

Approved June 24, 2020  
CONNECTICUT EMS ADVISORY BOARD  
**Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 0900 hours**  
Via teleconference due to COVID-19 Pandemic

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

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

Regional Coordinators: S. Durante

Regional Presidents: M. Blake, M. Wilson

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

Guests: S. Conley, K. Coupe, D. Dole, Dr. Faroukh Mehkri, D. Burich, J. Way, M. Hartog, A. Garcia.

Board Chair: Greg Allard

Request for written reports may be made to Yolanda Williams at OEMS. [Yolanda.Williams@ct.gov](mailto:Yolanda.Williams@ct.gov)

Meeting opened at 0907 hours.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Moment of Silence		None	
Minutes	Minutes of March 27, 2020	No corrections.	Motion to accept the minutes of March 27, 2020 by R. Kamin, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mark Blake.  Motion passed unanimously.
Public comment		None	
Chair's report		Annual Report Update 2018/2019 is in development. CMS Cost Collection Project – how will this impact services in the report.	
	Breakout Session, all present for comments.	General discussion with all in attendance regarding COVID-19 Pandemic including hazard pay, experiences and effects on staff, services and regions. Looking toward future planning with coordination, recognition and improving on gaps.	Multiple positive comments on service's staff, OEMS staff and others.

TOPIC	ISSUE	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>DPH-OEMS R. Coler</p>	<p>Written reports submitted (April and May 2020)</p> <p>CT EMS Planning compliance document submitted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A thanks to EMS for hard work for EMS Week and to Judi and Shawn for ongoing distribution of PPE</li> <li>• EMS education can be completed virtually.</li> <li>• OEMS Staffing – completed interviews for SWORD position; will go to HR and commissioner</li> <li>• Fred Rosa is spearheading Region 5 coordinator</li> <li>• New acting commissioner in place until permanent commissioner is hired.</li> <li>• EMS Trauma – transition to image trend has gone well</li> <li>• Opioid response – SWORD May 2020 Newsletter available; reminder to EMS to keep reporting suspected overdose</li> <li>• Protocol/CEMSMAC still continue to meet</li> <li>• A lot of municipalities do not have an EMS plan on file</li> <li>• Heartsafe – up to date</li> <li>• PPE Distribution – still difficult to get, not able to confirm all various N95's for effectiveness</li> <li>• Discussion regarding testing EMS providers; as well as volunteering to collect the tests</li> <li>• *Contact tracing” – collaborating with local universities</li> <li>• EMS Planning, several non-compliant towns.</li> </ul>	<p>Website has all notices and guidelines published.</p>

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	OEMS MIH staffing initiative.	<p>Lengthy discussion around MIH staffing status and the importance and value added of an MIH program. Funding monies are at OPM for evaluation.</p> <p>The MIH Committee meets tomorrow and will draft comments appropriate for inclusion into communications to the acting Commissioner, legislators and/or the Governor.</p>	Unanimous consensus agreement from all present directing the Chair, G. Allard, to correspond with the acting commissioner and/or appropriate legislators as well as the Governor regarding MIH support.
	EMS-C V. Barnes	<p>Check out website for link regarding ECHO – family violence during COVID-19 at 8:30 pm tonight.</p> <p>Rescheduling of classes that were cancelled.</p> <p>Inflammatory disease with children has not been seen frequently. There are no special medical care issues for EMS.</p>	Thank you, V. Barnes, for all you have done with EMS-C and all the best with your new ventures.
Committee reports	CEMSMAC Minutes submitted for April and May 2020. R. Kamin / K. McClaine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMSC – attempt to fill V. Barnes position</li> <li>• Regional initiatives</li> <li>• Discussion around COVID-19 protocol changes</li> <li>• Minimum Equipment List changes.</li> <li>• CARES Report</li> <li>• Personnel/provider wellness – resources for mental health</li> <li>• ED timing of documentation</li> </ul>	
	Communications B. Morris	No report	

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	Emergency Preparedness B. Ackley	Brief FMOP discussion; draft document has been sent.	
	Legislative M. Loiz	No recent meetings. Legislative office still closed. There was a legislative conference call regarding possible passing bills that may not have opposition.	
	Trauma	No report	
	MIH Minutes submitted	Josh Beaulieu Did not meet in April. Meeting May 28, 2020.	
	Volunteer Jay Paretzky	A virtual meeting for the Volunteer Committee will be scheduled to discuss the effects of the Corona-19 Pandemic on Volunteer providers.	
	Regionalization J. Laucella	No meetings. No update	
	Education and Training A. Romano	Consideration of mandatory live patient intubations by paramedic students.	

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Action item	Minimum Equipment list (MEL)	MEL was distributed for approval.  Discussion around implementation of MEL.	Motion to approve the addition of loose-fitting surgical masks to MEL was made by R. Kamin, 2 <sup>nd</sup> by M. Wilson.  Motion passed unanimously.
New Business		Question regarding EMS Conference Meeting this week to discuss.	
	J. Oates, impact of Pandemic on volunteers locally and nationally.	Discussion around volunteer services having had a massive impact from COVID.	Keep issue on agenda.
Thanks	Distribution centers	M. Wilson expressed thanks to all those working at PPE distribution centers including the National Guard and multiple volunteers.	
Next meeting	June 24, 2020	Via teleconference at 0900 hours.	
Adjournment	At 1045 hours		

Irene C. Smith RN, Secretary and Angela Pugliese, OEMS.

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