

BERKS COUNTY EMS WORKING GROUP
AUGUST 4, 2015
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Agencies in Attendance:

Bethel Ambulance - Anthony Martin
Berks County DES - Brian Gottschall, Matt Stairiker, Todd Boughter, Christina Wood
Eastern PA EMS Council - William Lillington
Exeter Township QRS - Christopher Chamberlain
Hamburg EMS - William Lillington
Kutztown Area Transport Services - Rodney Freeman
Lower Alsace EMS - Matt Stairiker
Reading Health System - Anthony Martin, Mervin Wertz
Schuylkill Valley EMS - Timothy Moyer
St. Joseph Health Network - Christopher Chamberlain
Western Berks EMS - Ed Moreland, Jason Moyer

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:02 by Tim Moyer.

Previous Minutes: Motion to approve by Ed Moreland
Second by Matt Stairiker
The motion passed unanimously

DES Report:

- The radio management system has been updated. The radio managers for each company must update their software.
- MedCom maintenance will occur on August 5th. DES will monitor the ALS hail channel. Recording tapes will be available on request.
- The use of BLS channels for ALS communications was discussed. Many ALS communications are occurring on BLS channels. DES stated that ALS relays and command communications should be done on ALS channels. ALS protocols state that ALS communications should be on ALS channels. DES will reach out to offending agencies. The hospitals were encouraged to report any offenders to DES. **Further discussion will be held at the next meeting on September 1, 2015 regarding hospital communications in Berks County. All agencies are encouraged to attend to be part of this extensive discussion.**
- DES has met with MedCom about voice quality. The MedCom network is not a "balanced" network. The system uses a lower level of audio in / audio out. DES will revisit the audio quality through MedCom based on the new information received during the meeting.
- Discussion was held regarding the FirstNet Study and was decided that the survey should be completed on a county level with involvement of the EMS Working Group. The subgroup to assist in the completion of the statewide survey will be Ed Moreland, Chris Chamberlain, Anthony Martin, and Matt Stairiker.
- There will possibly be a draft of the MCI run cards at next month's meeting
- DES is moving forward with revising the EMD cards

Regional Counterterrorism:

- A discussion was held regarding the upcoming Papal visit to Philadelphia and their request for assistance. If any resources are deployed for the event, please notify DES so they can maintain an accurate list of resources in Berks County. Also, all agencies are encouraged to prepare for local traffic issues during the visit.

Eastern PA EMS Council:

- MedCom will conduct a system maintenance on August 5th to perform updates
- The annual conference will be held in October

Reading Health System:

- Dinner and Learn will be held on Wednesday August 12th
- If providers notice dates written on fluid bags in the ED - these dates are the dates they are placed in the warmers, and they cannot be re-warmed per ED policies. The pharmacy follows the manufacturer's guidelines and recommendations.
- The letter from the EMS Working Group in support of a radio system repeater for the hospital has been received
- Reading Health System is committed to providing first aid for the participants in the Reading 120 Bike Race and will have stations set up at strategic locations. These stations are for the bike race participants and spectators only. Other events are being cross-marketed on the same day as the race. Reading Health System is not committed to first aid for these events.
- Registration is open for the 2017 Paramedic program and the AEMT class.
- Online refresher class is available online. Skills testing may be done by RHS.

St. Joseph Health Network:

- There were reports of 3 patients transported to a hospital not of their choice. There was no obvious reason for the change in the hospital destination.

PennStar: No report

LVH MedEvac: No report

Old Business:

- Legislative breakfast on September 18th at Strausstown Fire Company

New Business:

- Western Berks EMS extended their thanks to all agencies who assisted in the evacuation of Spruce Manor
- Sprint is terminating their support and service for LP-12 transmissions. The hospitals will look at funding for replacing the system
- The Lancaster Bike Ride will be held on August 22nd
- 9-11 dinner will be held at the Hershey Lodge
- 9-11 ceremony will be held at the State Capital
- Leadership dinner at the Hershey Lodge on September 10th
- House bill 339 and 347 are out of committee. Both bills address EMS financing and payment for treat - no transport calls and also the potential for direct pay

- The Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania is working to increase support for an increase in the base rate and mileage rate for medical assistance claims.

Next Meeting: September 1, 2015 at 10:00

Adjournment: Motion by Merv Wertz
Second by Matt Stairiker
Motion passed unanimously
Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.