Unofficial Notes

This is not verbatim transcript of the call. Notes were typed during the call and reviewed and added to afterward. There was no prepared agenda distributed before the call. Questions and/or comments from providers were submitted before and during the call.

There were 159 people on the call at the beginning.

Panelists:
Steven Dziura, Deputy Director, Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
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Amy Eisenhauer

• EMS for Children survey was sent out 1/6/21. Agencies are asked to complete the survey as it helps improve the program and also lets EMSC know the programs liked and not liked. It definitely help agencies and the children of NYS.

• Vital Signs Academy class on Tuesday evening 2/16/21 at 6:00 PM will be on Pediatric Safe Transport, specifically on how to transport newborn patients. There are many ways providers in NYS address this.

Peter Brodie

• Due to upcoming vacation, briefings on 2/18/21 and 2/25/21 will be hosted by Amy Eisenhauer.

• Acknowledged that there have been discussions across the state about last week’s announcement about the ePCR program and opportunities. More information will be coming out.

• CME applications are to be mailed to BEMS&TS until further notice. The portal for that remains under development. Will put out information on the submission process once ready to go live. Also working on the CME application as a fillable PDF.

• Question: Looking for more details and information on ePCR and access to software. Response: Information is forthcoming. Regional EMS Program Agencies have a testing program they can utilize to do demonstrations. BEMS&TS also has demonstration dates coming up.

• Question: Our agency has decided to switch to ePCR but has no idea where to start. Who can we reach out to for guidance on the process? Answer: Reach out to your Regional EMS Program Agency. Information is on the BEMS&TS web site at https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/charta.htm If assistance is still needed send an e-mail to EMSdata@health.ny.gov and members of the Data and Informatics team will be happy to help.

• Question: Can we get access to the ImageTrend Elite platform and try it before committing? Answer: You can arrange that through your Regional EMS Program Agency. In
Suffolk County contact James Deutsch, Deputy Chief Education and Training at james.deutsch@suffolkcountyny.gov

- Question: Do you have any comments or recommendations as to the differences between the state and the Suffolk County platforms? Answer: Do not have any comments or recommendations other than to encourage looking at both platforms and the setup for scheduled reports for your agency. Look at all the different options. NYS does not recommend any platform.
- Question: Is there a price list for add-ons to the NYS basic ImageTrend platform? Answer: We do have the prices. We are reviewing the document that came from ImageTrend with the prices to make sure we are comfortable with the document before it goes out. We are hoping to send that out tomorrow.

Jean Taylor

- As of 2/1/21 we are printing EMT original cards on a daily basis. Providers should be getting cards generally within a week of taking their state exam. Have not printed cards for classes ended in December yet but will be doing it starting this week and next week and doing those on a daily basis.
- Hopefully in near future will be going back to March 2020 and printing refresher cards. Some people may get duplicate cards as there is no way to tell if they previously received a card due to submitting a request for a duplicate card.
- Question: Is there a date on the horizon for the sunset of EMT-CC? If not, will there be enough notice given for EMT-CC to become EMT-P? It will be a big undertaking in county as there are many EMT-CCs in the ALS system. The cost for volunteer agencies to upgrade is large. Answer: When the State EMS Council originally determined to phase out the EMT-CC program a 10 year sunset period was talked about and we are into that by a couple years now and are still looking at that 10 year mark. It is suggested that EMT-CCs check with Northwell Health. It is believed their program is affordable as long as the agency is fundable. Sufficient notice will be given out when the actual sunset date is determined.
- Question from chat box: For a volunteer who cannot become a paramedic EMT-CC is the perfect training for ALS - it worked for years. This is a big mistake getting rid of us. Why do this if it worked for so long - please look at this again....New York State are leaders followers? Answer: This decision was made after careful consideration by members of the State EMS Council.
- Question from chat box: Is NYS going to a four year certification period for EMTs? Answer: Not at this time
- Question: Course Sponsor manual? Answer: That will be addressed in a separate call in the near future for Course Sponsors.
- Question: When will Course Sponsors due to renew last year receive the new guidance on modifying policies and procedures on the short form? Answer: That will be addressed in a separate call in the near future for Course Sponsors.

Steven Dziura

- Seeing some great trends across the state in reduction of infection rates. Governor’s press announcement today indicated 3.5% is the lowest since November. Now is not time to let guard down yet. There are still a lot of questions and concerns about new variants and what that means over the next couple months. Maintain social distancing and masking.
- BEMS&TS remains in flux with competing priorities both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 and regular work. Even as pandemic starts to wind down will be involved in COVID-19 vaccinations for several more months.
- Do not hesitate to send reminder if no response to a question or request is not received in a week or so.
- ePCR announcement is an exciting opportunity and guidance will be coming out hopefully in a short time. It is currently in the approval process. It will provide more explanations and direction on how to proceed.
- CDC released guidance on 2/10/21 on quarantine for persons who received both vaccinations. NYS has not changed its guidance on quarantine, isolation and return to work. There is potential that NYS will change its guidance but till that point the current
guidance is to be followed. Later in call it was added that it sounds like guidance will be changing but existing guidance remains in effect until we see a change.

- Governor announced that some larger venues can open. These are facilities with more than 10,000 person capacity that can open at 10%. Mention was made of qualifying for a mass gathering permit. To date no Part 18 mass gathering permit has been issued since March 2020.
- Question: Is there clarification on RNs completing the vaccination skills assessment verifications of EMS providers? EMS providers had completed skills verification by RNs weeks ago and it was acceptable and last week it was not. How should these individuals proceed? Answer: Question will be passed on to Ryan Greenberg and Michael Bagozzi, hopefully for a quick answer.
- Question: Can an EMS agency host their own vaccination POD or only help at a local DOH POD? Answer: Will work on getting an answer.
- Question: If a majority of our membership is vaccinated are we allowed to open up events such as meetings and drills to in-person events? Can you share the NYS policy on social gatherings? Answer: Currently there are no social gathering restrictions. Have to keep in mind that healthcare providers in Phase 1A may have received the vaccinations but much of the rest of state population has not and will have to move through a period of caution as we move ahead. At this time BEMS&TS does not recommend any change in current activities but that could change in next days, weeks or months.
- Question: Any idea when Part 18 applications may at least get accepted for this summer so that they are readily available to act upon in event things open up in the summer and fall. Answer: BEMS&TS never stopped accepting the applications but just did not have any issuances. Pipeline remains open to submit applications and they will be put on a pending status until receipt of additional direction on where we are headed.