



## **CALL TO ORDER**

John Kowalik called the meeting to order and welcomed the meeting attendees.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

No introductions were made.

## **Department of State Health Services (DSHS) EMS Compliance 6/5s Update**

No updates provided.

## **CEO Update**

Darrell Pile provided an update on the regional COVID-19 response.

Testing at nursing homes is currently taking place. There is a need for teams of 8 or more people to be assembled with the state public health officials to help conduct testing and may even lead to cleaning of some facilities. Our EMTF forces are included in this endeavor. Please contact Chris Collier or Jon Clingaman if your agency has staff that could join a team.

Many hospitals are reporting a decrease in the amount of stroke and cardiac cases in the region which is also being seen on a national level. EMS agencies have seen an apparent decrease in run volume and a possible increase in the number of declined transports and severity of patient conditions which may be due to patients having a fear of acquiring COVID in ambulances and/or hospitals. There is an immediate need for simple statistics to see if this is true and to help the public be better assured and more comfortable in knowing that going to the hospital makes sense for acute care. Money from the local projects grant or SETRAC monies could be used to hire a professional company to develop a media campaign for this topic.

Mr. Kowalik suggested each agency submit data from January through April/May as soon as possible to SETRAC regarding stroke and STEMI call volumes as well as overall call volumes to determine if there is a regional trend with agencies. The committee discussed this topic and the data points that should be collected including transport denials and patients that are dead on scene. A conference call will be scheduled for the early part of next week to discuss the data to be collected, data definitions, and frequency of collection as well as a training call for how agencies can obtain this data.

A suggestion was made to contact media representatives to do a short interview to encourage the community to seek help immediately for stroke and STEMI symptoms. Mr. Pile encouraged the committee to consider what the message should be from a patient perspective. The committee suggested that in addition to having a spokesperson (such as Dr. Persse) to get the ball rolling, a representative from the committees (EMS, stroke, cardiac) and different hospitals and agencies as well as patients should appear in the campaign to show a united front.



DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	FOLLOW-UP
<p><b><u>EMS CARE AND TRANSPORT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Local Project Grant Funding</b> These funds (\$63,000) will need to be spent before August. Previous funds were used for training; however, due to COVID this may make training difficult. These funds could be put towards the media campaign.</li> <li>• <b>EMS County Funding</b> Several agencies have not submitted packets for reimbursement. The state will not be extending the deadline for submission.</li> <li>• <b>EMS Run Affidavit</b> No update at this time.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Legislative Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>GETAC Update</b> Deferred.</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Kowalik asked the committee to send in their ideas for how to spend this funding.</p> <p>Packets are requested to be submitted no later than July 31<sup>st</sup> to SETRAC.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>
<p><b><u>EMS Systems Quality Improvement (SQI)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EMS Hospital Door Codes</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>EMS Whole Blood Program</b> Deferred.</li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p>



DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	FOLLOW-UP
<p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trauma Committee Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>Injury Prevention Committee Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>Pediatric Committee Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>Perinatal Committee Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>Stroke Committee Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>Cardiac Committee Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>Mobile Integrated Health Workgroup Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>Stroke / STEMI Volume in COVID Era</b> See "CEO Update".</li> <li>• <b>EMS Public Education Campaign</b> See "CEO Update"</li> <li>• <b>Onalaska Tornado</b> SETRAC and EMTF responded to the tornado incident in Polk County in April. The biggest challenges were following COVID precaution protocols and the lack of a cohesive communication system due to the towers being knocked out. The communication</li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>See "CEO Update"</p> <p>See "CEO Update"</p> <p>The committee is encouraged to start thinking about hurricane season and what needs may arise with the COVID situation still ongoing (PPE, hospital evacuations,</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Update to be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Update to be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>Closed.</p>



DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	FOLLOW-UP
<p>system ended up being worked out and the lessons learned will be included in the AAR.</p>	<p>shelters, etc.)</p>	
<p><b><u>EMS DISASTER</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Old Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communication Systems Update</b> Deferred.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency Medical Task Force Update</b> Jon Clingaman gave an update on EMTF activities.</li> </ul> <p>MIST teams were stood up to support the military with COVID testing sites. The military and MIST teams may be shifted to assist with testing at rural community nursing homes (patients and staff) as well as meat packing facilities.</p> <p>Rapid Assessment Quick Response Forces have been deployed to nursing homes to assist instead of the military in some situations due to EMS personnel being able to identify symptoms that could be missed by non-trained personnel.</p> <p>“Jeep Weekend” will be taking place in Galveston this weekend. EMS is asked to keep this event on their radar in case assistance is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition Update</b> Deferred.</li> <li>• <b>2020 Hurricane Season</b> See “Onalaska Tornado”.</li> </ul>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>Anyone interested in putting together a Rapid Assessment Quick Response Force can reach out to Mr. Clingaman for additional information and training.</p> <p>Mr. Clingaman, Mr. Collier, and Mr. Pile will work together to put together a message to EMS agencies to clarify the state’s mandate regarding the fire departments that are being asked to support testing at nursing facilities.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>See “Onalaska Tornado”.</p>	<p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Standing report.</p> <p>Closed.</p>



DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION	FOLLOW-UP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Battelle System - NRG</b> A Battelle site has been set up at NRG to assist with disinfecting PPE utilizing aerosolized hydrogen peroxide. Right now this is limited to N95 masks. Information on how to utilize the system will be pushed out to the website.</li> </ul>	<p>Agencies wishing to sign up for this service should contact Mr. Collier.</p>	<p>Closed.</p>
<p><b><u>AIR MEDICAL</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Old Business</u></b> No items to report.</p> <p><b><u>New Business</u></b> No items to report</p>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Closed.</p> <p>Closed.</p>
<p><b><u>ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</u></b></p> <p>No items for discussion.</p>	<p>.</p> <p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Closed.</p>
<p><b><u>ADJOURN</u></b> There being no additional items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will take place on June 17<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>No action items or recommendations.</p>	<p>Closed.</p>