

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

March 17, 2011

Fire & EMS Academy, Concord, NH

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Michael Cloutier, Eric Jaeger, Don Johnson, Terry LeBlanc, Rae Mello-Andrews, Stacy Meier, Richard O'Brien, Clay Odell, Ron O'Keefe, Michael Pepin, Greg Placy, Peter Row, Eric Schelberg, David Strang (Chair), Jim Suozzi, Mark Tetreault, Dennis Tobin

Members Absent: Doreen Gilligan, Jason Grey, Matthew Goudreau,
Excused: George Sykes

Special Guests: Acting Director Jeffrey Phillips; Perry Plummer, Director Nominee

Guests: Don Andrus, Chris Beres, Pamela Drewniak, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Mark Hastings, Janet Houston, Scott Lancaster, Steve L'Heureux, Kevin MacCaffrie, Aleda Nichols, Shawn Riley, Steve Robbins, Ted White.

Bureau Staff: Vicki Blanchard, Chip Cooper, Kathy Doolan, Janet Houston, Eric Perry

Welcome/Introductions - D. Strang, Chair.

Welcome and introductions were completed. Special welcome made to Director Nominee Perry Plummer. All members of the audience introduced themselves also.

Dr. Strang asked that the Board put aside the standard agenda for a few minutes in order to hear from the FST&EMS Nominee for Director, Perry Plummer. Chief Plummer gave history on his background and work experiences, and answered a variety of questions from the Board. [Note: A vote on the nominee will be taken at the end of the discussion.]

P. Plummer: Chief Plummer has been in the Fire/EMS System for over 25 years. Has been an EMT-Intermediate in the past, acted as the EMS Coordinator for Dover Fire and moved up through the ranks, is currently the Chief in this Department. Dover has been very progressive with EMS – has 3 ALS ambulances and Providers at the EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic Levels. He was an EMS Instructor for many years. Chief Plummer stated that the NH EMS System is at the top of its game and he is looking to bring it to the next level. He has no reason to leave Dover FD but wants to be the Director of FST&EMS to assist in improvements. If support is given to his nomination, he assured the membership that they would not regret the decision.

Various questions from the membership were brought to the table – the following is a summary of the discussion;

Chief Plummer plans to focus on education and awareness and the EMS “customer” (patients using the system) and what is best for the patient. He feels rules should be followed and improved upon if they are not working. Rules assist in protecting the public, but they cannot be so strict that the system does not work and we lose Providers. Communication is very important at all levels. A need for education for the EMS Educators exists; this will help improve the education offered to Providers. He felt that until he gets into the position it is difficult to be specific on changes that need to occur. Three most important focuses will be on what the Providers and Unit Leaders think about the current system; quality education and balance between regulation and education; Refresher requirements and Providers keeping current on medical knowledge. Chief Plummer stated that he has had experience with the Legislature – building relationships, Bill presentation and passage. He did not feel that his lack of credential at the Paramedic level would be a problem for the EMS System because the Bureau Chief is very capable and will be able to keep the Director informed. He did state that his involvement with oversight of the Paramedic level Providers in Dover has given him a great knowledge base concerning paramedicine in NH.

Chief Plummer stated that everyone is welcomed to call any member of the Department for reference if interested. He is looking forward to the challenge of being the Director of the Division and joining the team at the Academy. If support is given to the nominee, P. Plummer stated that there will never be regrets and that EMS will never be considered the step-child of Fire Service if he gets the job as Director.

Various Board Members asked questions of P. Plummer concerning experience in EMS, future possibilities for EMS, perceived changes needed and additionally voiced opinions on expectations of a new Director. Many of the members that have dealt with the Director nominee within his role as Dover Fire Chief expressed overwhelming approval of his abilities.

After the discussion was complete, the nominee left the room for the vote on his nomination. The correct nomination process was confirmed within RSA.

M. Pepin made a motion that the Board send a letter of support to the Commissioner of the Department of Safety, and endorse P. Plummer's nomination as Director of FST&EMS.

Motion was seconded by R. Mello-Andrews and approved by all members present.

Acceptance of 01/20/10 Meeting Minutes - D. Strang

A motion was made by D. Johnson and seconded by R. Mello-Andrews to approve the minutes with one correction in attendance (i.e. M. Cloutier excused). All approved.

N.H. EMS Medical Control Board (MCB) Report – J. Suozzi

Dr. J. Suozzi gave a summary of the morning meeting. It was reported that the MCB discussed the following: RSI reports from 2010, RSI Assistance Training was shortened in length, IFT/PIFT changes, Intermediate training/transition to be built instead of waiting for the National Ed. Standards, Medical Director List Serve to be created, Hospital Survey to be completed soon and will include questions on Stroke, STEMI and Therapeutic Hypothermia. Data standardization in TEMSIS also discussed.

[MCB Minutes are posted on website once approved]

N.H. Bureau of EMS (NHBEMS) Report – C. Odell

Bureau Chief Odell referenced the Bureau of EMS Bulletin handout in the member folders. C. Odell then reported on the Ad Hoc Committee process – 180 days to work/180 days to report – they actually completed the process in 90 days total. The report went to the Commissioner and is now being presented to the Coordinating Board. Budget concerns were addressed by Acting Chief Phillips. Refresher season is coming to an end and the last RTP practical exam for the season will be hosted by the Bureau on March 29.

C. Odell addressed questions concerning changes to the education/exam process in order to stop abuse of the system in the future. He asked that the Board Members take time to read the Ad Hoc Committee report and give feedback to him.

[Please see written Bureau report in folder for additional information]

Old Business:

Recertification allegations update/Ad Hoc Committee – Chief D. Andrus of Concord FD and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee handed out the written report completed by the Committee. He then gave the history of the Committee, background on the process used and the content of the report.

Found four major areas of concern: Excessively cumbersome RTP process; Inadequate resources to audit; Adjudicative process; Lack of Legal Support.

Six recommendations made: No practical for RTP students – skills verification back to Instructors; Increase quality of education, distance learning and conference based programs- transition into RTP process; Enhance audit abilities; Adjudicative Appeals Board changes (such as that of other allied health/5 person Board); Legal Council presence; Instructor/Coordinator Quality – core values and code of conduct (expectations laid out).

Committee to reconvene in 2 years in order to review how the process is going.

Various questions were raised from the Board members. Chief Andrus and C. Odell addressed the concerns. The Committee was thanked for its time, work and energy.

D. Strang asked that in the interest of time, the Board Members read the report by next meeting and come back with further questions and a vote of support will be taken at the

at the May meeting. It was confirmed that Committee representation will be present at the May meeting.

C. Odell asked that the Board Members take into consideration that the fourth recommendation will take a length of time to implement.

Best Practices Update- M. Pepin

M. Pepin reported that the sub-committee has met twice, that the location of the current Best Practices document has been changed on the Bureau's web site, and that 2-3 topics will be brought before the Coordinating Board in May for approval. New Members were welcomed to the sub-committee and a regular meeting time was set to coincide with the Protocol sub-committee meeting day. Next meeting: April 8th at 1 PM.

J. Suozzi has been working on the Lights & Sirens (L&S) Best Practice SOG and is wondering if it will end up as a guideline or protocol. Discussion on non-mandatory template vs. protocol ensued. Mention was made that even a "Best Practice" holds weight in a law suit. Copies of the L&S draft were handed out to Board members for review – temporarily tabled.

EMS Survey Update – C. Cooper

C. Cooper reported that progress is being made on the survey and will be completed by the Company working on this by the end of next week or so. Four Units will pilot the survey and then the final version will be out by the end of April.

Benchmark / System Monitoring Committee Update – R Mello-Andrews

R. Mello-Andrews stated that there was nothing to report at this time. C. Cooper stated that information has been collected from 3 or 4 other states and has been compiled and will be sent to R. Mello-Andrews.

New Business:

PIFT (Paramedic Inter-facility Transport) – D. Strang began an extensive discussion on the current PIFT train-the-trainer program and expectations. Because there were questions left at the end of the discussion, many members of the Board agreed to work with the PIFT Committee and V. Blanchard will let them know when the next meeting will be held. Further discussion was had regarding the creation of a "opt out" process along with required documentation by the hospitals.

Items of Interest – All present

Adjournment – Motion made (R. O'Brien) and seconded (M. Cloutier) and voted unanimously.

Next Meeting
Thursday – May 19, 2011
Fire/EMS Academy - Concord, NH
1:00 PM