth looking while we evaluate our system.

#### Data for September Meeting

- EMS office has most of data and will have it for the September meeting. EMS office can also provide number of services that do not renew their license for 2021
- Jim Finger asked if there is a way to track mutual aid data – Dan Batsie will look into this
- Drew recommends group look into reaching out to those with temporary licenses to see if they have interest in staying in EMS and help them through the process

*Minutes from July 7, 2020 meeting approved*

*Meeting adjourned*

