

**The Connecticut EMS Advisory Board
Emergency Preparedness Committee
MEETING MINUTES
May 5, 2016
New Britain EMS**

Present: William Ackley – Committee Chair, Judi Reynolds – DPH/OEMS, Michele Connelly – DPH/OEMS, Gary Allyn – West Hartford FD

Go To Meeting: Art Groux – Suffield EMS, John Reed – Danbury, Damian Rickard – American Ambulance, Jonathan Lillpopp – DPH/OEMS

Call In: Richard Kamin MD – DPH/OEMS, Joe Laucella – Trumbull EMS

1.0 Call to order

Chair Bill Ackley called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM at New Britain EMS Headquarters. Introductions were done and persons calling in were acknowledged.

2.0 Approval of minutes

The minutes of the April 7, 2016 meeting were distributed. A motion to approve them was made by Gary Allyn, seconded by Mark Franzese and approved unanimously.

Bill Ackley noted that Michele Connelly is leaving her position as Region 1 OEMS Coordinator, he noted her position may not be refilled in the near future due to budget constraints at the state.

3.0 Initiatives for discussion/EMS Preparedness

• **Update/Dr. Kamin**

Dr. Kamin reported the work on the Statewide Protocols is continuing, they are aiming for a release date of July 1, 2016, with implementation a few months after that. An educational component and test are being developed by the State Education and Training Committee and Dr. Kamin is looking at the possibility of having it available on CT Train. Dr. Kamin gave a brief overview, commenting the protocols will set a floor with a standardized process for additions or changes that can be done as needed, a regular planned review will be done. He noted there is no regulatory obligation but all the sponsor hospitals have verbally agreed to follow them. He reviewed the history of their development and the extensive amount of work that went into the process.

• **Active Assailant**

Bill Ackley reported there was discussion at the Steering Committee and CEMSAB last week regarding the Active Assailant document under development by the EPC Committee. The group has been empowered by CEMSAB, Greg Allard and Dr. Kamin to go to other groups deemed appropriate to gain consensus on the document. Chief Oates is currently editing the document, once that is done, the document will be distributed by Bill Ackley for the group to review and make final comments on. He suggested a phone conference could be held if the group felt it was necessary. Once that is completed the appropriate people from our group can approach the Connecticut Career Fire Chief's, Connecticut State Fire Fighters Association and EMS Chief's for their input and consensus, followed by soliciting consensus from law enforcement partners. Bill spoke about the importance of having law enforcement's endorsement. Mark Franzese noted it is critical to have all groups with an interest involved for the success of the documents. Bill Ackley thanked everyone on the committee for their work on the document. Discussion followed.

- **Update from Preparedness**

Bill Ackley noted Jonathan Best was unable to attend the meeting today due to other commitments, Bill reported the following:

- Jonathan Best asked Bill Ackley to remind everyone about the Mass Fatality Regional Exercise that will be taking place October 24th through October 28th.
- The Statewide Full Scale Mass Dispensing Exercise was held April 11th through April 15th and went well.

- **Trailer Sub-committee report**

- Bill noted the group had brought forward the idea to expand the scope of the trailers but there has been no action to date.

- **Other**

- Bill Ackley asked what section of the guidelines the group would like to work on next. Discussion followed on MCI plans and the need for updates at local levels and statewide planning needs. Gary Allyn commented with 169 towns and 2 tribal nations holding large gatherings regularly mass gathering planning is needed. He noted that at any time a large event could experience issues that could escalate to an MCI. Bill Ackley commented on EMS not being included in planning for large events creating coverage and response issues. Town ordinances and permitting were discussed, many times EMS is not included or made aware.

Bill asked for the next meeting the group collect information and documentation on mass gatherings and forward them to Mark Franzese, who will act as the central collection point for dissemination to the group. Sharing via google docs or some other method was discussed. Gary Allyn would like to include threat assessment in the planning.

- Statewide Unit Identifiers – Brian Baldwin will be asking the interop committee if they are moving forward with identifiers.

4.0 Events/Exercises

- **R1EPT** - The R1EPT Training Committee is putting together an Active Shooter Hybrid Targeted Violence Symposium, to be held May 12th. Attendance will be exclusive to Region 1 with Chief's and Command Staff from Police, Fire, EMS and Emergency Management. A consultant from Boston will moderate and there will be four facilitators, one for each discipline. The goal is to develop regional approaches to these types of events and related training.

Bill spoke about concerns that have been expressed about the oversight of these courses. Rich Kamin shares that concern with courses being held more frequently and the inability to track curriculum, he commented on the wide variants that are being taught. Extended discussion followed on setting standards for courses, accreditation of courses, what the process would be and if it would be possible to have the state recognize a specific course and instructor training. Bill Ackley asked if we should be working collaboratively with the training committee, Rich Kamin answered yes and he suggested bringing it to Raffaella Coler. He commented on the different initiatives throughout the state and the importance of having CEMSAB and OEMS as stakeholders in discussions. Discussion followed on the importance of unified training, the potential of using one course as an acknowledged course for Connecticut, the pros and cons of one recognized course and bringing our thoughts to CEMSAB and OEMS leadership to plan how to move forward.

- **TECC** – Gary Allyn reported on May 14th and 15th Code One will be holding a course in East Hartford. Bill Ackley reported Rockland Paramedics will hold a class in Region 1 on 6/13 and 6/14.

- **NY/NJ/CT Interstate EMS Task Force Quarterly Meeting** – Stamford – June 16, 2016 – 11:00 to 14:00 – Nassau County and Yonkers will have their mobile ambulance buses and the Region 1 MCV will be there also.
- **CT EMS EXPO** – Mohegan Sun – June 1st – June 4th, 2016 Michele Connelly spoke about the EXPO educational sessions and events . She noted registration is up from last year for both the courses and precons. There are only a few spaces available for vendors.
- **Vernon FSE** – A FSE Active Assailant Exercise will be held October 7, 2016.
- **Simsbury FSE** – Gary Allyn reviewed the FSE Active Assailant Exercise that was held in Simsbury on April 23rd. There were three separate exercises being conducted, an active assailant incident, a hazmat incident and an explosion, everything went well.
- Art Groux reported a mass casualty event will be held at Six Flags in September 2016. Bill Ackley asked if they will be putting out a call for observers, Art will keep him updated.
- Paris Symposium – Bill Ackley spoke about the symposium, which focused on the Paris shootings, he has been working with the organizer to bring the symposium to Connecticut. Projected dates being considered are September or October 2016.

5.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judi Reynolds

OEMS Region 2 Coordinator