



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Council
March 11, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: March 11, 2020, 10:01 a.m. – Mark Merlin

Motion to approve December 11, 2019 meeting minutes:

- Motion **Andy Lovell** Seconded: **Barbara Platt**
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept: **Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**

General Discussion – Mark Merlin

- Remember to sign-in
- Only committee representatives should be at the table
- In the absence of the committee representative, the alternate may sit at the table

Mobile Aeromedical Care - Gerard Carroll

- Requested an increase in transparency between all New Jersey flight programs, particularly for availability
- Examining a Web App for the New Jersey Aeromedical Program

Mobile Emergency Care - Andy Lovell

- BLS glucometers and 12-lead acquisition
 - Discussions continue
- Vermont Protocols
 - Continuing review
- Albuterol Program
 - The recommendation was made by the committee to the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) to pause the approval of any new BLS albuterol programs
- Triage Tags
 - Discussed how to continue the triage tag program throughout the state
 - Discussions will be ensued with the county coordinators
 - All triage tags in the state were distributed to the county coordinators
 - The county coordinators contacted a vendor to discuss the possibility of continuing with the current triage tags or the possibility of transitioning to a different tag
- Chair
 - Dr. Stephen Vetrano will no longer be chair of the BLS subcommittee

- Andy Lovell will assume the role as the committee chair

Training Fund - Terry Clancy for Dr. Vetrano

- EMS Council of New Jersey Conference
 - Currently approved to receive \$10 per CEU
 - The Committee recommended, to the department, an increased reimbursement rate of \$15 per CEU

Mobile Healthcare Communications - Joseph Burlew

- Uber panic button application went live on March 9, 2020
 - The panic button is part of the Uber app
 - If someone presses the panic button their location will be sent to a PSAP
- Highway response communication plan
 - Was approved
 - Public safety services will now be able to communicate on one talk group
- Guide cards
 - Updated for COVID-19
- The New Jersey TIK plan was updated to include the regionalized communication centers
- Atlantic Ambulance dispatch is tentatively scheduled to go live April 1, 2020

Discussion and Questions

- Corona Virus guide cards
 - If a PSAP didn't get a guide card they should access the OIT website
 - The easiest way to get the guide card is to go to the website www.nj.gov/911
 - Emails were sent to all the PSAPs based on the contact information on file
 - PSAPs are questioning whether the guide card is enough
- There is no routine meeting between all the PSAPs

EMS for Children - Al Sacchetti

- Increasing the effort to get organizations that are not regularly attending meetings to send representatives

Trauma Center Council - Vacant

- No Report

MICU Advisory – Barbara Schreibman

- Vermont Protocols
 - Discussion and research ensue with revisions specific for New Jersey

Discussion and Questions

- The goal for the new regulations is to get away from routinely issuing waivers

Mobile Specialty Care - Dominic Parone

- Requested a list of who is supposed to be on the committee

OEMS - Terry Clancy

- Discussed minutes being approved and published in a timelier manner

Motion to change when minutes are distributed and approved:

“Within 14 - 21 business days following a New Jersey EMS Advisory Council Meeting, a draft of the minutes for that meeting will be distributed electronically to the members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council. If corrections are needed, they will be corrected and resent. The members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council will approve or disapprove the minutes electronically”

- Motion: **Andy Lovell**
- Seconded: **Michael Bascom**

Discussion

- None

Roll Call

- Motion to accept: **Yea: 21 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**
- Motion passes
- COVID-19
 - Update on coordination and response
 - Make sure all constituents are up to date with their respective respiratory protection program
 - The Governor has declared a State of Emergency
 - The Regional Operations and Intelligence Center (ROIC) is open and operational
 - A travel ban is in place for State employees
 - Review your business continuity plan, policies and procedures in case your own staff and members get sick
- OEMS staffing
 - New section and staff of OEMS introduced
 - Clinical, Specialty, Regulation and Policy
 - Staff: Ijeoma Nwachukwu, Jeffrey Thomas, and Andrea Silver
 - Roles and responsibilities are SCTU audits, inspections, oversight, air medical, JEMStar, albuterol program, rapid sequence intubation (RSI) and additional duties as assigned
 - Introduction of Zach Raab
 - OEMS job opening has been posted
- Albuterol program
 - Under review to ensure compliance
- All American College Surgeon site visits
 - Coordinate through Ijeoma Nwachukwu
- MICU quarterly reports, dispatch data reports and albuterol quarterly reports
 - Temporally suspended
 - A dashboard is being created to electronically capture that data
- Safe Harbor
 - The February 14, 2020 letter was sent out for informational purposes only

- If any agency has any question regarding the federal law, contact your respective council
- New Jersey EMS Task Force
 - Received a \$650,000 grant to continue promoting and strengthening resilience in a coordinated way
 - The Office of Disaster Resilience will manage the grant with assistance from OEMS as a program manager
 - The grant will commence on July 1, 2020
- Regulations
 - Work continues with the office of legal and regulatory oversight
- Data quality sub-committee
 - Volunteers are needed
 - Contact Tim Seplaki if interested
- Call for speakers for this year's conference is available
 - Closes April 30, 2020
- 5-Minutes-to-Help
 - Instructor training classes have been tentatively scheduled on:
 - March 30, 2020 - Mercer County
 - April 21, 2020 - Morris County
 - May 6, 2020 - Atlantic County
 - May 19, 2020 - Bergen County
- OEMS building will be moving in October 2020
- Multiple institutions throughout the State are working on Bachelors in Paramedicine
- Thomas Edison College is working on a Paramedic to RN transition
- Candace Gardner is now the Chief of Education and Licensure
- Zach Raab will be giving the Legislative Report resuming at the next meeting

Discussion and Questions

- Strategies regarding the N95 masks and procurement
 - The Department of Health is working with the Office of Emergency Management to get the resources where they need to be
- The Department is working with the Communicable Disease Service and with Federal partners
 - If public health precautions have to be implemented, the guidance will be issued through the Department of Health website
- Currently, no guidance has been received from the Communicable Disease Service regarding providers who have had a high or moderate exposure to COVID-19

Mobile Health Education and Licensure - Candace Gardner

- COVID-19
 - In the process of creating FAQs and guidance for the educational institutions with regard to their students
 - Evaluating the possibility and considering extending provider credentials due to expire on June 30, 2020
- EMT renewal audits are ongoing
 - Inability to contact the providers is a big issue

- If they are non-compliant because of contact information revocation will still be proposed
 - Everyone's contact information needs to be kept up to date
- CEU System
 - Received approval to create an elective CEU system within the current certification platform
 - Similar to the initial and refresher education, including transcripts

Motion to approve all oral and written reports

- Motion: **Andy Lovell** Seconded: **Barbara Platt**
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept: **Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**

Old Business

- Protocol to release patients that didn't need to RMA will be tabled
- HPH coalition is now focused on COVID-19
 - Once COVID-19 resolves it will resume with other issues throughout the state
- Recruitment project
 - Rowan University will be filming soon

New Business

- None

Public Comment

- None

Motion to adjourn: 11:06 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 June 10, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center