



**Ottolie W. Lundgren Mobile Field Hospital  
Board of Directors Meeting  
MS TEAMS  
March 12, 2021  
10:00 AM**

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**Attendees:** William Gerrish (chair), Francesca Provenzano, Gen. Ralph Hedenberg, James Paturas, Joan Soulsby, Dr. Richard Kamin, Timothy Johnson, Brian Foley, Jose Arguelles, Elen Steelman, Rita Stewart, Sue Walden.

**Welcome – Introduction and Review of 9/11/20 Minutes:**

W. Gerrish opened the meeting and began with introductions followed by a review of the minutes from the last Board of Directors meeting held on September 11, 2020. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Deployments/Requests for Deployment**

W. Gerrish reported that there have been no deployments since the last board meeting in September. Previous deployments were to four hospitals as part of the COVID response.

**MFH Survey**

DPH developed a seven-question survey to assess hospitals' experience with the MFH and obtain recommendations to improve future deployments. W. Gerrish summarized the results, which included space and anchoring challenges. A respondent recommended that a full inventory of medical support equipment including cots as a standardized package be part of any deployment. In reference to anchoring the structure, R. Kamin noted that the MFH should be deployed per manufacturer's guidelines. He also suggested that a list of available contents for MFH deployment be developed.

**Maintenance/Repairs**

Gen. Hedenberg and J. Arguelles summarized recent maintenance and repairs to the MFH conducted on behalf of DPH by the Connecticut Military Department (CTMD). Key points included:

- At the end of last year, the CTMD conducted a complete technical inspection and shortage annex on everything that was missing from the MFH.
- On February 23, the DPH purchase order with the CTMD was closed out for the repairs and replacement of parts that go with the hospital
- All six rack body vehicles have been serviced by Scranton Motors for preventive maintenance and service to recommended standards.
- All trailers have been serviced by H.O. Penn to ensure operational status. Additional tarps were ordered to have enough covers for all the trailers and to cover equipment stored in the back of the trailers in the event there is no indoor storage capability.

## **Funding**

### **DEMHS Grant**

- DPH currently receives funding from the Homeland Security Grant Program, which is administered through the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). The grant supports maintenance of the mobile field hospital.
- DPH, working with DEMHS, recently closed out the ADPHA18 grant for \$56,950. Funds were used for maintenance of ventilators and other biomedical equipment, storage and maintenance and repairs to MFH vehicles.
- R. Stewart explained that the process for the 2021 HSGP application is underway, with grant meetings scheduled for April 2021.

### **Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Grant**

- Approximately \$50,000 of the \$80,000 allocated for the purchase order with the Military Department for deployments and maintenance has been paid out.
- Guidance from ASPR is pending for next year's HPP grant. DPH is not anticipating the ability to allocate as much money on this grant for the MFH next year due to ASPR's grant requirements.

### **Bond Funds**

- In 2004, the Bond Commission appropriated funds to support the mobile field hospital. A balance of approximately \$1,000,000 remains. These bond funds were also intended to support hospitals for their own structural improvements to manage infectious disease patients.
- DPH consulted with OPM, who advised that the remaining bond funds can only be used for the replacement of parts and assets or the purchase of new assets for the mobile field hospital. They're not available to use for other purposes, such as maintenance, storage, training, and deployments.
- Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of asking the legislature to amend the bond authorization to expand use of the allocated funds. J. Soulsby advised that DPH would need to initiate a conversation with OPM regarding submitting a proposal for such a change. She stated she could speak to OPM's bond analyst for guidance.

### **Other**

DPH is ascertaining its costs to maintain, store, and deploy the mobile field hospital, given limited funding streams and increasing costs.

## **Surplus and consolidation of MFH Assets**

- DPH has been working with the Military Department to centralize the MFH assets in one location at Camp Hartell. That effort has also included consolidating storage of assets at Camp Hartell from two buildings to one (Building 45).
- OPHPR continues to work with the DPH Fiscal Office to surplus equipment that is no longer functional or has exceeded its useful life. This equipment includes portable x-ray machines, refrigeration and heating units, oxygenators, latrine and water buffalo trailers). It also includes durable medical equipment that has been in our cache for

several years. OPHPR recently consulted with experts to advise on the usefulness of these assets and determined that they have exceeded their useful life.

**Future MFH Stationing, Operations and Missions**

Gen. Hedenberg discussed MFH stationing and operations issues and costs at Camp Hartell. These included the amount of space currently occupied by the MFH and how it may impact future missions based out of Camp Hartell. Further discussions between DPH and the Military Department will be scheduled to address.

**Open Discussion**

No further discussion occurred.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am

**Next Scheduled Meeting:** September 10, 2021, 10 AM, MS TEAMS