



State of Maryland

**Maryland
Institute for
Emergency Medical
Services Systems**

653 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21201-1536

*Larry Hogan
Governor*

*Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.
Chairman
Emergency Medical
Services Board*

*410-706-5074
FAX 410-706-4768*

**Mobile Integrated Health Workgroup
Phase #2**

November 3, 2016

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions**
Dr. Tim Chizmar – Ms. Karen Doyle
- II. Telemedicine and ETHAN in the Houston Fire Department –**
Michael G. Gonzalez, MD, FACEP, FAAEM
- III. MIH Local EMS Projects**
Chief Alan Butsch / Chief Brian Frankel
- IV. MIH Survey**
Dr. Rick Alcorta / Mr. Andrew Naumann
- V. Charge and Scope of MIH Phase #2**
- VI. Discussion and Next Steps**



State of Maryland

**Maryland
Institute for
Emergency Medical
Services Systems**

653 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21201-1536

*Larry Hogan
Governor*

*Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.
Chairman
Emergency Medical
Services Board*

410-706-5074
FAX 410-706-4768

**Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Workgroup
Phase II
November 3, 2016**

Meeting Summary

Attendees

Ms. Doyle; Dr. Chizmar; Ms. Dousa; Mr. Dousa; Chief Frankel; Mr. Burton; Mr. Barto; Chief Butsch; Lt. Baltrosky; Dr. Hinchey; Ms. Turner (phone); Ms. Gainer; Dr. Alcorta; Ms. Myers; J. Lee Jenkins; Ms. Scharf; Mr. Naumann (phone); Ms. Witten (phone); Ms. Scharf; Dr. Gonzalez (phone and gotomeeting); Ms. Goff.

Welcome: Dr. Chizmar and Ms. Doyle welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Houston Fire Department Project ETHAN: Michael G. Gonzalez, FACEP, FAAEM

A copy of Dr. Gonzalez's presentation was distributed to the attendees.

Dr. Alcorta introduced Dr. Gonzalez who serves as an Associate Medical Director for the City of Houston Fire Department/EMS Division, the Director of the ETHAN (Emergency Tele-Health and Navigation) Project and is academic faculty with Baylor College of Medicine, Emergency Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Gonzalez is a native Texan and graduate of Rice University, and the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, with multiple tours of duty in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn, Gonzalez has served as Chief of Emergency Services, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, as well as Deputy Director & Lead Physician for Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) operations, U.S. Armed Forces Europe and Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. He lectures nationally and internationally with research interests in pre-hospital airway management, telemedicine, critical care transport and trauma.

Dr. Gonzalez said that in EMS "Failure is not an option." EMS is known for its safety and efficiency.

Dr. Gonzalez gave an overview of the background, data, operations and procedures for the ETHAN Project (3) which was established in 2014. He said ETHAN was developed due to increasing numbers of "walking well" and repeat customers being transported to overcrowded emergency departments by EMS. Approximately 25-45% of 911 callers do not need EMS. ETHAN is a partnership among EMS field units, physicians, the health department and primary care facilities. ETHAN identifies low acuity patients and matches patients to appropriate resources. The field units have inclusion and exclusion criteria for determining the destination and means of transport for each patient by utilizing field devices for transferring the EMR using ImageTrend and contacting the ETHAN physician while staying close to the patient. The ETHAN physician assesses the patient using the field device and determines whether to transport to the emergency department, make a clinic appointment or have the health department follow-up.

Dr. Gonzalez reviewed patient statistics indicating a significant decrease in EMS transports, therefore, decreasing the cost per patient encounter. He said Houston Fire Department currently has a contract with a taxi company for transporting low acuity patients to clinics and primary care facilities.

Hours and types of training, compensation, liability and the reduction of repeat customers were discussed.

Dr. Chizmar and Ms. Doyle thanked Dr. Gonzalez for his most informative presentation.

Maryland MIH Initiatives

Prince George's County FD: Assistant Chief Brian Frankel

Chief Frankel said that the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department has implemented a MIH program in collaboration with our Health Departments "Community Care Coordination Team," Doctor's Community Hospital, and Dimensions Health. This program will use a Nurse Practitioner and/or a Community Nurse from the Health Department to conduct home visits for those patients that are identified as part of the program. Identification will focus on frequent utilizers of the 911 system, patients currently being discharged from hospitals and patients identified by EMS providers. The focus of this program is on coordination of care and taking a patient centric approach for persons who have additional healthcare needs.

Montgomery County FRS Non-Emergency Intervention & Community Care Coordination (MC NIC³): Chief Alan Butsch and Lt. Jamie Baltrotsky

Chief Butsch and Lt. Baltrotsky gave an overview of the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service's three-phase initiative for reducing emergency medical services call volume by connecting patients with the proper resources and by assuring patients receive the correct care by the right provider at the appropriate time.

A copy of the Montgomery County FRS' presentation was sent via email to the MIH Workgroup.

MIH Survey

The MIH Survey conducted by MIEMSS was tabled until the December 1, 2016, Workgroup meeting.

Review of Charge to MIH Workgroup

Action items for the Charge to the MIH Workgroup will be discussed at the December 1, 2016, meeting.