

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

**July 16, 2009**

**Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy  
Concord, NH**

**Approved Minutes**

**Members Present:** Steve Achilles (Chair), Don Johnson, Terry LeBlanc, Joseph Mastromarino, Rae Mello-Andrews, Michael Pepin, Suzanne Prentiss, David Strang, George Sykes, David Tauber, Dennis Tobin

**Members Absent:** Al Burbank, Michael Cloutier, Jonathan Dubey, Matthew Goudreau, Janet Houston, Doug Martin (Vice Chair), George Patterson, Mark Tetreault,

**Guests:** Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Mark Lang, Shawn Riley, Michael Shastany, Chris Stawasz

**Bureau Staff:** Vicki Blanchard, Chip Cooper, Kathy Doolan, Clay Odell, Eric Perry

**Welcome/Introductions** - (5) – S. Achilles, Chair

All welcomed by Chairman Achilles at 1:00 and introductions made.

**Acceptance of 5/21/09 Meeting Minutes** - (5) – S. Achilles

D. Johnson **made a motion** to approve the minutes as written. All present **accepted the minutes** as written.

**N.H. EMS Medical Control Board Report** - (10) - J. Mastromarino

Dr. Mastromarino gave a summary of the morning meeting. He reported that the Wilderness EMS issue was tabled from the agenda until F. Hubbell was in attendance. S. Prentiss will give update to the Coordinating Board if it comes to a point that rules need to be changed to cover Wilderness EMS issues and a subcommittee needs to be formed with MCB members.

Dr. Mastromarino stated that the bound protocols were handed out. Attenuated Pedi defibrillator pads, Broselow Pedi tape dosing issues, STEMI system issues, therapeutic hypothermia, Firefighter Rehab and the Medical Directors Training Program were discussed.

**(A full set of the Medical Control Board Minutes can be viewed on-line once approved by the Board, and Meeting Bullets are available on-line at the Division web site)**

## **N.H. Bureau of EMS (NHBEMS) Report - (10) - S. Prentiss**

Summary of the written report (in packets) was given by the Bureau Chief.

A note of Thanks was given to S. Riley from Laconia FD who had offered a meeting site for this meeting which is typically one of the two meeting held away from the Fire & EMS Academy. The Division could not coordinate the catering issues necessary and plans had to be changed back to the Academy for July. Septembers meeting will be on the road and the site is still in the works.

### **General Info:**

The Provider numbers are up from last report (See Bureau report).

Chip Cooper was introduced as the new Research & Quality Improvement Coordinator and will be handling TEMSIS and Image Trend issues along with many other projects. G&C approved the Highway Safety funds which will be used for changes to TEMSIS.

K. Louis will be moving from the Epping EMS Field Office to Concord so as to better serve her coverage area within EMS Education. The Licensing Coordinator Position is scheduled to be brought before G&C in August with hopeful posting of the position in September. Christy Dewey is working to cover this position on a part-time basis and the other Field Services Staff Members are covering the days she is not in.

Steve Allen is now a part-time member of the EMS Staff and is working on the DuoDote project funded by Homeland Security funds, along with H1N1 preparedness. Mark 1 kit training is being updated and will be made available to Units. Mitch Harrington is working with the All Health Hazard and EMS Regions coordination and with the Public Health Networks.

The Education Transition programs (CPAP, DuoNeb) for EMT-I's have been rolled out to 83% of all licensed EMS Instructors and the majority of those left over will not be using this material as they do not teach EMT-Intermediate Programs. BLS Practical exams along the state borders are being updated to potentially include skills from the bordering state so that the Provider who works in both states only has to take one practical exam – this will naturally depend on the approval of the EMS Office in the bordering state. The Vermont EMS Office is willing and will be the first to be enhanced.

ALS Section: The Protocol Sub-Committee has a break before they start into next round of protocol changes. The Medical Directors Training Program is coming together. The Immunization Training Program will be posted as a Podcast and available for the flu season.

Trauma System Update will be presented by C. Odell a bit later in the agenda – the Trauma Conference is scheduled for November 18, 2009.

The North Country Obstetrics Safety issues are being handled with EMS though work with DHMC and the EMS Instructors to enhance EMS training on potential issues that could arise in their areas. Huggins hospital will also be closing their obstetrics unit by this fall. This training will also be available to EMS in this area of the state.

Budget issues for the Division – House Bill 2 which relates to funding records checks and increasing the fees from \$8 to \$12 will assist with budget downfalls.

At the end of the Bureau Chiefs report Chairman Achilles asked if the collaboration with states and the BLS exam was also going to take place with Maine EMS? Chief Prentiss suggested that the Bureau will be working with Maine on this issue also.

**TEMSIS Report** – C. Cooper was welcomed by Chief Prentiss and the floor was turned over to him for a report. Chip stated that his goal is to connect with the Providers and impress on the system why TEMSIS is important and that improved documentation is critical. Over 400 thousand reports are in the system and only 9 percent is not reporting. Template updates, protocol inclusion, data transfer and the reformatting of printed reports and changing of defaults, are on the agenda. He will be working to schedule “our” changes to TEMSIS to Image Trends updates so that multiple changes won’t be continuous. B. Weilbrenner is holding many Administrator classes and is working on NHOODLE. Also, the Medical Directors Training Program, once complete, will be put on-line for easy access by the doctors.

**Image Trend Compliance** (moved up on agenda) – C. Cooper reported that B. Weilbrenner has been building a database to track problems with TEMSIS as reported by Providers and Bureau users – with this a FAQ link can be created. The larger user group will give leverage to prompt Image Trend to fix issues. S. Achilles asked if stakeholders were being asked for input and C. Cooper stated that many have already given input and that more would be sought, especially through the Administrator classes. J. Erickson asked that someone from Research come to the EMS Hospital Coordinators Meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM to get input and give an update.

**Strategic Planning** – S. Prentiss stated that the plan was to have a Committee report ready for the Board by July but it will need to be pushed off until September. She also reported that 3 out of 6 Goals are complete, that the next Committee meeting is on August 18<sup>th</sup> and that the report will be ready for September. S. Achilles commented that this was a very timely opportunity for this Board.

**Trauma System** – C. Odell reported that the Trauma Conference will be November 18<sup>th</sup> in Meredith. The Trauma Medical Review Committee is working on the pediatric components and that there will most likely be four levels of standards that will mirror the adult standards. Each Hospital will need to declare their level and it will not need to match the adult level. The Committee hopes to complete the plan in August. There are many concerns and issues to be tackled. A question was raised about the current “Trauma Center” hospitals that are in some communities and the response was that truly these hospitals are doing a disservice to the public if they truly cannot meet the standards. S. Achilles mentioned that it is most critical for EMS to know the capabilities of the hospitals so as to bring the patient to the most appropriate location for the injury/illness. C. Cooper mentioned that the most important work of the Committee is to make the System work and that the facilities themselves were not the true issue.

**Best Practices** – J. Erickson stood in for Sub-committee Chair J. Houston and reported on the status of the current issues before the subcommittee. S. Achilles gave some

history to the Best Practices project and reminded people that they are guidelines and not protocols and not mandated. J. Erickson referred to the packet of handouts which showed the separate SOG suggestions. Family Centered Care, Elder Care, Firefighter Rehab and revisions to the Providers Safety on Highways section were presented.

The only issues raised were specific concerns about the Firefighter Rehab suggestion to use blood pressure as a vital sign to be checked – much discussion ensued. The Chairman reminded the group that this document is a guideline only – to give direction to those who have no SOG's in place. The Bureau Chief reminded this Board that the Medical Control Board backed the document changes referring to Firefighter Rehab during the morning meeting.

Chairman Achilles asked for an endorsement of the document updates – D. Johnson moved to endorse the document. D. Strang asked that the wording be changed to “support” instead of endorse, D. Tauber asked that the wording “support concept” be used. G. Sykes seconded that motion. More discussion ensued. Concern was raised that by supporting this document the Board is asking Providers to perform outside of their Protocols. The Bureau Chief suggested that maybe we again needed a legal opinion on “patient” and “protocol”. T. LaBlanc stated that this document is a good decision making tool not a liability and this was supported by G. Sykes who felt that it gave good logical reasons to make decisions. Many other Board and audience members gave opinions to this issue. At the end of this discussion it was agreed by the Board that they supported the concept of Best Practices but that they want a legal opinion on the liability, patient and protocol issues raised – then it should be brought back before the Board for a vote.

### **Brought forward from last meeting:**

**Update on Exam-in-Lieu** – E. Perry reported that 32 Providers used this option during the 2009 refresher season. One individual failed the computer based test (CBT) on March 15<sup>th</sup> and had to scramble in order to be eligible for re-licensure. Nationally, 81% pass the CBT – it is a very viable option. The Chairman asked that he Board revisit the question of supporting this Exam-In-Lieu option. E. Perry clarified that now, with last years Board vote, the candidate only needs to take and pass the CBT in order to reregister, no continuing education or practical examination is required. No comments were made and the decision was made to keep the Exam-In-Lieu option as is. E. Perry made it clear that First Responder level Providers will have this same option.

**Image Trend Compliance** (moved up on agenda – see above)

**Update on Administrative Rules Process** – K. Doolan reported that a meeting has been set up for July 21<sup>st</sup> to review all changes requested and get the process back rolling. No news on when public hearing might take place.

**Special Note:** V. Blanchard made mention that a letter was received from DHHS stating that “medical signature forms” were no longer necessary

## **Emerging projects for discussion:**

**EMS Provider/Sports Coverage** – S. Prentiss turned this discussion over to S. Riley who stated that this issue comes up a lot in his area (Laconia) and was prompted by the spring Bureau Report that reminded people that they should not be providing patient care outside of their affiliation with a licensed Unit. S. Riley stated that most sports teams cannot afford the career level coverage that this rule mandates and that liability is an issue. The Bureau Chief reminded the group that EMT's cannot practice independently. D. Tauber mentioned that his was much like the Rehab issue discussed earlier – we want to do the right thing....but need to do it right – this issue takes in more than just “kids and mass gatherings”. Much discussion ensued. The question was asked if the Leagues policies could change the requirements from needing an EMT to start a game, to ‘first aider’ ..... and possibly state general first aid requirement not “licensed”.....the group felt that they needed more information and that it should be revisited in September.

**Coordinating Board Monitoring of EMS Regions & Districts** – S. Prentiss reminded the Board that within the rules there is a section stating that the Coordinating Board is to receive regular reports from the EMS Regions and thought that the Board should reach out and ask these Councils to attend the meetings. S. Achilles thought that possible the Bureau could be the agent to reach out and request reports to Board.

**Items of Interest** (as needed) - All present

S. Achilles reported that March of 2010 would be the expiration of his term on the Board and that a new Chairman will be required. He feels that it is best to give up the Chairman's position as of September because of a very busy fall/winter schedule looming. With this, a request for a nominating committee was made for this Chairman's position. G. Sykes and D. Tobin will act as that committee and will be in touch with the membership for nominations – voting will take place at the September meeting.

S. Prentiss mentioned a meeting that would take place concerning the STEMI System of Care – September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting Reminder (5) - September 17, 2009 – Location TBA – 1:00 PM**

**Adjournment** – D. Johnson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by R. Mello-Andrews  
- All Approved – 3:35 PM