

EMS Leadership Call
July 1, 2021

Will greeted everyone.

Data update – Chelsea (going early as she has to leave for another meeting)

Updates:

- Tom Hoodiman, assistant data manager, had a baby girl on Tuesday. Ask for continued patience with SIREN requests as am still fully-involved in COVID. Only one monitoring SIREN inbox.
- NEMSIS 3.5 upgrade is tentatively scheduled to occur June 2022. However, there's been pushback from state data managers, saying due to COVID response and many data managers being activated, asking for an extension of a year. Will keep folks posted.
- NEMSIS V2 (the old SIREN system 2009-2017) has all been transferred to the VAULT. The V2 site is not shut down but ImageTrend would prefer it closed and have everyone just accessing historical data on the VAULT. Platform looks just like SIREN Elite. Easier to navigate than the old SIREN system. We have a temp who has created an account for all of the service chiefs who were using the old SIREN system. He's working on a one-pager of information to send out. We'll send individual emails to each chief with your own unique username and password to access the new site, along with information. No timeline for shutting off the old system. Request that if there are individuals at your agency like assistant chiefs or admin staff who need access to the historical site, please email siren@vermont.gov, and we'll create an account for them as well. The old site uses outdated tech and is not that secure, so that's why the shift to the VAULT. Prefer no more than 3 folks per organization.

COVID update – Will

- Data continues to trend us in the right direction. We continue to lead the country and the world in getting the general public vaccinated. Latest vaccine strategy is to continue to vaccinate the public, since that is proving effective. Seems opportunity is still a barrier vs. unwillingness to be vaccinated. Ultimately, we'll move toward a system where vaccination will occur in the primary care setting, but in the next few months once the vaccine is approved, there will be a push to vaccinate ages 2-12.
- Staff in EMS are continuing to be activated. We appreciate your patience when it comes to inquiries and requests for assistance. Thank you for your patience and generosity during the past year, and as the response continues. SEOC is deactivating tomorrow, so the HOC will continue to be the primary point of response. There will not be a complete demobilization of the HOC. Folks within DEPRIP/EMS will continue to carry the primary response, and those roles will continue into the foreseeable future.
- Our posture on PPE has not changed and the CDC has not updated their guidance. For those in EMS, the same guidance exists as it did during the height of the pandemic. I expect we'll remain in that posture going forward for months on end. Delta variant is of concern. Data shows it's 1.5 times more effective in transmission as compared to COVID-19. With the success of vaccination in VT, we are very well-positioned for the impact and migration of the Delta variant into the state. We hope to see less impact from the Delta variant. Age groups not yet vaccinated are at a greater risk. We encourage service leaders to maintain PPE requirements on emergency responses.
 - Dan Wolfson – don't let your guard down. Cases of COVID in the ED after both vaccination and wearing surgical masks.
 - Latest changes and updates are on [HealthVermont.gov](https://www.healthvermont.gov)

Licensing – Ray

- Back in January when I made camping reservations, I thought it was a great idea to be away the last 3 days of the recert cycle. It served a good purpose, as Donna is quickly coming up to speed with LIGHTS. Feel free to send questions or issues to Donna, myself or the vtems@vermont.gov email.
- Aware of a couple of chronic issues
 - submitting CE seems difficult. Will work with ImageTrend on that.
 - Also the photos that are coming out on licensing cards are less than ideal. The closer and more clear the shot, the better. Plain lighter backgrounds are ideal, and submitting it in portrait is much better than landscape.
- Renewal Applications
 - If a person submitted a license renewal application before midnight 6/30 but it is awaiting agency, training or DMA verification, we will allow the person to continue running duty while the application works through the process
 - If the TO, DMA or HOS sign-off is still pending on 7/6, we will notify the person that their license is expired until they receive an auto-email from LIGHTS that the application was approved.
- If an application was not submitted by midnight 6/30, the license is expired until they receive the “License Approved” email from LIGHTS
 - There were a handful of people who got hung up with the continuing education section, which prevented them from submitting the application. I’m okay allowing them to continue running duty until 7/6 while they sort it out.

EMSC – Will for Merrill

- June case review more than 100 people; hoping similar for July 7/19 7 p.m. Reviewing common summertime calls like drownings and heat-related emergencies.
- First Pediatric HP CPR course was held last week in Thetford. 3 more scheduled in July.
 - Want a Pedi HP CPR class? Contact Merrill.pine@vermont.gov

Medical Director’s Update – Dan Wolfson

- 2022 protocols coming along nicely. We’ve looked at them and are working on changes now.
- Also had a call to review 2020 CARES cardiac arrest data. In a rural EMS system like ours, bystander CPR and early access to AEDs make a big difference. Services and regions should think about ways to get AEDs to the patient quicker. Things like having first responders carry them are going to make a difference. HP CPR course has been in VT for 4 years. Now we’re able to use data to improve the outcome of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. If you would like to host a HP CPR course, contact:
 - Merrill Pedi for Pedi HP CPR
 - Chris McCarthy for Adult HP CPR
- Also 12 of the districts responded to the RFP for a virtual academy and the Little Anne program. You will be receiving manikins over the summer, and we hope for the virtual academy to be scheduled in Sept. If you have preferences to what day/time we should hold the academy, please reach out. Weekend day? Weekend evening? Or Weekday day? Submit your preferences to daniel.wolfson@partner.vermont.gov

Bambi – Training Update

- There has been some confusion in LIGHTS surrounding IC designations. There is a separate IC application and technically they did expire. Please submit them by next Tuesday if you wish to continue as an IC.

- Certificates of completion can be uploaded all together vs separately.
- Issues getting CE hours? Contact Bambi at Bambi.dame@vermont.gov
- VT First Responder Course is going to be rolled out. Instructors can apply in LIGHTS for a course once we roll it out. Setting up an IC meeting once we get final approval to talk about expectations, time requirements, and the nuts and bolts of the program.
- Working with ICs on setting up quality education in VT in areas that are underserved by courses.
- Moving forward with 3 levels of IC so we can hold an IC course sooner rather than later.
- Have been offering squad trainings around the state, as well as assisting with a couple of courses. We're happy to pop in and do guest lectures or squad trainings.
- Looking at new LMS system. Any suggestions/thoughts/ideas, please send them along.

General Updates – Will

Special Fund -

- Last grant period ended 12/31/20. If a district intends to submit invoices for these funds, please let Will know.
 - The Special Fund is an important vehicle for districts to be able to utilize state funds to offset licensing/testing costs. How would you like to access those dollars?
 - I've looked at the last 5 years of funds, and there are a lot of districts leaving funds on the table. Unobligated dollars and inaccessible is about \$360,000. We have a fair amount of discretion on spending.
 - What are your types of costs and how can we facilitate you obtaining reimbursement?
 - Having conversations with EMS Advisory Committee about how to spend the \$360,000. Ideas? Let us know. Talk to the reps of the EMS Advisory Committee.
- We've entered the current grant period as of 1/1/21. There is \$9000 available to each district in the current grant. Encourage you to seek out what ways you can utilize that money. I'm available to answer questions. More information out from me on the current special fund soon.
- EMS regional meetings are being scheduled. We're available for direct questions and to report out about what's going on. We feel like these meetings are important. One of the ways we think will make meetings more beneficial is to hold a case review that's specific to that EMS district so we can engage with EMS providers and local medical direction. Ray is scheduling meetings around the state.
- Conference planning has begun. Target date is late April or early May 2022, and we're looking at sites around the state.
- Dr. Wolfson – regional meetings and case reviews: In addition to the updates, we'll have something cool and engaging to talk about. Bennington's case has already been selected, and it's a good one. Specific case? Shoot me an email (daniel.wolfson@partner.vermont.gov) or have your DMA do so. Looking for edgy, exciting and with a lot of teaching points.
- Adam – record the case review? Will – great question. We've been talking about whether we can broadcast it statewide like we do for the EMSC case reviews. Exploring broadcast options right now.
- Leadership call will be again held at 7 p.m. tonight. It was well received last month.

Questions:

- Chris LaMonda, BTEMS, asked Ray how a service leader would know if a person's application is under way if they are not primary with the service. Ray: Best I can think of is to go to applications, then review. Not sure if it shows it to the person's non-primary service. However, the roster in LIGHTS shows the status of your personnel, which will allow you to follow up with

individuals. Individuals can also access a .pdf of their application and can share that with their non-primary service(s).

- Timeframe to release VT First Responder? Will – we're there. Dan Batsie's given feedback and changes have been made. His final approval should be coming this afternoon. LIGHTS is all ready to go. We expect the program pieces that ICs need to be readily available within the next week. We'll announce that once it happens, so courses can be applied for and started. We'll have to hold onto course completions until the new rules go into effect. 1/1/22 is the target date for the new rules. The new course will vary in length between ICs. Some ICs may choose to go into more depth, but the course is designed for 16-20 hours. A long weekend, perhaps, or 2 weekends.

11:48 a.m. adjourned