

Peninsulas Critical Incident Stress Management Team Minutes

December 6, 2004

Members Present:

Ralph Worley	Herbert Hammock	Ellen Vest
John Gleason	Phyllis Hammock	Greg Fleming
Barbara Vest	Alan McDowell	Jeff Hammack
Hershel Kreis	Don Swope	Ralph Carrington
Jim Murphy	Denise Hammond	

The PEMS Council provided a Christmas dinner prior to the start of the meeting. Food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Ralph Worley opened the meeting at 7:10 pm. He read a letter of resignation from Jane Senyk. The letter was accepted with regret. Her years of hard work for the team are appreciated.

Introductions were made.

Copies of minutes from the last meeting were distributed. Ellen reminded everyone that the minutes are available on the web. There were no corrections from those present.

Old Business:

- ID badges were distributed to those who had them taken at the last meeting. Anyone who was not at the last meeting had their pictures taken.
- Ellen stated she has given out several applications, but has not gotten any of them back yet. She also stated that team applications are also available on the web – please given them to anyone interested.
- Plans for a possible retreat were discussed. Ellen, Hershel, and Jeff are to check on sites and report information to Ellen by Friday. We're looking at a one-day, Saturday, date with a possible brunch around 11 a.m. and a dinner around 5 p.m. Possible dates discussed were March 19 or April 2. Ellen will e-mail info if anything is finalized.
- Ellen reported that the team grant request for Welcome Baskets is still under review.

New Business:

- Ellen stated that Hampton FD has started their own CISM Team. They have 16 team members. Discussion followed concerning the implication this has for our team. It was noted that the new chief for Hampton FD came from Chesapeake where they had their own team. Concern was expressed that the team leader and members have no requirements for field experience. Our concerns will be noted and we will remain open to advise them should issues arise.
- There will be a Basic CISM training at PEMS on January 28-30.

- Ralph stated he would like to get a peer and mental health person to Baltimore annually.
- Denise shared a book she got while at the EMS Symposium entitled Stress Management for the Emergency Care Provider by Alan A. Jikolaj. She asked that we consider purchasing a copy for team members as an update to their basic training. Ralph suggested it might be used for training at the one-day retreat.
- Barbara stated she shared our debriefing hand-out with her cousin in Wisconsin and they're adapting theirs to include some of the things that were on ours and not on theirs. She suggested we consider adding things from theirs that are not on ours to our hand-out.
- Ralph started a discussion with the statement that there is now evidence that people in New York City are experiencing more stress. Ellen stated that issues from the '92 Oklahoma City bombing are still arising. We were reminded that the EMS workers who went first to Iraq are now starting to come back. Also, the Post-Critical Incident seminars being held in DC for workers of 9-11 and their families are being attended. It was noted that state mental health hospitals are finding the need for help to Mental Health workers being abused by patients.

State Committee Report:

Ellen reported:

- There will be a strategic planning committee to plan training for CISM workers.
- They are investigating having someone as support to Carole.

John attended a VAVRS Committee for Legislation and viewed the proposed legislation. He also spoke with lobbyists. This will mandate OEMS to do CISM, thereby opening funding for the program. Ralph is asking Phil Hamilton to consider sponsoring the bill.

Team Activity Reports:

- There have been 2 debriefings since our last meeting.

Other Business:

- Ralph Carrington addressed how negative publicity affects the stress of EMS workers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.