

**N.H. EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES  
COORDINATING BOARD**

**Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING**

**March 15, 2007**

**Members Present:** Steve Achilles (Chair), Eileen Bartlett, Dave Dubey, David Duquette, David Hogan, Janet Houston, Don Johnson, Terry LeBlanc, Doug Martin (Vice Chair), Rick Mason, George Patterson, Michael Pepin, Suzanne Prentiss

**Members Absent:** Al Burbank, Ken Howe, Karen Lord, Joseph Mastromarino, Jackie Normile, John Sutton

**Guests:** George Delaney, Jonathan Dubey, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Chris Rousseau, William Thorpe

**Bureau Staff:** Vicki Blanchard, Clay Odell, Eric Perry

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Item 1.** The meeting of the EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairman Steve Achilles, on March 15, 2007 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy in Concord, NH.

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – S. Achilles asked for comments on minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made and all approved.

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Item 1. NHEMS Medical Control Board Report: J. Mastromarino** was not present to give the report from the morning meeting. V. Blanchard gave an overview of the discussions and decisions that were made. Please see the Medical Control Board Minutes of March 15, 2007 for complete details.

**Item 2. NHBEMS Report: R. Mason, Director** - gave an update on legislation. Senate Bill 169, the Death Benefit Bill, added “EMT” in the title and added a definition for the same. Discussion is underway for where funding would come from to pay for non-state Retirement System members, possibly through private insurance.

Senate Bill 202 – Has to do with Lifetime Licensure for EMS Personnel.

House Bill 802 – Pertains to the topic of Passenger Restraints. NH is missing out on Federal funding by not having this law in place. Some of this funding would go to EMS.

S. Achilles added comments on the Death Benefit Bill and stated that many allies have come together to discuss the issues at hand and this a time when EMS needs a common voice, a organized approach needs to happen. R. Mason stated that the Fire Service had a similar situation in it’s history and in the early 90’s they came together in New England and it culminated in funding and recognition that was long overdue. G. Patterson stated his agreement with the theory of all EMS coming together as one voice and leaving disagreements behind closed doors. D. Johnson asked the role of the Board in a situation like this and S. Achilles stated that the Board was advisory to FST & EMS and a clearinghouse of information back to appropriate constituent groups that are represented; the Board does not state position on support. D. Hogan stated the reality that EMS is very new to the legislative process and “we are learning as we go”, he also mentioned the involvement of the NH Ambulance Association and the EMT and paramedic Associations. D. Dubey mentioned the Ambulance Associations historic involvement with legislation having to do with Medicaid reimbursement, and added that this is an opportunity to work closely together to advance the profession. It was mentioned that the Bills can be found on the States website.

**S. Prentiss**, Bureau Chief - gave a summary update on all Bureau projects currently underway and referred members and guests to the written report available in the folders and on the table.

Special attention was brought to the following:

Appointments to the Board are due and some are passed due. Contact needs to be made back to the organizations represented for letters to be written in support of a nomination to the Governor – please start the process if you are “due” for re-nomination as the process takes time.

Director Mason discussed The Center for Public Safety Excellence and the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC) on which he sits. A designation of Chief Fire Officer within the Fire Service has been created and they are in the process of creating a similar designation for EMS Chief Officers/Supervisors.

Computer Based Testing was discussed. A few of the sites have fallen through and two new sites are needed, if anyone has ideas on new locations, please let the Bureau Chief know. It would need to be a site with high security and there are specific equipment requirements.

**(Please refer to the written report for all Bureau updates)**

**Item 3. National Registry Recertification policy update – The Group** discussed the National Registry (NR) recertification policy proposal. It was agreed that the only way that we have currently to verify competencies is via the practical exam. The Registry has asked NH what it wants to do, and we do have some say about this issue. Discussion ensued concerning continuing education requirements and skill retention because of call volume or the lack thereof. D. Dubey mentioned that the Ambulance Association discussed this issue and voted to support the RTP and CEU requirement but not the Practical exam. After much discussion a motion was made by D. Martin to accept the NR proposal for an alternate refresher process and still require CEU's and NR certification. This was seconded and a vote recorded an 8:2 approval. An amendment was made to make the NR option an alternative refresher process in NH. This amendment was voted upon and a 6:4 vote was recorded and showed approval. Further discussion ensued concerning the CEU process and it was reiterated that we do not have to do what NR proposes. It was agreed that this topic would be continued at the next meeting.

**Item 4. Paramedic Pediatric Issue – J. Houston** passed around a handout and presented a Powerpoint presentation on the survey results. Member expressed agreement that this information needed to get out to EMS Instructors and to Providers. E. Perry and J. Houston will get the summarized information into the Division newsletter for distribution.

**Item 5. Accidental Exposure/Blood Draws/Status Report – S. Prentiss** brought the Board up to date on the legislation pending regarding this topic. She mentioned that it is specific to HIV, not all communicable diseases. It has passed through the House of Representatives and has gone to the Senate.

**Item 6. Death Benefit Bill Update (See Item 2)**

**Item 7. Institute of Medicine Report (IOM) – S. Prentiss** reported that the subcommittee will be assisting C. Odell in prioritizing the IOM report concerns. It will take one or two meetings and a report will be given at the May meeting.

**Item 8. Trauma Review Committee Update – C. Odell** reported that the Committee has been updated on the current status on the lack of Federal funding for Trauma Systems. During the next month a vote will be held on newly introduced legislation for funding. Support from organizations for future funding need to be sent to Legislators. It was mentioned that the American College of Surgeons website has links to the facts of this issue.

**Item 9. Statewide Emergency Communications** – C Rousseau gave an update on this project and how the radios have been purchased, distributed and how training has been offered and well attended (250 – 350 students per month). Continuing Education on the radios/communications is being developed. The Police Academy has been asked to do the same so that all Emergency Services can be equally trained. D. Martin asked if there is a way to give training to the hospitals and Rousseau stated that there is a 2 hour program available, requests for training can be made by calling C. Rousseau at the Academy. It was mentioned that satellite phones are planned for the future to cover situations where repeaters are down.

**Item 10. Water Rescue/Oversight** – D. Johnson asked if the Division had a responsibility to oversee rescue teams and their training. S. Prentiss stated that we have oversight of the medical/patient care portion of these rescue teams, but was unsure if any agency actually had oversight responsibilities of the training and technical skills by law. S. Achilles stated that there are components covered by entities other than State government and that concern has been raised by the Attorney Generals office thinking that DOS should oversee these skills. There may be more to come on this issue in the future.

**Item 11. Items of Interest** –

J. Erickson mentioned that hospital diversions have become an issue in Region 4 (Central NH) – one hospital has been going on diversion more often and the information about the diversion is getting to the field Providers in a very spotty fashion. The hospitals/Regions need to work on more effective diversion policies. The questions of ‘how best to address communications issue’, ‘how to support Services if they need to divert to hospitals outside of their area’ and ‘Specialization-where for example, a hospital has a Cath. Lab and the hospital is on diversion, but is the Lab on diversion also?’ will be brought up at next meeting. Erickson suggested a possible work summit on this topic. S. Achilles recognized the Regional Councils will want to give input to this topic. S. Prentiss stated that the Division could host the meeting and would need to include the Hospital Association who has been engaged in a similar discussion for the past year or so. This will be researched and brought up on the May agenda.

E. Perry sent around a handout on the NH First Responder plan that will be brought up at the next meeting

D. Martin asked that a TEMSIS report be a regular item on the agenda.

W. Thorpe mentioned that NEMSI is moving and will have an open house sometime in April.

S. Achilles asked that the Boards Reference books be updated. It was also brought up that a list of the Board members should be listed on the Divisions web site along with a photo link to each member and their represented organization.

Possibly a wall of members photos could be hung in the Academy, like that of the Fire Commission in the main hallway.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by G. Patterson and seconded by D. Martin to adjourn. Unanimous agreement and meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

**V. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **May 17, 2007 at 1:00 PM** at the NH Fire Academy in Concord, NH.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne M. Prentiss, Bureau Chief, EMS  
(Prepared by V. Blanchard, ALS Coordinator & K. Doolan, Field Services Coordinator)