**VTEMS District 6 Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 11, 2020 @ 1900 hours**

**Board Room, CVMC**

[**http://www.vtemsdistrict6.org/**](http://www.vtemsdistrict6.org/)

**vtemsdistrict6@googlegroups.com**

Virtual attendance via:[**https://zoom.us/j/88970977528**](https://zoom.us/j/88970977528)

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order at 1902 by Mark Podgwaite. Members present: Jared Blum, Howie McCausland, Mark Podgwaite, Chris Lamonda, Laurie Beth Putnam, Scott Bagg, LT Rutter, and Jennifer Miner. Virtual attendees: Ty Rolland, Sheila Brown, Matt Romei, Sarah Sliva, Jess, Cullen, Joe Aldsworth. James (Jimmy) Quinn.

II. June minutes approved as written. LT/Jared

1. Treasurer’s Report by Laurie Beth approved as presented. Scott/Howie

IV. Agenda items from the board: None

V. A) **Medical Advisor report:** Jared Blum, MD / Dr. Sarah Sliva

* Reminder to obtain a “last known normal” time for all stroke patients, this must be verbalized in the handoff report as well as being documented in the SIREN reports. This is not happening in a many stroke cases recently.
* Mark presented a plaque to Dr. Blum in recognition of his years of services in supporting the VT EMS District 6 board and crews.
* Dr. Blum has resigned as the Medical Advisor for the district. Joe nominated Dr. Sarah Sliva for the position, Dr. Jared Blum seconded this motion. The motion carried. Welcome Dr. Sliva.
* Dr. Sliva is working on SIREN access for training purposes etc.
* Dr. Sliva is working with the Community Health Team in the ER.

 B) **Training Coordinator:** Scott Bagg

* The July 18th EMS testing was a success. There were 2 session held, and all candidates were successful in passing the psychomotor portion of their exams.
* The Mad River/Waterbury EMT class discussed previously for this fall has been respectfully withdrawn.
* Scott has reached out to the Bennington Rescue to obtain additional information and agendas on the State of Vt hybrid EMT classes. There has not been confirmation that there will be enough room to accommodate everyone who may be interested. More information can be found at: <https://www.benningtonrescue.org/emt> or the Vermont EMS website.
* It is anticipated we may see higher student enrollment with the “COVID- Cash” that is available to students who enroll in classes within the required timeframe.
* The district is also seeking additional information on how practicals etc will be handled for the hybrid classes; it appears it may be based upon geographical location of the students that are enrolling. Service heads should be clear on the expectations of a course held this way. It can be anticipated that there will be a lower pass rate, and a higher dropout rate. The situations with adult learners can make it even more complicated.
* The district is considering holding an AEMT class at NERSA. The didactic portion of this class would be held online, and only the psychomotor portions of the class would be in person. Scott, Bob and Howie will be working on this class together if there is enough interest. Psychomotor session would be held every other Sunday following state safety guidelines. We should consider requirements such as a camera, and high speed internet to enroll.
* Concerns were discussed about future course costs being higher since there is “COVID cash” to offset the cost of classes right now.
* If anyone is interested in holding and EMR or EMT class please contact Scott with information.
* State EMT log-ins for education does not currently qualify for the financial assistance, but a work around is being looked into for this.
* At this time we plan to hold our annual D6 psychomotor exam at the Northfield School again. It will be Saturday October 10th. Scott will be reaching out for assistance as this testing date approaches. Howie/LT Motion carried
* Scott will follow up with the plans for EMS Providers with “provisional” licenses.
* Carl Matteson has contacted Scott about holding an EMT class at the CV Career Center. Scott will obtain the syllabus and course details. Chris/Joe. Motion carried for an approval or this course.

 C) **CVMC:** Jess Cullen

* CVMC is seeing an increase in it’s census
* No new complaints about patients/providers coming in without proper facial coverings.
* We do not need to complete COVID forms Lisa uses information from the SIREN reports.
* Reminder run sheets should be in within 24 hours or next business day. There are many reports that are not in the system for a lot longer than this.
* There have been 3 positive tests at Norwich with the students returning to campus. They are quarantined/isolated and PCR test has been completed.
* **DO NOT** clean and make stretchers in the ER, they are to be done on the ramp only. If there is no linen please ask nursing staff to get your some.
* The ambulance bay area may be revamped in the future which could have possible impacts.

D) **OTHER Comments**:

* Joe has discussed holding up to 5000 of the COVID-19 vaccine for March /April 2021 for EMS providers in the district. They must be kept refrigerated.
* This is a series of 2 vaccinations 28 days apart. Closed PODS being reviewed as administration sites, possibly nursing homes/Norwich etc.
* Reminder FIT TESTING is required to be completed annually.

 VI. **Old Business:**

1. **EMS Advisory Committee**: Worked hard to develop the EMS Voucher program which is now being distributed to students who enroll in programs meeting the defined criteria. Classes must start by the end of 2020 (that may change). Classes that started before this money was available do not qualify for the money. EMR students can qualify for up to $500, EMT students for up to $1,000, AEMT students for up to $1,500, and Paramedic students up to $18,000.
2. **MCI Run card**: Matt dropped off the call so we do not have an update.
3. **Virginia Caffin Award**: Howie McCausland was awarded the 2019 Virginia Caffin Award by Dr. Jared Blum.
4. **Agency License Application Process**: The state has decided to allow electronic signatures. The applications can be emailed to Mark, dropped off to Scott @ CVMC, dropped to Dr. Sliva @ CVMC, dropped off to LT @ Northfield ambulance bay, or Mailed to Mark at P.O. Box 95 Waterbury Center 05677. As a reminder please include the Certificate of Insurance ( the 1st pg of your policy) not the entire policy. For services that work closely with local fast squads please remind them as well. Deadline for these to be to Mark is 9/1/2020.

 VII. **New Business:**

1. **Hybrid EMT Course**- Discussed during the training coordinator’s report.
2. **EMS Voucher Program**- Discussed during the training coordinators report.
3. **Hazard Pay**- This is addressed in ACT 136 and ACT 137. Municipalities are not included as they qualify for funding in other programs. Volunteers are not included unless they are enrolled in a payroll/stipend program and have documentation to support minimum time/hour commitments have been met. This money cannot be labeled a bonus, and it must be taxed. The portal for ACT 137 should be open soon.
4. **Bulk Purchases**- Chris contacted area departments to purchase E/Z IO drills with more people purchasing we can all get better prices. Could this be done for future purchases and at the District level so that all organizations can get better prices? It has been done in the past, and we should look at doing this again especially with the rising prices in healthcare. Mark will send out information on buying groups and the district should join the American Ambulance Association as well. There could be discounts on maintenance as well. We will add this item to the October Agenda including a discussion on SAVVIK Buying Group. Mark will work on some price comparison information for us for the October Meeting.
5. **Other Comments:** Howie asked about plans for the next MCI drill. The next step is a Centre Learn training being done by Dr. Sliva and Scott. They hope to roll this out this fall before the A class followed by a Tabletop in the spring of 2021.

 VIII. **Announcements and Good of the Order:** None

 IX. Meeting adjourned at 2007. LT/Chris Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted;

Jennifer L. Miner, Secretary

Next meeting: October 13, 2020 @1900, location TBD