Statewide EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC)
Teleconference
AGENDA
May 7, 2020

I. Call to order: Chairman Tiemersma
   • Call the roll: Ms. Goff
   • Approval of Minutes from the April 2, 2020 meeting

II. MIEMSS Report: Dr. Delbridge
    • COVID-19 update

III. Old Business

IV. New Business
Mr. Tiemersma called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Tiemersma thanked everyone for the efforts during this health crisis.

**ACTION:** A motion was made by Dr. Kalish; seconded by Ms. Doyle and unanimously approved to accept the April 2, 2020, minutes of SEMSAC as written.

### MIEMSS Report

Dr. Delbridge said, similar to the rest of the country, there is approximately a 40% decrease in the volume of EMS transports and ED patients. The low volume of ambulance transports has resulted in financial stresses on commercial ambulance service companies. Calls to 911 centers is rising, but are still down by approximately 30%. He added that 30 – 40% of EMS calls are Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) for COVID-19.

Dr. Delbridge said that Hospital Yellow Alerts status continues to be down.

### MIEMSS COVID-19 Activities

Dr. Delbridge highlighted some of the current MIEMSS COVID-19 activities. He said that MIEMSS participates in daily morning conference calls with MDH, MEMA and others for situational awareness and planning, and surge planning group calls for clinical awareness and EMS perspective. MIEMSS continues to staff at the SEOC during the week with
virtual response on weekends. MIEMSS continues to hold EMS COVID-19 conference calls with EMS Jurisdictions, commercial services and Medical Directors three times per week and bi-weekly calls with 911 Centers. Dr. Delbridge added that the Metro Fire Chiefs have also been meeting bi-monthly to discuss COVID-19 related issues.

Dr. Delbridge gave an overview of the current ED Patient numbers, Adult and Pediatric staffed in-bed availability, and the MIEMSS COVID-19 Hospital Status Dashboard that is updated daily.

Dr. Delbridge updated the SEMSAC on the Governor’s Executive Order Number 20-03-19-03, augmenting the Emergency Medical Services Workforce to improve the response of EMS to the state during the state of emergency.

Dr. Delbridge gave an update on the current numbers of Provisional Clinicians and Clinical Nurse and Respiratory Externs.

Dr. Delbridge said MIEMSS has also taken several clinical actions, including the implementation of two emergency protocols: a viral pandemic triage protocol and authorizing use of terbutaline as a beta agonist in cases of bronchospasm. He added that guidance on 911-center specific queries to identify persons under investigation, as well as guidance “to not instruct” the caller to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, were issued.

Dr. Delbridge gave an update on several EMS/Ambulance Operations changes during the state of emergency including: MIH staffing requirement changed to permit only one paramedic, provisional approval of the Kaiser/ProCare Ambulance MIH program, SCT personnel staffing revision depending on patient need, and the authorization of out-of-state licensed vehicles by in-state ambulance services.

Pending issues include the development of alternate care sites and transportation plans.

Dr. Delbridge said that as a result of the Pleasant View Nursing home evacuation, MIEMSS is collaborating with MDH, hospitals, the National Guard and HHS to assist Skilled Nursing facilities and nursing homes.

Dr. Delbridge gave an update on the Hospital Dashboard “@HA” (Ambulances at Hospitals) platform to provide real-time information on the number of ambulances waiting at hospital to monitor offload times. He said MIEMSS is working on adding jurisdictions to provide real time awareness of EMS-ED interface.

Dr. Delbridge gave an overview of the requirements within the proposed regulation for the conversion of Provisional EMS clinicians to full certification or licensure status.

Mr. Tiemersma thanked Dr. Delbridge for the updates. He said, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, regular state business has been suspended but that we do not want to lose sight of the ongoing issues with gaps in EMS Services.

Ms. Doyle wished everyone a happy and health Nurses Week.

A motion was made by Ms. Doyle; seconded by Vogel and unanimously approved to adjourn the SEMSAC adjourned at 1:50 pm.