

EMS Safety Ad-Hoc Committee Minutes

05/12/2020

0900-1000 (or 1100)

Microsoft Teams Meeting

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Conference ID: 598 548 670#

Attendees: Emily Bergquist, Nicole Babb, Angela Madden, Alex Barczak, Jim Kalinowski, Kevin Wilkinson, Michael Bentley, Nate Potter, Scott LaBonte, Jim Etzin, Chris Lake, Greg Flynn, Dr. McGraw.

1. Call to order
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 0904 by Emily Bergquist.
2. Old Business:
 - a. Safety Webinars
 - i. These are on hold due to COVID-19.
 - If you have resources or other ideas, please let [Emily](#) know.
 - ii. There may be an upcoming webinar on the coronavirus and a broad overview of the different tests.
 - b. COVID-19 Response and Safety
 - i. Emily asked the group how they feel about the how things are going in the field and if there are any issues people feel the committee could address.
 - Jim Kalinkowski spoke about naysayers that think this is overblown. He spoke about PPE and convincing people its more than just the flu. Jim spoke about how they try to address this but there are still those that are resistant. Emily discussed whether or not these people were putting others at risk. Frightening the patients with the PPE was discussed. The disease is still spreading, though maybe not as fast.
 - Mike Bentley said they had providers that were anxious about not having enough PPE and he discussed. He spoke about the CDC changes and the state protocosl that were released.
 - Emily asked the group about PPE levels and the group discussed. PPE conservation was mentioned.

- Jim Etzin said the most distressing thing is the conflict between personal and professional beliefs. He expanded on this and the group discussed. Emily gave her perspective and asked for suggestions. Jim suggested best practices being developed or the completion of an after action review would be helpful. Jim Kalinowski also spoke to the benefits of an after action report. The group discussed this.
- Going forward after COVID-19 was discussed as well as decompression from this response. Resources will be needed for this. Dr. Mishra has been working on mental health resources.
- Emily discussed the suggestion of making the emergency protocols permanent, but that is not prudent right now as some of them are fundamental changes that aren't ready to be forever changes.
- Emily reported that though runs are down, but the number of out of hospital deaths has tripled and spoke about the concerns with that. Initiatives are being developed to educate on this.
- Jim Etzin suggested remaining aware of the toll COVID-19 is going to have on recruitment and retention.
 - a. Potential ways to handle this were discussed.
 - b. Emily discussed potential education benefits that have been suggested by the governor.
- Chris Lake spoke about running into a culture issue. He said the young people that are coming out of class can be influential on the older people. He spoke about history on this type of change.
- Emily brought up the Safer at Home Order, [Executive Order 2020-77](#). She said an exception was created for EMS to return to school. She asked if anyone had heard about this. The group discussed. The IC exam is going to be proctored online. Terrie Godde is working on that.
- Jim Kalinowski asked if anyone has been using the eBridge application for telemedicine. Jim Etzin said they've been using it for years and discussed issues that arised from using it for COVID-19. Emily spoke about issues with payers and

the competitive market. Mike Bentley spoke about his system. Revenue and competition had been an issue. The group discussed. Jim Kalinowski spoke about a COVID uptick in his area and how it relates. Emily said the MCA could turn it on for the MCA. Being able to turn those protocols on and off is the purpose of the emergency protocols.

3. New Business:

- a. Next read along – [Population 485?](#)
 - i. Emily said people have been reading her updates on the Trauma Stewardship updates, but wanted to go with a less heavy book for the next one. She asked the group what they thought about going with this book and the group agreed. She gave a quick overview of the book.

4. Open discussion

- a. Greg Flynn brought up the earlier conversation on how to convince the providers this is real. Greg discussed events and responses in his system. He said providers providing their stories in a short format would help. He suggested the EMS Safety social media page. **Emily said a call for participants could go in the Wednesday Update; she will discuss with Kathy.**
 - b. Chris Lake spoke about testing and drastic differences are present in the results. The data collected is going to be crucial on various elements regarding testing to make sure we get good results. Emily said this will be discussed on the statewide EMS COVID-19 call this afternoon and briefly discussed.
 - c. Emily asked everyone how they feel about the Teams meeting and the group discussed.
 - d. Dr. McGraw asked everyone to be safe and said he appreciates everything they've done. Now is not the time to be complacent.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 0958.

References (for perspective) - Issue appendix –

1. Environmental
 - a. Severe Weather
 - b. Extreme temperatures
2. Hazardous substances
 - a. Chemical
 - b. Biological
3. Violence
 - a. Patient
 - b. Bystanders
 - c. Intentional versus unintentional
 - i. Cultural/Language Barriers
 - ii. Behavioral health/Mental Health
 - d. Crime scenes
4. Rescue
 - a. Motor-vehicle collisions
 - i. Extrication hazards
 - ii. Roadway operations
 - b. Special Situations
 - i. Fire Ground
 - ii. Technical Rescue
 - iii. Water Rescue
5. Vehicle Operation
6. In transport issues