New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Council  
September 9, 2020  
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: September 9, 10:01 a.m. – Mark Merlin

Introduction: Dr. Adinaro, Deputy Commissioner

Motion to approve March 11, 2020 meeting minutes:
  • Motion: Barbara Schreibman Seconded: Andy Lovell  
  • Discussion: None  
  • Motion to accept: Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

General Discussion – Mark Merlin
  • Next meeting scheduled for December 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m. location to be determined

Aeromedical - Gerard Carroll (Absent)
  • No report

BLS Subcommittee - Andy Lovell
  • Vermont Protocols  
    o Under final review  
  • Pending Legislation  
    o A-4511, “Swoop and Run”  
    o S2851, permanently changing BLS staffing levels  
  • Expanded Scope of Practice  
    o Awaiting direction from MAC and OEMS

Discussion and Questions
  • Both bills have been introduced, but have not gained any traction

Training Fund – Steve Vetrano
  • Total revenue in fiscal year 2020, including SFY19 carry forward and interest was $5.8 million dollars  
  • Total expenditures for fiscal year 2020, $971,000  
  • Current balance as of June 30, 2020, $4.8 million

Communications - Joseph Burlew
• Received authorization for online Basic Telecommunicator (BTC) and Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) classes
  o Classes have been completed and currently looking for feedback
• Next Generation 9-1-1 is out for bid

EMS for Children – Ernest Leva (Absent)
• No Report

Trauma Center Council - Vacant
• No Report

MICU Advisory – Barbara Schreibman
• Discussed albuterol, CPAP, nebulizers, intubation, related to COVID-19
  o Stressed importance of adequate PPE

Mobile Specialty Care - Vacant
• Dominic Parone has stepped down as the chair

OEMS - Terry Clancy
• Introduced new staff member, Elodie Stamberger with the Education and Licensure section of OEMS
• Public Health Emergency
  o Still in effect until October 1, 2020
  o All waivers issued during the public health emergency are still in effect, but will expire on October 1, 2020
• Helicopter Programs
  o Working on scheduling inspections for those that have not been inspected in the last two years
• SCTU Quarterly Reports
  o SCTU programs do not need to send reports to OEMS
  o The reports are still required, but shall to be maintained at the programs place of business
  o The reports must be presented, to OEMS, during an audit
• Albuterol amended waiver
  o Clinical review was conducted, with changes
    ▪ Must complete an ePCR
    ▪ No mandatory reporting
    ▪ Age limit was lifted
    ▪ Parameters for contacting medical control have been changed
  o Waiver was approved
• COVID-19 needs survey
  o Will be forthcoming
  o Focused on things that you may need or require assistance with in the future
    ▪ i.e. mental health or PPE
• Free EMS Narcan Program
  o Partnered with the Department of Human Services
- Agencies need to have a medical director and utilize ePCR
  - Must be registered with the department to be eligible
- 5 Minutes to Help Program
  - Going virtual
  - Online provider classes scheduled for September 26th and 29th
- NEMISIS 3.5
  - Due to be released early next year
  - Data section is looking for input from the EMS agencies
  - Contact Tim Seplaki if interested
- Trauma Informed Care
  - Focused on compassion fatigue and responder wellness
  - Email with details will be sent out soon
- Division of Mental Health Services
  - Offering a Zero Suicide Academy
    - Free training for mental health addiction for providers
    - September 9th, 10th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 18th and dates in October
- Non-Compliance with ePCR
  - Approximately 60 agencies are in violation of N.J.S.A. 26:2K-67
    - Each agency will get a final written warning
    - After the final written warning, there will be monetary penalties issued to those agencies
  - Free software and hardware is still available
  - Asking for members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council to reach out to those agencies to encourage their participation
- Licensed agencies whose names start with A-I
  - Due for renewal by December 31, 2020
  - Scheduling has commenced
- Patient Care Reports
  - Are required to be completed within twenty-four (24) hours
    - This is the responsibility of the provider and the agency
- EMS Conference
  - Cancelled for 2020
  - Planning has begun for the 2021 conference
    - November 11 – 14, 2021 at Harrah’s
    - Pre-conference on November 10th
    - EMS Award Nominations can be entered at any time through August 16, 2021
    - Call for speakers will be open in the next few weeks and will remain open until January 11, 2021
    - SIM Competition registrations are being accepted
- OEMS
  - Due to added responsibilities within the Department, related to COVID-19, OEMS may not get back to you immediately
  - OEMS is triaging and prioritizing requests as they come in
  - OEMS’ physical location will be moving
Discussion and Questions

- The address for the new OEMS building will be 55 Willow Street, Trenton
- Non-compliant agencies with ePCR
  - Some agencies are refusing to comply
    - Software, hardware and free online training has already been offered
  - Some agencies were unaware of the law
  - The penalty will start at $200 and go up from there
  - Most of the non-compliant agencies are smaller volunteer agencies
  - The most recent correspondence sent to the agencies by OEMS, was also sent to the mayor of the municipality they serve
  - The data is important, and is about improving the EMS system and that can’t be done without the whole picture
  - The delinquent agencies is public information
    - OEMS will share the list
  - OEMS does not take patient charts or written data
  - There are some agencies that may have merged or are no longer active, but OEMS will not know that unless notified

- Narcan Administration Dosage
  - The protocol states to administer according to the manufacturer’s recommendations and local protocol
  - If there is confusion, the Medical Directors should be assisting in additional education

Education and Licensure - Candace Gardner

- New Refresher Format
  - Started September 1, 2020
  - Allowed for a Hybrid Refresher, which has to be reviewed and approved under separate cover

- CEU Platform
  - Delayed due to COVID-19
  - In final QA process

- E-Cards
  - OEMS has stopped printing cards
  - Agencies should be utilizing the Department’s verification tool or provider credential transcript at njems.us to validate a credential

- EMT Training Fund
  - There have been multiple discrepancies noted recently
  - The certification platform needs to match the rosters submitted for reimbursement
  - Any discrepancy will delay the reimbursement

Motion to approve all oral and written reports

- Motion: Andy Lovell Seconded: Steve Vetrano
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept: Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

New Business
• Flu Shots – Andy Lovell
  o Campaign with video clips, in production to promote Flu shots

Old Business
• None

Public Comment
• None

Appointment of Chair of the nomination committee – Mark Merlin
• Chair – Andy Lovell

Nominations for Chairperson and Executive Committee – Mark Merlin
• Executive Committee
  o Andy Lovell
  o Mike Bascom
  o Barbara Platt
• Chairperson
  o Mark Merlin

Motion to adjourn: 11:00 a.m.
• Motion: Andy Lovell Seconded: Barbara Platt
• Discussion: None
• Motion to accept: Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0

Next meeting is schedule for:
Wednesday December 9, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Location TBD