

EMS Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Attendance: Leonard Stell, Adam Heuslein, Jim Finger, Patrick Malone, Jeffrey Tieman, Chris Bell, Dan Batsie, Chelsea Dubie, Kari Hancock, Dan Wolfson, Ray Walker, Lindsey Simpson

Meeting started at 1:03 PM

EMSAC Vacancies

The following positions on the advisory committee are still vacant:

VT Association of ED Nurses

VT State Firefighters Association – first responder/FAST squad seat

VT League of Cities and Towns

Jeff Tieman, new president of the Vermont Association for Hospitals and Health Systems, has joined as the VAHHS rep.

Committee members were asked for suggestions to represent the missing organizations.

EMS Rule Update

The new Rule will go into effect on January 1. More guidance on credentialing is forthcoming from the EMS office.

Role of the EMSAC

This meeting's goal is to look at issues and the activities of the EMS office from the systems level and to use the committee for input.

Education Task Force

The EMS office wants to engage instructors, squad leaders and other stakeholders in improving EMS education in the state and will convene a task force to accomplish this, most likely with quarterly meetings. There were suggestions to include a non-EMS educator and a simulation lab representative. The composition and possibility for term-limiting representatives is still up for discussion.

Data Task Force

EMS staff are just beginning to consider establishing a data task force to help make SIREN data more readily available and useful.

Psychomotor Testing

The EMS office piloted a plan to reduce the number of skills tested at the EMR and EMT levels at the 12/9 practical exam site in Thetford and found that it didn't significantly reduce the amount of time and resources necessary. The 1/20 test site in Burlington will be the next pilot site; it will feature a much bigger sample size.

This pilot program is part of a larger conversation leading to measuring competency accurately and efficiently.

Paramedic Accreditation

VT's only Paramedic program (VTC) is having its accreditation site visit in January, and the EMS office is helping them. The goal is to support Paramedic education in general, not necessarily just one program.

EMS Protocols

A final draft of the VT Statewide EMS Protocols will be sent out for comment in December for a 30-day review. After that, there will be another 30 days of revisions (if necessary) from the review, and then the protocols will go live. Agencies can begin using the protocols after that date (once their active providers are trained). All agencies must begin using the new protocols three months after the go-live date.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has updated the EMR scope of practice in part based on a paper published by UVM and the VT EMS office. The new scope will include wound packing, tourniquets and intranasal naloxone, which all currently are within the VT EMR scope. *(NOTE: the use of epi auto-injectors was inadvertently mentioned in the meeting; epi will not be part of the EMR scope of practice.)*

EMS Plan/System Evaluation

The EMS office will seek an outside third party to perform a statewide assessment of the EMS system. It is still working out the process for accomplishing this.

Community Paramedicine/Integrated Mobile Health Task Force

The EMS office received a grant from Rural Health to form a task force to support integrated mobile health care in Vermont. It will develop a set of standards and guidelines for local communities to develop their own programs. Potential task force membership will consist of any health care entity involved or interested in community paramedicine.

Service Administrator Orientation

EMS service leaders are invited to participate in a visit to the EMS office to meet one-on-one with each staff member to learn about expectations and what the staff can offer for support. In concert with the VT Ambulance Association and the Professional Firefighters associations, the leader can be matched with a "mentor" leader who can serve as a resource.

First Responder Service Inspections

The EMS office would be happy to visit first responder services upon request to perform an inspection based on the recommended first responder equipment list and provide an opportunity for the leadership to meet with an EMS office staff member.

The EMS office is interested in increasing the number of first responder services using SIREN for patient documentation and wants to help resolve issues that are preventing this from happening.

MCI Planning

The EMS office is holding three meetings to discuss existing MCI plans and address any identified gaps with all interested stakeholders. MCI planning should occur on a regular basis.

Program Administration

The EMS office will produce a licensing and inspection manual in 2018 to cover all aspects of vehicle, agency and personnel licensing, as well as vehicle inspections. There are plans to revise the Infection Control manual and add other resources, such as a HIPAA for EMS guide. Suggestions for other resources were requested.

The office expects that the long-awaited online licensing system will be implemented in 2018 after a protracted contract writing process. This system will replace the paper-based licensing system.

EMS for Children

It is important for all EMS services to answer the Assessment survey. Its findings will steer the activities of the newly-constituted EMS for Children Advisory Committee for the next few years.

VTACH-R (Vermont Alliance for Critical Heart Resuscitation)

This is a program to increase survival from witnessed cardiac arrest based on the Seattle Resuscitation Academy. The eight pilot communities in Vermont have seen their survival rates increase from around 7% to 50%. The program involves all links in the chain of survival: bystanders, 911 dispatchers, first responders, EMS, hospital ED and ICU. VT is also contributing to the national Cardiac Arrest Registry for Enhanced Survival (CARES) to share our data with the rest of the country. There will be a Resuscitation Academy training event on March 17 as part of a program to make VTACH-R statewide in 2 years.

Recruitment/Retention

A committee member asked what is happening with recruitment and retention efforts. The EMS office is focusing on leadership and education as means to address this issue, and the OnCall for VT website remains active, successfully referring interested people to their local EMS agencies. Dan Batsie is working with the National Registry to seek ways to increase access to Pearson Vue testing centers for the National Registry cognitive exam. There is only one in Vermont. A committee member suggested creating a task force focused specifically on retention.

Next Meeting

There was a brief discussion about how often the committee needs to meet. By legislative mandate, it is only required to meet twice a year. The topic of the frequency of meetings and

addressing the poor attendance will be the first item on the agenda at the next meeting, March 21 at 1PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20PM.