

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

**September 15, 2011**

**Cannon Mt. - Franconia, NH**

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Michael Cloutier, Jason Grey, Eric Jaeger, Don Johnson, Terry LeBlanc, Stacy Meier, Richard O'Brien, Clay Odell, Ron O'Keefe, Michael Pepin, Perry Plummer, Peter Row, Eric Schelberg, David Strang (Chair), Jim Suozzi, Mark Tetreault, Dennis Tobin

**Members Absent:** Doreen Gilligan, Matthew Goudreau

**Excused:** Rae Mello-Andrews, Greg Placy, George Sykes

**Guests:** Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Mark Lang, Chris Lemelin, William Mead, Steve Robbins, Jeffrey Stewart, Patrick Twomey

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

**Welcome/Introductions - D. Strang, Chair.**

Welcome and introductions by the membership were completed. Additionally all members of the audience introduced themselves.

**Acceptance of 07/21/11 Meeting Minutes - D. Strang**

A motion was made by T. LeBlanc to approve the minutes as written. All approved.

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

Dr. J. Suozzi gave a summary of the morning meeting. Discussion on RSI and the use of succinylcholine took place. Upcoming protocol changes including those for Behavioral emergencies and Pain in the pediatric patient took place.

[MCB Minutes are posted on website draft and approved]

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

D. Strang reminded all present that C. Odell has been looking for a more exciting name for the "Bureau Bulletin" but has received no suggestions yet. D. Strang offered one at this time but the name was not accepted. Chief Odell then reported on the 9/11 observance ceremony held the previous Sunday at the State House, mentioned that EMS was well represented and thanked the EMS Associations for their involvement in the planning. The newly formed EMS Honor Guard (HG) presented colors and the wreath during the ceremony and he thanked the members of the HG for getting involved. The NH EMS Honor Guard members are: Kathy Doolan, Jonathan Van Etten, Robert Cole, Scott Lancaster, Susan Michalski, and Tony Maggio. Chief Odell also thanked Stacy Meier for agreeing to speak during the ceremony on behalf of NH's EMS Community and stated that she did a great job representing EMS.

Angela Shepard, MD, will be starting as the new EMS Trauma Coordinator, on

September 23, 2011. She holds a masters degree in public health and will be a great addition to the Bureau staff. Catholic Medical Center has completed their Trauma review and is categorized as a Level III overall and Level IV in pediatrics.

The Stroke/STEMI initiative, being led by V. Blanchard, is a project to define point of entry into the system, there will be more information to follow.

EMS Annual awards will be presented on Sept. 28, 2011 at the Fire Academy, all are welcomed to attend, and the recipients will be:

Mike Kennard – EMS Achievement  
Stewart's Ambulance – EMS Unit of the Year  
Chuck Hemeon – EMS Appreciation (Connor Honor)  
Ed Gannon – EMS Educator of the Year  
Keith Nobel – EMS Provider of the Year

C. Cooper reported that there will be a WebEx held on Oct. 18 and Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, with questions and answers by Gary Wingrove. All are welcomed and there will be a phone number to call in order to link in. The Bureau Chief reported that the Research Section had presented two poster presentations at the Joint Committee for Rural Emergency Care, National Association of State EMS Officials, and National Association of State Offices of Rural Health meeting, and that both had won awards – in fact, the Bureau presentations tied for first place with one another. Nice Job!

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

## **Old Business:**

### **Best Practices Update- M. Pepin**

M. Pepin reported that the updates to the document will be finalized shortly and then added to the publicized document. The letters from Primex and LGC, regarding use of lights and sirens, will be added to the document. Each of these insurance companies have expressed enthusiasm in assisting in the education of Fire and EMS agencies that they cover, concerning this topic.

There are a few more topics on the docket for the committee; death notification; and, car seat use being two of them, all of the documents sections will be reviewed and the current document reformatted.

### **EMS Survey Update – C. Cooper**

C. Cooper reported that by the end of August 53% of the Units had started the survey and that he expected that we would have a solid 43% completion rate by the end of submissions. The survey company is currently tabulating the information and there will be a report at the November meeting (or before via List Serve).

C. Cooper also reported that B. Weilbrenner has been assigned to work primarily on NHOODLE, he is still working within the Research Section but will focus on enhancing NHOODLE now that the Division has its own server in place.

S. Meier asked if there was going to be a iPod format for TEMSIS, C. Cooper

responded that Image Trend is working on many new “tablet platform” formats for 2012. Discussion took place concerning the many ID and passwords needed in TEMSIS & NHOODLE and the possibility of consolidation, C. Cooper thought that this could happen in the future.

**Lights and Sirens Project – C. Lemelin** (corrected from agenda post)

C. Lemelin from McGregor EMS and a graduate student from UNH gave a presentation on lights and sirens (L&S) usage in NH. He received his masters in Public Health with this project as his thesis. He thanked E. Jeager and J. Suozzi for their assistance and input. The project looked at current use of L&S based on reporting data from the scene of an incident to in-state hospitals. Results showed that where populations are higher in the state, more prevalent use of L&S occurred. Discussion of the many variables took place. It was noted that 40% of non-emergent calls (Status 3) used L&S. An EMS response “safety summary form” was suggested for creation and reference within the Best Practices document. M. Pepin emphasized that an education module on L&S use will be the most effective tool to offer. Director Plummer agreed and emphasized that the Division will assist in getting the word out. D. Strang mentioned that the national information J. Suozzi had presented/emailed on L&S gave much of the same information as C. Lemelin’s findings in NH. P. Row asked if information on “pre-emption systems” could be presented at the next meeting as various parts of the state might have interest in these. The group thanked C. Lemelin for the presentation and interesting information brought forth today.

**Ad Hoc Committee - #4 “Option” Update – C. Odell**

D. Strang gave a short history of this project reminded all of the 5 recommendations that came from the Ad Hoc committee. C. Odell gave the update; Hopes to bring forth a plan today for a “jury of peers” like other allied health professions rather than using the current DMV Hearings Officers for decisions on challenged investigation conclusions. The Commissioner of Safety asked C. Odell to look into various options.

For the near future, 2-3 specific DMV Hearings Officers will be educated in EMS operations/rules/law so that they can make more informed decisions. Extended discussion took place. This topic will stay on the agenda so that updates can come before the Board as they happen.

**Coordinating Board Email/Website Update – K. Doolan** (moved - later in agenda)

**Exam-in-Lieu statistics – E. Perry/K. Doolan reporting** (moved - later in agenda)

**New Business:**

**EMT-I to AEMT Task Force – C. Odell**

C. Odell presented the plan for a Task Force to brainstorm and finalize a plan for the implementation of the Advanced EMT (AEMT) level Provider in NH. He stated that there are 1400 EMT-Intermediates currently expected to convert to the new level. He and the Director have spoken with the NH Fire Chiefs and PFFNH and both organizations are on board with the planned update and look forward to the full implementation plan. EMT-I’s will have multiple refresher cycles to complete the update (Exp 2011/2015 deadline – Exp 2012/2016 deadline). An AEMT specific refresher training program and National Registry computer based exam will need to be

successfully completed in order to update because there is a substantial difference between the current 1985 EMT-I curriculum and the new AEMT standards.

C. Odell is looking for approval from the Board to go ahead with the multi-disciplined Task Force to work on the implementation plan. The Bureau Chief emphasized that the goal of the Division is to not lose any of these 1400 "I's" from NH EMS system. Discussion took place.

R. O'Brien made a motion for the Board to support the concept of the EMT-I to AEMT Task Force. S. Meier seconded the motion and all members approved of this action.

Moved from earlier in the agenda:

#### **Coordinating Board Email/Website Update – K. Doolan**

P. Plummer stated that the idea of all Board members receiving a DOS email address was more problematic than originally thought and that the only option may be to blind link an email address supplied by each Board member to one publicized address. All Board members would then receive all incoming emails directed to the Coordinating Board. A question was brought up as to the possibility of the Division purchasing a "domain name" and then the Board could have separate email addresses...The Director stated that he would look into that possibility.

#### **Exam-in-Lieu statistics – E. Perry/K. Doolan reporting**

K. Doolan reported the number of candidates that have taken the Exam-in-Lieu (E-i-L) – a simple chart was shown. [totals: 2009=32 / 2010=129 / 2011=171] Discussion then turned to the concern over people that continually take the E-i-L. M. Pepin stated concern that skills are an important part of the verification process. D. Strang asked if there might be a 3 time maximum for taking the E-i-L process and then skills must be verified. Discussion focused on the fact that skills verification should fall to the Units administration and possibly building a random auditing program of training records. M. Pepin asked that this be discussed further at the next meeting. D. Strang asked if the National Registry could be consulted as to if this issue has come up in other states that allow E-i-L with no skills verification.

#### **Items of Interest – All present**

K. Doolan mentioned that Board member, M. Cloutier, played the trumpet during the echo *Taps* at the 9/11 ceremony and did a wonderful job.

V. Blanchard mentioned that the PIFT program was going very well and that the majority of Units have their packets submitted.

**Adjournment** – Motion made (D. Johnson), seconded (S. Meier) - vote was unanimous.

#### **Next Meeting**

**Thursday – November 17, 2011**  
**Fire/EMS Academy – Concord, NH**  
**1:00 PM (Board member lunch - 12 noon)**