

St. Lawrence County EMS Advisory Board Meeting

September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Start at 7:07)

Public Safety Building and Virtual

Roll Call: In person; Carol M, Don T, Doug B, Chris T, Mark D, James B, Dave S, Jolene Munger, Jay M, Virtual; Anne S, Tammy S, Chris V, Aaron J, Rita C, Collen (LifeNet), Dr. Coates, Kevin W.

**Jolene Munger (Director of Public Health)** Presented information from a Slide Presentation, about CDC Guidelines on Exposure and PPE.

The State is aligning with 15 minute exposure time as opposed to 10 minutes. Exposure time will be affected by procedures being performed and type and amount of PPE being used.

See attached presentation for review and clarification.

Currently St. Lawrence County is #1 in cases.

**Tammy S-** asked if EMS were mandated to get vaccines as they are considered Medical Personnel.

**Ms. Munger** stated that EMS are not. Only those that fall under article 28, 30 etc. are mandated as of right now.

**Jay -** Provided information on the different types of testing and how things are reported. This was in response to a question from James about how tests are being reported and how long it would take for EMS to be notified about potential exposures for the sake of quarantine. There was also discussion about whom and how tests are being reported.

**Jay-** asked about self -testing and reporting (the home tests that can be purchased from the store).

**Ms. Munger** stated that many are self -reporting and many are getting a pcr test just to verify.

**Ms. Munger** stated that if anyone in EMS has questions about exposure they can call her office and they will help get the answers. She was also going to check with the hospitals to find out if they would or will report exposures to EMS. They already are reporting information (from the lab) for exposure and testing results. Not sure if the hospitals would also be willing or capable of reporting more information.

**Don T. –** asked about the criteria for getting the booster. **James** asked about having a choice for which booster to get.

**Ms. Munger** stated that right now the only Vaccine that is available for the booster is the Pfizer vaccine. She also stated that you cannot mix and match the vaccines for boosters. She stated that there are 6 criteria for receiving a booster and those are available on the State website and she believes they are available on the county website as well.

**Mark-** sent out the minutes from the last meeting late so the group agreed to wait until the next meeting to approve those minutes.

There is no Office of Emergency Report, one was not sent

Anne- NYS CME renewals now have to be done through the online portal

Please report long wait times and anything out of the ordinary at hospitals to her office. Her office is cross referencing information for the last two weeks on transfer of care, this includes interfacility. Right now the Average time is 8 minutes. Providers need to be conscious of how they are doing their paperwork and times as they will be looking at the pcr's. Make sure you are doing it correctly.

BLSFR CME Program Agencies must be doing EPCR's by the end of the year to continue using the program for recertification. Anne's office is working with those agencies to get things done.

EMT's trained/training to do vaccines, email was sent from Annes office about that directive from the state.

CMS data collection will be coming for all agencies. If you have not been one of the chosen ones yet, you will. Make sure you start gathering information now so it will be easier to do once your time comes.

REMSCO meeting is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup> and will more than likely have a virtual option

REMAC meeting is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Colleen, LifeNet - Presented Quarter one and Quarter 2 Call request information. They have been seeing some bizarre and unique transports, they are going to many different p aces (Rochester, New York City etc.) She stated that if ambulances are being taken out of service for long periods of time and to more distant locations that we could consider LifeNet to do those as long as they meet the medical necessity criteria. She stated that LifeNet will be doing fleet upgrades in the North Country. Watertown will be getting a New Aircraft with IFR. This is a 30 million dollar investment. Stated that there will be training and education opportunities coming.

Mark - Hospitals need to update their policies about covid procedures. Things have changed and there has been some questions.

Jay- Stated that N95, Goggles, are preferred. Do not come into the hospital while do Neb treatments.

Dr. Coates- stated that EMS needs to call when coming to the hospital. They hospital wants to limit exposure and does not want to have patients in the hallway. They are working diligently to get rooms, so they ask that we wait until we get confirmation. (Question was asked by Dave Sherman - are you sure that people are hearing acknowledgment about their arrivals and can confirm that?) Dr. Coates believes they are but there may be some miscommunication. If there is an urgent need they ask that you send in the driver or someone who has had limited exposure to get information.

Training- Anne- PHTLS Hybrid Version paid for by a grant through Upstate. Testing is Friday, Saturday, Sunday 7:45 A.M. to 6:00 p.m. You only need to go for one of those days. The cost of the course is 200.00 but is free because of the grant. Her office has books that you can use with a deposit and you will receive the deposit back when the book is returned. Locations Watertown, Lowville Gouverneur.

CLI Course October 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>. From 5-10 p.m. This will be at Gouverner Rescue. There will be a Virtual Component. We are in desperate need for CLI's in our area. Please consider it and sign up for the class. The curriculum has been updated. For more information see the FDRHPO EMS website.

Mercy Flight EMS Day October 1<sup>st</sup>

Spring Fling 2022- April 28<sup>th</sup>-May 1<sup>st</sup>

BLS Adjunct Training at St. Lawrence University will be October 16<sup>th</sup>

Anne - Regional Trauma Committee and the Stroke Committee have concerns about fluid overload. Patients are coming in with too much and it is bad for long term recovery of the patient. Administer 250 ml bolus or less. Patients are also coming in Hypothermic. Make sure that you are keeping your patients warm and that you are uncomfortable while transporting.

Tourniquet placement is an issue and there should be training on how to use them in your agencies. Use direct pressure first and then go to tourniquets if absolutely needed. Train, Train, Train

Mark- Wanted to vote on Article II Changes. However they were changed again since last meeting so we need to read them twice. Before we can vote the changes in. Will have to wait until the next meeting to start that process again.

Committee Appointments- appointments were made. See list Attached Lots of things were stated including adding different people to the board and how to go about that without changing the changes that we are making to Article II

State Awards have been extended to October 1<sup>st</sup> so get them in please.

Mark - What can we do to fix what's breaking currently? That is was the Ad Hoc committee was originally created to do. We have to do something about County Wide All Calls on a Wednesday Afternoon at 2:00. Some agencies are in decent shape, some are crumbling, and the crumbling agencies are hurting the decent agencies.

**Cost collection data training in Albany Oct 13. There are also trainings and webinars.**

**Mark- We have a lack of people not ambulances ( I believe this was stated by Mark)**

**Rita Curran-** Has two presentations that she learned about while at a meeting of the Association of Counties. One is from Livingston County, and one was from Chenengo County

We will need help from the county administrator to get it going and we need it sooner rather than later. (There has been a tremendous resistance by the board to do anything) The Legislature was not convinced that the county needed to do something soon but with the way things are it is apparent that there is a need and the county needs to do something. She went through some of the things she learned from the two different presentations and stated that it was a way for the county to help out now. Possibly would lead to creating a position to oversee its implementation.

Anne- Jonathan and herself have been working on a plan. This is designed to address issues and help agencies not take over or eliminate agencies. (She also stated that she has a copy of the Chenengo plan and that it has not been implemented yet)

Anne- stated that they will be working with Clarkson to help address some of the concerns and provide training (potentially)

Also looking at creating cooperative purchasing and training opportunities for agencies.

Motion to adjourn made by Jay, Second by James

8:20

Executive Committee  
Mark Deavers  
Chris Towler  
Storm Cilley

Legislative  
Kevin Wells  
Dave  
James B

Personnel  
Carol  
Don  
Storm

Dispatch Committee  
James Barr  
Doug  
Chris Towler  
Aaron

Legislative Ad Hoc  
Jay  
Dave  
Rita