

HRSA EMS Advisory Group Meeting

September 13, 2006 – 6 p.m. Eastern
Marquette General Mt. Marquette

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. in Mount Marquette at MGH with videoconference locations of Manistique, Houghton/Keweenaw, Ironwood, Dickinson County and Newberry. Attendance from participating agencies was noted through a Roll Call using the MI-HAN registration updates.

- I. Welcome and Introductions: A roll call of agencies was done both for attendance and to identify where agencies are at in the Michigan Health Alert Network registration and training process.
- II. Approval of Agenda for September 13, 2006: Motion by DeMarse; Second by Richards approve the 9/13/06 agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**
- III. Approval of Minutes from May 17, 2006: Motion by Curt LeSage; Second by Joel Bach to approve the meeting minutes of 5/17/06. **Motion carried.**
- IV. Old Business
 - a. The deadline for completion NIMS IS-100 and IS-700 was 8/31/06. Alyson thanked the MCA's who turned in their lists in such an organized fashion. The numbers were reported to the auditors, who are here all this week. They may request to go to an agency and compare certificates.
 - b. MI-HAN Alert: Roxane sent out a test MI-HAN alert on 8/23/06. She reported that we had a 68% compliance rate, which is a lot lower than where she wants to be. Those who need follow up with passwords, ID's, or training, please call Roxane to get up to speed on receiving alerts.
 - c. Patient Tracking Use: Alyson advised that all agencies should work with their Emergency Managers and identify the exercises/drills where they will be able to incorporate the use of the Patient Tracking equipment into the scenario easily. All agencies should have a chance to trial the equipment in the coming year, and must submit exercise objectives and funding requests before the November meeting. It is important to coordinate trainings with local hospitals and Emergency Management.
 - d. 800 Mhz Distribution: At the UP Regional Homeland Security Board meeting, it was decided to set a goal at this time that all EMS transporting vehicles would have a minimum of two portable 800 Mhz radios on board. The Emergency Managers present identified the numbers needed to meet this goal, and these radios will be coming from that program, combined with cooperative HRSA support to fund the first thirty.
 - e. Each area provided a summary of the Divisional Exercises that they participated in during FY06.
 - i. Eastern UP – EMS pandemic flu exercise, HazMat drill
 - ii. Schoolcraft – MEMS components, ACC sites, NEHC sites, Casualty Transport, Mass fatality (morgue set up), triage lines
 - iii. Newberry – Functional exercise pending for early November.
 - iv. Alger County – School explosion/terror-based, with decon needed, ACC site set up, on-scene triaging, mutual aid with Luce County for decon.

- v. Marquette County – Decon and mass casualty trauma in May in cooperation with Alger County’s exercise; Level I Trauma triaging, Airport exercise with trauma only; Communications test
- vi. Baraga – Two part drill with terrorist breaking into a school while another chemical spill was going on within their area. Decontamination, mass casualties, and casualty transport.
- vii. Western UP – Airplane crash; identified communication difficulties that are now being addressed.
- viii. Gogebic-Ontonagon – Plane crash in Ironwood with an armed man at the scene. Included Emergency Management, and TSA Airport Security. Was a multi-county exercise.
- ix. Southern Division – Internal disaster first, and then a real disaster happened that shut down their exercise for EMS. They are planning another in October with EMS/Fire/Law at the airport.
- f. Equipment Caches from FY06 – Alyson noted to all agencies that they should be familiar with the available equipment in their area that was purchased through requests from EMS agencies. Many counties now have large caches of blankets, cots, medical supplies, etc. This should be discussed at your local MCA meetings or at your Divisional Meetings.

V. New Business

- a. Mass Casualty Exercise Requirements: The upcoming exercise requirements in FY07 include that we test MCI capabilities in our local areas to identify gaps and deficiencies that we can start to correct. All local areas need to come back to the November meeting with their anticipated objectives for FY07, and estimated funding needs to make these exercises happen. Alyson suggested that they work with hospitals, Emergency Management, and Public Health to make them compliant with the program requirements.
- b. Communications Exercise – After a long discussion regarding communications and the lack of interoperability due to poor talkgroup programming initially, a Communications Committee was developed to include Curt LeSage, Joel Bach, and Bill Fyvie. The need to have this group develop an effective exercise, and identify where we have additional needs will be addressed at the next meeting.
- c. Evacuation Plans – One of the priorities for FY07 is the review and updating of current evacuation plans in local areas. All EMS agencies should be contacting their hospitals and longterm care facilities to sit down with them and review current plans and any needed updates. Many EMS agencies are the “plan” in these events, and the facilities need to realize that you may be unavailable due to other priorities. If you are the “plan”, you need to exercise this in the coming year.
- d. Pandemic Flu Planning – All EMS agencies should have already started working on the CDC’s EMS Checklist for Pandemic Preparedness. The website was shared for those who haven’t gotten moving on this.
- e. Recruitment Funding – Approximately \$4,000 will be requested of the Planning Board to assist with recruitment for EMS by using billboard displays in all areas over the EMS week timeframe (April through June). All areas are to be thinking of the contact information that they want to be linked to through the billboard website that we will use so the boards will be area-specific for those who want to contact local agencies, etc.

VI. Announcements

- a. Curt LeSage brought up the current lack of patient moving devices/cots to rapidly transport patients during an evacuation. The group decided to request \$20,000 for collapsible and portable stretchers that would be functional both in this purpose and on a daily basis. We will request the \$20,000 from the Planning Board at their 9/14 meeting. Curt will research the pricing and availability for the next meeting.

Alyson noted that this was the first meeting of the contract year. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 8, location TBD. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alyson Sundberg, Marquette Co. MCA