



The NASEMSO Health and Medical Preparedness Council

Meeting Record
2:00 p.m.-3 p.m. CST
December 2, 2020

Attending: Joe Schmider, Chair; Jay Taylor, secretary and the following states: Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, from NASEMSO staff: Hannah Degn, Dia Gainor and Leslee Stein-Spencer

Call to order/Roll Call:

Chair Joe Schmider Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 CST.

NASEMSO Headquarter Update:

Dia reported that NASEMSO has been involved in the following:

- Ongoing meetings with Central Management Service on Long Term Care issues and EMS response due to COVID.
- Ongoing communications with the Transition Team of Biden and Harris.
- Requesting, that if anyone has ideas for future projects, to send ideas with deliverables to Dia. We are always looking for new proposals to work on as a council.

COVID 19 Update:

Joe led the discussion on the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID 19 is now significantly affecting all of our states. In Texas, they have contracted with over 8,000 nurses to assist hospitals and Alternate Care Sites across the state. Currently, there is 30 portable morgue units in place throughout Texas. Texas is expecting as much as 20-30% of the prehospital workforce being out of the workforce due to exposure or being sick. Pennsylvania is reporting some of the same challenges to include ICUs being full and hospitals being overwhelmed. Pennsylvania also reporting that EMS is assisting as vaccinators and testing for COVID.

Mental Health of the EMS Workforce:

Dia reported that the Executive Board approved the formation of a subcommittee to look at EMS mental health issues. The Board felt that the membership should also include council members from licensure and medical directors. The following people volunteered to be part of this

subcommittee/working group: Drs. Rich Kamin and Carol Cunningham, Randy Linthicum, and Karen Owens.

Action Item:

Joe Schmider and Leslee will work with the members from HMPC to discuss the next steps. A follow-up call will be scheduled to include identification of a potential grant opportunity on this issue

EMAC:

Jay Taylor represented the HMPC on this committee.

Joe asked if EMAC has looked at the use of private ambulance providers when activating an EMAC response. Jay said that nothing was discussed on this issue, but he will follow up with EMAC on a future call. The EMAC website has a few documents in the resource section “*Deploying Private Sector via EMAC*”. These documents outline some of the challenges and successes and can foster a better understanding of the processes.

Jay also spoke about the available “just in time” training and the benefits it will have for states to understand the process.

EMAC eLearning Center: <https://www.emacweb.org/index.php/training-education/emac-educational-resources>

Pandemic Continuity of Operations Study:

Mel House reported on his role as the lead for this project and the purpose of the study.

There has been little research or guideline development for state level issues related to a pandemic. The purpose of this project is to take lessons learned from the current pandemic and apply them to state level guidance development for future pandemics, as well as update the USFA 2009—*Information for First responders on Maintaining Operational Capabilities during a Pandemic Guide*. The goal is better support for local EMS agencies, resulting in improved patient care and provider health and safety. Given the mission of the Health and Medical Preparedness Council, participation is critical to success, and is mutually beneficial.

Attached is the PowerPoint presentation that Mel developed which outlines the project to include the project goals, development of a Technical Expert Panel, milestones, and deliverables

2009 USFA document (Revised March 2020) link below:

https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/first_responder_pandemic_operational_capabilities.pdf

Chair Elect Nomination:

Joe reported that our previous chair elect left his position, and we are looking for someone to volunteer for that position. Anyone interested should email Leslee and Joe.s
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Next Medical and Health Preparedness Council call:

January 27, 2020 at 2 pm CST.