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**WATCH 7 COMMITTEE MINUTES- 7.28.2020**

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1. Josh Moore convened meeting at 1:00 p.m. CST , Tuesday, July 28, 2020; total of 20 participants.
2. Chris Reeves was replaced by Josh Moore as facilitator of today's Zoom meeting; due to medical situation which prohibited Chris's ability to facilitate.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were emailed to all members of the committee prior to today's meeting. Motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting was made by Chris Reeves and a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cyndi Melenski. Motion carried.
4. Call for recognition of any first time attendees was issued; none noted.
5. Update of the 2019-2020 fiscal year was as follows:
  - a. Coalition received \$250,000.00 for the year.
  - b. All but \$82.00 of that money was spent on various projects.
  - c. One of the projects for 2019-2020 was increasing the generator support capacity for the WATCH 7 area. This included the purchase of two 80 kilowatt portable generators. These generators have been ordered but not received as of this time.
  - d. Another project was the implementation of the Chester County Emergency Medical Responder Program. Through this project we were able to purchase 20 jump bags with equipment that enable the Chester County team to join other teams in disaster responses in their area and our WATCH 7 area.
  - e. PPE was ordered in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. As of this date much of the ordered PPE is still on back order.
  - f. Prior to COVID, a few training and conferences were presented in the area.
6. Update of the 2020-2021 fiscal year plans include:
  - a. Chris Reeves with assistance from other coalition members have begun a coalition project to review and update EMS equipment at hospitals, long term care facilities and other emergency acute care facilities to determine that each has UpToDate emergency equipment, such as satellite phones, walkie talkies, etc. Equipment that can be accessed and is usable in the event of an emergency. What they discovered is that many/most LTC facilities have no such equipment, or at best outdated equipment. The Satellite Phone Project, Phase I, will hopefully enable acute care facilities to get newer updated equipment. The equipment from those facilities receiving newer replacement items, will then be repurposed throughout the coalition partners.
  - b. \$260,000.00 in COVID designated monies will be coming in and is earmarked for use in increasing and replenishing the PPE cache, providing additional storage capacities, increasing the number of portable negative pressure units that can be deployed to sites as needed.
7. Best Practices: Chris Reeves was asked about recommendations for cleaning products.
  - a. He noted that JD Distributors has a disinfectant chemical specifically rated for COVID. The product is **TB Quat Disinfectant**. It has a contact time of 3 minutes and can be purchased in 32 oz. premixed/ ready to use spray bottles.
  - b. He also recommended the purple top; Sani Wipes. These wipes have been used by EMS workers for years and is readily available.

- c. Josh and Chris reminded participants to be mindful of the required contact kill times for whatever disinfectant you use. In order for them to be effective you must follow manufacturers recommendations.
8. Discussion of PPE supplies, Conservation of PPE, Staffing Challenges, etc:
  - a. Josh noted that he has seen reports where it appears that nursing homes across the state have received large, direct shipments from FEMA. No one participating in today's conference had received any large shipments. Only two participants said they had received anything direct; in both cases it was mostly gloves, gowns, or masks and even those were in very small quantities.
  - b. Conservation of PPE supplies was discussed: follow CDC recommendations, use of paper bags for disinfection and use caution- never compromise on safety.
  - c. Reminder: reach out to Josh or Wayne if you need PPE supplies.
  - d. Discussed what members were seeing in terms of symptomatic or asymptomatic residents or staff. Most agreed it was 50/50.
  - e. Josh reminded participants that there is an uptick in the number of hospitalizations and in the number of acutely affected individuals. Many have reported loss of taste and smell as a symptom of COVID.
9. Announcements:
  - a. The CMS 17 partner group is focusing on ideas for regional responses to disasters. They encourage anyone with project ideas to reach out to them. Below is a link to the CMS website to help you better understand what CMS 17 is if you are not familiar.
  - b. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertEmergPrep/Emergency-Prep-Rule>
  - c. Josh again reminded participants to reach out to himself or Wayne if PPE or supplies are needed. Some supplies are available now.
  - d. Sara Funderburk has taken a new position and will be leaving her position with home health & dialysis caucus. She thanks everyone for their support and friendship and looks forward to this new position.
  - e. Facility Visitation: Currently Lake County is the only county in our area listed as eligible for open visitation. Reminder that EPIC curves are updated daily at 3:30 p.m. and the State website is updated daily at 2:00 p.m. Health Care Cluster reporting is updated weekly. There has been some lag time between testing and reporting; so use extreme caution in opening up services, relaxing guidelines, protocols, etc. Chris recommended "Err on the Side of Caution".
- 10. Next WATCH 7 meeting: Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.**
11. Motion to adjourn was made by Allen Maness, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lori Chambers. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned.