

Leadership Call – September 5, 2019

Staff present: Chelsea Dubie, Merrill Pine, Ray Walker, Dan Batsie, Dan Wolfson

Licensing Update - Ray Walker

- Agency renewal applications are coming in slowly and look good so far. Please have them in to the districts for their review at September or early October board meetings. We need them by 11/1 to have service licenses issued by the end of November.

Data Update - Chelsea Dubie/Dan Batsie

- Work has commenced on a project UVM Public Health to look at workforce development issues. Why do we lose people from EMS in Vermont every year? Georgia and South Carolina have been looking at this type of project as well. Once the groundwork is laid, surveys will be sent out asking folks why they may have exited EMS system—is it money, mental health challenges, work conditions or other reasons? Hoping UVM Public Health can help us analyze that data. More to come on this project.
- Also working on pediatric care quality assurance stuff in VT. With approx. 5,000 pediatric calls to look at, we're hoping to address the rate of protocol error, omissions and other issues and have some real targeted solutions rather than assumptions.

EMSC - Merrill Pine

- Great advisory meeting last week. Lots of strong ongoing work on the PECC project. Both Districts 6 and 8 have now designated their own PECCs and there will be offerings at the conference to train more interested providers. Merrill is working to develop a scenario book to help with skill checking.
- A SIM Mom training last week, with another one scheduled for September 12th. In answer to a question from Joe Gannon, Merrill explained that the manikin can be signed out for use at an agency for on-shift training. Scenarios can involve birth, breech, shoulder presentation, postpartum hemorrhage, airway placement, crich or needle decompressions, and more. Dan Batsie explained that the person requesting to use the manikin must be trained before it can be signed out. September 12th represents the 4th training program that has been held. Someone needs to have gone thru the orientation before borrowing it.
- Work being done at the ED in Rutland around national pediatric readiness. It's Merrill's hope to get other EDs involved.

Medical Director Update - Dan Wolfson

- 2020 protocol update is chugging along. To date, there have been 7 meetings with workgroup as well as meetings with DMAs, monthly regional meetings and many emails, phone calls and smoke signals. Now working internally page by page making changes, and those changes will come back to the stakeholders in the fall prior to finalizing this winter. Training modules and medical direction guidance will also be designed before rollout. Any ideas be brought forward to our office asap, as time is running out for this round.
- 1:10,000 Cardiac epi shortage? We sent out a memo last year describing how 1:1,000 epi can be utilized as a substitute. Ray Walker will repost that memo to the website.
- Next regional meeting Monday, 9/9 at Thetford Fire. May be your last opportunity to bring up protocol concerns at a regional meeting.
- Joe Gannon asked if further consideration of AEMTs giving flu shots? Dan Batsie indicated he wasn't aware of a request. Joe said one reason is that an area service is able to utilize nurses to host

a flu clinic. His service lacks nurses but not AEMTs and could host a clinic if AEMTs were allowed to administer vaccinations.

General - Dan Batsie

- Training administrator search ongoing. Will close in another week or 2...16th or 19th. Please pass the word or apply. We have some well-credentialed candidates lined up in this next round of selection. Hope springs eternal.
- Special fund – complete the paperwork!!
- Protocol update – moving along well! There will be time at the conference allotted to discussing updates.
- Conference is 10/31 – 11/3 at the Hilton in Burlington. Great cast of characters. Key events include:
 - Monday 10/28 includes the first annual executive leadership program. High level administrators can't normally come so we're creating a separate leadership day. This will be a great program for higher-level leaders and will include speakers such as Jon Politis, someone from American Ambulance Association, and more.
 - Mental Health First Aid will be held Monday and Tuesday, 10/28 and 10/29. This course will teach basic mental health concepts.
 - PEPP on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10/29 and 10/30.
 - Working hard to secure a PHTLS class for Tuesday and Wednesday, 10/29 and 10/30. Just finalizing details.
 - Motivational interviewing class (cultural competencies and better interviewing) Tuesday, 10/29.
 - Drug diversion workshop (thinks it's scheduled for Tuesday, 10/29 at the hotel Vermont next door). This course is designed to address EMS issues around opiate theft, record keeping etc. VT EMS is working with NH to learn from what they've done as a state to improve record keeping and managing diversion situations. This is a class we've done in the past but will be streamlined for EMS. There is not a lot of policy/procedure around this issue and it's a significant liability. Hoping to learn from NH and work through scenarios to discuss how we can develop our own. Landscape around procuring and storing schedule medications will change as organizations become their own midlevel practitioner. Changes will be required—trying to get ahead of the curve.
 - PECC workshop on Wednesday, 10/30. Trying to push this program out and Merrill Pine has some really great ideas and tools to provide services to improve pediatric care. These PECCS can bring a toolkit back to their services.
 - Second annual Educator Day on Thursday, 10/31. This day is included as part of the main conference and includes 5 individual sessions. Other ed topics sprinkled throughout but hope to get I/C participation on Thursday.
 - Resuscitation Academy on Thursday, 10/31. Hoping every agency in the state gets trained on the HP CPR protocols. To schedule an agency or regional training, email Chris McCarthy (cmccarthy@vabir.org) or Dan Wolfson (daniel.wolfson@partner.vermont.gov) and we'll get it set up. This is a self-contained course and comes complete to you with instructors and equipment. The session being held at the conference is a full-day workshop and has limited space. Sign up early.
 - Refresher Resuscitation Academy - There will also be a 2-hr refresher RA session for folks who want to refresh their skills.
 - First ever Pediatric Resuscitation Academy session will be held during the conference. This is different than the adult refresher academy and will launch the pediatric RA efforts in Vermont.
 - Great lineup for the conference. Registration is open. www.vtemsconference.com

- EMS Advisory Committee – the next meeting will be a dinner meeting, following the leadership day (Monday, 10/28).
- Trauma Advisory Committee - VT EMS is working with UVM and Dartmouth to talk about trauma issues, triage, outcomes, priorities, etc. in VT. Trying to pull together stakeholders to have ongoing discussions. More info to come.

Questions -

- Mark Podgwaite asked when will conf schedule be posted? Dan Batsie explained that they are waiting for speaker arrangements to get confirmed, but that the schedule should be posted very soon.
- Adam Heuslein – Will monthly psychomotor exams no longer be held? Dan Batsie said that the thought is to move away from regular district exams as a regimen and move toward lining tests up with class(es). When a district is tasked with an exam but has no students/classes testing, there was a very low attendance for that exam. If we can tie testing to courses, districts would have skin in the game. This practice had been relatively successful up until August. There were no classes ending in August.
Currently there's only one test posted but there will be more added very soon. The challenge is can we do this based on courses finishing. Seems like it'll work but we're working to develop the concept. For example, we'll look at July and August next year, decide in advance that we need to hold one exam each month and ask if there is a willing district. The only problem this year has been in the deep part of summer. Anyone with a recently approved course has seen an email from Dan Batsie discussing joint exams. Will it be successful? Don't know but feels like the right direction. Adam asked that a notice be sent out to district trainers.
- Dan said that tentative discussions about an I/C program are taking place. Office staff have been holding off because we haven't had a training administrator. However, given the time that has passed, a panel of smart folks who have expressed willingness to help with it has been convened. Timeframe would ideally be between the end of the conference and January. Will try to schedule in a population-central location (perhaps Burlington area). If there's a better location, propose it. Want to make this an opportunity for folks.

Adjourned at 11:33 a.m. Thank you!