NYS DOH Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
Webex Update for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers
Wednesday 10/14/20, 4:00 PM to 4:27 PM

Unofficial Notes
This is not verbatim transcript of the call. The notes were typed during the call and reviewed afterward. There are no prepared agendas distributed before the bi-weekly calls and topics can cover anything related to EMS. Questions and/or comments from providers can be submitted before or during the call.

NYS DOH BEMS&TS Panelists:
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Valerie Ozga, Vital Signs Academy & Conference and Exec Sect SEMAC & SEMSCO
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Valerie Ozga
Note: The first couple minutes of presentation were missed due to problem accessing audio.

- Vital Signs Academy classes will continue 4 days a week till the Vital Signs Conference with no pause.
- The EMS Memorial service will be held on 5/18/21. There have been Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) related to COVID-19. There is information and a form on the BEMS&TS web site (https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/emsmemorial.htm). An e-mail indicating a name can be sent to Valerie Ozga but they will need all the proper documentation for LODD related to COVID-19. The EMS agency the person was affiliated with has to complete the Memorial Nomination Form. Names need to go to the NYS Office of General Services in December.
- Question: Were SEMAC & SEMSCO meeting dates revised. Answer: The meetings will be in December. On Tuesday 12/8/20 there will be committee and sub-committee meetings during the day. On Wednesday 12/9/20 the State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee will meet in the morning and the State Emergency Medical Services Council will meet in the afternoon.

Jean Taylor

- Education moving along.
- Thanks to all the sponsors and instructors for keeping things going.
- Getting calls from students who recently tested who are trying to join or be hired by an EMS agency and are being told the agencies are not accepting their temporary certifications printed after they test and are not accepting printouts from the Health Commerce System (HCS). Those are valid certifications. The HCS populates directly from the BEMS&TS data base as soon as the course is uploaded. She will start asking which EMS agencies are involved so she can contact them directly. Agencies have or can get access to the HCS to verify certifications.
- Testing is going a little bit smoother, scheduling is getting a little bit better and scores are coming in a little bit better.
- Question: Would it be possible to put the actual expiration date on the temporary certification. Answer: Not at this time.
• Suggestion submitted that some official guidance from BEMS&TS would be appreciated perhaps in the form of a Dear Agency letter. Brodie responded that it will be brought up with BEMS&TS leadership as something they can all talk about.

Any Eisenhauer

• Have been getting e-mails and questions on the safe transport of pediatric patients as a core requirement for the CME recertification program. Part of the virtual Vital Signs Conference will be a 1 hour session during the conference that will meet that CME need.
• Working on having a class in the Vital Signs Academy that will meet the need for CME on safe transport of pediatric patients. Hoping that will be in November. It will be recorded and any provider can take it as needed.
• Looking for people interested in learning a little bit more about safe transport of pediatric patients. If already a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) please reach out to Amy as she has some opportunities for related extra training. Looking to put together a larger training program for next year when can see each other in-person again.
• EMSC hosted a Vital Signs Academy class on Tuesday 10/13/20. There will be 2 pediatric classes a month on Vital Signs Academy on every other Tuesday night. The next class is 10/27/20 and will be an OB class with Janet Taylor who will be talking about other birth presentations.

Richard Robinson

• Staff is engaged in doing enforcement activities.
• Involved with airport stuff up until today but that focus has changed a little bit.
• Out doing some inspections of sponsorships and agencies to ensure compliance with all social distancing requirements based on the Governor’s Executive Order.

Peter Brodie

• Documentation Standards Element Team is doing an incredible job, intensely looking at everything in advance of the documentation standard change.
• Paper PCR portal for agencies that document on paper will reduce the amount extra monthly work they have. Within 10 minutes once the chart is completed they can scan the PCR, attach it to the on-line form that has been set up and send it off to the state. Agencies can report on BLS modalities, medications administered and procedures performed. Look for more information to come out, hopefully by the end of the week. Testing the last 2 pieces of it. Might be some material on it on Vital Signs Academy in the near future.
• BLSFR PCR platform is being prepared. It is in the final stages of testing.
• In 2019 there were 3.7 million PCRs between paper and electronic.
• Doing updated reports on what being done in the state.
• Comment received that local BLS FD loves it.
• 97% of EMS care in the state is documented electronically.
• BLSFR documentation vs. transporting agency documentation will involve less fields for BLSFR.
• Question: Will there be a cost to use the portal? Answer: No, it is a gift from the state.
• Question: What is the difference between an N100 vs N95 respirator mask? Answer: No answer. Will research.
• Remind staff to follow social distancing, Governor’s directives and follow guidelines.
• EMS agencies have done incredible work.
• If anything is needed or there are questions please reach out to Regional Representatives and or BEMS&TS.

Steven Dziura

• No report.