

S.C. EMS Advisory Board Meeting

April 7, 2021

Attending:

M. Goldsmith- Chair C. Duffy – Vice Chair R Ackermann – Secretary

A Rau – EMS-1 R Sauer – SC Public Safety Commissioner

American Legion – T LaRuffa

Neversink – A Bivens

Bethel – M Goldsmith

Rock Hill – N Meddaugh

Cochecton- P Grosser

Roscoe – K Jara

Grahamsville- R Mahnken

Tusten – n/a

Jeffersonville - R Ackermann

Upper Delaware – C Duffy

Livingston Manor - R Bressler

Woodbourne – n/a

Lumberland – A Steimle

Mobile Medic – A Bockman

Mamakating – P Goodman

Hatzolah – B Gips

Mountindale – n/a

Guests- M Congelosi Chief Neversink, D Jonas NYS DOH EMS

Meeting started 19:02

No previous minutes available

EMS -1report: Update on vaccinations – SCCC is the central Hub for SC. Working with SC Public Health

Several EMT's , including Ann Bivens, are helping and are appreciated.

County ID's – Alex and/or the coordinators will be contacting agencies to ensure that all have county ID's and are up to date.

Narcan Leave Behind program – we've been given the "green light" to move forward with and agencies interested in participating will be contacted (if your agency is interested let Alex know) and training will be made available.

Epcr's – All Sullivan County agencies applications are in. Program needs to be online by the end of June. (go live dates must be a Tuesday per State)

Dispatch- Please relay to your crews when calling in to EMS they should please wait for a reply THEN proceed with your message. Also please listen before keying up mic to ensure the channel is clear.

EMS week is 5/16 to the 22nd. Let Alex know if your agency has plans.

Rehab team – they have about 17/18 members interested. Hope to get it up and running late summer/early fall. Training hopefully early summer.

Mutual Aid – Will compare statistics from last time we met with Dan Depew to see where we are now.

Benjamin Study – Alex went over stages – Phase 1 – Dispatch more regional- pooling resources

Good and Welfare: Desi from Grahamsville had brain surgery about 6 weeks ago. She is in rehab in Westchester. Please keep Desi and her family in your thoughts.

He will be speaking to Putnam, Essex and Columbia (mentioned in the Benjamin study) counties to see how their systems are working for them.

Introduced Dana Jonas- NYS DOH EMS – he takes care of Municipal CON's-

Dana Jonas – he has reviewed the Benjamin study. He commented that it has good stats and that we've done more research than most.

Key documents we need to use/know: Policy st #09-01, PHL 3008 and generic policy 06-06 (see attached). Policy 06-06 is being "fixed" so connect with EMS for help when getting to that.

Stated that the Department appreciates our county is taking a proactive approach to use what we have and looking into better manage our system. Long term goal should be to deliver robust EMS system to deliver and provide quality EMS to our community. He has seen many systems and DOH is happy we're working at this instead of waiting until we are at a crisis point. EMS is evolving into something very different than 30 years ago.

Generic suggestions from Dana- #1 – if a county system – foremost in process should be a public feedback system in place: press releases, why there is a need, what we plan to do to fix the problems.

R Sauer asked: start getting feedback now? or wait until we know what direction we are headed? Dana's answer – "sooner than later". Address issues in a general statement and let public know you're working on it.

A Rau asked: regarding county CON – do we need a plan prior to?

Dana – Municipal CON's are considered by the State to be automatically competent and fit. DOH will presume the County will be the operator. If we contract with an agency to do that that is NOT NYS certified then we would have to go through competency and fitness. (PHL-

3008 sec 7a- Municipally declared). Municipal Declaration gives us an automatic 2 years (from the date it's delivered to DOH) period and if at 2 years till operating then "there shall be a strong presumption of approval". Municipal system can into effect very fast.

Recommended path – figure out what you are going to do. Create a draft of resolution – get that to Dana who will help us and tweak it if needed. Wait until we are ready to start before submitting to State. "Clock starts ticking" when the resolution is turned in so turn in when ready to start. Region has nothing to do with this. Get certification paperwork (same as the 2 year renewal) in ASAP.

Final step- Physical inspection - county will then receive operating certificate. This potentially can happen within a few days of receipt.

Summary – figure out where we are going. Shopping list of goals, list of details. Draft resolution/declaration – get to Dana for help/tweaks.

Alex R- What obligation does county have? Dana- liability is already there with 911 Center – to deliver resources available to serve public interests. The same liability as a County Sheriff Dept.

Ruth A- I recommend Karen Taddeo be contacted by SC attorney if any questions since she is an EMS attorney with close connections to the State and knowledge of our system since she represented the Volunteers in a lawsuit several years ago. Dana- K. Taddeo is in his top 5 Attorneys and he has other names if we need.

Alex R- who can we contract with or do we hire our own? With other NFP/Profit out of county?
Dana- If their fitness and competency is OK with the State then we can go with them. Generally hire almost anyone. Chenango County NY (north of Broome) they created an organization from scratch since no one from the area wanted to be involved. Columbia – Northern Dutchess Medics and contracted with every service and can assign a unit to cover an area that needs a rapid response - but many of those NFP's have paid staff. Schoharie County has AMR. A red flag – corps covering less than 1/3rd of their calls burden other agencies. Some hire a handful and backfill volunteers during the day but the corps need to be covering their nights for that to work.

Mat G – spoke with PJ from Columbia who put together their model. Once they knew what they wanted they wanted to enact it within 6 months. Dana- he will put Matt Beckwith in contact with Alex since they are a bit ahead of us to collaborate and help us. Samples of drafts are available. Make our resolution simple and to the point. More than 1/2 a page is too much.

Mat G- open floor for discussion -

Ruth A – we need to decide what we are going to do – or if we're going to do nothing. Make a decision. Mat G- will meet with other counties to see what works or doesn't for them. Alex R- has contacted all mentioned in study – Putnam did not respond to his request. **Columbia-** all paid, mostly NFP so not relevant to us since most Volunteer squads are NOT paid staff.

Schoharie – used tax monies to put county paid EMT’s in the areas needed. Albee B – Mobile Medic has provided service for 30 years at no cost to tax payers, listed his many officers, covers 62% of calls in the county now and states we should do this together. He requested in previous meetings a committee be put together to look into this. Reps were asked to bring suggestions and only 3 were offered. He also brought up his concerns with Deputy Coordinators.

Discussion on forming a committee for this or what do we want to do to move forward as a group. Some felt the zoom setting was not conducive to people speaking freely and it would be better if we met in person. Rick S- note they tried this thinking an in person meeting with masks and social distancing would be ok in the case of a possible exposure but they were not and those attending had to quarantine when there was a potential exposure.

Ann S – suggested getting together in person in small groups in each corps areas- she would meet with Tusten and American legion. Ruth A suggested Jeff, UDVAC and Cohecton and so forth. This was agreed upon by most as a good idea. Meet and then bring finding/suggestion/thoughts to next meeting in June.

Mat G- next meeting in person and he will set up smaller groups to meet before then. Asked Albee B to get prior minutes to Ruth (to get to Ann Marie for filing). Connor D – gets all points and agrees and he would be willing to attend all the group meetings as Vice Chair. Get info to him and Mat.

Goal – small sub committees to meet and get info to Mat and/or Connor before June 2nd meeting. Please get the info gathered from the small groups to them by May 21st so they can have it together for the June 2nd meeting.

Alex R- Deputy EMS coordinators meet monthly. They’ve sat in the EOC, helped with PPE distribution, Woodstock EOC, they do statistics, helping with resolving Corps issues – they’ve been busy. They are doing things. Ruth A – if you need some help from the Deputy Coordinators let Alex know you need assistance and he will make sure someone contacts you. You just have to ask.

Bernie G – asked if there were any benefits to having a county system? i.e. grants etc. Alex- perhaps with a municipal consolidation but nothing EMS related that he knows of. Bernie will look into it for us for next meeting – he believes in Rockland it has.

Pete G- questioned about 501c3’s and grants. Ruth A – I believe your Captain is having that looked into and fixing your Corps issue with that. Pete – yes it is being looked into. Alex- Different grants have different requirements.

Robin M – Does not want to deal with attitudes anymore. Please leave your attitude at home.

(on that note) Mat G - meeting done at 10:43

Submitted R Ackermann Secretary