

RURAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017

3:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

Some of this agenda may look familiar. It was on the agenda last time and I wanted a recap for you.

Welcome

Introductions. Richard Busch approved for committee

Minutes Approved

Member contact list

Old Business - Strategic Plan THESE NEED FINALIZED and Action Steps

Identify a plan to assist agencies to recruit and retain all levels of EMT from EMR to paramedic for rural agencies. Personnel is severely lacking and therefore the citizens of Ohio have a hit and miss chance of getting the same medical care as they would in Ohio that is greatly impacted by this lack of certified personnel. We are going to put a lot of effort into this project, develop a program. We identified some stakeholders that would need to get behind this test and ways to sell the program.

Median age of EMT's is 40. At about 25 years of age the EMT is board

RECRUITMENT : some items discussed at our last meeting

1. **JVS seniors take EMT Basic and possibly Fire or dispatching classes. This would give them the opportunity to work in the field right after they graduate.**
2. **Make it possible for the student and any recruit to hang out with the squad.**
3. **Make them feel like part of the family .Make it fun- football parties etc.**
4. **Recognize their accomplishments. Letter from Mel, Trustees, commissioners, wall certificates etc.**

RETENTION :

1. **Offer Some benefits – Accidental Death and disability benefits**
2. **EMS week programs put on by others**
3. **Have the community recognize the EMS. Letters to the editor. Commissioners hand out award pins ? for length of service, show up to council, Have the local chamber present the squad with a piece of equipment or tools they are wanting, etc.**
4. **VOLUNTEER TAX, LICENSE PLATE FEE exemption.**
5. **Funding**
6. **Fatigue management**

Improve basic communication and information sharing for rural ems and fire agencies and rural medical directors. These entities have a tough time finding the same information suburban agencies and medical directors. A draft plan of one of the possible action plans is to set up a type of list serve for agencies and medical directors. As information is discovered – grants policies procedures etc. It will be sent to the chair of the committee who will in turn send it on to other committee members who will then send it on to the agencies and med directors.

Identify and improve ways to get much needed education - both initial certification and con ed to the people that are interested and willing to get medical aide to the citizens of their area. COEMS is hurting the rural areas more than helping. More Programs are closing because of the new requirements. Discussion was held allowing grants for training and equipment to be awarded to organizations such as fire chief or ems coalitions and associations that offer con ed. Have conversations with career schools, jvs' to offer juniors in these schools a basic EMT class and to begin a paramedic class in his or her senior year. Many of the agencies will hire them when they turn 18 if they are certified –

NEW BUSINESS Doug LaRue - I have been hard at work talking with the 2 vocational schools about this program with seniors to do fire and EMT school. Will keep you posted. I will be tied up on a few large events I am doing for the next couple of weeks. We would love to host an “open forum” with our Rural EMS community in this region here at Lima Memorial Health System. We have a nice facility to hold it and can also offer lunch as well. This will be something for us to look at down the road as I would like to get a response back from the vocational schools to get their input. [UPDATE](#)

Other : Aug 23rd training – webinar on highly infectious pathogenic disease exercise planning

Grant approvals and disbursements

Path to becoming a medical director

Good of committee - : If your agency regularly transports patients to one of Ohio's 33 Critical Access Hospitals, you may be contacted soon by The Paramedic Foundation (TPF).

TPF has been awarded a contract to conduct a **Rural EMS Needs Assessment**. The federally-funded contract was awarded by the Ohio Department of Health's State Office of Rural Health, working with the EMS Division of the Department of Public Safety. As the name implies, the results of this assessment will be used to determine what rural EMS agencies need to better care for their patients. TPF's work will continue through August 2018.

A list of Critical Access Hospitals can be found at [Ohio+Critical+Access+Hospitals.pdf](#). (A map of these hospitals was sent with the June Rural agenda.)

For additional information about this project contact Tina Turner at Tina.Turner@odh.ohio.gov or Nick Nudell nnudell@paramedicfoundation.org Rural health information hub – 1 800 270 1898 or info@ruralhealthinfo.org

As always the committee meetings are open to the public

Meeting schedule- Tuesday, August 15, 2017 3:00 pm. to 5:00 pm

Thanks for your commitment to the citizens of Ohio.