

DUTCHESS COUNTY EMS TASK FORCE MEETING

September 7, 2016

392 Creek Road

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Present: Bernadette Cekuta, Bruce Cuttler, Kevin Gage, Cheryl Hilbrandt, Christopher Howard, Chris Maeder, Jon Mahoney, Tim Murphy, Dan Nichols, Legislator Kari Reiser, Chris Rohrbach, Dewitt Sagendorph, Dana Smith, Cathi Tegtmeier, Dave Violante, Dave Gavin

Absent: Assembly Member-DiDi Barrett, Carol Bogle, Assembly Member-Kevin Cahill, Patricia Fusco, Mark Johnson, Supervisor-Dave Kelly, Legislator-Jerry Landisi, Senator-Terrance Murphy, Richard Robinson, Anthony Ruggiero, Dave Schultz, Senator-Sue Serino, Assembly Member-Frank Skartados

Commissioner Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the evening. Dana reported that he sent an update to the executive's office on the progress of EMS Task Force. Dana also reported the need for professional services for a consultant were discussed at the Budget review meeting.

Chris Maeder discussed Data and Infographics. The descriptive findings were broken down in the following areas.

- National level findings
 - EMS is not a mandated service
 - EMS has no national home
 - Has multiple masters
 - Federal: Dept. of Transportation, CMS

- No significant or dedicated funding similar to Fire and Emergency Management
 - No standardization/Benchmarks
 - Lack of public knowledge about EMS
 - No consistent or dedicated funding
 - Professional value to society and influence
 - Poor or no reimbursement from insurances-ACA
- New York State
 - EMS is not mandated
 - EMS is housed in Dept. of Health
 - Lack significant funding or staff
 - NYS Dept. of Health: protocols, education (5 keys as outlined by County Executive Marcus Molinaro (Patient Centeres, Consistent, Reliable, Affordable and Sustainable)
 - No centralized training arm similar to OFPC
 - NY is a Home Rule State
 - Regulations address administrative and equipment matters
 - Little oversight on quality or consistency
 - No standardization/Benchmarks
 - Lack of Knowledge about EMS
 - Professional value to society and influence
 - No consistent or dedicated funding
 - Poor or no reimbursement from insurances-ACA
- County and Local
 - Again EMS is not mandated
 - Home rule
 - No centralized authority-fragmented and inconsistent service
 - Demographic and geography influence-rural vs. suburban
 - No system approach
 - Questionable EMS knowledge to make operational decisions
 - Solutions developed often without collaboration

- Inconsistent considerations of 5 keys
 - Traditionally Fire based in Dutchess County, supplemented by Commercial Services
 - Fire Districts legal prohibited from reimbursement
 - Professional value to society and influence
 - Lack of public knowledge about EMS
 - No consistent or dedicated funding
 - Poor or no reimbursement from insurances-ACA
 - Limited use of information technology
 - Varied delivery models
 - Inconsistent standard of what is acceptable
 - Inconsistent levels of service and response
 - Limited to no Healthcare system collaboration
 - Limited and consistent information on patient outcomes
 - No surge capacity
 - Fragmented/decentralized training
 - No systematic approach to Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement
- Future
 - Aging population
 - Projected and changing population density
 - Decrease volunteer base
 - Decreased recruitment pool
 - EMS and emergency healthcare delivery changes

Money is the biggest influence for change to the status quo.

Everyone agreed with the Data and Infographics findings.

Cathi Tegtmeier requested if anyone has any questions or concerns about “Descriptive Findings” and/or “Format” to email John Mahoney by Wednesday, September 14th.

Cathi also presented the “Format for the report” on the EMS system in Dutchess County. This will be reviewed and developed and submitted to the County Executive’s office.

- Executive Summary
- Evolution of EMS
- Town by Town Profile and system Analysis
- Next Steps
 - ❖ Short Term solutions (immediate to 6 months)
 - ❖ Medium Term solutions (6 months to 2 years)
 - ❖ Long Term solutions (2 years+)
- Appendix A: Glossary of Common Terms
- Appendix B: Agency Response Analysis
- Taskforce Members Bios
- Recommended Reading
 - Previous Dutchess County reports
 - Other NYS County EMS reports
 - National publications
 - Innovations in EMS
 - Emergency Medical Services: Decreasing Revenue and the Regulated Healthcare Environment
 - National EMS Assessment
 - EMS Agenda for the Future
 - Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society

John Mahoney will email the links for the recommended reading to everyone.

The next meeting to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Sellitto

