

CONNECTICUT EMS ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 0900 hours
Via teleconference due to COVID-19 Pandemic
Approved May 27, 2020

Members Attendees: G. Allard, L. Bolton, W. Champion, M. Daniels, R. Guthrie, S. Johnson, J. Laucella, M. Loiz, N. Mayeda-Brescia, K. McClaine, J. Oates, J. Paretzky, F. Potter, A. Romano, F. Rosa, I. Smith, C. Stiles, D. Tompkins and R. Ziegler.

OEMS Staff: R. Kamin, R. Coler, A. Pugliese, J. Demers

Regional Coordinators: J. Reynolds, S. Durante

Regional Presidents: M. Blake, M. Wilson, F. Rosa

Committee Chairs: W. Ackley (Emerg. Preparedness), M. Loiz (Legislative), R. Kamin (CEMSMAC), J. Beaulieu (MIH), B. Morris (Communications), S. Gregg (Trauma), V. Barnes (EMSC), J. Paretzky (Volunteer) and W. Champion (Nominations)

Guests: Damian Rickard, J. Santacroce, T. Schietinger, Donald Smith, S. Conley, Katherine Coupe and Lance Timmons, CARES, Peter Canning and Katherine Couturier.

Board Chair: Greg Allard

Request for written reports may be made to Yolanda Williams at OEMS. Yolanda.Williams@ct.gov

Meeting opened at 0906 hours.

TOPIC	ISSUE	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Moment of Silence	In remembrance	All citizens lost to the Covid-19 pandemic. Jonathan Burbank, Mystic River+ Wade Cole, Hartland Avery Lampshire, Watertown	
Minutes	Minutes of February 26, 2020	No corrections.	Motion to accept the minutes of February 26, 2020 as presented by F. Rosa, 2 nd by R. Guthrie. Motion passed unanimously.
Public comment	CARES, Lance Timmons	Reach out to L. Timmons if you are interested in a CARES program locally. Thanks to Stratford EMS from L. Timmons.	Lance.timmons@redcross.org
Chair's report		Nothing currently.	
DPH-OEMS	Written report submitted	Mental Health First Aid programs, when the Bill passed only Paramedics are required to take the program.	
	Covid-19 pandemic. Multiple informative letters sent out to services and are posted on the web.	Covid-19 pandemic Comprehensive update and discussion including stats for CT, drive through testing, status of field hospitals, the role of DPH/OEMS in the support of EMS, Nursing Homes irregular evaluations of staff and visitors, the need for thermometers.	
		Extension of recertification for EMS is being evaluated by legal. Medicare billing has relaxed some standards regarding extension of certifications.	

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	EMS-C	Cancelled Pediatric Forum, held multiple programs before the pandemic restrictions were in place.	On-line educational offerings will be available soon.
	MIH staff 1.5 positions. 3.12.20 support letter from Commissioner.	Request is going through the system for approval.	
	Clinical experience for EMS students.	Clinical experience for other than Paramedic level has been suspended.	
	Provisional certification.	Has been reviewed and accepted by the national Registry.	Motion to support Provisional Certification in CT in keeping with National Registry standards was made by F. Rosa and 2 nd by M. Blake. Motion passed unanimously.
Committee reports	CEMSMAC Minutes submitted.	Agenda includes COVID-19 care and trauma recommendations.	
	Communications	Update by B. Morris.	
	Emergency Preparedness FMOP document sent out.	Discussion. Report of shared communications with nearby states and cities regarding surge capacities, equipment increases, the number of ambulances needed to some areas-mostly for anticipated transfer of patients and how to get approval for increased needs.	Information sharing will be passed on as often as possible to avoid duplication of efforts during this Pandemic.
	Legislative	LOB is closed until April 13, 2020 and will probably be extended beyond that date.	Legislative Committee will continue discussions virtually.
	Trauma Minutes of 2.13.20 submitted.	Recommendations for COVID-19 care and Trauma triage will go to CEMSMAC.	

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	MIH	Developing educational resources and guideline resource book.	Will continue to meet via teleconferencing.
	Volunteer	No report.	
Action item	Equipment list	No discussion.	Motion to accept the 2020 Connecticut Minimum Equipment List 2019-2020 presented to the Board on 2.24.20 by R. Guthrie and 2 nd by I. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.
Other discussion	N95 and masks.	Information sharing regarding practices, where to try getting equipment from like dentists, nail salons, etc., cleaning processes.	
	Running crews with an EMR and 1 higher level provider.	In discussions at OEMS.	
	Mental health for providers. Steve Johnson.	Discussion of available resources and suggestions for updates and daily messaging.	
	Mental health patients	Question regarding diversion to other than hospital or telehealth for mentally ill patients.	
	EMS Pro conference	Has not been cancelled to date.	More information when available.
Adjournment	At 1034 hours		
Net meeting	April 22, 2020	Hunter's Ambulance at 0900 hours.	

Irene C. Smith RN, Secretary

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