



**Ottile W. Lundgren Mobile Field Hospital
Board of Directors Meeting
MS TEAMS
Friday, September 11, 2020
10:00 AM**

Minutes

Attendees: William Gerrish, Francesca Provenzano, Dir. William Hackett, Gen. Ralph Hedenberg, James Paturas, Joan Soulsby, Roderick Winstead, Dr. Richard Kamin, Maj. Seth Mastrocola, Timothy Johnson, Brian Foley, Jose Arguelles, Elen Steelman, Rita Stewart.

Welcome – Introduction and Review of 3/13/20 Minutes:

W. opened the meeting and began with introductions followed by a review of the minutes from the last Board of Directors meeting held on March 13, 2020. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Deployments:

William Gerrish said that the request for the MFH for the Wallingford Celebration in June 2020 (Mid-State Medical Center) was rescinded due to COVID-19 concerns.

William Gerrish described the MFH deployments during the COVID-19 response:

St Francis Hospital and Medical Center

- Twenty-five bed configuration set up outside of St. Francis Hospital Emergency Department. Include HVAC and Power. National Guard on mission from 3-13-20 to 5-13-20.

Danbury Hospital

- Twenty-five bed configuration set up outside of St. Francis Hospital Emergency Department. Include HVAC and Power. National Guard on mission from 3-22-20 to 5-20-30.

Sharon Hospital

- Twenty-five bed configuration set up outside of St. Francis Hospital Emergency Department. Include HVAC and Power. National Guard on mission from 3-22-20 to 5-18-20.

Middlesex Hospital

- Twenty-five bed configuration set up outside of St. Francis Hospital Emergency Department. Include HVAC and Power. National Guard on mission from 3-31-20 to 6-1-20.

Francesca Provenzano noted that not all of the deployments followed the process proscribed by state regulations and the Department of Public Health for deployments, including approval by the State Health Commissioner.

Jim Paturas suggested querying the end users of the MFH during the COVID-19 response to learn about their experience and challenges using the MFH assets during this real-life event.

Maintenance/Repairs:

William Gerrish said that DPH is working with the Military Department on developing a maintenance plan for MFH vehicles and trailers. This maintenance will include oil/filter and other fluid changes, DOT inspections, etc.

A generator failed on the 25-bed component deployed to St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center during the COVID-19 response. Repairs have been made.

DPH received quotes to replace shelters, power distribution units, and other equipment that have been identified as missing or in need of replacement. DPH will provide specifics to the Office of Policy and Management to determine if bond funds can be used to support the replacement of this equipment.

Requests for Deployments

There are no pending requests for the MFH at this time.

Funding Support for MFH

1. DEMHS Grant – DPH is developing its application for Homeland Security Grant Program funds administered by the CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for FY 2021. Funds from FY 2019 and FY 2020 are being used to support ventilator maintenance and other MFH assets.
2. Bond Funds – Discussed under maintenance/repairs
3. Other funding– William Gerrish noted that federal Hospital Preparedness Program funds were also used to support MFH maintenance and operations.
4. Francesca Provenzano indicated the department is interested in exploring the ability to charge for the use of MFH use, noting there are considerable costs associated with deployments. Joan Soulsby noted that establishing this capability would likely require a dedicated account and legislative action. Gen. Hedenberg described some of the challenges the Military Department has experienced establishing accounts to collect fees for their services.

Open Discussion

William Gerrish noted that DPH received a draft MOU from the Military Department for storage of MFH assets at Camp Hartell.

William Gerrish said that DPH is part of the Regional Disaster Health Response System, a federal funded initiative to improve coordination of planning and response activities and enhance patient care during disasters. Part of that initiative includes the development of deployable

medical teams, including assets. DPH will consult with OPM to determine if the MFH can be included as part of this effort.

General Hedenberg described lessons learned by the Military Department as a result of the COVID-19 response. These include:

- Use of stakes to secure the MFH shelters was not possible at the hospital locations (urban environment, parking lot location), due to underground utilities and other concerns. As a result, National Guard (NG) soldiers needed to consult with the Department of Transportation to obtain concrete blocks to secure the structures.
- In addition to the delivery and set up of the physical structure, the NG had to make return trips to provide additional resources, such as beds, hand sanitizer, and washing stations. He recommended obtaining a better understanding of the end users expectations for what is included with the MFH.
- Damage was assessed to certain structures. The National Guard (NG) observed that repeated use of one set of the MFH resulted in wear and tear requiring replacement. A better approach going forward is to rotate use of all four MFH sets to prevent overuse of one component set.

The Military Department is rotating the prime mover vehicles through a vendor for routine maintenance. Trailer generators are also scheduled for service. Replacement of power transfer units is also underway and expected by mid-September.

NG soldiers also deployed 14 Alaskan Shelters to hospitals during the COVID-19 response. Use included triage of patients/separating COVID-19 patients from non-COVID-19 patients

Shower/Latrine trailers have been assessed and determined to be non-functional for purposes of supporting the MFH. They are scheduled for surplus.

DPH will schedule time with the Military Department to discuss second wave planning.

William Gerrish introduced Jose Arguelles, who joined the DPH Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response in April, 2020. Mr. Arguelles is working on MFH issues among others. One of his projects is developing Go-Kits, which will include cots, linens, and other supplies, to include on MFH deployments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 am

Next Meeting:

The next MFH Board of Directors Meeting will be on Friday, March 12, 2021