**Access to Care Committee/ Community Paramedic
July 13th, 2016 Meeting Minutes
Doubletree by Hilton, Orlando**

Designated Membership Present:
Mike Patterson, Cory S. Richter, Mary Anne Kolar, Don Hughes, John Simpson, Mike Hall, Melissa McNally, Tracey D. Vause, Jane Bedford
On the conference line:   Gail A. Stewart, John R. Zaragoza

The 45 attendees represented ground and air emergency medical services (EMS), fire/recue departments, hospitals, county governments, physicians, EMS education program directors (both private and public), the Florida Department of Health (DOH) and county governments.

Rickey Stone was present as the EMS Section liaison.

Jane Bedford, Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. All guests were introduced.

Cory Richter presented the 2016-2021 EMS State Plan and explained the mission and vision for the plan.

Kim Streit, Vice President for Healthcare Research and Information at the Florida Hospital Association (FHA) led a discussion about what EMS is seeing as factors in patients getting re-admitted. The group community paramedic programs gave significant insight into the value of these programs in reducing readmissions.

In her role at FHA, Kim is to work on quality improvement issues and is now working on partnerships with patients and to reduce admission by 20 percent. Florida is second to last for all states in reducing re-admissions. She is working with QIN for re-admissions, particularly Medicare. She plans to collaborate with other parties and was present at the Access to Care meeting to hear from EMS.

Issues discussed:

* Patients after discharge from hospitals cannot get follow-up appointments with primary care physicians.
* Patients do not have home health care nor do they have durable medical equipment
* Patients want immediate gratification and cure

Discussion was held on the identified need to work on partnerships and funding sources to pay for our community paramedic (CPM) services to fix this problem and work with other partners.

Additional issues that were discussed were:

1.  Big issue with end of life care for patients, probably an education issue and they need hospice sooner
2.  Medication issues
3.  Discharged too early

Hospitals need to buy into the value of CPM. Hospital associations can help educate hospitals on this topic. Care navigator isn't a reimbursable category. Everyone has a role, plans included to all come together with solutions. We need to figure out how to get Mobile Integrated Healthcare Providers (MIHP) covered.

Dr. McPherson then discussed accountable care organizations (ACO) and the need to develop a plan for MIHP to cover lives when care is capitated.

James Crutchfield reported that Manatee County starting a CPM program, funded by their Board of County Commissioners.  He is at the hospital three days a week meeting with all departments to market and they are already funding a position for him. They also formed a steering group for ideas on funding and networking.

Mike Patterson shared that the DOH has a handout on mosquitos and infections as door hangers that is used as a public service.

Gail Stewart discussed the use of health care coalition locally owned resources.

Melissa McNally with Evolution/Envision health care stated how their program works to reduce re-admission. They are funded by the insurance company and are now embracing other insurance companies for controlled studies.  Opened with 16 sites with APC's and MIHP.  They can triage and provide services up to minor care or call 911.

James Dinsch then reported on possible federal funding available to pay 90 percent of cost to link data between EMS and MC/MD Medical Services. It is a grant from Medicaid and we partner with it. The state or designee pays the remaining 10 percent.  It is beneficial to all payers.  For more information go to: <https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/smd_presentation_for_learning_event_3-8-16.pdf>.

The group decided to develop best practices, seek out subject matter experts and do conference calls between meetings to share information.

Jane reported that Nature Coast EMS will be developing an online CP Education and it will be offered online.

Physicians raised question about malpractice to oversee MIHP and who would cover that.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Bedford, BA., RN, CCP
Education Director
Nature Coast Emergency Medical Service