Summary

TCCOG Emergency Medical Services Task Force

Department of Emergency Response Conference Room

March 22nd, 2017

Present: Patrick Brunner, Bill Goodwin, Lisa Holmes, Doug Keefe, Dan Klein, Ed Kokkelenberg, Marcia Lynch, Brad Perkins, Lee Shurtleff, Frank Towner, Irene Weiser

Staff: Joe Mareane

Student: Quetrell Heyward

1. Irene Weiser opened the meeting at 5:30 PM and introduced Quetrell, who is one of three students who will be working with us from Cornell Institute on Public Affairs (CIPA).
2. Irene passes around a report of findings from the Dutchess County EMS Task Force (attached) and has the group read over the report and discuss.
3. **Discussion-**

The report shows that there is a lack of structure and a lack of community knowledge. The major recommendation of the study was to move toward establishing an authority.

- There are regional councils that do mandate some things. Council’s exist in multiple counties, the initial purpose of these councils was to bring structure for ALS, and within the council structure is a regional advisory committee who establish the protocols for ALS use. Different council’s have different regulations. Consistency is all over the map.

-Dutchess County report says they had representatives Assembly members, etc. come to their meetings. We should ask Barbara Lifton to a meeting. We should also ask the State Association of Counties if there are other counties that are doing the same kind of thing we are doing. What we can do at the State level?

-Regional fly car- independent squad to provide basic life support until an ambulance arrives. Numbers show that half the time a paramedic isn’t needed. You only need a certificate of need if you are providing transportation and/or advanced life support.

- Down south they have County EMS, Fire Departments, and Police Departments. They all work together.

- EMS workers have a lot of responsibility. They are not being compensated. Some EMT’s are working at three different institutions in order to make a living. Some paramedics and EMT’s have been saying they would rather go work at McDonald’s because McDonald’s pays more and there would be less stress.

-This should go into high school curriculum; kids need to know this occupation is out there as an option.

-Assisted Living facilities do not have licensed providers for hands on assistance. Assisted Living Facilities would need the State Department of Health to make a change in regulations to have someone in these facilities to triage. Regulations are not patient centered.

1. **Thoughts about Lee’s Presentations**

Issues that stand out the most

* There are not enough volunteers
* The high volume of EMS calls
* Paramedics do not get recognized and/or rewarded
* The high volume of ambulance calls to nursing homes for assistance with pick-ups
* The cost of providing service
* The time and cost of training requirements

Lee is still waiting to get a response from Mark Butler about attending a meeting. He will give insight on the legal aspects of different solutions.

**Meeting Adjourned 6:45 pm**

**Next meeting April 11th, 2017 at 5:00 pm**

