

**N.H. EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES  
COORDINATING BOARD  
Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy – Concord, NH**

**Approved Minutes of Meeting**

**November 20, 2008**

- Members Present:** Steve Achilles (Chair), Doug Martin (Vice-Chair), Jonathan Dubey, Matthew Goudreau, Janet Houston, Don Johnson, Terry LeBlanc, Michael Pepin, George Patterson, Suzanne Prentiss, David Strang
- Members Absent:** Al Burbank, Michael Cloutier, Joseph Mastromarino, David Tauber, Dennis Tobin
- Guests:** Kevin Drew, Pam Drewniak, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Rob Goold, Mark Lang, Shawn Riley,
- Bureau Staff:** Vicki Blanchard, Kathy Doolan, Clay Odell, Eric Perry, Mike Schnyder,

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Meeting called to order at 1:05 PM by Chair S. Achilles

**II. ACCEPTANCE OF 09/18/08 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION: Motion made, seconded, and accepted to accept September 18, 2008 minutes of the NH Emergency Medical & Trauma Coordinating Board as presented.**

The Bureau Chief asked for a time at the start of the meeting for a moment of silence to recognize the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of two EMS Providers and a patient who lost their lives in an air medical crash, of which one was Paramedic D. McIntyre, previously a Provider in New Hampshire.

- III. NH MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD REPORT – J. Mastromarino** was not present to give the morning meetings report. D. Martin and V. Blanchard gave a summary of the mornings discussion. The Board voted to forbid medication assisted intubations in New Hampshire. There was discussion on narcotic accountability at the Unit and Provider level. New Protocols were approved and will be sent on for expected publishing in March 2009. It was decided that nitroglycerine, glucagon and nitrous oxide approval at the EMT-Intermediate level will be withheld until the National Education Standards are released.

**(Specifics are reported in the Medical Control Board minutes)**

**IV. NH BUREAU OF EMS REPORT – S. Prentiss**

The Bureau Chief stated that the full report is contained within the Board Members folders and a summary was given by S. Prentiss.

Budget issues were discussed – 97% budget across the board. There are no layoffs or office closings in the plan. In order to help save funds, lunches will be served for Board members only in the future – no additional.

A Letter will be written to the Respiratory Care Practitioners about the EMS use of CPAP, and a meeting will be held between parties involved

DHHS & EMS are working together and are developing a coalition to create a proposal for local EMS to be involved with limited home healthcare.

The Trauma Conference was held, well attended and a success.

The National Education Standards should be in-hand spring '09, AHA standards are proposed to change and should be published late '10, causing the publishers to hold back on printing new reference books until both are on line. These two sets of standards will be implemented in New Hampshire at the same time in 2010 so as not to confuse issues. As it stands now many states will do the same.

The ALS Section is on track for protocol updates & printing in 2009 (March).

The Research & Quality Management Section has secured \$131,000 in funding from USDOT-NHTSA/NH Governor's Highway Safety for TEMSIS changes. Congratulations to M. Schnyder for this accomplishment.

#### **TEMSIS Report – M. Schnyder**

M. Schnyder reported that there are more reports than ever in the system and that the time to complete a patient care report has not changed. There are still some agencies that are not reporting into TEMSIS and they have been sent a letter reminding them of the compliance rules.

The secured funding from Highway Safety (reported earlier) will be put towards improvements to TEMSIS and the Reports feature. M. Schnyder also reported that NHOODLE is coming along and should be up and running in the near future.

S. Prentiss took a moment to recognize that M. Schnyder has been requested by NHTSA, out of many, to sit on a subcommittee of the National EMS Advisory Committee, specific to data collection, strategies and analysis – this is a great honor for New Hampshire.

V.

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING - S. Achilles**

S. Achilles handed out a document listing the bullets identified during the Boards Retreat, based on system elements and areas of interest categories by the Bureau Sections. Each section will work on 4-5 goals, not all issues identified can be completed this round. All Board members to review and prioritize the list, and email Bureau Chief by Dec. 12, 2008 with comments. S. Achilles wants to make sure that members are engaged during the process.

D. Martin mentioned that issues caused by the economic down turn, regarding the delivery of care should be added onto the list to keep an eye on. The group agreed that this would also fit into the initiative for local EMS to assist in home healthcare.

It was mentioned that if any goals will require legislative changes – actions should come soon. The Bureau Chief mentioned that if the statute needs to be opened for change a Coalition needs to be organized to work on the issues – the group would be the key to success. The goal is to have this long term plan in place by July of 2009.

**Brought forward from last meeting:**

**VI. Critical Care Paramedics**

C. Odell gave background to the issue and suggested protocol changes for the 2011 version. The sub-committee has met three times thus far and has had consensus on the major issues. The group has been looking at procedures in other states for guidance. Updated standards are being created for a two tiered system of care. No equipment changes are expected for the lower level of the two tiered system. There may be possible credentialing for levels, with audits by the Bureau. It is not expected that the higher tier will be level that many. Questions and comments should be directed to C. Odell. S. Achilles thanked the Committee for all their work.

**VII. Scope of Practice – name changes**

V. Blanchard reported the future names changes to the four levels of Providers. First Responders will become “Emergency Responders”, EMT-Basics will become “EMT”, EMT – Intermediates will become “Advanced EMT” and EMT-Paramedics will be “Paramedic”. Rules and Protocols will need to reflect these changes. In 2011 both sets of names will exist until complete transition occurs.

**VIII. Best Practices Sub-Committee**

J. Houston reported that the group has met several times, the vest issue has been addressed, Firefighter rehabilitation and EMS assisted home healthcare issues are under discussion. All are welcomed to be involved – contact J. Houston.

**Emerging projects for discussion:**

**IX. EMS Recognition/Commendation**

S. Achilles gave the history of the EMS Awards and the Committee of Merit presentation of commendation medals to the honorees and created a handout for the Board to review. He then asked for input to the colors and creating commendation bars for five of the six annual EMS awards. The suggested items will be brought by S. Achilles to the Fire & EMS Committee of Merit in January for adoption.

**X. Items of Interest**

A. The Region 4 EMS Council presented a letter to the Board stating that they will not be pursuing being the entity for coordination of the practical exam process in their area. General discussion took place:

- Other Regional Councils have or are considering the same decision.
- The Bureaus Education Section is looking into alternatives.
- This will be reviewed during the process of future planning.
- More to come at January meeting.

B. CPR card requirements – S. Achilles brought to the table a discussion on the need for CPR card copies during NH Provider licensure.

- In general this seems redundant to the National Registry (NR) requirements.
- NR wording will be researched by the Education Staff to make sure this certification must be maintained.
- Accountability for CPR skill maintenance by Unit and Provider - will require a culture change.
- Concern about AHA wording “recommended renewal date” was brought up.

**MOTION: Motion made, seconded, and accepted to support the concept to change administrative rule to remove the redundancy of the CPR card requirement for NH Provider licensure.** (NOTE: This must be done using rules change process – Units/Providers will be notified once complete and implemented)

C. S. Prentiss asked for a representative from the Coordinating Board (CB) to sit on the committee discussing “treat and release” along with a Medical Control Board representative. D. Martin agreed to represent the CB on this committee.

**IX. NEXT MEETING REMINDER**

- January 15, 2009 at 1:00PM at the NHFA in Concord
- Schedule of 2009 Meeting dates was distributed.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 2:50 PM. Motion passed.**

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Respectfully Submitted,

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