

TCCOG Emergency Services Planning Committee meeting
6-5-20, 2020, Zoom Teleconference, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Attending: Rordan Hart, Irene Weiser, Jessica Verfuss, Justin Vann, Dan Lamb, Mark Witmer

Discussion Summary:

- Discussed declining volunteerism and the desperate state of most volunteer departments. Noted the need and hurdles for CFR/EMS training. Training is expensive and students must be members of volunteer fire or ambulance in order for NYS to cover the cost. This is a motivation for volunteering.
- Rordan's vision is for Trumansburg Ambulance to develop capacity to offer training regionally. Feels that EMS initiatives must be developed locally.
- Jessica mentioned that Chris Fox had been working with local ambulance companies to develop centralized training.
- A key aspect of Justin's position is to develop and coordinate county centralized EMS training. Justin just began his position on January 1, 2020 - this is still a priority.
- Jessica noted that almost all requests for EMS training come from college students in the Town or City of Ithaca - rarely from rural residents. Used a step toward other careers in medical care.
- Justin noted that volunteers have a strong desire to get hands-on experience, so the low call volume in rural areas creates an additional obstacle to volunteerism.
[maybe this identifies a key to building volunteerism?]

Emergency Response and Planning Subcommittee presentation to TCCOG at June 25 meeting:

1. Encourage T.C. Legislature to lobby NYS for funding to support local emergency response. Details will be in how and what qualifies for state funding. CHIPS model proposed.
2. Modernizing Fire Contracts at town level. [engage Brad Pinsky for training or consultation?]
3. Developing and facilitating EMS training: Can we identify ways to help agencies already doing training to offer that to other departments? Can we remove the obstacle of the need to volunteer in order to cover cost? The County will play a key role in coordination, communication, and possibly provision of EMS training.

Next Meeting: Friday, July 3, 10 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85215875281>

Meeting ID: 852 1587 5281

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(Propose developing language of TCCOG resolution to the legislature to lobby for NYS funding for local emergency response services)