

Central Iowa EMS Directors Association
May 20, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Brian Helland	Clive Fire Department	Chris Perrin	Mary Greeley
Joel Westendorf	Delaware Township FD	Rich Davis	Polk City FD
Katy Hill	Unity Point Health	Clint Robinson	Waukee Fire Department
Brian Seymour	Indianola FD	Rob Light	Urbandale FD
AJ Mumm	Polk County EMA	Frank Prowant	Ankeny Fire Department

Guests:

Sara Boese – Polk County Public Health
Lois Campbell – VA Des Moines
Jessica Carper – VA Des Moines

Meeting was called to order at 18:30 in the Beiring Dining Room at IMMC. Special thanks to Unity Point Health for hosting and arranging a basement location for the subsequent tornado warnings...

Extreme Heat Emergencies: Sarah Boese presented information on extreme heat emergencies and a collaborative plan between Polk County EMA and Public Health. Historically, shelters have been opened during extreme heat events, however this strategy is not reaching the numbers necessary. New strategies are being developed to include education of at risk populations. Sarah has educational materials available – contact Polk County Public Health for more information.

AJ Mumm asked if EMS agencies could help track patients transported due to heat related emergencies this summer. With advanced notice, EMS agencies can track this in electronic PCR software, but it may take some setup. CIEMSD will send out a notice to ask all departments to set up a mechanism for keeping track of heat related transports so these numbers can be reported more accurately.

VA billing for EMS and hospital services: Jessica Carper and Lois Campbell from the business office of VA Medical Center, Des Moines provided information and clarifications for VA billing issues. VA consistently is on diversion preventing ambulances from transporting Veterans to their facility. This frequently has a detrimental financial outcome for the patient as well as for the ambulance service and /or hospital where the Veteran was transported. Lois provided a print out that explains billing requests from a global perspective. She encouraged all EMS agencies to submit bills – VA will review all the bills and determine if they meet criteria for payment.

Lois and Jessica took notes of several issues we have experienced in the past with respect to payment and diversion. They will be providing information back to us as they find answers to our questions and concerns.

Lois provided some tips for billing when sending to VA:

- VA has two separate billing offices – please do not send bills to both offices. The “Travel” office is the correct place for bills, regardless of whether the Veteran was transported to VA or to another facility.
- VA is a sole payer – if VA pays any benefits, then EMS cannot bill the patient or any other insurance companies for the remainder. However, if VA does not pay, then the patient and any other insurance companies can be billed.
- Please check your software for the format of the date. Dates must include a total of 8 digits in the format of mm/dd/yyyy. If this format is not used, the automated payment system will kick out the bill as non-compliant and it will be denied. For example, May 5th, 2013 should be written 05/03/2013. If it is written as 5/3/2013, the bill will automatically be kicked out of the system. Lois acknowledged this was a VA issue, however they have not been successful in creating a fix for this one yet.
- Bills must be timely. Anything past one year from the date of service will not be paid. The earlier the bill is submitted, the better.
- All denials can be appealed. Lois encouraged us to appeal any denials when it appears that the criteria have been met.

It was also noted that calling the VA emergency department for any Veteran who meets diversion criteria for AMI, stroke or trauma helps streamline the billing process. **Note: it is not necessary to call VA to get permission to bypass their facility in the instance of acute MI, acute stroke or patients who meet trauma criteria.** Stroke has been added to the conditions for automatic bypass of VA Des Moines. Criteria used by VA for recognition of AMI and stroke are listed below:

<p>AMI – signs and symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncomfortable pressure in center of chest • Chest discomfort spreading to shoulders, neck, one or both arms, jaw • Chest discomfort sprading to back between shoulder blades • Unexplained shortness of breath • Nausea, extreme sudden fatigue 	<p>Stroke – signs and symptoms – Sudden:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facial droop, arm drift, abnormal speech • Weakness, or numbness of face, arm, leg • Confusion • Trouble speaking or understanding • Trouble seeing in one or both eyes • Trouble walking • Dizziness or loss of balance or coordination • Severe headache with no known cause
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

For questions regarding VA benefits, please contact Lois Campbell, Manager, Non-VA Care Unit & Patient Services, VA Central Iowa Healthcare System, 515-699-5847, lois.campbell2@va.gov

CIESMD business items:

March 2013 minutes were approved as written.

Treasurers report: available bank account balances were provided by Brian. Savings = \$16,123.54. Checking = \$1,689.79. Peg Back is resigning as treasurer – she is enrolled in school and has left the Polk City FD, and she has asked to be replaced.

Request was made for ongoing funding of meals for the EMS Round Table meetings. Cost is estimated at \$8 - \$10 per person with meetings occurring quarterly. Funding was approved by unanimous vote for up to \$400.00 per meeting.

Training Committee - Frank Prowant reported the 2014 refresher dates have been established and are posted on the website. If anyone has ideas for speakers, please forward to T.J. Carroll (tcarroll@dmacc.edu) .

Frank met with AJ Mumm regarding funding ideas for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant. He recommended the purchase of several hundred SMART triage tags to be used for training, along with 500 keys for the web based SMART training modules. Included in this funding will be more SMART triage fanny packs and command boards for agencies who may have missed out on the initial rollout. The goal is for every vehicle in the response area to be equipped with a fanny pack.

Other funding ideas include a disaster response vehicle that would provide support for any hazard and be a multi-jurisdictional resource that could be used statewide.

The next EMS Round Table is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th at 6:15PM at the Ankeny Fire Department, station #1. Please register at www.ciemsd.org so we will have a head count – supper is provided (and very good...) The round table encourages discussion and interaction between EMS leaders on issues that are pertinent and common to EMS services in our area.

The training committee is working on transition programs for the Iowa Paramedic (NREMT I-99) and Paramedic Specialist (NREMT-P) to the new paramedic certification level. Des Moines FD has had success with one commercially available program.

Reminder of training aids listed on website – they are available for check out.

Operations Committee - Dave Edgar reported that the next issue of Synergy should be released in June.

John Carter and Mike Cardwell are working on MCI drills that will deal with the individual components of an MCI rather than attempting a wholesale drill. More to come...

Jasper County hosted a SMART MCI training class facilitated by David Edgar and the Newton Fire Department. One item to consider in surrounding areas – what role does the local hospital play? Are they going to see/triage everyone or do they see the yellows and greens as depicted in the Polk County plan? Things to consider for agencies outside Polk County as they conduct their MCI training.

Ragbrai will be coming through West Des Moines and staying overnight in Des Moines on July 23rd. Des Moines FD is working with WDM on response plans and gearing up for the visit. Nothing needed at this time.

We have been invited to work with the implementation of the Iowa Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (IPOST) in Polk County and the surrounding area. David attended the first meeting – will keep EMS community updated – our involvement will probably be later in the process.

WDM has created response zones for incidents involving I-35 south of the mixmaster. The DOT is working in that area and has effectively created a cattle chute with cement walls for south bound traffic. There is no method for people to exit and no access for emergency vehicles. Three staging areas have been created: Mills Civic Parkway; Grand Ave; and access from Highway 5 bypass. If any units are called in for mutual aid, please be aware that you will need to go to a staging area – the Highway Patrol may be working to close the interstate in both directions to help facilitate emergency vehicles gaining access. Access to the south bound lanes will be made from the north bound lanes.

June 18th will be a class on Freeway Incident Management hosted at Raccoon River Lodge in West Des Moines. Flier has been posted on the educational opportunities page of the website at www.ciemsd.org. RSVP to Danielle Griggs, Iowa DOT Office of Traffic Operations, Danielle.griggs@dot.iow.gov

Membership Committee – nothing to report

Polk County Fire Chief's Association – nothing to report

Communications Centers – nothing to report

IEMSA – Katy reported that the legislature approved the forward movement of the Public Safety Training Center task force, however funding was removed. EMS now has a seat on that task force if / when it is formed.

Metro Trauma Committee Report – Brian reported that the Metro Trauma Committee will now meet quarterly instead of bi-monthly. With increases in feedback mechanism for trauma patients, and the winding down of the legislative session, the group will look at other areas for focus.

Both Mercy and Methodist are in the process of hiring for the trauma programs. Jennifer Platz and Sarah Town have both completed their Clinical Nurse Practitioner license, and they will be moving to different roles in Mercy's trauma department. Katie Heldt became the new Director of Nursing at Skiff Hospital in Newton.

Metro ED Committee Report – nothing to report

Polk County Emergency Management – no report – AJ left during the tornado warnings...

Polk County Medical Examiner - no report. It was noted by David Edgar that there is a new investigator working for the ME's office who was not aware of the Lucas device issues. David will follow up with Dr. Schmunk.

Hospital Reports

- a) Mercy/ Mercy Westlakes – no report
- b) Methodist/Methodist West – Happy EMS Week! Dr. Swegle will be conducting a lunch and learn tomorrow (Tuesday) at the Virginia Thompson Auditorium. Other events for EMS week continue throughout the week.
- c) Lutheran – no report
- d) Blank – no report
- e) Broadlawns – no report
- f) Mary Greeley – still there, nothing to report
- g) VA – no report

Member County Reports

- a) Boone – no report
- b) Dallas – nothing to report
- c) Jasper – no report
- d) Madison- no report
- e) Marshall – no report
- f) Marion – no report
- g) Story – nothing to report
- h) Warren – Troy Bass will be taking over as the EMA Manager. He was the assistant manager.
- i) Polk – nothing further to report

Announcements

Upcoming Training Opportunities – watch for new ACLS EP program
Hiring/Promotion/Recognition – WDM EMS hiring a full time EMT
Fund Raising Events

Next Meeting – Monday, July 15th, 2013

Location: Windsor Heights Community Center
6900 School St (Colby Park)

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Helland
CIEMSD President