

Tioga County EMS Council
99 William Farrell Drive
Wellsboro, PA 16901

The regular quarterly meeting of the Tioga County Emergency Medical Services Council was called to order on April 21, 2016 at 19:10 by Secretary Myra Kreger, in the absence of Chairman Peter Lupkowski, and Vice Chairman. Andy Tom, in the David R. Cohick Emergency Services Building.

The minutes were approved as presented by a motion made by Lisa Rice – Tioga County Quality Assurance, seconded by Linda Beacker – Galeton.

REPORTS:

Ian Druetto – Tioga County Training Coordinator, presented the training calendar. He also reported that a Basic Training Class will be held this weekend in the EOC. The class will include IS-100, 200 and 700 as well as Hazmat Awareness. This will provide some of the minimum requirements for responders. A Pro-board test for Hazmat Awareness will be given Tuesday, April 26 at 18:30 at the Wellsboro Fire Station.

Ian relayed a reminder from Andy Tom - Wellsboro ALS, that Triage Week is upcoming. In preparation the Wellsboro Hospital will be hosting a continuing education Triage class on Tuesday, April 26 in the board room.

Ian requested that if there were any specific classes that an agency would like to host, please contact him and he will work on getting them scheduled.

John Getty – NCTF Health and Medical committee, attended a training in Williamsport on March 3. He related that the patient tracking app (from Knowledge Center) was used and seems like it will work well once procedure is established. The app will allow patient tracking from the time of first contact to arrival at a treatment facility just by scanning a bar code. EMA would be able to view the destination facility for each patient as well. Benton Best – Tioga County EMC, reminded everyone that this app would need to be used on an everyday basis so that responders are familiar with it. If at all possible, the app would link to patient care reporting software, allowing auto-population of information already entered on scene to appear in the patient care reporting system without the need to re-enter information.

Denise Ayers – STRIKE TEAM, reported that there was an upcoming even in May, but didn't have the particulars available.

OLD BUSINESS:

Myra Kreger – Blossburg Ambulance, reported that Blossburg Fire Department had renewed their contract with IAmResponding. She was concerned with how seemingly slow and unresponsive IAR has been in reference to billing.

Myra also reminded everyone that the timeline to have criminal histories done on all responders was approaching. She noted that there had been previous discussions about how the EMS Council was going to support this.

Ian Druetto reminded everyone that the nomination forms are out for EMS awards. There will be no LTS EMS banquet this year due to lack of available funding.

John Getty brought up discussion about insurance companies sending payment directly to the provider rather than to the patient/patient's family. He encouraged everyone to be careful that they were not getting paid a reduced figure with this service.

Tom Shaw has researched the cost of running a traditional EMT class. His calculations are that it would normally cost around \$21,000 to run a class for 10 students, meaning that the cost per student would be \$2100. If the same class is figured with donated space (where the class is held), time (instructors and coordinator) and books (10th Edition from County stockpile), the figure is closer to \$3070.00 per class. If a new book is purchased (11th Edition) add \$250/per book. The class would run 22-23 weeks and include multiple Saturdays. Due to the amount of reading, there was discussion on getting the books out to students a week before the class actually starts, so that they can be better prepared for the first class.

Since seating is limited in EMR/EMT classes there was discussion about "interviewing" applicants to be sure that they are the best fit for the class.

Denise Ayers reported that the hybrid EMR class is full. Applications are now being accepted for the next class.

Wellsboro School District is still on board to run an EMR starting in the fall. This class will be limited to school students.

Myra Kreger reminded everyone that CQI needs to be in by the 15th.

Benton Best, extended a thank you to Blossburg Ambulance for the rehab service that they provided at the Stager Fire. Myra Kreger related that was also something that was brought up at the Chief's meeting. Rehab is a necessity, not an option.

Liberty reported that their QRS licensure is completed. They did experience some problems with the licensure application process due to changes in the way licensure is now done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lisa Rice – Tioga County Q/A Coordinator, had two handouts. These had already been sent out to each agency earlier in the month. The first was an update on Emergency Medical Dispatch codes along with whether the code recommended a BLS or ALS response. The second handout outlined the new procedure for dispatching ambulances that includes dispatching two departments in the second due dispatch.

Linda Beacker – Galeton Ambulance, reported that they have received their LUCAS device.

Denise Ayers – brought up the inappropriate use of lights and sirens on calls for which they are not necessary.

There was discussion in reference to the EMSOF grants. Several departments still have not received any response in reference to their applications. Benton Best recommended that agencies with questions reach out directly to Wendy Hastings in Lycoming County.

Benton Best reported that some departments are not in compliance getting trip sheets turned into the region.

Benton has a handout in reference to EMS/TRIAGE TAG week. He will be sending it out to each department.

Benton reported that there had been DECON exercises throughout the day. They were able to identify a few items that needed to be addressed. He was also able to take EMA staff and set up the Tioga County DECON trailer at SSH in the afternoon. He would like to get the trailer out in the area and demo it at each department. In October, there will be a full exercise in which 50 individuals will be decontaminated.

Benton related that he has met with the three school districts in the county in reference to their school bus policy. Although they do have similar policies, they are not exactly the same. Benton would like to be able to come to a mutually acceptable policy that ALL districts would use.

Benton also reported that the Regional EMS Council meetings are not well attended from this county. He believes that it is extremely important that the Tioga County EMS council be represented, as there are many issues that directly effect this county. If the representatives are not able to attend, be sure to send someone in your place.

Benton has had interest from law enforcement agencies that want to put AEDs in their cars. He is willing to write grants for this, but is also looking for support from EMS agencies in those areas.

The next meeting of the Tioga County EMS Council will be Thursday, July 21, 2016 at 7PM