**Western Mass Emergency Medical Services Committee, Inc.**

**Meeting:** Regional Council

**Date:** March 11, 2021

**Place:** Western Mass EMS

**Presiding:** Steve Gaughan

**Called to Order:** 1:01 pm

**Adjourned:** 1:57 pm

**Attendance:**

**Present (via Zoom) –** Brian Andrews, Christopher Bascomb, Gerald Beltran, Scott Chapman, Deborah Clapp, Mark Fortier, John Garriepy, Steve Gaughan, Michael Gleason, William Hathaway, Mark Maloni, Steve Manchino, Erin Markt, John Meaney, Robert Moore, Christopher Norris, Jeffrey Olmstead, Gene Os, Michael Rock, Michael Tryon, Laurie Tuper and David Zamojski

**Excused –** Thomas Grady

**Absent –** BJ Calvi, Candice Christenson, Brian Coulombe, Mary Cushman, Harriet Dyer, Raymond Ferrin, Patrick Leonardo, Matthew McBride, Angela Mulkerin, Bruce Stump and Matthew Wolkenbreit

**Guests –** Sara Burgess, Lisa Herringshaw, Dawn Josefski and Dr. Aisling Wright

**Conflict of Interest Statement**

**Minutes:** A motion was made to approve meeting minutes from our last meeting. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Committee Reports:**

**Physicians’ Council:**

**Discussion –**

Dr. Beltran reports that they continued to review distress in the field situations and “Code Silver” is still being worked on by Dr. Leinbaugh. Also discussed was solid organ injury and patients wearing a bracelet designating them as such. This will be going to State Medical Services next month. Sara Burgess and Dr. Morse are working on an Interfacility Transfer form that will be used at Cooley Dickinson.

*Action: None*

**Executive Director Report:**

**Discussion –**

Deb reported that the Regional Directors had their monthly meeting with OEMS. 2021 Protocols should be issued over the next couple weeks. The Regional Directors have asked if it would be

possible for them to do a proof read on them before they are released. Scott Cluett is going to look into this and get back to them. As of today, we haven’t heard any update on them. Once they are released for distribution, we will push them out asap and post them on our website and Facebook.

Regarding in-person training: As of now there is some discussion about this but nothing has been decided as of yet. It does sound like there will be a tiered approach once in person training starts; such as opening EMT Practical exams to slightly larger groups (10-12?) and then go from there.

Our MCI/Comms Coordinator and CISM Coordinator have been in place since 2/1/2021 and have been making good progress. Mr. Pandora (MCI Coor) has been working on updating the Mobilization Task Force plan and also the HHAN Emergency contact list. In addition, he has moved PPE supplies from our office to the PPE Cache storage unit. Mr. Meyer (CISM Coor) has been updating our contact list and determining which team members still need Identification, CISM clothing, car supplies, etc. He also beginning to work on a quarterly CISM team newsletter.

We have been working with our Unaffiliated EMT’s to get them recertified, and we have 15 remaining. Our Bylaws were approved last month and are now in effect. Also, they have been submitted to OEMS for review as required.

The Ripples Group have spoken with all of the Regional Directors individually and also held a conference call with all of them together. There is some concern that they are focusing on the wrong things such as making the continuing education approval process all electronic.

Annual Meeting Elections: Our Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on April 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm. with voting opening for 36 hours prior to the meeting and close slightly before 1:00 pm so the results will be available at the meeting. Deb will do one or two practice elections prior to annual meeting to make sure all can receive the ballot and get familiar with filling it out.

*Action: Deb will continue to update monthly.*

**Executive Committee Report:**

**Discussion –**

At the meeting last week, they discussed elections and voting for Annual Meeting and the Ripples Group study. Steve Gaughan will be meeting with the Ripples Group virtually next week.

Steve reports that the State Medical Services meeting was held recently and it went well. Steve and Deb are hoping they will continue to meet regularly.

*Action: None*

**Treasurer’s Report:**

**Discussion –**

Our account balances are $257223.20 in our checking account, $97557.76 in Savings/CISM and $1800.29 in the Scholarship account.

Our FY21 2nd Quarter bill has been submitted to DPH and we are awaiting payment and we are currently working with the accountant to set up a separate account for our CISM funds so there is more transparency.

*Action: None*

**MCI/Communications Committee:**

**Discussion –**

Although there was no meeting held, Steve Gaughan has been working on a powerpoint presentation for the Regional MCI Plan and Mike Pandora has been working on updating the EMS Task Force List and the HHAN emergency contact list.

*Action: None*

**Awards Committee:**

**Discussion –**

John Meaney reports that he and Mike Tryon met at the office last week and approved all the Save Nominations that were submitted. They have scheduled their next Awards Committee meeting for 3/24/2021 at 1:00 pm via zoom and hope to have some county participation at that meeting and moving forward.

*Action: Lisa will send notification to all award recipients and distribute certificates to*

*their services as well.*

**HMCC Report:**

**Discussion –**

Mark Maloni reports that they have been working closely with hospitals having daily meetings to get bed counts for the state. They have also been working on their PPE Cache and are actively looking at software to keep track of inventory. Mark will bring information back to the Executive Committee about the software in the event that we may want to use it as well. In addition, they are starting to do some strategic planning regarding projects/priorities that the HMCC can do in western Massachusetts to assist the counties.

*Action: None*

**County Reports:**

**Discussion –**

**Berkshire County**: Brian Andrews reports that they are still accepting donations which will go towards a memorial in memory of Lucy Ann Britton. He posted a letter from EMSCO in zoom chat if anyone is interested in making a donation. They are still having discussion regarding the “Code Silver” declaration if an EMS crew is in danger. There are concerns as to whether there should be plain language used to express danger as opposed to a “Code Silver”. This will be discussed further.

**Franklin County**: They met on Monday night and had their yearly vote for Officers and they also worked on county representatives to Regional Council.

**Hampden County**: They will be having a meeting next week and will work on county representatives to Regional Council.

**Hampshire County**: Mike Rock reports that he has had difficulty getting the group back together and has sent a letter to all County agencies trying to get them involved. The group has been inactive for a while now and hope to come up with ideas to rejuvenate the committee.

*Action: As counties determine county representation for Regional Council, please let*

*WMEMS know.*

**Old Business:**

**Nominations:**

**Discussion –**

Just a reminder that nominations need to be submitted to Mike Rock and Gene Os; with a cc to Lisa asap. Nominations need to be in by 3/16/2021, and any changes needed can be made up until 3/30/21.

*Action: None*

**HMCC Funding Available:**

**Discussion –**

Mark Maloni reports that there is between $80,000 and $90,000 remaining for needs in the Region. If anyone has any thoughts on projects at a county level or regional level please reach out to Mark, Brian Andrews or John Meaney.

*Action: None*

**New Business:**

**Pedi Telehealth Research Project:**

**Discussion –**

Dr. Aisling Wright from Boston Medical Center provided a brief presentation about their Pedi Telehealth Research Project that they are conducting. They are looking for agencies that would allow their paramedics to assist with this project. Deb has sent their flyer to all EMS Coordinators and they were posting it and WMEMS emailed it to Regional Council members.

*Action: None*

**Next meeting:**

Our next meeting, **Annual Meeting**, will be held on **Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 1:00 pm via Zoom**.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm

*Lisa Herringshaw, Assistant Director*