



Service Spotlight - Bethany Volunteer FD—Ambulance Corps

The Bethany Volunteer Ambulance Corps was established in the mid-1960’s by the Bethany Fireman’s Association to improve the care of towns people in times of need. Prior to the establishment of the Ambulance Corps, the Connecticut State Police mechanics from Troop I operated an ambulance which served the Town of Bethany and surrounding area.

The need to organize the Ambulance Corps occurred after a twin-engine airplane crashed North-West of Bethany Airport. Members of the Bethany Fireman’s Association were able to rescue the pilot from the burning airplane just before it “blew up.” Unfortunately, transport of the pilot was delayed because there was no ambulance in town at the time, and the pilot succumbed to his injuries several days later. Because of this tragic outcome, the Bethany Fireman’s Association members were determined to “never let friends wait and suffer in pain like that again.” As a result, the Bethany Fireman’s Association took over the operation of the Cadillac Ambulance operated by the Connecticut State Police.

The new Bethany Volunteer Ambulance Corps started operations from Center Station Fire Station located on Route 63. In the 1970’s the BVAC purchased a second Dodge Van ambulance which operated out of the Hinman Fire Station on Bear Hill Road which allowed for better response times to the Seymour/Beacon Falls area of town. They were integrated into the regional EMS system, and were very proud when they received their own distinctive CMED call sign, Lima.



In the early 2000’s the Bethany Fireman’s Association and Ambulance Corps had outgrown the Center Station. The Town of Bethany approved funding for a new fire station, Fire Headquarters to be located at 765 Amity Road. Since its opening in February of 2007, this modern fire station has been the home for the Bethany Fireman’s Association and Ambulance Corps. To date, the same sense of pride and dedication to service can be seen among its members that continue to volunteer here.



Statistics

Year Established: 1965

Chief: Richard Cogill

Number of Ambulances: 2

First Response Vehicles: 1

Number of Members: 34

Estimated Annual Call Volume: 500

Lester Schindel to lead Waterbury Hospital

Lester P. Schindel has been named President and CEO of Waterbury HEALTH network. Lester has served as interim CEO of the network for the past 12 months leading the organization through the COVID-19 pandemic, a particularly challenging year for the organization and healthcare in general. Since the start of the pandemic, Waterbury Hospital has cared for 862 COVID-19 positive patients, tested over 6,000 people in its outpatient testing site. Since the COVID-19 vaccine became available the network has administered more than 20,000 shots of vaccine in collaboration with community partners including Post University, Waterbury Hispanic Coalition, Heritage Village and the Borough of Naugatuck.



While meeting the challenges of the pandemic, Lester has led the organization through continued growth. During the past year, the network transitioned Chase Outpatient Center to StayWell Health Care, Inc. and acquiring an interest in Waterbury Surgery Center adding services to the community while maintaining quality care by Waterbury HEALTH providers. In addition, the network has added new physicians expanding its primary care patient base and adding new services such as the hyper specialized hepatobiliary surgery and urology services.

Lester serves the greater Waterbury community as a member of the Waterbury Regional Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Greater Waterbury.

Lester is an accomplished hospital leader with extensive experience in developing physician practices, innovative collaborations and strong relationships with allied health providers. Lester has previously served as president and CEO of several healthcare organization including Charter-CARE Health Partners, a Prospect affiliate comprised of Roger Williams Medical Center and Our Lady of Fatima Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island; Steward Holy Family and Merrimack Valley Hospital, a 402-bed, two-campus hospital system in Haverhill, Massachusetts and New England Sinai Hospital and Rehabilitation Center in Stoughton, Massachusetts, the largest long-term acute care hospital in the country. A graduate of Rutgers University, Lester earned a master's degree in health care administration from George Washington University.

“Lester is an unwavering supporter of pre-hospital care providers and first responders”, said Waterbury Fire Department Administrator Adam Rinko. “Especially during the pandemic. Lester and his team have been tremendous”.

Virtual Trauma Conference

This years **Connecticut Trauma Conference** will be held virtually on Friday, March 23.

Learning objectives this year are:

- To discuss the unique aspects in the care of elderly trauma patients.
- To address challenges in the pre-hospital care of trauma patients.
- To discuss the challenges nurses and other non-physician providers face in the care of trauma patients.

There is no cost to attend the conference (unless you are a physician).

EMS Professionals: The Connecticut Department of Public Health has approved this activity for **6.5 hours** of continuing medical education. Attendees should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participations in the activity.

To register, please contact Jennifer Tabak, RN
jtabak@connecticutchildrens.org – (860) 545-9810

ZOOM Case Review/CME

'Assessment During Respiratory Treatments'

ECHN Patient Case Review February 24 | 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Zoom Meeting | Use the link and/or phone number below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82190240484>

Meeting ID: 821 9024 0484 +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

In this session, Dr. Sexton will be presenting along with a special guest.

ESO Coming to Waterbury ED

Waterbury Hospital ED will soon be equipped with ESO Health Data Exchange technology to aide EMS responders with information sharing.

Technology interfaces are being developed now and ESO should be live at Waterbury in late spring.

