NYS DOH Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
Briefing for EMS Agency Leadership and Providers
Thursday 3/25/21, 4:00 PM to 4:48 PM

Unofficial Notes
This is not a verbatim transcript of the call. Notes were typed during the call and reviewed and added to afterward. There was no prepared agenda distributed before the call. Questions and/or comments from providers were submitted before and during the call.

“This Meeting is Being Recorded” announcement played during the briefing. Some of the past briefings have been posted to the Archived Webcasts section of the NYS DOH website.

It was announced that this is a special briefing related to the Community Paramedicine program and other topics that may come up.

Panelists:
Ryan Greenberg, Director, Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
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Steven Dziura, Deputy Director, Bureau of EMS & Trauma Services
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Peter Brodie, Deputy Chief, Data and Informatics (Host)
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Amy Eisenhauer, Program Administrator, EMS for Children Program
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Valerie Ozga, Vital Signs Academy and Executive Secretary to SEMSCO and SEMAC
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Michael Bagozzi, Deputy Chief, Syracuse, Central Region
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Valerie Ozga
- On track for opening housing on 4/1/21 for Vital Signs Conference which will be held November 11-14, 2021.
- Looking into holding two 1 day virtual conferences in June. One will be on Leadership and the other for Educators. Details and dates will be forthcoming.
- EMS Memorial Service has been moved to Thursday 9/30/21. Hopefully guidelines will be less strict allowing for more to attend.

Amy Eisenhauer
- EMS for Children survey by the National Emergency Medical Services for Children Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) concluded on 3/19/21. Over 400 EMS agencies in NYS completed the survey. It will give information on how we can better serve all of you and our pediatric patients.
- Vital Signs Academy presentation on Tuesday evening 3/30/21 will be Do It For Drew which is a case study on a bad airway situation.
- Will be presenting on Safe Transport of Pediatric Patients at the Initial Assessment EMS Conference on Saturday 5/8/21 in Glens Falls, NY.

Daniel Clayton
- American College of Surgeons (ACS) virtual visits for verifications of Trauma Centers resumed 3/1/21. ACS verifies hospitals meet Trauma Center criteria and the NYS DOH designates hospitals as Trauma Centers.
- State Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC) will meet virtually in early May. More information & agenda to come out on DOH public web site and sent via the trauma list serve to all the trauma centers across the state.

Edward Mager
- DOH Western Regional Office in Buffalo is moving effective 6/1/21 with move in during the last 2 weeks in May. New address is 295 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203. Continue to send mail to 584 Delaware Avenue till then. Information will be on the web site and sent out to Regional EMS Program Agencies.
- Staff has been fully engaged between FEMA sites in both Buffalo and Rochester and state sites down to Corning. District Chief/Investigator has been involved working with military, Emergency Preparedness & Response and state mobilizations.
- Have received several inquiries regarding mask requirements. Have also received a couple of complaints from the public regarding individuals saying they have been vaccinated and no longer need to be masked. DOH guidelines still require masks during COVID-19 activities and other activities. More information may be forthcoming but the regulations and Emergency Orders and all those things have not changed.
- There are 4 EMS agencies that have not sent in their renewals and they have been contacted and 3/31/21 expiration date is coming up. Renewal information has been sent out electronically to the Point of Contact in the EMS database for renewals coming up through the end of October. If not received there may be old contact information that can be updated by submitting the update form that can be found on the web site. [Use form DOH-2936 Certified EMS Agency Information Update Form]

Peter Brodie
- Recognized the Data & Informatics team of Alex Kaczor, Jacob DeMay and Justin Hsu for their great work. Research project was completed, hosting information sessions on various PCR portals and processing forms DOH-5136 Application and Approval for EMS Agency to use e-PCR.
- Will be presenting on Quality Improvement programs at the Initial Assessment EMS Conference on Friday 5/7/21 at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, NY.
- Question: Where can I find the recordings of these calls? Answer: We have sent the recordings for posting and will make an announcement when they are posted and include the link to them.

Steven Dziura
- Interim Travel Guidance was issued 3/10/21. If been exposed but totally vaccinated with both doses and it has been 2 weeks since last dose and within past 90 days person does not have to quarantine as long as asymptomatic. If beyond the 90 days, which some people are starting to approach, then exposure would lead to quarantine. If outside those parameters agency could submit a waiver request to DOH for essential healthcare providers. There is a need to monitor both the BEMS&TS and the main COVID-19 site for healthcare providers site for guidance.

Ryan Greenberg
Moment of silence was held to remember firefighter Jared Lloyd who died at a nursing home fire on 3/23/21. [Lloyd, age 35, was a 15 year volunteer with the Spring Valley FD, Rockland County.]

This call is being held in relation to Policy Statement 21-01 Community Paramedicine Vaccination Program Application Process that recently came out. Want to make sure everyone has their questions answered.
It was noted that 21-01 was going to be the Ebola Policy but that was changed. There is new modernized branding on top.
Deputy Chief Michael Bagozzi is coordinating this effort.
Program does not have to be used. If department working in conjunction with county thinks it is something that is valuable then you are encouraged to apply for approval now rather than county coming later asking for assistance vaccinating some homebound population.
Over 20 applications for the Community Paramedicine program have come in and after back and forth discussions have been approved. None have been denied.
Other things such as testing are available but this program is specifically for Community Paramedicine for vaccinations especially for local health departments.

Written plan is required. Template has been created that agencies can use in writing the plan. Send e-mail to CommunityParamedicine.EMS@health.ny.gov Other agencies have also created templates that can be shared.

Need to read through template to ensure this is the model agency wants to follow, partnerships to work with are listed correctly, etc. as this is what agency will be held to. Plan is to include when going to operate, how going to operate, where vaccinating – home, local POD, senior living complex. Maybe site has vaccines but needs Community Paramedicine program to vaccinate. It could be running county POD in connection with local health department. Rural county may want to run 3 PODs but only has 1 primary care practitioner and needs Community Paramedicine program that can use telemedicine or some other connection.

It is understood operational plan can change. Multiple options can be included in plan and then use the ones that are appropriate if or when the need comes up.

Partnerships with local health departments can help with where vaccine will be stored.

Need to explain how data gets into the state reporting system. Local health department may help with access and data entry.

What benchmarks will be in place to measure success? This could be can agency successfully run 3 home vaccination days in the county.

What is structure? Who is responsible for what? Make sure there is Medical Director interaction.

What areas are you looking to work in - are we allowed to work in town next door that does not have a Community paramedicine program? Put that in to plan what intended area of service is to be. Why you want to operate in that area. That would be evaluated by BEMS&TS. That would not be for the agency as whole but just for the Community Paramedicine program. Do not put the entire state as that would be denied. Put in days of operation to best of ability. This could fluctuate.

Patient documentation is to include how agency is documenting Community Paramedicine interactions. On vaccination side this may or may not be a PCR. It could be something specific to Community Paramedicine program and charted on paper. Could be a separate report from the ePCR program. Agency needs to be able to document interactions they had.

Need to ensure Community Paramedicine program does not interrupt day-to-day EMS operations. This could be using off duty paramedics or other resources. EMS calls need to be answered and not become problematic.

Appropriate Medical Director could be agency Medical Director or other such as local health department as long as appropriate paperwork has been filed.

Training is on the Vital Signs Academy and there is some just-in-time training coming out on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Local health departments may also be providing some training as well.

PPE needs to be provided.

Quality assurance process need to be in place and appropriately documented. State may do inspection and ask to see program.

Mandatory reporting needs to be completed on a weekly basis. It is a short report covering who is operating, how often operating, how many Community Paramedics are operating, etc. Link to report is in the Policy Statement.

Submit application through the link provided in the Policy Statement. If any of the required attachments do not pertain to agency’s program just put an explanation on a piece of paper and attach it to the submission.

Education completion documentation needs to cover what the Community Paramedic education training was. This would include doing the DOH vaccination training – the on-line training on Vital Signs Academy, clinical skills assessment and attestation.

All application documents can be put into one or can say please see attachments.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BEFORE OR DURING CALL
• Question: Is this for Article 30 agencies only? How does this apply to Article 28 agencies such as local health departments? Answer: This is for Article 30 agencies only. … an Article 28 or local health department needs to partner with an Article 30 agency – an ALS agency in good standing.

• Question: As this is Community Paramedicine, does this mean basic EMTs in our agency do not fall into this type of system? Right now they are doing vaccinations at our parent hospital. We are entering an agreement with our local health department to provide personnel to help their POD. Answer: The Community Paramedicine for EMS Program is only for Paramedic levels of care … other levels of care can operate in other venues for vaccination.

• Question: Can Community Paramedicine program operate outside agency’s DOH-3414 Ambulance Operating Certificate territory? Answer: Can operate in territory that is designated for the agency by the Department of Health. BEMS&TS will make that determination on the application submitted. Some programs are already working with counties (Local Health Departments) based on the applications strictly for the Community Paramedicine program.

• Question: Can you use EMT’s when doing COVID-19 related Community Paramedicine beyond vaccinations such as wellness checks on the prior policy statement with a paramedic on board? Answer: Policy Statement is directly related to vaccination program … please be compliant with all policies related to COVID-19. BEMS&TS would be happy to evaluate plans.

• Question: What is the difference between a “community paramedic” and a NYS paramedic, and where can we send our staff to become a “community paramedic”? Answer: Designation is based on the approved plan and includes additional vaccination training, other training, operating within a plan, using specialized equipment, using telemedicine, etc.

• Question: Regarding Community Paramedicine specifically for vaccinations. If an agency is not at paramedic level, are we able to utilize EMT’s or AEMTs if specifically purposed for vaccine administration? Answer: This is for EMT-Ps with ALS agencies in good standing only. Other levels need to be in a POD.

• Question: Will the local REMSCOs be notified of agencies who will be operating as Community Paramedicine agencies in their region? Answer: We will be sending notifications to all of the Regional EMS Program Agencies on the approval of Community Paramedicine agencies. These notifications should be passed on to local health departments.

• Question: If someone who received both shots comes in contact with someone who tested positive, do they have to quarantine? What is their status? Answer: The state is working on new guidance related to that and contact tracing regarding close contacts … the CDC has changed some guidance about monitoring and quarantine but NYS has not issued updated guidance … some guidance was issued on March 10th and more guidance will come.

• Question: If we submitted an application this afternoon, how long will it take? When can we expect to receive a decision regarding our application? Answer: Approximately 48-72 hours for a response via e-mail.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Ryan Greenberg will be on vacation 4/1/21 to 4/10/21.

Many agencies around the state are helping with state mobilization plan. Over 50 ambulances from over 25 EMS agencies as well as about 100 vaccinators are deployed on a given day. Surveys for participation in state mobilizations are sent out about every other month to agencies. District Chiefs Michael Linehan and Donald Trzepacz are heading coordination of that.

Vaccines continue to be delivered and increase with Johnson & Johnson added. Pfizer and Maderna are at a cap as to what will be receiving from them. Those 50 and above can be vaccinated. First responders in Phase 1a are still eligible for vaccinations.

Academy style classes will be held in June and July. Putting together some alternative methods of training and education and more information will come on what that will look like.

Next briefing is Thursday 4/1/21. Steven Dziura will be senior BEMS&TS panelist.