DELAWARE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Robert Stuart, Delaware State Fire School, Classroom in Dover. Those in attendance were as follows:

Council Members
Ted Walius  DVFA
Scott Dickson  New Castle County Member at Large
Ross Megargel  State EMS Medical Director
Glenn Luedtke  Sussex County Member at Large
Steve Murphy  Trauma Systems Committee
James Mosely  Dept. Safety & Homeland Security
Karyl Rattay  DHSS (Alt.)
Wayne Smith  Delaware Healthcare Assoc.
Paul Shavack  DSP Aviation
Kate Groner  DE ACEP (Alt.)
Maria Diaz  EMSC
Dana Bowerson  Practicing Paramedic
Mike McMichael  DVFA Ambulance Committee

Council Staff
Jacki Poore  OEMS
Diane Hainsworth  OEMS

Guests in Attendance
Charles Condon  DSP
Britany Huss  OEMS
Steve Blessing  EMSPS
Warren Jones  DVFA
J. Allen Metheny, Sr.  DVFA
Robert Newnam  DSFS
Kevin Bristowe  SCEMS
Matthew Gajdos  DSEMSA

I. INTRODUCTIONS

DEMSOC members, staff and guests introduced themselves.
II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes to approve, the last meeting was for informational purposes only.

III. **PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS UPDATE**

Diane Hainsworth reported that the Public Health Preparedness Symposium is being held at Del Tech on November 2. The focus will be on high velocity incident response with 4 break-out sessions in the afternoon.

She also reported in response to ebola and infectious disease they have created training programs which are currently in beta testing. They are the basics of infectious disease prevention, waste management and the different PPE and which you should choose.

There have been some reports of issues with infectious disease reporting and the designated officer program with facilities being reluctant to draw blood on a source patient, they are working on building a closer working relationship between facilities and first responders.

There is a Hospital Evacuation Exercise planned for October 22 at Beebe Hospital in which the notification of the state’s mass fatality plan will be tested.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

1) **2016 NHTSA review**

Diane Hainsworth reported that the NHTSA review was completed in May. The OEMS created a document of all recommendations from years past to show the status of where the state is on improvements. The report overall was a positive one.

They had issues with upgrading the data system, which is in the process, but they want a stronger focus on QA/QI. The issues with that is not having a person to do QA/QI, OEMS has budgeted a contractual position for this purpose as well as with the new ImagTrend contract there will be webinars and on-site trainings in this fiscal year. They will be moving to the new NEMSIS 3 platform in Jan.-Mar. timeframe which will include enhanced QA/QI capabilities for each individual agency and gives you pre-done queries which will keep the state as a whole looking at the same items.

There are also issues with medical direction. They are looking to develop a succession plan for medical directors doing EMS.

Another issue was the systems of care which the state is improving on with the potential new Stroke System of Care.

There are also issues with communication which the state continues to improve on.

Chairman Stuart suggested that everyone reads over the report and make suggestions of how we can get these improvements accomplished, at the February meeting.

Diane Hainsworth stated that the group can send any suggestions to the OEMS so they can keep a running list of those suggestions for the February meeting.
2) **Bariatric Stretchers & CPR assist devices**

Matt Gajdos reported on the grant process on funding for CPR devices to be placed in ambulances. The statewide grant was rejected, at this time New Castle County has a grant submitted but not approved yet. They were able to get some funding as well as donations. They are looking to local businesses to donate. He also reported that there is a gap in providing care and transport to very large patients. His group met in 2015 to: define what a bariatric patient is; decided that 500 lbs or greater needs special bariatric equipment; decide how big of a problem it is in Delaware; approximately 2 bariatric patients per month. He shared his presentation on the various stretchers and lift, winch and load systems, and equipment that are available. Their recommendations are to do more studies to track the true volume in the state, to see how many departments are getting these types of features and what the real need is for these types of equipment.

3) **Vice-Chair appointment**

Robert Stuart reported that the appointment of the vice-chair will be at the February meeting.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

1) **Agency Reports**

**Sussex County**

The Sussex County EOC currently has no vacancies.

The Rehoboth 911 Center relocated its personnel and operations to the Sussex County 911 Center in Georgetown effective, Monday, 9/21/15. The City of Rehoboth is constructing a new multi-purpose complex that will include a new 911 Center, Police Department and Conventions Center. The estimated completion date late summer of 2017.

The County continues to promote its new high-tech tool designed to give first responders critical information about those in need when seconds count. Smart911™ is an online service that allows any Sussex County resident to create a Safety Profile for his or her household, and pre-load information in that profile should someone ever need to call 9-1-1. The service, which is completely voluntary and free to use, is unique in that it allows users to control their information, which travels with them wherever they may go in the United States, so long as another jurisdiction uses the Smart911™ program. The service,
available at www.smart911.com, is especially helpful for people with specialized conditions, young children, or mobile phones, which unlike a home or business, do not have a physical address. To date, over 3,000 profiles have been created by Sussex County residents in the Smart911 database.

The summer is over and the hurricane season is winding down. The Sussex EOC is gearing up for the 2016 Winter Storm season.

Sussex County EMS

They currently have three vacancies. Of note, Professional Standards Division Manager Allen Barnes retired on September 23rd.

Paramedic Station 104/100 has purchased land on Plantations Road between Five Points and Rt. 24, and are in the early phase of the project to construct a new combined Supervisor/Paramedic Station this year. The new station will be similar, but larger, to their new stations in Ocean, View, Long Neck and Laurel and will house Paramedic Unit 104 and the East District Supervisor, EMS 100. This new facility will replace their current rented space on Rt.1, located in the Storage Solutions Building behind Panera Bread and should be completed by May 31, 2017.

Sussex County EMS continues to participate in the CARES Cardiac Arrest Registry. In 2015, our Utstein Survival rate for cardiac arrest witnessed by bystander and found in a shockable rhythm by EMS was 36.7%. The CARES average for these same survival criteria is 33.4% and the national average for all EMS Systems remains much lower. Our high survival rate is impressive considering our rural response area. SCEMS attributes this to widespread LUCAS device deployment and a six-year dedication to high performance CPR and a system wide push to improve cardiac arrest survival. Of note is that when bystanders were found to be performing CPR upon our arrival, we demonstrated a 10% increase (46.7% Utstein) in survivability. This has re-affirmed their commitment to their hands-only CPR program at their special events and public outreach programs.

They are still in the throes of another busy special events season again this year. They expect to participate in or support between 150 and 200 events again this year. They will be participating in several emergency preparedness drills, as well as providing paramedic coverage for multiple events throughout the year.

Sussex County EMS celebrated its 25th anniversary on January 15, 2016. The agency started as Sussex County Paramedic Services (SCPS) with one unit and 10 paramedics operating out of its headquarters just off Circle in Georgetown. By the end of 1993, the service grew to five units with 55 employees and today the service is comprised of 109 employees operating eight full-time, one part-time, one seasonal, and two supervisory paramedic units covering all of Sussex County.
The Capital to Capital Bike Ride (C2C) took place between May 7 and May 13. This year’s event consisted of the inaugural “Heroes are Human” ride from Ottawa, ON to Boston, MA, followed by the 2016 East Coast National EMS Memorial Bike Ride from Boston, MA to Washington, DC. The first week of the ride was completed in conjunction with the Code Green Campaign to bring awareness to first responders suffering with PTSD. The purpose of the second week was memorialize and celebrate the lives of those who have become sick or injured while performing their duties, and those who have died in the line of duty. This year, seven members of the Sussex County EMS community rode in the C2C with four people participating in both portions of the ride. Five other members and a SCEMS vehicle accompanied the riders as support. The 1,000-mile event was completed over 13 days of riding and concluded at the National EMS Memorial in Arlington, VA.

They have initiated talks with Beebe Medical Center regarding MIH. They have spoken with the OEMS. Through the partnership with Beebe it is their hope to determine if there is a need that can be mutually beneficial to each of us and the citizens of Sussex. Their long-term goal is to seek permission for a pilot program
that is cost neutral to both the state and county. If they seek to move forward they will have a formal presentation for this group.

They completed Rescue Task Force Level 2 training with Ocean View Police Department hosting the training and several other municipalities from that area also participated. All of their paramedics participated in the four-hour long training that focused on providing EMS care in the warm zone of an active shooter incident.

**Sussex County Member-At-Large**
Glenn Leudtke stated that the incidents of violence against first responders continue to increase with each day.
He reported that some ambulance manufacturers are now doing crash testing.

**DVFA Ambulance Committee**
Mike McMichael reported that Matt Gajdos is the new president of their State EMS association.
He reported that they had their annual awards banquet in September.

**Trauma Systems Committee**
Steve Murphy reported that the State Trauma System held a 20th Anniversary celebration and recognition ceremony at Legislative Hall on October 11.

**EMSC**
Maria Diaz stated that their two freestanding emergency departments were in the process of compiling applications to participate in their statewide pediatric emergency care facility recognition program.
She reported that Nemours held their first pediatric skills course for EMS providers on September 22. It is a simulation based course designed specifically for ALS and BLS providers. They will be repeating the course five times with one scheduled on October 21, and one on November 19, and two planned for 2017.
The next EMSC meeting is November 15.

**Medical Direction**
Ross Megargel stated that the new standing orders have been approved and signed. ALS goes into effect November 1 and BLS goes into effect January 1.
Training is in process and they will inform the base station doc’s of the changes in the coming weeks.

**OEMS**
Diane Hainsworth stated that the OEMS had representatives at the NASEMSO Fall meeting held in September. One of the issues that NASEMSO is looking at is the heroin/opioid crisis and its effect on EMS and law enforcement and on hospitals for surge capacity. Delaware was chosen as one of the states to participate in the National Governors Association’s initiative on sharing of data between EMS, law enforcement and forensics. A group with representatives from
OEMS, DIAC, and Division of Forensic Science are working on making their individual data systems have the ability to link together without violating HIPPA. Another report was that in 2014 it was less than 1% of EMS runs were for overdose, in second quarter 2016 it was 2.7% of runs were for overdose. Another issue was the volatile substances that heroin is cut with there is increased need for awareness of providers to ensure they are using proper PPE. In response to the active shooter awareness OEMS has purchased tourniquet kits. She stated that with ImageTrend they are switching to the Elite platform. Also they are looking to the CARES program so that ImageTrend can push data directly to CARES to eliminate the need to enter data by hand.

**Public Health**

Dr. Karyl Rattay stated that the new Stoke System of Care bill was signed by the governor in September. They are currently working on creating a committee and are working towards having two meetings before the end of the year to compile recommendations.

**DSP**

Paul Shavack reported that their LEMR program is a 40 hour course, which all trooper medics complete, with emphasis on not only emergency medical response but police tactics as well. He reported that their AED program is still working toward the goal of having an AED in every patrol vehicle. They will be putting over 100 more in service this year. He reported that their Narcan program is moving along with their implementation policy complete and ready to send to OEMS for review. They would like to have Narcan to all troopers by January.

**DVFA**

Warren Jones reported that they have received some funding for vests for EMT’s. He reported that Rehoboth Fire has two bariatric capable ambulances.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**