

**Minutes**  
**Enhanced 911 Commission Special Meeting**  
**March 15, 2006**  
**Department of Public Safety**  
**1111 Country Club Road**  
**Middletown, Connecticut**

**Commission Members**

John Elsesser  
Ernest Herrick  
Paul Jakubson  
Jeff Morrissette  
Roy Piper  
Gordon Shand  
Michael Stemmler  
Lee Vincent

**Representing**

Town of Coventry for COST  
Volunteer Fire Service & CSFA  
Connecticut Police Chiefs Association  
CFPC  
Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security  
Department of Public Health  
Department of Public Safety  
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

**Staff**

George Pohorilak  
Wayne Maheu  
Mike Guerrero  
Jerry Zarwanski  
Carey Thompson  
Anne Finn

Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET)  
Division of Fire, Emergency & Building Services (DFEBS)  
OSET  
OSET  
OSET  
OSET

**Others in Attendance**

Leonard Guercia  
John Gustafson  
Dr. Bill Teel, Ph.D

Department of Public Health  
CMED New Haven  
Department of Public Health

**Call to Order**

Chairman Ernest Herrick, Volunteer Fire Service, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Ernie Herrick, Volunteer Fire Service, and Chairman of the E911 Commission, introduced John Elsesser of the Town of Coventry for COST. John is a new E911 Commission member.

**Public Comment**

No public comment. Ernie Herrick announced the special meeting is for the Department of Public Health (DPH) to report on the data collection program they have developed using money DPH received from 911 funding.

## **Update on the DPH EMS Data Program**

Leonard Guercia, Jr., EMT-P, Director of Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), introduced John Gustafson, CMED Director of City of New Haven, and Dr. William Teel Ph.D and Epidemiologist, who has been the lead on this project.

Leonard Guercia gave a slide presentation of this project to the Commission. The presentation included the Connecticut EMS demographics. There are over 500,000 annual calls for EMS assistance. The total actual transports are over 400,000. We have 189 licensed providers, who are licensed or certified within the Office of Emergency Medical Services.

EMS data collection is the electronic collection of response and patient information related to the delivery of the EMS care and NEMSIS compliant format. National EMS leaders developed this format across the country. Response and patient information relate to delivery of EMS care.

This data system is needed because there is no current statewide data on EMS. If data is collected, public safety, law enforcement, and fire officials or departments can trend their needs and go after pockets of funding to look at quality, delivery of service, and calls for service to support this system. Data can be used to enhance the basic level of patient care.

In rural parts of Connecticut, the care is more costly and there are fewer resources. Data shows where pockets of need are based on the patient population. With this data, the EMS commission can go to chiefs of service, chief elected officials or the legislature to guide the EMS data collection development. It's a tool for ongoing quality assurance.

Additionally, it helps in the creation of a statewide EMS system plan not only for EMS, but across all branches of public safety including fire service and law enforcement. This will help enhance response times. Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will build an Interoperability Public Safety data network. The EMS system will interface with the data network so that EMS will become the next leg of that public network. The units will be able to share data when the communication centers are connected. Cautionary notes can come up on computer systems to keep EMS personnel up-to-date on patient history.

The computer provides a clear concise form for entering data. The long-term goal is connectivity to dispatch centers for call related information. Printers are provided in the emergency department write-up areas so EMS crew can finish their reports and send them back to the center. Data will reside at the service and at DPH.

So far, DPH has received \$250,000 per year since FY 2001-2002. To date, we have received \$1,375,000 for all expenses. There are 24 Towns and Cities currently involved in EMS Beta Testing. The testing has been going on for 4 months and will continue through June 2006.

Wayne Maheu asked how this reporting would interface with forms used by other fire departments (NFERS). John Gustafson said a new system would have to be built to interface with NEMSIS.

Leonard Guercia demonstrated how call information can be pre-loaded.

**Public Comment**

Ernie Herrick asked if testing would be done to see if this new system works. Leonard said testing will be done, and changes will be made for any problems that are found.

John Gustafson said there is not 100% compliance from the PSAPs for EMS tagging. George Pohorilak, Director, Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET), said this new system will cause tremendous pressure for PSAPs to comply.

Leonard said the call data will be stored electronically.

Convincing commercial ambulance systems to comply will be on the agenda for the April E911 Commission meeting.

Also on that agenda will be a discussion whether or not the E911 Commission will endorse the Department of Public Health activities that relate to the compliance to the EMS data.

**Adjournment**

After asking the Commission if there were any more comments or questions, Ernie Herrick said the Commission stands adjourned.

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Lee Vincent, Acting

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Date