



**Otilie W. Lundgren Mobile Field
Hospital Board of Directors Meeting
MS TEAMS
Friday, March 08, 2024 10:00 AM**

Minutes

Attendees: W. Gerrish (Chair), Gen. R. Hedenberg, Maj. S. Mastrocola, Dr. R. Kamin, J. Paturas, O. Rood, Q. Battisti (for W. Turner), Y. Pellatto (for H. Massari), D. Boyer, V. Rzesutock, B. Cass, M. Pappas, W. Smiley, K. VanAelst

Welcome – Introduction and Review of 03/10/2023 Minutes:

W. Gerrish opened the meeting and began with introductions. He noted the meeting did not meet a quorum and reviewed the bylaws for defining a quorum. The departure of J. Arguelles from this committee and CT DPH OPHPR was noted, the addition of K. VanAelst to the committee was also noted. Minutes were reviewed but could not be voted on due to lack of quorum.

Board Membership:

W. Gerrish recognized new board members W. Turner, Director CT DEMHS. H. Massari from DSS, and O. Rood from OPM. J. Paturas, who will be retiring, was recognized and thanked for his work on the committee, and this will be his last meeting. The CHA has been contacted to make them aware of this vacancy on the Board. Statutes regarding Board membership were reviewed.

Bylaws:

Bylaws were reviewed at the last meeting; some changes were made. Other changes suggested by W. Gerrish were to change the definition of a quorum from the Chair plus five, to the Chair plus four. Feedback was positive, but unable to vote secondary to lack of quorum at this meeting. Makeup of voting Board members was reviewed.

Deployments:

Maj. S. Mastrocola delivered the update for the deployment at the Durham Fair in September 2023. J. Arguelles was recognized. The shelter type 12 bed set up in one J-Shelter crescent tent with two end caps. Beds received from St. Francis Hospital were not serviceable due to inability to decontaminate secondary to stitching per T. Bruno of CT DPH FLIS. Beds will be replaced with cot beds. The condition of the asset was discussed, it is an aging and degrading asset. Areas have been patched but are not waterproof or ideal. When the tent does get wet, the tent needs time to dry (done at Camp Hartell), adding an additional day of deployment for state active-duty personnel.

Tour of New England Disaster Training Center (NEDTC):

CT DPH in collaboration with the CT National Guard facilitated a tour of NEDTC and a presentation of the mobile field hospital (MFH) with local health departments. MFH presentation was delivered by J. Arguelles and members of the CT National Guard.

Training:

Maj. S. Mastrocola delivered the training update. Twice a year training for the asset includes two J-Shelters (25 beds) to train the all-volunteer militia members. Training is done on the hospital pad. It was noted that the power that was built at NEDTC were built for military couplings and were incompatible with civilian generators. This has been rectified. Generator maintenance was also completed on site during training by the militia. Durham Fair is not counted as a training event. It was also noted that vehicle 711 has brake issues, and two other vehicles require tune-ups; funding is needed to address those issues.

MOU:

CT DPH and CT National Guard have been working to codify their working relationship with a MOU to include protocols for deployment, payment, maintenance, for example. This document is still under review. Legal review will be required by both parties.

Inventory:

The Fiscal Office Inventory manager is responsible for the inventory of all DPH assets, including MFH and related equipment. A visit to Camp Hartell is scheduled for March 25th for the inventory of MFH assets located at this site. This was discussed for the situational awareness of the Board.

Medical Field Hospital Future Direction:

The draft Scope of Work (SOW) to secure a consultant to assist with recommendations for the Board to consider for the future of the MFH, which is an aging asset. OPM approval has been secured for \$50,000 for this purpose. Funds may expire December 31, 2024, or they need to be obligated by that date, this is to be determined and will inform the hiring and work timeline. The SOW will be sent to approved vendors/consulting firms to do this work, so the Board can make a salient recommendation to the DPH Commissioner. Expeditious hiring of a qualified consultant was discussed.

Open Discussion:

The Homeland Security Grant Program has been a funding source for MFH maintenance. Amount of funds and timeline for spending is under review. Gen. Hedenberg, Dr. Kamin, and M. Pappas expressed gratitude and recognition for the support, mentorship, hard work, subject matter expertise, commitment to truth telling and neutrality, and partnership of J. Paturas as he retires from his roles.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on September 6, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Maryanne Pappas, FNP-BC
Nurse Consultant
CT DPH OPHPR