

DUTCHESS COUNTY EMS TASK FORCE MEETING

March 23, 2016
392 Creek Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Present: Carol Bogle, Bernadette Cekuta, Bruce Cuttler, Kevin Gage, Cheryl Hilbrandt, Chris Howard, Chris Maeder, John Mahoney, Tim Murphy, Dan Nichols, Legislator Kari Reiser, Richard Robinson, Chris Rohrbach, Anthony Ruggiero, Dewitt Sagendorph, Dave Schultz, Dana Smith, Cathi Tegtmeier, Dave Violante, Kim Usewicz representing Assembly member DiDi Barrett, Ian Miller representing Senator Terrence Murphy, Anil Beephan representing Senator Sue Serino

Absent: Assembly Member Kevin Cahill, Patricia Fusco, Mark Johnson, Supervisor Dave Kelly, Legislator Jerry Landisi, Assembly Member Frank Skartados

- Commissioner of Emergency Response Dana Smith thanked everyone for their willingness to serve on this Task Force and address this important task.

Welcome and opening remarks-County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the kickoff meeting. There are a lot of issues to address on how you conclude this challenge. He is a 15 yr member of the Tivoli FD and rescue squad and spent the first 15 years of his public service as a member of the FD in the town of Tivoli. Paramedic EMT and emergency services he knows a little bit of the challenge being faced with today. The situation related to Transcare and the fact they filed for bankruptcy reminds us county wide that we don't have the most reliable and most sustainable emergency medical services county wide. Dutchess County is somewhat unique in the state of New York in that we have so many variations of ambulance service. This is not acceptable or sustainable. We also recognize we are on the verge of dealing with a very significant crisis. Our goal is to provide consistent, reliable,

sustainable and affordable patient centered ambulance service. Marcus stated that he would like a couple of public forums to be presented.

Freedom Of Information Law review-Chief Assistant County Attorney Carol Bogle informed the group that the Emergency Medical Services Task Force has been created by County executive Molinaro and that it is strictly an advisory group. The basic purposes of this group are to gather a variety of information in connection with the provision of emergency medical services in Dutchess County and to discuss and analyze that information. A report will then be issued to the County Executive recommending possible solutions to identify challenges in connection with the provision of emergency medical services in Dutchess County. Any documents generated as a group in e-mails could be subject to FOILS (release of information).

The Open Meetings Law applies to “public bodies” as that term is defined in the law. Local municipal boards, school boards, fire districts, etc. are examples of public bodies which have been created by law and are required to give public notice of its meetings, take and publish minutes and have a quorum to conduct business. The EMS Task Force is not a public body based on how the EMS Task Force was created and its advisory role function. Therefore, the EMS Task Force is not subject to the Open Meetings Law.

Introduction of the group-Introductions were made by all.

Task Force Purpose/Process-Commissioner Smith reviewed the purpose and the process of the Task Force. He reported that this is not a county takeover of EMS, we need to help develop a patient centered county coordinated system. Our job is to provide recommendations for solutions. The EMS Task Force will have a website and a specific e-mail.

The main purpose of the Task Force is to develop County Coordinated EMS solutions that are Patient Centered, Consistent, Reliable, Affordable and Sustainable.

The process is to develop common situational awareness, to include current status of each area/service, identify a common set of challenge or priorities and to develop potential solutions to these challenges.

Once commonalities are identified, specific areas/tasks will be addressed. Sub groups will be established to address specific issues, and will report back to the Task Force. Outside entities can be involved to assist in addressing challenges and solutions. The process will also include additional input, other stakeholders as needed, Public Forums, a Steering Committee and a written report to the County Executive.

EMS System Overview-Dave Violante did a power point presentation on EMS Systems and Components. The models of EMS system delivery are the following:

The Franco-German model is based on the “stay and stabilize” philosophy (public health).

The Anglo-American model is based around “scoop and run” philosophy (public safety).

EMS SYSTEM DELIVERY consists of the following:

- Health Care Organization (Hospital/Group)
- Private Agency (Commercial/Non-profit)
- Public Safety Agencies (EMS/Fire/Police)
- Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Advanced Life Support (ALS)
- Tiered Responses (First Responder/EMT/Paramedic)
- Community Paramedicine

A successful EMS system is one that the entire community believes to be successful.

Components of a successful EMS system are:

- Communications
 - Training
 - Manpower
 - Mutual Aid
 - Transportation
 - Facilities
 - Critical care units
 - Transfer of care
- Consumer participation
 - Public education
 - Public safety agencies
 - Standard medical records
 - Independent review and evaluation
 - Disaster Linkage

SWOT Analysis Review-Acting Assistant Commissioner of Behavioral and Community Health, Cathi Tegtmeier gave a presentation on SWOT Analysis.

S trength	W eakness	O pportunities	T hreats
Internal; control		External; no control	

SWOT is a widely utilized tool for strategic planning and complex decision making. The SWOT tool provides structure to, or summarizes, our strategic analysis. SWOT Analysis sheets were distributed and Cathi would like them to be filled out and returned by e-mail by April 4, 2016. The SWOT summary will be presented and the Taskforce will prioritize findings.

Steering Committee- A Steering Committee needs to be established to meet 2x a month and will report to. The following have volunteered to be part of the Steering Committee:

- Dave Violanti
- Chris Maeder
- Tim Murphy
- Anthony Ruggiero

Next Meeting- To be determined

Respectfully submitted by Susan Sellitto