



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN EMS COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

Friday, November 22, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Livingston County EMS

1911 Tooley Rd

Howell, MI 48855

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Dr. Edwards.

Attendance:

Present: A. Abbas; B. Grubb for J. Boyd; D. Condino; K. Cummings; R. Dunne; Dr. K.D. Edwards; Dr. M. Fill; G. Flynn; B. Forbush; W. Hart; B. Kincaid; C. Lake; S. Myers; M. Nye; D. Pratt; A. Sledge; E. Smith; T. Sorensen (via phone); A. Sundberg (via phone); B. Trevithick; G. Wadaga; K. Wilkinson; Dr. S. Wise; Representative J. Yaroch.

Absent: D. Fedewa; F. Jalloul; L. Sincock; C. Baker; C. Tafoya; H. Rennie-Brown; L. Martin/G. Scafidi

BETP Representatives: K. Wahl; S. Kerr E. Bergquist; N. Babb; E. Worden; T. Godde; D. Flory (via phone); E. Hendy (via phone); K. Kuhl; J. Wagner; L. Bailey (via phone); Scott Minaudo; A. Stephens (via phone); L. Scott.

Guests: Dr. McGraw, Oakland County MCA; Geoff Lassers, Oakland County MCA; Luke Bowen, Macomb County MCA (via phone); Dave Boomer, Tri County MCA; Gary Proctor, West Bloomfield Fire Department; Andy Brown, Medstar; Bill Grubb, Star EMS; Chris Haney, Star EMS; Damon Obiden, WMRMCC (via phone); Angela Madden, MAAS; Dr. Strong, DEMCA; Dr. Swor, Beaumont; Sara Welter, Livingston County EMS; Mark Meijer, Life EMS; Chris Patrello, Ascension, Dale Berry, Emergent Health Partners; Denise Landis, Survival Flight; Dr. Paul, St. Clair County MCA; Jason MacDonald, MMR; Dr. Noel Wagner, Saginaw-Tuscola MCA; Eric Snidersich, Saginaw-Tuscola MCA; Lance Corey, Kent County EMS (via phone); Andrew Savage, Emergent Health Partners (via phone); Bob Miljan, Wayne County MCA/HEMS (via phone); Dr. Domeier, Washtenaw Livingston MCA (via phone); Linda Tanner, MCEP (via phone); Dion Stumpo, White Lake Ambulance Authority (via phone); Dave Gealer, Universal Macomb (via phone); Dustin Hawley, Superior (via phone); Joel Wyatt, MTA (via phone); Jim Etzin, Farmington Hills Fire Department; Kolby Miller, Medstar.

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda (Lake, Trevithick). Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes from 9/27/2019 with an addition to the attendees (Lake, Trevithick). Motion carried.

Introduction of Special Guests:

Dr. Edwards reminded guests to please sign in. Linda Scott is in attendance today. She oversees the Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness. The group welcomed her.

Communications:

None.

Announcements:

Reminders of upcoming educational opportunities: None.

Old Business & Committee Reports:

EMS Systems/Strategic Planning Update – K. Wahl

- Kathy will be holding a roundtable meeting on emergent interfacility transfers. Invitations will be going out in the next couple of weeks and those interested in attending should email Kathy at wahlk@michigan.gov. The roundtable will address issues and concerns. Entities that should be represented include small rural agencies, larger health systems, the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, and payers, as well as others. The expected meeting date will be in January.
- In March, Kathy would like to hold an all-day Strategic Planning update meeting. This was done in 2017 and had excellent participation and attendance. At this meeting, she would like to review the white papers that have been developed for the different areas and have discussions on project statuses. She is working on the agenda and she would like to meet in Okemos. This will be the EMSCC meeting scheduled on March 20th.
- Kathy reported the National Association of EMTs has released the results of survey about violence against practitioners. She briefly went over the report and it will go out in the Wednesday Update. This survey will be brought to the safety committee.
- The EMS office is still undergoing a program audit by the Office of Inspector General. This has been in process for 6 months and hopefully will finish soon. Some gaps have been pointed out and we are trying to address. We don't know the final findings yet, but we are trying to address things as they come up.
- Kathy thanked everyone for the data submission success. Only one agency is not reporting in Version 3.4.
 - Some of the office staff met with Dr. Wang in Ann Arbor. He showed some of what he is doing with EMS data. There was talk of having a data summit in 2020 where we share how data is being used with the providers.
- The new EMS-C Coordinator has been hired. Her name is Samantha Mishra and she will be starting December 9th. Kathy briefly went over her background.
- Harriet Rennie-Brown has retired, and Captain Tafoya has retired. The rest of the EMSCC nomination applications are in process for the 2020 terms.

- Staff Updates:
 - Emily gave an update on Critical Care. They have not met, and the information wasn't sent out timely after the last EMSCC. They will be meeting in December.
 - Emily spoke about agency licensure getting ready to go live and how it affects the MCAs. Agency testing has begun, and it will go live in January.
 - First quarter renewals will be receiving the most attention if we are missing someone.
 - Medical Directors need to be in the ImageTrend system.
 - Bonnie Kincaid asked Emily to explain the process.
 - The renewal application will be submitted in ImageTrend by the agency.
 - The MCA will receive a notification after the agency has completed the application that alerts them of the completed application. Emily briefly went over the timelines for notifications.
 - Ken Cummings spoke about the differences between the current workflow and the new workflow.
 - **A communication will be going out to the agencies and the MCAs will be copied.**
 - MCA communications in conjunction with agency communications were discussed.
 - MCA administrators were discussed. The notification communications will be going to the medical directors at this time. Building MCA administrators is on the radar.
 - Krisy Kuhl gave an update on Community Integrated Paramedicine. The second grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund was awarded for CIP and will go for two more years. The focus will be on infrastructure for education and data/documentation.
 - The protocol update request will be pushed to first quarter rather than the previous deadline of January 1.
 - Bruce asked what MCAs and communities that are interested a program should do and Krisy said they should contact her at 517-241-4304 or kuhlk2@michigan.gov.
 - Anthony Pantaleo is working diligently to develop curriculum and has been connected with multiple funding sources and it is anticipated more programs than Medstar will be working with opioids.
 - There is a [CIP tab](#) on the EMS website with information for those interested in a program. The application is there, as well as FAQs and a guide.
 - Sabrina Kerr spoke about data elements. Agencies that still have questions should call Johnny Wagner at 517-335-5860 or Kevin Putman at 269-337-4291.
 - Sabrina gave an update on the administrative rules. We are in the process of compiling the comments. Once we start the process to get them changed, they will be final. The comments will be reviewed and compiled and sent out with the expectation of a vote in January. Kathy thanked all that have been involved

in this Ken Cummings said the holidays will make it tough to get it reviewed before a January vote and Kathy said we can be flexible if necessary. The group discussed.

- Sabrina talked about remounts. The department drafted a policy of clarification to clarify rule 181. Changes were made to the Manufacturer's Certificate of Compliance. Monty Nye clarified that it was the policy and form that were changed, not the rules.
- Debbie Condino asked Sabrina about the process for consent orders. Sabrina addressed. The process hasn't changed. Ken asked if consent orders end up on the [disciplinary action report](#) and Sabrina said yes.
- Terrie Godde gave an update on Education.
 - A CE day will be held at the BETP on December 5th. All the pediatric CEs will be covered.
 - In 2020, webinars will be done monthly. Webinars for ICs will be done quarterly. Terrie said the goal will be to have one credit for each category available on the website. Webinar ideas should be sent to Terrie at goddet@michigan.gov.
 - Terrie reported there are 28 accredited paramedic programs, and there are 39 paramedic programs in the state with satellites.
 - New things are being done with recruitment and retention in the classrooms.
 - Education forms are now fillable. There is a new form for Initial Education and CE Program sponsors.
 - Scope of practice documents are being updated.
- Johnny Wagner spoke about data.
 - There is 99% compliance with reporting.
 - Only one agency is not reporting, and we are working on that.
 - There are 1.6 million calls in the database.
 - Johnny spoke about agency licensure administrators.
 - Hospital Hub has about 50 signed up for it. They can log into the system and have access to the PCRs. There has been positive feedback and continued interest.
 - Vendor reports will be going out to the individual agencies next week.

Emergency Preparedness Update – Dr. Edwards

- Dr. Edwards thanked the CHEMPACK sites. There have been some site visits. He also thanked Jerry Ellsworth at BETP.
- The National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC) offers online courses in Care for Patients with Ebola and Other Infectious Diseases.
 - Please visit <https://courses.netec.org/> for more information.
- At the last Regional Leadership Meeting, there was a presentation on a collaboration with the MDHHS and the BETP on a homeless initiative. It's a health focused approach

to working with homeless people to reduce the number of people living on the streets. Contact your regional preparedness office if interested.

- A communication was sent out regarding maintenance for the LTV 1200 surge ventilators. We've been using these ventilators in Michigan for many years. The strategic national stockpile still maintains three different surge ventilators in the national stockpiles. They go through vigorous maintenance. They have been reliable.
- There is a National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) Instructors Course scheduled for February 13, 2020 at the Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness. Registration will start at 8:30 am, class time will be from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. More information will be coming soon. If you have any questions or interested parties, please contact your regional preparedness office.
- The next supply chain workshop will be January 9, 2020.
- MDHHS helped facilitate a grant program through the preparedness regions for hospitals to conduct opioid surveys. There was some federal funding that was able to be disseminated through the state. Dr. Edwards thanked the participants.
- There will be a pediatric surge collaboration between the preparedness program, the trauma program and the EMS program. Each region will need to have a pediatric surge plan by the end of the Spring. This is a point of emphasis for the ASPR Hospital Preparedness program.

Trauma Systems Report – E. Worden

- The EMS and Trauma conferences were held in October. Attendance was at record levels.
- Ninety-nine facilities are designated.
- The first run through the three-year cycle should be done by 2020.
- A Regional Leadership Summit was held at the Trauma Conference. System Performance will be a metric going forward.
- Annual reports will go to STAC next month.
- Amy Randall from C.S. Mott has filled the trauma program manager opening on STAC.
- The epidemiologist registrar position is being filled for Trauma.
- The Trauma Strategic Plan will be reported to STAC in December.
- A systems of care white paper is being developed.
- There is interest in a statute for systems of care and STEMI and a legislative champion has been identified. Bruce asked if there is a timeline for this and Eileen addressed by going over the steps involved. This will be addressed at the strategic planning meeting in March, as well.

EMS Medical Director Report – Dr. Fales

- Dr. Fales gave a presentation on Resuscitation Medicine. Nicole will send this out to the group. Bruce asked if airways will be looked at by QATF based on this. Dr. Fales addressed.

Committee Reports:

Quality Assurance – Dr. Edwards

- Next meeting is December 16th. The committee had a busy summer.

Ambulance Operations – M. Nye

- The committee has not met.

Medical Control Authority – B. Trevithick

- The committee has not met.

Compliance and Licensing – K. Cummings

- Ken Cummings gave an update. There was a joint meeting with the Legislative subcommittee. They are looking at requiring disclosure of personnel records upon termination. This is a broad issue and not as simple as drafting a piece of legislation. The department is looking into some things and the next meeting is scheduled. It didn't seem like legislation was going to be the answer. Bruce spoke about how it is different for law enforcement. Ken introduced Scott Minaudo, EMS Compliance Coordinator, to the group.

Education – K. Wilkinson

- Kevin Wilkinson gave a report on the last meeting. Credits for renewal courses were adjusted and they are looking at the RN to paramedic program curriculum.

By-Laws –

- The committee has not met.

Data Task Force – B. Kincaid

- Bonnie Kincaid reported the data committee met on Wednesday. They continue to focus on validating data and compliance, as well as working with the software vendors. The next meeting will be February 26th.

Legislative – B. Trevithick

- HB4334/SB584
 - This legislation would require certain levels of first aid at schools, including stop the bleed. Rep. Yaroch spoke about HB4334, which is his bill for the same thing that was introduced in March. They are identical pieces of legislation. **Motion to support (Trevithick, Kincaid). Motion carried.**

- HB5121
 - This legislation would add the ability to post signs about violence against health care professionals. This would not require EMS to post these signs and the committee feels they should support it. **Motion to support (Kincaid, Lake). Motion carried.**
- HB5140
 - This would provide for free fishing and hunting licenses for volunteer firefighter personnel. The committee would like the bill to be expanded to include volunteer EMS personnel. Rep. Yaroch addressed, as he is a co-sponsor. He suggested Eric Smith, who is in the sponsor's district, reach out to her. Eric agreed. **Motion to support with the recommendation to include EMS (Trevithick, Kincaid). Motion carried.**

Rural – G. Wadaga

- The committee met Tuesday but there is nothing new to report.

Pediatric Emergency Medicine – K. Wahl

- The committee has not met. The new EMSC coordinator has been hired.

EMS Safety Ad Hoc – C. Lake

- Chris Lake reported on the last meeting. Webinars will be done, and Andrea Abbas will be doing the first one. The EMS Website will be updated and a tab for safety will be added. Chris spoke about violence against providers. The next meeting is next week. The webinars will be on MI-TRAIN.

Critical Care Ad Hoc – E. Bergquist

- Reported above in the EMS Systems/Strategic Planning Update.

Community Integrated Paramedicine Workgroup – K. Kuhl

- Reported above in the EMS Systems/Strategic Planning Update.

New Business:

- **None.**

Membership Round Table Report:

- Alicia Sledge announced the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit on March 10th. This is the 25th anniversary, as well as the 20th anniversary of the seat belt law.
- Greg Flynn appreciates the open dialogue on interfacility.

- Bill Forbush read the following statement about interfacility transfers:

Hospitals in various areas of the state are reporting increased difficulty in arranging for interfacility transfer of emergent patients. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness (MDHHS-BETP) has taken the position that pursuant to their interpretation of MCL 333.20904(2) and MCL 333.20967, hospitals and specifically emergency physicians, have the option of calling 9-1-1 and declaring an emergency under the EMS Act, thus compelling the ambulance operation in whose service area the hospital is located to respond and transport an emergent patient to another hospital of the physician's choice for definitive care, without regard to availability of resources or remaining response capability in the community.

Interfacility transfers are mentioned once very briefly in the EMS Act, only to say that patients transported by stretcher must be in a licensed ambulance (MCL 333.20908). The Act doesn't expressly authorize administrative rules regulating transfers, and they are only mentioned once in passing in the administrative rules. Most importantly, regulating transfers was never the legislative intent when the EMS Act was legislated in 1978.

There are about 373 ambulance operations in Michigan. Ambulance providers can be municipal, for-profit, non-profit, or hospital-owned or affiliated services. About 149 of these have a hospital in their service area. Under this interpretation, those 149 services can be forced to immediately respond to an emergency transfer request from their hospital and transport the patient wherever the physician decides, regardless of the needs of the community. A community with one ambulance would be mandated to transport the emergent transfer from a hospital, leaving the community vulnerable. Transfers in rural parts of Michigan can take an ambulance out of service for three to ten hours or more. Rural communities with a hospital in their jurisdiction will rely on mutual aid more than they will be able to provide aid. This inequity will prove difficult to manage.

The Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs and the Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union believe neither MDHHS or a Medical Control Authority (MCA) has the legal authority to compel a Life Support Agency (LSA) to perform an interfacility transfer. The declaration of an emergency could compel a response, but not a transport beyond the LSA's service area. Our position is further supported by a formal legal opinion rendered by leading EMS Attorney Orlando Blanco.

It's been 41 years since the EMS Act 368 was legislated and in that time, there have been at least four different division directors who have not interpreted the Act in this way. The unplanned deployment of EMS crews to travel long distances presents a serious crew safety concern, as well.

A recent meeting with all stakeholders and BETP staff for the Sault did not produce any resolution according to Sault Chief Scott LaBonte. We welcome the roundtable, but have little confidence that it will resolve the issue of stripping communities of EMS response capability due to emergent interfacility transfers. We're not against them, we're just against the compulsory to respond now now.

- Monty Nye said MPFFU does share the same concerns as Bill's statement and they look forward to the round table.
- Chris Lake suggested expanding that to alternate transports, such as urgent care and ET3.
- Doug Pratt agrees with the previous speakers (Forbush, Nye, Lake, Pratt).

- Steve Myers said part of the puzzle is defining what is an emergency and that needs to be flushed out.
- Ken Cummings announced the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid have launched a cost study for ambulance services that begins 1/1/2020. The first round of agencies selected have already been announced. Every provider in the state will be required to submit data at some point during the four-year period. [MAAS](#) is having a seminar on 12/4 in Mt. Pleasant. If you're not already working on preparing and aligning your organization to properly collect the data as CMS will be requesting, it is important to think about attending the seminar and gathering the necessary insight. Greg Flynn thanked MAAS for holding the seminar.
- Bill Hart said National Rural Health Day was yesterday. He said there was a critical access hospital conference in Traverse City. Bill and John Barnas, Michigan Center of Rural Health, had the opportunity to speak with Director Gordon and were encouraged by the conversation.
- Bruce Trevithick thanked Rep. Yaroch for attending. He asked for clarification on the status of CIP and Critical Care. Kathy said the timeline has been changed and this can be discussed further at the strategic plan meeting.
- Rep. Yaroch spoke about his bill to increase the felony if someone attacks EMS of firefighter personnel. He discussed a request for EMS personnel to be able to carry pepper spray. He asked for opinions on that after the meeting. Dr. Edwards asked if it was okay for Nicole to send a reminder to all to provide comments. Bill Grubb asked if there was something that prevents them from carrying pepper spray now. Rep. Yaroch said this may be in policies, but there is not a law that either authorizes or prevents carrying. Bruce commented that MCAs may have protocols that prevent it and said the legislative committee could discuss as well. Rep. Yaroch does not have an opinion, he is just putting this out. Terrie said hospitals would not allow, it is considered a weapon. Jim Etzin also spoke about this, as well.

Public Comment:

- Mark Meijer, Life EMS, thanked all in the room for their contributions and wished everyone a safe Thanksgiving.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 11:28 a.m. (Kincaid , Flynn). Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: January 17, 2020 at Livingston County EMS