

CONNECTICUT DISASTER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM (CT-1 DMAT) MEETING

15 August 2002
19:20 – 2000

The CT-1 DMAT meeting was held on Thursday, 15 August 2002, at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) in Wallingford, CT. The meeting was called to order at 19:20, and last month's minutes were reviewed and approved.

Mark Libby announced that the MOU had been signed by the acting director of NDMS. Eventually, a physician will be appointed to the director's position, per the wishes of the new surgeon general. Furthermore, the DMAT structure has changed. Instead of the three pre-existing levels, teams are now designated as either deployable (blending of categories 1 and 2) or developmental. For now, the CT-1 DMAT is designated as a developmental team. In addition, Commissioner Garcia must sign another MOU, different from the first signed MOU. The team's next major task will be the completion of the federal applications. Mr. Libby stated that Region 1 will help the team expedite the process. Furthermore, the federal applications require that an applicant's photo be attached to them.

Mark Libby stated that the non-profit status was by-passed by the Attorney General's office.

Mark Libby reported that the state's Department of Public Health (DPH) is creating a Public Health Trust/Foundation that will be similar to a 501(c). Mr. Libby is looking into the trust as a possible funding source.

Glenn Torrey inquired whether the team will lose funding because of the "developmental" designation. Mark Libby replied that he will look into finding an answer to the question. However, for now, the money available from the current federal fiscal year will not change. (The new federal fiscal year begins October 1).

Dr. Zanker announced that the team needs basic medical information on individual members. He states that the medical form for the team will not be as detailed as the federal medical forms. The team needs to think about other vaccinations, not just the smallpox, as the team could be deployed to the tropics. He will notify the team once he receives a list of required vaccinations.

Mark Libby replied that within the next 2-3 weeks, there will be a guide put out that will explain who amongst first responders will be immunized. There are positive and negative aspects of the vaccinations. Epidemiologists will brief on the risks of vaccinations in the near future. In addition, Mr. Libby wants the team's medical files to be kept with the lead team physician at all times.

Paul Brooks reported on the work group meeting, which took place from 18:00 to 19:00. Glenn Torrey continues to peruse for equipment. The work group is working on drafting a drug and alcohol policy. The goal is to have a draft available to the team for September's meeting. In the area of education and training, Texas A&M held training at the CT Fire Academy, 23-25 July.

Unfortunately, that training session was not well attended. The training team will return to Connecticut sometime in the fall. This is the core curriculum required of team members. For other courses, contact Texas A&M. Furthermore, PHS mandates the FEMA ICS (Incident Command System) course for every member. It is available online at www.fema.gov. It takes about 3-4 hours to take online and is good for those who do not have prior knowledge of the ICS.

Rev. Montonye announced that the team outing/picnic has been canceled. Anyone interested in eating dinner together before the meeting should see the Reverend after the meeting (or via email at mmonton@harthosp.org).

Paul Brooks thanked Marge Letitia for the nametags she supplied.

Dave Duff asked when the Nextel phones are going to be “shut off.” Mark Libby replied that the phones will remain in service for now. Also, members without phones should notify Joe Malinguaggio.

Kelsey Heyl noted that the Nextel phones will hold only 150 numbers in its address book. Mark Libby stated that it is not necessary for the team to have every single members’ Nextel numbers in their address books.

The formal meeting adjourned at 20:00, at which time, work on the federal applications commenced.

CT-1 DMAT meetings are held every third Thursday of each month at CHA in Wallingford, CT. The next scheduled meeting will be held on 19 September 2002 at 19:00.

SKP/08-2002