

**Theron Becker** 19:29

Notes from past couple weeks worth of meetings:

- MO Bureau of EMS has a lot going on. They are down several staff, including the director. They are behind on relicensures, including ours that should have been renewed already, but they've extended deadlines because they can't get to all the work right now. Also, there is a lot of legislature work going on with TCD, that might actually end up completely changing the face of that state agency with even a new name (Office of Emergency Care).
- We've been working very hard to recover from our setbacks with AHA programs. But, in the end, there will be some benefits. Yes, it is a pain to do Heartcode online, but that lets us focus more on prehospital resuscitation improvements at the Life Support Competency you attend during your birth month. Our relationship with MU is at an end for simulators, but, we built a new one with SBU school of nursing. SBU has a really nice stimulation lab in Bolivar that we will have access to for Competencies and Paramedic Academy finals. This is a fantastic facility and our relationship is going to strengthen both agencies involved. We've also teamed up with an online AHA training center for our instructors to deliver their courses through which is also going to be better than our previous arrangement with MU.
- The iPad trial for those devices in ambulances is going well and we will soon be moving forward with ordering an iPad for every ambulance. Talk to [@Ryan McDonald](#) or [@Comorgan Jones](#) to get a preview of the iPad trial. If there is an app you think would be good to have, please let me know.
- The hospital risk manager reviewed our Just Culture process and loves it so much, she wants to deploy it throughout CMH. We are super proud of the process that places an emphasis on how to improve the system to prevent adverse events instead of blaming a person.
- A lot of progress is being made to add a wheelchair van to the prehospital fleet to be managed by us. This will reduce the demand on ambulances for return home kinds of transfers.
- Have you gotten your COVID vaccination? Have you had to pick up extra shifts recently? We've had several recent direct impacts to our schedule and ability to provide emergency services because our staff has not done the right thing and gotten vaccinated. We are healthcare professionals and should lead by example for a healthy community. It sounds controversial, but this statement has a foundation in research-based scientific evidence: A healthy community includes as many vaccinated individuals as possible against preventable diseases. Our goal should be 75% of the staff to be vaccinated. Right now, we are at 30%. Do your part and get vaccinated.
- CMH is moving forward with cardiology expansions. The department already moved into miss areas of the hospital and hired an additional cardiologist. The additional cath lab is also finalizing plans.
- Some exciting financial impacts we are expecting soon in our department include the following purchases we hope to see in the next month or so: ESO Alerting, full TangoTango, an additional PowerCot, stair chair, and LP15.
- Continue to be diligent in wearing masks if you are within six feet of another person or if a patient is present. Don't like wearing a mask?... See the bullet above about getting everyone in our department vaccinated.
- Another reminder is to plan ahead when approaching scenes and when parking your ambulance. Do the best you can to avoid having to back up. And, when you do back up, have a spotter. We've also had lots of bad luck driving forward in tight spaces. Try to avoid those or have spotters there also.

**Theron Becker** 20:13

On a purely positive note, let's take a second to recognize our accomplishments over the past year. Almost exactly a year ago, I started doing these regular status updates because so much was changing and happening so fast.

- While the world was going to hell in a hand basket, CMH PHS, I must say, kicked ass.
- We had a significant change in leadership with new c-suite at the hospital, new chiefs and crew leaders in our department.
- We had a new medical director with the associated changes to policies and protocols.
- While every other healthcare agency was scrambling for PPE, we were able to outfit all our staff with the highest respiratory protection short of an SCBA.
- With the Scott masks, we were able to continue to provide life saving aerosolizing and airway interventions many other services stopped, and are still not providing.
- We all sacrificed and took a reduction in hours so we could keep our entire staff employed as the hospital entered a financial crisis. While other departments were shutting down and people were being laid off, we didn't lose a single employee and maintained ambulance coverage.
- Our education department took just a couple weeks break. A new paramedic lead instructor came fully up to speed and is now doing a much better job than the previous one did.
- We adapted to new protocols, new ventilators, UV lights, etc.
- Other healthcare professionals are getting hazard pay, all kinds of bonuses, and raises, but we continue to be dedicated to our communities and our coworkers.
- We struggled through all kinds of equipment and supplies shortages and somehow figured out how to continue to serve our communities and provide exceptional, compassionate care.
- Your entire leadership team from the CEO down to your partner is extremely proud of all the work you continue to do. Thank you for being the department I continue to be proud to be a part of.

I'm sure I'm forgetting some accomplishments. Please feel free to contribute from your prospective.

