

# DUTCHESS COUNTY EMS TASK FORCE MEETING

June 21, 2016  
392 Creek Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

**Present:** Carol Bogle, Kevin Gage, Cheryl Hilbrandt, Chris Howard, Mark Johnson, Chris Maeder, John Mahoney, Tim Murphy, Dan Nichols, Chris Rohrbach, Dana Smith, Cathi Tegtmeier, Dave Violante, Will representing Assembly member DiDi Barrett, Anil Beephan representing Senator Sue Serino, Supervisor Dave Kelly, Legislator Jerry Landisi, David Gavin, W.A. Steenbergh, PJ Keeler

**Absent:** Bernadette Cekuta, Bruce Cuttler, Assembly Member Kevin Cahill, Patricia Fusco, Assembly Member Frank Skartados, Senator Terrence Murphy, Legislator Kari Reiser, Richard Robinson, Anthony Ruggiero, Dewitt Sagendorph, Dave Schultz

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There was one correction in the minutes from May 26, 2016:

Under **Work Groups Created** it should read:

**The Defining Data Committee:** Chris, Dan

**Define a reasonable Response Time:** This committee will be working with OCIS and Marist. Kim Usewicz, Anil Beephan, Chris Rohrbach, Bruce Cuttler, Anthony Ruggiero

John Mahoney, EMS Coordinator welcomed everyone and introduced PJ Keeler from Columbia County EMS. Handouts were distributed and will be attached to the minutes. PJ presented a very informative System Overview. He reported a task force was formed in the year 2000 and it took a good 10 years to get to where they are today. There are 5 agencies within Columbia County, which consists of 23 community based ambulances. They are able to bill for services.

The System Status Management Plan works very well for them.

The benefits of this plan are:

- Uses existing resources
- Operationally efficient
- 40% reduction in response times in depleted areas
- Economically feasible
- Structure in place for future needs

The average dispatch to on-scene 911 emergency calls is 10 minutes.

The following questions and clarification on the presentation were discussed.

- Taxes vs. renters/owners
- Differences in the ALS (Advanced Life Support)/BLS component (Basic Life Support)
- What can't BLS perform
- Staffing has not been reduced or increased
- Town tax has risen to support the agencies

Commissioner Smith discussed:

### **System Status Management Plan**

- Developed and overseen by participating agencies
- Incorporated into agreement/contract
- Outlines agency and 911 dispatch responsibilities

Steering Committee: Information needs to start being collated.

Chris Maeder will outline and assess information by a town by town format, 20 towns, 8 villages and 2 cities. This will provide an at-a-glance outline by municipality.

1. Volunteer vs. commercial (how do they provide service)
2. Measure average response time (dispatch to on the scene)

3. Measure average turnaround time
4. Measure in mileage what hospital agencies normally transport to
5. Resources per area
6. Look at parameters of agreement
7. Demographic, population and square mileage of municipalities
8. Funding mechanisms
9. Budgets

**Identify Best Practices:**

Explore/research: COUNTYWIDE CON

Explore ALS vs. BLS –standard of care

Carol Bogle will research the potential for EMS billing for Fire Departments and suggested that a list of fundamental terms should be compiled.

Rockland Paramedic Service will be invited to present at a future meeting.

**Next Meeting-** To be determined

Respectfully submitted by Susan Sellitto