

**McHenry Western Lake County EMS System
EMS Coordinators Report
February 22, 2022
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IDPH Update:

- EMS Assistance Grant Applications presented to IDPH, pending notifications
- State Ambulance Inspector vacancy- not filled as yet
- SAFE-T and CESSA Act- Implications to EMS response discussion
- Recruitment/ Retention-Staffing Work group

- **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
EMS Forum- Hosted by ICEP – 2022 Schedule TBD
State EMS Advisory Council Joint meeting- Dates 2022- TBD

Region IX Update:

- The December meeting was held virtually. EMS Educator work group- CE program objectives developed to better align content among our EMS Systems moving into 2022; Draft document was presented to the group for review and EMS MD approval.
- Regional Discussion on Refusals and Restraint policy continues to move forward. A Regional Position statement to direct policy is in process, and will be communicated with support from each Regional EMS System Medical Director. The statement conforms to the current practice of OLMC contact with report regarding the scenario, and the inability to safely access the patient for transport as we have discussed in the current CE. This is not a magic wand to fix our concerns but it does establish a uniform approach to managing these difficult cases.
- EMS SOP Review is expected to be an agenda item at the March meeting, and will be communicated as the collaborative document is created and approved. Tentative rollout for our System would be fall 2022.
- **Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8th- 9am via ZOOM – invite pending**

Region IX Healthcare Coalition

Recent efforts had been focused on the COVID 19 response. Planning is underway for the HPP FY 23 goals and Grant spending for FY 22. A Regional Preparedness Symposium is being considered for Fall 2022. In addition, a Burn Surge exercise is tentatively being planned for May/June 2022.

Next Meeting: Region IX RHCC Meeting- Wednesday, April 13, 2022- Sherman Hospital

System Update:

- **McHenry/Huntley OB Consolidation:** The OB consolidation has gone well. The McHenry ED has had a few OB transfers that have been well managed in the ED at McHenry prior to transfer. Huntley has a strong OB census.
- **McHenry Neuro-Telemetry Unit:** The 8th floor space formerly occupied by OB is being renovated to become the inpatient unit for Neuro Telemetry patients- ie stroke, neuro disease admissions, and post-op neurosurgical patients. McHenry Hospital is experiencing a very active neurosurgical caseload. This additional inpatient bed space will support our growing needs for inpatient acute care beds.

- **EMS Staffing Update:** Open EMS Educator-***Registry Position-*** Interviews are underway. We hope to have the position filled within the upcoming weeks.
- **EMS Manager/System Coordinator:** Interviews are in process which will include 3 teams of input: the hospital executive leaders, ED leadership and the EMS Team. Once a final decision is made an announcement will be made to the System. At that time, I will be able to provide more detail on the transition process
- **OLMC Agreement with Advocate Aurora Sherman Hospital:** We are working with the EMS leadership at Sherman to submit reciprocal Associate hospital agreements to allow for joint medical control for transports from the GEA agencies coming to the NM hospitals in McHenry County, and in turn, the MWLCEMS Agencies transporting to Sherman. Each EMS System will continue to monitor and address QI issues that may result, but this will facilitate a better transition of care for the patient in all cases. More details will be shared when the agreement is complete.
- **COVID Updates:**
- **COVID vaccination Requirement:** As we move forward COVID Vaccination will continue to be an expectation for all MCC EMS STUDENTS enrolled in EMT and Paramedic, just as the Influenza vaccine is an expectation.
- COVID PPE- All NM hospitals are still operating with limitations to visitors and companions for patient visits. It is still THE EXPECTATION for all patients being transported to the ED via EMS that crew and patient are masked during transport and upon arrival.
- COVID Positivity within NM- We have seen a marked decline in our positivity rates over the past 2-3 weeks, this correlates to COVID hospitalizations. However as of last Friday, the 3 Hospitals in the NWR are demonstrating a 8.2% positivity rate. So we are not quite there yet.
- **COVID SOP reminders:** *We continue to monitor and review- Changes may be forthcoming as we see continued progress in the upcoming weeks. FOR NOW:*
 1. EMS should treat all patients as potentially COVID infected. **EMS PPE should be N95 masks and eye protection on ALL PATIENT CONTACTS. All patients must be masked upon bedside contact with EMS;** Treat all patients as potential COVID infected to insure the safety of all EMS providers and ED staff. Isolation rooms in the ED- remove PPE before leaving the room; new PPE will be provided if needed to insure your safety in cleaning and redressing your cot
 2. COVID Cardiac arrest SOP – remains in effect. Contact with OLMC can be made if not response to interventions after 10 minutes of Asystole- with decision by OLMC if resuscitation can be withdrawn
 3. Emphasis on discretion in aerosol generating procedures is also important. *The current CPAP does have an additional HEPA filter*, but when administering a HHN or suctioning please use caution, and appropriate PPE. *Nebulizer therapy is best delivered via face mask which can then be covered with a surgical mask to reduce the spread of droplets through aerosolization.* **Please remember your due diligence in post transport cleaning of the patient compartment.**
- **EMS Supply access changes:** The transition to OMNICELL for medication replacement is complete at all 3 ED locations. The McHenry EMS room transition to the Kanban stocking system is still pending. Eventually the Supply Pyxis will be removed.
- **EMS and Law Enforcement roles in Behavioral Health Scenarios:** EMS is now engaged in the MCSO Crisis Team workgroup. Unfortunately, this is a major project with multiple stakeholders from mental health, law enforcement, crisis, Fire/EMS, social service agencies. Working together to find the best approach to meeting the needs of those in crisis within our

community. As the program resources and processes develop they will be shared with all. Dr. Pacini, myself, and Karen Bush-representing the McHenry County Fire/ EMS agencies are involved along with others from within the NM Woodstock Behavioral Health/Crisis program.

NEXT EMS COUNCIL MEETING: 2022 Schedule EMS Council- Tuesday, May 24th- format to be determined. We would like to get back to face to face meeting. We look to your input on preference for virtual vs in person.

MCC Report:

NREMT Testing Results: Fall 2021

EMT– 19 students registered 12 tested licensed or pending licensure; 2 pending retest; 5 pending the exam

Paramedic: 22 candidates registered: 17 are licensed; 4 in progress with testing; 1 student left the area and did not complete testing.

SPRING 2022: Semester currently in progress

EMS 105- AM section- 24 students enrolled

PM section 23 students enrolled

High School Program- 15 students enrolled

EMS 110- (1-offering) 22 students enrolled

EMS Advisory Committee: Met on 11/30/21- Revisions to the EMT schedule and the Paramedic program design were shared. Additional discussion focused on student recruitment, and mentoring for success.

Next meeting schedule- Tuesday, April 5th 9am- MCC Focus for discussion- CoAEMSP Program Continued Self Study Report- Reaccreditation.

CoAEMSP- The annual report reflecting program outcomes from the 2019-2020 cohort is being compiled for submission.

The **CSSR-Self Study Report** regarding the programs ability to meet the CoAEMSP Accreditation Standards is underway, and due for submission by August 2022. This self-study provides an in-depth look at elements of program performance in compliance with the standards set forth by the CoAEMSP. Follow up to the self-study will culminate in a site visit in CY 2023 to validate the self-study report of compliance with the goal of continued accreditation.

Paramedic Program Surveys; A survey tool has been sent to both agency representatives who have employed students who completed the program in summer 2021; and the new paramedics/graduates. This program survey is an expectation of the CoAEMSP to get feedback on the entry level competency preparation of our students. To date we have received:

Employer Surveys- 4 agencies -evaluating 13 students

Graduate Surveys- 8 graduate submissions

Target: 8 agencies; 19 students- Additional reminders will be sent to those who have not yet replied.

