Tompkins County Council of Governments
Emergency Medical Services Task Force

EMSTF- July 26, 2017- DOER Conference Room

Present: Bill Goodman, Lisa Holmes, Dan Kline, Marcia Lynch, Lee Shurtleff, Brian Wilbur, Irene Weiser

Staff: Autumn Edwards

Irene opened meeting at 5:11 pm

Discussion: The task force is turning a corner in our work - we have fulfilled the first phase of info gathering and assessing the scope of the problem.   Now we need to explore and make recommendations for solutions.
The Cornell students' report and conversations with consultants (especially Mark Butler) gave us some directions/ ideas for solutions to explore -

These ideas included:

* Meet w/our local ambulance service providers to hear their ideas/thoughts/concerns (Sept)
* Explore community based solutions such as DSRIP.  Work w/mental health, substance abuse, orgs for seniors, etc. (Lee is scheduled to present to Health Services Committee in Oct)
* Explore the county-wide solutions in communities Mark Butler recommended (Nov)
* Work w/Cornell students for more detailed program evaluation and to explore how to optimize resources. (Dec report)

Also, for the remaining part of the summer, Brian, Lee and Irene will work on a written report that details the findings from Phase 1.  We will then begin a "dog and pony" show to bring the info to Town boards and their Fire/EMS providers and AHJ's (ideally one meeting per town)

We discussed whether we should expand the committee membership at this point and whether we should expand the scope of our work to include the parallel issue of declining fire service capabilities.

We decided not to specifically expand our group or our topic at this point - but rather to let it happen organically - that as we have conversations w Towns, or invite community speakers to our meetings, hat there may be interest in joining our efforts and expanding the scope.

Last, we recognized it is likely that at some point in the coming year we would need a consultant to help us with our efforts.  Our group could develop preliminary recommendations, but we'd need help if/when we sought to implement them.

Given that it is budget setting season now - we thought it wise to have municipalities and the County set aside money in their budget planning now on a contingency basis - And then this spring or summer when we have concrete recommendations and an idea of what consultant to hire and their scope of work -  at that point Towns would vote whether the approve the expenditure of the funds for the purpose described at that time.  It was noted that support of the local EMS or Fire Service providers and authorities having jurisdiction would be important at that point too.


Meeting was dismissed at 6:34 pm