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**SOUTHWEST REGION EMS COMMITTEE**

Conference Room #3  
Mercy Hospital Joplin  
Joplin, MO

September 20, 2024  
1200

**Members Present**

Bob Patterson (virtual)  
Susan Crum  
Josh Freeman  
Dr. Tom Lewis  
Mark Alexander  
John Archer

**Guests**

Mike Ross  
Dr. Jeremy Sturgell  
Jason Smith  
Michell Wolfe  
Chris Roush  
Norrie Bradley  
Sharell Questelle

Chris Mattes  
Chad Williams  
Kyle Jackson  
Tammie Caves  
DJ Satterfield  
Tina Johnson  
Jeff Prosser

**Education Presentation:**

An educational presentation entitled “Stroke Care” was presented by Dr. Jeremy Sturgell, Cox Barton County Hospital. Dr. Sturgell spoke in regards to management of acute stroke patients from a rural health care perspective and the nuances of meeting time standards (i.e. DIDO times). Thank you to Mercy Joplin for providing the room and lunch.

**Regular Committee Meeting**

**Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions**

In lieu of Bob being out for illness, the meeting was chaired by Mark Alexander (note, Bob attended virtually). Meeting called to order at 1311. Welcome and introductions were made.

**Establish Quorum/Review Agenda**

A quorum was present. Agenda sent out prior to the meeting; no additions noted.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the July 19, 2024 meeting distributed prior to the meeting. No additions or changes noted. Motion to approve by John Archer; second by Josh Freeman. None opposed.

**Old Business:**

- A. Appointed Committee Nominations – couple of nominations are pending with the state. No new recommendations have been received. Will follow up with George Miller, BEMS.
- B. PULSARA updates – \$175,000 budgeted by the state for patient tracking and communication. Group assigned that will be vetting what product to endorse. Created an RFI that went out to 4 entities. Have a couple more weeks for them to submit their information. Then will engage with a technical entity to weigh in. Intent is to make this a low expense or no expense product. Strong chance for this to be a tool to help with MCI's. Decision possibly by the end of the year.

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**Bureau of EMS updates:**

No one from the Bureau was on the call.

**SAC Updates** – SAC hasn't met since July (virtual meeting). Scheduled to meet next Tuesday. There are members who wish to retire but the process to appoint new SAC members is at a standstill (current Governor is not going to). Working on a law that would allow DHSS to make the appointments; would be next year before this could happen.

In addition, working with DHSS to update the EMS regulations, which have been in place since 1998. Currently working on the ground EMS legislation. Legislative meeting scheduled for next Tuesday. Chris and Susan reported that the Air Ambulance Subcommittee did review the air ambulance licensure reg, at the last air ambulance meeting. Very few changes were noted.

A. TCD Update and reports from Subcommittees –

- a. TCD subcommittee met today chaired by Norrie Bradley. Discussion on future QI and educational initiatives.
- b. TDAC committee continues to meet; evaluating 'assumptions on EMS transfers'.

B. Legislative Update - Mark Alexander

- See items as noted above

C. Air Subcommittee Update – as noted above

D. EMS-C Update – no one on the call from EMS-C

- a. EMS-C pediatric simulation was included at this year's Expo
- b. Peds simulation training scheduled at Lake Regional Hospital on 9/25 & 9/26
- c. PEP training class occurred on 8/28/24

**Southwest HealthCare Coalition Update** – no report from Dennis Martin

- Bob sent out the recent coalition newsletter
- The MHA Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee is providing a live/in person seminar, March 2025
- Healthcare Coalition meetings – Mark encouraged EMS entities to participate. Meetings are available online.

**EMS Mutual Aid Coordinator Update** – Bob Patterson

- Have been several recent funerals for EMS providers, including one for a KC firefighter who died during training last week.
- Recent Air Show in St. Joseph

**SEMA Updates** – no one on the call

**Medical Director Updates** – Dr. Tom Lewis (Dr. Brandt working; came on virtually)

- The state Medical Directors meeting was within the last couple of weeks.
- Soccer World event in KC – preplanning is occurring
- Dr. Lewis spoke to Whole Blood becoming available locally; Mercy LifeLine will be getting it. Shelf life is 28 days; will rotate supply every 2 weeks. Because the blood is O positive blood, any female of childbearing age will have to be given Rhogam. But with a mass transfusion, can't give enough Rhogam.
  - Norrie Bradley noted that Cox South ED is in the process of obtaining Whole Blood. Will have access to it for ED traumas, isolating usage to the ED.

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**Other Business:**

- A. Mark noted that Angie Meyer (not on the call), has reported there is a lack of taking advantage of the funding. The Dept. of Health has given \$5 million to use for transports of behavioral health patients.

The October Ambulance Association fall training will include CIT training for EMS. For First Responder Mental Health providers, the state has budgeted \$1 million for these providers.

Mike Ross expressed that the CIT training is rather laborious. Typical CIT training is 40 hours.

**Announcements:**

- A. Regional construction projects – none reported
- B. Regional Education offerings:
  - a. Ambulance Association fall training at Lodge of the Four Seasons
  - b. Steven R. Hall conference – Margaritaville, October 7-9, 2024
  - c. Email blitz yesterday from Chris Mattes, regarding several upcoming educational events.
- C. SW Regional EMS TCD Conference updates – will be held at the next meeting (November) at OTC. Conference is good to go; all speakers are committed, including a speaker from Oklahoma City speaking on autism.
- D. Other – Mike Ross questioned and discussed provision of Medical Directors for First Responder agencies. Seems to be confusion about what is required and what is allowed. Curious if the committee is interested in taking up a conversation on this topic. No independent practice is allowed in the state of Missouri.

**Next meeting will be November 15, 2024**, including the Southwest Regional TCD Conference.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1355.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Crum, RN, BSN, CCRN