

By: Melissa Kinnaird, Interim Director

Thoughts for the Month of June

We have finally made it to the official start of summer! That means bee stings, sunburns and water-related accidents. I'd like to wish you a safe summer, Happy Father's Day and Happy WV Day. The sunshine and warm weather will be gone before we know it, so have fun and enjoy it!

I apologize that this may be a bit long, but there is a lot of information to share out with you.

There have been lots of questions related to the recertification process. We have posted a clarification to the website and sent out notification via CIS. If your recertification expires during 2014, you can count the MCI and HazMat hour for CE. If your recertification begins during 2014 or after, those hours will not count toward CE. They are just required courses like COS. I hope that helps to clarify things.

I have also received a number of questions related to the amount of time to issue administrative orders. If there is an issue that arises during the application of recertification process, we want to be sure that a thorough and timely investigation is completed. This is not a short process. We want to be sure that EMS personnel are qualified and appropriate to work with elders, children and anyone in vulnerable situations. There have been a number of decisions processed in recent weeks.

Another issue that I have been questioned about is online training courses. There are currently 80 EMS online courses listed in CIS and 78 paramedic online courses listed in CIS. There are approximately 260 online courses related to EMS in the WV TRAIN system. We will be working with EMSAC and the Continuing Education Committee to further develop this mode of training/education. This is a cost efficient, easy means of providing and participating in training. Our goal is to increase our ability to utilize this method of training.

Dr. Mills and several workgroups have been working very hard on reviewing/revising the protocols. The protocols are scheduled to be finalized in July with training to be provided on those revisions throughout the remainder of the calendar year. Be on the look-out for those training opportunities!

There is a new MedCom online database that will be going live in the near future. From June 30-July 6, MedComs will be utilizing both the old and new systems to help work out the bugs. If all goes well during the trial period, that new system will go live midnight on July 7. During the trial period and ongoing, you may be asked about a MedCom number. You do not need to do anything with this number at this time. A formalized communication and instructions will be forthcoming related to your utilization of this MedCom number as the new online database system is operationalized. Your cooperation and assistance during this process is greatly appreciated.

Just to remind everyone that the online complaint form is located on the wvoems.org website. You can find the form by going to :

- EMS Programs
 - Investigations
 - [Files Complaint](#)

Although my position is still considered "Interim", we are moving forward with plans to improve communications inside and outside of OEMS. I welcome your feedback to this column, CIS emails, postings on the website or on other issues that are important to you. I want to hear from you. In the next week or so, we will be sending out some customer satisfaction surveys, as well. Initially, we will be establishing a baseline and then on a quarterly basis, surveys will be sent out to measure our progress. I hope you all will participate and provide your honest feedback in these surveys. It will take all of us working together to make the system work.