

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

January 20, 2022

1:00 PM / Auditorium

Meeting Minutes (APPROVED)

Quorum: 10 members present of the 9 required (currently 16 positions filled & 6 vacant slots).

Members present:

Jeremy LaPlante (Chair), Sue Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, John Freese, Theresa Jarvis, Kristen Johnson, Ryan Hornblower, Eric Martin, David Tauber, Eric Wilking (10).

Members absent:

Chad Miller (Vice), Michael Kelley, Neil Meehan, Joshua Morrison, Matthew Petrin (5)

NH FST&EMS Staff present:

Director Justin Cutting, Chief Justin Romanello, Medical Director Joey Scollan, Capt. Vicki Blanchard, Capt. Kathy Doolan, Joseph Cartier, Joanne Lahaie, Hayley O'Brien, Walt Trachim, Crystal Tuttle, Maria Varanka (11).

Guests:

Jeff Stewart

Board Vacancies:

3 Public Members, TMRC, Organ/Tissue Donor rep. & Fire Chiefs Assoc. rep. (5)

I. CALL TO ORDER (1:05 PM) – J. LaPlante, Chair

Item 1. Welcome & Introductions of Board Members, Staff and Guests

New members were asked to give a short introduction.

Item 2. Membership

Vacancies discussed: 3 Public Members, Organ/Tissue Donor Org & Fire Chief Assoc. Rep's.

Expirations that need attention:

- ☐ Mike Newhall – Expired 3/7/21
- ☐ Josh Morrison – Expired 5/2/21
- ☐ Chad Miller – Expired 2/21/21

Upcoming Expirations: None

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. Nov. 18, 2021

Motion made to accept minutes as written: T. Jarvis & seconded by R. Hornblower

All approved / no opposition.

III. DIVISION / BEMS REPORT

Item 1. Division and BEMS – J. Cutting & J. Romanello

Director Cutting:

- Mentioned the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) programs that have started and how the student registrations are fully funded via a grant.
- Presented information on the upcoming Recruitment & Retention (R&R) position (FT) that has been posted (internally thus far) and what the goals of this position will be: data collection, research on statewide and national R&R issues and then to create plans that Fire and EMS Services can be “pulled off the shelf” and used to assist within their own community.
- The Commissioner of Safety is interested in creating a R&R Committee of many stakeholders in order to create Best Practices. The exact structure of this group is still to be determined.
- Legislative update:
 - #337 – Emergency Medical & Trauma Services data sharing – sponsored by Sen. Prentiss and supported by this Division - passed yesterday
 - #339 – Boards & Commissions to be able to meet remotely – sponsored by Sen. Prentiss and supported by this Division – is moving forward.
- Discussion underway concerning Mental Health and Resiliency in the Fire & EMS communities and the question of “*what should we be doing?*” – Plans underway for a day-long seminar, with sponsors, including providers & clinicians, and answering the question of how to help firefighters and providers in crisis? There will be more to come on this.

Bureau Chief Romanello:

- Expanded upon the EMR program discussion - over 500 students are expected to be served by these programs over the next 4 year grant period with 4 programs per year statewide.
- COVID protocols – clarification has been made to require eye protection for EMS Providers when treating a COVID positive, suspected or proven, patient; and, the “public health incident” designated by DHHS has been updated and is still in place until March 31st of this year. This allows for 1 licensed EMS provider in a transporting ambulance (with the patient) if staffing situations are difficult.
- Grant funding for the 3 positions (1 FT & 2 PT) that will be working within the Clinical Systems section to support MIH & IFT and Specialty Services, have been posted internally and are awaiting applications. If need be, the positions will be posted external after Jan. 24th.
- Protocol Rollout public hearing will happen Feb 16th – to date there have been no written comments received.
- Education Training Agency (ETA) rules draft is over with DOS Legal Counsel for finalization, then will come back to the Board before public hearings are scheduled.
- A part time Compliance Investigator has been hired, coming to us from State Police, starting officially in March and will be very helpful to this section.
- Meetings with the Board of Nursing concerning EMT to LNA, AEMT to LPN, and Paramedic to RN career ladder possibilities, have been very productive. More to come. Director Cutting gave follow-up that this progression of career ladder possibilities stating that it will likely keep people in healthcare field longer. A question was raised by K. Johnson concerning high school aged students being introduced to EMS vs. the licensing age of 18. Chief Romanello mentioned that the rules are being reviewed especially now that National Registry has removed the 18 y.o. age requirement from certifications. Future recruitment discussion.

IV. COMMITTEE/BOARD/WORK GROUP REPORTS

Item 1: Medical Control Board (MCB) – Dr. Freese reported that they did not meet today as a quorum was not available for in-person meeting. Chief Romanello took a moment to explain the

steps in the process from Protocol Committee to MCB to CB then public hearing, and then back to MCB if changes needed to happen due to public input. Tracking of the process will be done by Division. Further discussion on one month delay between Boards and what is best for all. Chair J. LaPlante outlined two-parts: Protocol Committee equals the technical part, and CB equals the system impact issues. It was noted that if the ability to discuss and vote remotely passes, this process will be much more timely and efficient. Capt. Blanchard mentioned that the Cardiac and Trauma sections of protocol are complete at this time and she can send these out now to the CB from review. Next meeting the Board will review, discuss and vote.

Item 2: Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) – no meeting held / no report – tabled

Item 3: Work group reports

- a. EMS physician level license – no meeting held / no report
- b. IC Renewal & EMS Education – repeated: drafted rules are currently with DOS Legal Counsel.
- c. Recruitment and Retention – Chief Romanello stated that the survey that DHHS/Rural Health had been working on prior to Covid is still on hold. Our contact at DHHS has moved to a new position and the survey has not yet been re-assigned. Bureau will keep tabs on its status.
- c. EMS rules – nothing further to report at this time

J. Erickson asked for clarification of ETA rules status. Chief Romanello stated that they are with DOS Legal Counsel, and the CB will have a chance to review them. He also noted that L. Burrill is working on the finalized administrative package so that it is ready when rules are approved.

J. Stewart asked if the ETA rules will have any impact on upcoming EMS Instructor/Coordinator renewal licenses. Chief Romanello stated that they would not. “Normal” renewal requirements and process will be in place for the upcoming renewal cycle.

Item 4. Stroke care – S. Barnard reported that there is the virtual symposium on 12/3 in collaboration with St. Anselm College was a huge success. The incoming FAST-ED data (approx.. 300/month) has been documented but has not translated into more stroke activations being called. Education will be created for providers.

V. Old Business - none

VI. New Business / Good of the order:

Chair LaPlante brought up the question of what should be the next set of priorities for the Board. He gave the example of the ETA workgroup, and the focus of the group to meet goals in a timely fashion. The Chair asked for input and categories of topics. Discussion ensued as to what the next focus/priorities should be.

It was noted that each Board member was sent a copy of the 2017 DOS & 2018 NHTSA reports for review.

The following topics were initially identified to start the discussion:

- Recruitment & Retention
- Data Exchange (external)
- Internal Data (Registries)

Note: Chair LaPlante expects that each member of the Board will be assigned to one topic of interest to work on.

Also mentioned as potential topics:

- Recognition of EMS as an “Essential” Service in NH
- Education

It was mentioned by many that “data” is the key to any funding and evidence based decisions.

At conclusion of discussion, Chair LaPlante stated that he will ask for a meeting with Director Cutting, Chief Romanello and State Med. Director Dr. Scollan to finalize the list of priority categories. Further discussion will take place at next meeting.

NOTE: Next meeting March 17, 2022 – 1:00 PM

Motion made to adjourn made by J. Erickson, seconded by S. Barnard – all approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:35 PM

Minutes Drafted by KHD