

**BERKS COUNTY EMS/MEDICAL WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
October 4, 2011**

ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT:

RFD, Boyertown, Exeter, SJMC, RCTTF, SIR, Council, Hamburg, SB, LA, DES, RHMC, Kutztown, Penn Star, Exeter FD QRS

Meeting called to order 10:07.

DES:

- Tony provided an update in the grants for mobile radios.
 - Region 1 approx 40% of the County. 29 other Fire Departments have partnered 1 combination, and 11 non-affiliate EMS agencies.
 - Budget Summary Region 1; the requested funds will be used to purchase 236 mobile radios. There is \$10,000 requested for a required A-133 audit. The total projected cost of the project is \$1,220,560. The 20% cost match is \$244,112 & the region is the requesting the remaining \$976,448 in federal funds for an existing regional mission
 - Region 2 is 60% of the County. Reading Fire Department has partnered with 23 Fire Departments, 3 combination, and 4 non-affiliated EMS agencies.
 - Budget Summary Region 2; the request funds will be used to purchase 242 mobile radios. There is \$10,000 requested for an A-133 audit. The total cost of the project is \$1,239,726. The 20% cost match will be \$247,945 and the region is the remaining \$991,780 in federal funds for an existing mission in the region.
 - We should hear something after the first of the year.
- Disaster Recovery Center is opening Friday at 10:00 at the Township of Spring Fire Department. It will be open 7 days a week 10:00-1900.
- Motorola will be conducting a radio demo on Thursday.

RADIO ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- No representative present

REGIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM TASK FORCE:

- The November 1-2, 2011 symposium will be held at Genetti's in Hazelton. There is no fee and EMS CEU will be provided. A list of topics is available. Formal invites will be sent out soon.

EMS COUNCIL:

- New quarter starting so licensure will be starting.
- EMS Conference coming up see website for details.

READING HOSPITAL:

- The Post Acute Hospital Evacuation Drill will begin at 1100 hours today; it is a bomb threat in the Café. It will be a Code D-Internal Event and we will be activating our EOP, Incident Command will be at the PAH Conference Room/Command Center. West Side EMS is the only outside player, we will internally simulate calling PD, EMS and Fire. An email will go out as notification that the drill has begun.
- Our Decon/Hazmat Team is completing training this week on Thursday October 6th and a make-up day has been scheduled for Thursday October 13th.
- Reading Hospital will be contacting Brian Gottschall to schedule a meeting for addressing the hospitals needs on the 700 MHz system.
- The Pre-Hospital Trauma Grand Rounds for October 19th is cancelled and merged with the Dinner and Learn in November.
- Triage tags monthly drills – minimal participation from the squads are doing the tags on the first day of the month. What can we do to enhance participation? Suggestions: email, Council List Serve, faxes to EMS stations, ED signs at EMS entrance, Nurse Facilitator asking for Triage color and DES text page.
- RHMC EMS room has had 150 Triage Tags picked up from someone over the last 3 months.
- Suggestion box arrived and is being installed in the ED EMS Room
- Bob Page 12 Lead EKG, 10/20/11; BLS Classes 10/21/11. Register on-line at RHMC.
- EMS Dinner & Learn – October
 - SCA Doing it Right – Cardiac Arrest Survivor Marybeth Espisito
 - Heart Code Manikins from PAEMS
- EMS Dinner & Learn combines w/Trauma Services – November 2, 2011
 - Trauma Patient review – injury to now.
- EMS Dinner & Learn – December 7, 2011
 - Brain Attack – New items on the horizons.
- EMS Dinner & Learn – 2012 – First Wednesday of every month
 - January – Heart Valves
 - February – IV ports – Not your normal IV site
 - March – TBD
- EMT Class starts November 7, 2011
 - Contact School of Health Sciences recruiter: Adriane Hoke, at HokeA@readinghospital.org or call (610)741-0116.
- Chest Pain Center
 - 16 MI Alerts
 - Median DTB 48 Minutes, average 48.7 minutes
 - EMS Discovery: 50% (8 of 16), Median E2B=78 minutes
 - EMS: WBAA (3), RFD (2), Exeter (1), SBREMS (2)

- Notable for this month was 4 patients that were “2nd EKG to Balloon” cases. These patients had no STEMI EKG changes with their 1st EKG and then had STEMI with 2nd EKG. 2 of these patients were initially brought to the ED by EMS.
- Without these cases , DTB is 46 Minutes(median average 46.5minutes)
- 210 Transmissions
- Contact Mervin Wertz for scheduling of EMS Cath Lab observation. EMS Providers are welcome to follow through to the Cath Lab with patients brought into the ED.

ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL:

- CP Center : 59 EKG Transmissions
 - RFD (23)
 - SBEMS (18)
- 4 STEMI with an average DTB of 59 minutes
- We continue to offer Cardiac Cath Lab observations. Please contact Michael Whalen to schedule observation of a case or an entire day. Our Cardiologists are also willing to provide your Company in-house education of Cardiac Grand rounds.
- Stroke; The joint Commission will visit St Joseph Medical Center next month to certify the SJMC Stroke program.
- Any squad or department that desires in-house stroke education should contact Michael Whalen.
- Emergency Preparedness; The hospital had a partial activation of our EOC during the September 8-10 flooding. SJMC would like to thank DES for the timely Sit-Reps. We did not need to alter services.
- We were prepared to participate in the Reading Airport exercise on September 24, 2011. Michael Whalen was one of several evaluators for the exercise. The “hot wash” will be held tomorrow evening at the airport.
- HERT; The team assisted in the decontamination of 1 person from DEKA. We were on soft stand-by for the incident at Diamond Credit Union. The team also provided support at the Heritage festival Oct 1-2.
- The 2011 EMS Drive-thru Influenza Vaccine Clinic was completed September 29-30. We vaccinated 105 providers. W will also be vaccinating at the Topton Ambulance this evening and will be scheduling another Responder Clinic at the Bernville FD soon. Hospital policy; any staff member that declines the flu vaccine will be required to wear a surgical mask when in close contact of patients or visitors.
- Our EMS education program will be ramped up. A flyer will be sent within the next few weeks. A BLS skill day is scheduled for Saturday November 12th. CEU and lunch provided. Tentative topics include: MCI Triage, Emergency Childbirth, Stroke and Cardiac care for the BLS provider. Sim-Man will be utilized.

SURGICAL INSTITUTE OF READING:

- The hospital was able to accept 5-10 transfers from St Joes if needed during the airport exercise.
- On September 27 the hospital had an emergency preparedness exercise. An explosion and flash fire in the OR created 5 injuries. SIR would like to request EMS participation in the spring exercise. Please contact the Emergency Educators if you are interested.

LEHIGH VALLEY MEDEVAC

- No representative present

PENN STAR

- July
 - Pediatric Trauma – ATV Accident – Exeter Twp to LHVCC
 - 1 Stand-down/ cancel
- August
 - 1 Search Request
- September
 - Adult Trauma – Western Berks EMS – Tulpehocken Twp to LHVCC
 - Pediatric Trauma – Muhlenberg EMS – EXPO Center to LHVCC
 - Adult Trauma – Hamburg EMS-MVC to TRHMC
 - 1 Cancel / Stand down
 - 1 missed due to weather.
- The weather conditions over the last few months have been unusually poor at times. Historically, this is a time of more activity; however we were forced to turn down more requests due to weather.
- However, don't assume the weather is too poor for the aircraft to fly. Sometimes it may actually be better overall than it appears at your location. If you need a helicopter, make a request as early as possible into the incident. We will check the weather and make a go/no go call as soon as possible.
- The "go" call will be based on our ability to make it to the scene and our ability to get the patient to the appropriate hospital. If we cannot do both of the legs, we will most likely turn down the request and notify you ASAP so you can make other transport plans for your patient.
- In some cases, it may be possible to meet the helicopter at another area which is outside of the poor weather area. PennSTAR will coordinate with fire and EMS units who wish to meet us at alternate landing zones due to weather.
- The bottom line is the weather is uncontrollable and unpredictable – we all have to make patient transport decisions to the best of our abilities with the information we have,
- Just a reminder to consider a stand-by request as early on in the incident as possible when the call sounds like air transport may be indicated. PennSTAR can typically arrive at the scene faster when launched from stand-by status than when receiving a direct "go".

- If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback for the PennSTAR flight program, please contact Chris Chamberlain RN, PennSTAR 4 Base Site Manager, at Christopher.chamberlain@uphs.upenn.edu or 610-378-4903 x 2.
- PennSTAR public relations requests should be directed to Eric Trubilla EMT-P, PR Coordinator, at eric.trubilla@uphs.upenn.edu or 610-378-4903 x 2.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Airport Drill hot wash tomorrow.
- Discussion on the flood operation and looking into coming up with a system to coordinate resources sooner.
- Hamburg King Frost Parade is October 29th.

NEXT MEETING

- November 1, 2011 10:00am at DES

Meeting Adjourned: 10:50