

# DRAFT

## Mobile Field Hospital Board of Directors Meeting

10 March 2023

### Attendees

Jose Arguelles, William Gerrish, Ralph Hedenberg, Timothy Johnson, Richard Kamin, Seth Mastrocola, Maryanne Pappas, James Paturas, Francesca Provenzano, Joseph Roden, Owen Rood, Elen Steelman, Maria Tackett, William Turner

### Minutes

- ❖ The meeting opened with introductions and roll call at 10:03 AM.
- ❖ September 2022 minutes were accepted.
- ❖ Board membership was reviewed. It was again noted that Mr. Foley, Mr. Winstead, Ms. Solsby have left state service. Bill Gerrish has reached out to Department of Social Services, Public Protection, and Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for membership replacement nominations. Unclear if a quorum can be met of voting members until vacant positions are filled.
- ❖ Bylaws have been updated to reflect the semi-annual meeting schedule. Bill Gerrish suggests a subcommittee to review additional comments about bylaws suggestions for discussion at the next meeting. James Paturas volunteers for this subcommittee.
- ❖ Maj. Mastrocola updated the committee on recent deployments.

Durham Fair: Photos of deployment at Durham Fair were shared. Two J shelters were deployed. The asset was viewed by the DPH Commissioner, and senior DPH leaders. Repairs and updates were highlighted in the aging asset. Ten militia members were deployed to erect the MFH (cost: \$10K). Tony Bruno was recognized for his assistance by Major Mastrocola. Major Mastrocola suggested that the Medical Field Hospital (MFH) likely has no more than 24 to 36 months of useful life left.

CCMC: October 2022 CCMC experienced surge issues secondary to RSV, COVID-19, and behavioral health demands. Inquiry sent regarding the possibility of utilizing the MFH to address surge. Jose Arguelles staked the area at CCMC, Tony Bruno was also on site to explore alternative areas and discuss the possible use of the MFH. Military was also on site. Logistical issues were discussed with the team and CCMC leadership. The MFH was not deployed to CCMC.

- ❖ Maj. Mastocola discussed training from MFH deployment. Full training was completed before the Durham Fair. Training period was suggested to be changed from quarterly to semiannually. April 15-16 2023 was proposed as the next training period to be billed against the open purchase order. An added benefit to regular training is assessment for workability and function check of the asset.
- ❖ Maj. Mastrocola discussed maintenance/repair updated for the MFH. Received replacement power cables (12). Tarps for trailers were received. Vehicle 7-11 is NMC secondary to rear brake line leak. Vehicle will be towed to vendor for cost estimates and repair. Generator checks require a load to be put onto the generators, this could also be addressed at training sessions/exercises.
- ❖ Maj. Mastrocola discussed possibility for exercises. Hospital pad is 100% operable, it has been a long time since MFH was set up on hospital pad for an exercise. Proposal to use pad for exercise to possibly include DOC, USAR, DEMHS, extraction from rubble pile, technical decon, smart triage MCI may all be possibilities, with an August 2023 timeline. Proposal to have rubble pile re-certified was made, cost estimates are being sought for this. Discussion included stakeholders and marketing possibilities. A subcommittee will be formed to help plan exercise.
- ❖ MOA between DPH and the National Guard was noted.
- ❖ Future direction of the MFH as an aging asset was discussed, approximately \$1M in bond funds are available. Maria Tackett outlined the future of the MFH as informed by several interviews with key players. These included a staging area for refugees; staging area for incidents at Bradley International Airport; deploying partial components of the MFH, such as generators. Maj. Mastrocola shared a slide of the future direction/courses of action for the MFH. This included training, pre-planned events, and no-notice requests. Issue of how or whether to deploy outside of Connecticut (CT) was brought up, as the National Guard is a CT asset.
- ❖ Dr Kamin asks if Mass Casualty and Mass Fatality could both be done in the same exercise. Assessing willingness to invest in preparedness for mitigation of emergencies/disasters was also outlined. Bill Gerrish asks if the MFH is the appropriate asset, or if other assets should be explored (e.g.: trailers). Maj. Mastrocola points out that two of the J shelters may need replacement/retirement sooner, so these discussions are important and timely. James Paturas points out that understanding how the asset will be used, the need for understanding maintenance/replacement costs of this asset, and what other assets exist. Dr. Kamin points out the importance of understanding what the options will be if this asset does not exist as a method of understanding its worth. Possibility of a subcommittee to further explore this was asked. William Turner points out that a final recommendations/proposal for state funds to be included in FY '25 midterm budget adjustments would need to be proposed by October '23.

- ❖ The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.
- ❖ Next meeting will be September 8, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryanne Pappas

Nurse Consultant, CT DPH OPHPR