

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

January 19, 2012

NH Fire/EMS Academy - Concord

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Michael Cloutier, Doreen Gilligan, Jason Grey, Don Johnson, Rae Mello-Andrews, Stacy Meier, Richard O'Brien, Ron O'Keefe, Greg Placy, Peter Row, Eric Schelberg, David Strang (Chair), Mark Tetreault, Dennis Tobin

Members Absent: Eric Jaeger, Michael Pepin

Excused: Terry LeBlanc

Guests: Christine Beres, Richard Cloutier, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Scott Schuler, David Tauber, Patrick Twomey, Grant Turpin, Ted White

Division Staff: Vicki Blanchard, Chip Cooper, Kathy Doolan, Shawn Jackson, Clay Odell, Eric Perry, Perry Plummer, Angela Shepard

Welcome/Introductions - D. Strang, Chair.

Welcome and introductions by the membership was completed. Additionally all attendees introduced themselves.

Acceptance of 11/17/11 Meeting Minutes - D. Strang

One spelling correction was made: second paragraph under "Best Practices Update".

A motion was then made by R. O'Brien and seconded by S. Meier to accept the minutes as written with the one update. All approved.

N.H. EMS Medical Control Board (MCB) Report – D Hirsch

Dr. Hirsch was not present and will not be accepting the position of representative from the Medical Control Board (MCB) to the Coordinating Board – a new rep. is being discussed by the MCB. V. Blanchard gave a brief summary of the morning meeting;

Board of Pharmacy meeting took place with Dr. D'Aprix, V. Blanchard, C. Odell on the topic of "exchange of medication" between first response EMS units and transporting EMS units. The Board was very responsive to concerns raised about ceasing this process that truly has been going on un-noticed, and working, for years. One pharmacist has been assigned to work with EMS to come to a workable solution.

V. Blanchard mentioned that Dr. D'Aprix and others had attended the EMS Physicians conference out in Arizona – a great deal of networking was done and the organization is hoping to create a national set of emergency medicine protocols and would like to use the format of the NH Patient Care Protocols which is quite an honor.

The group reviewed protocol changes; cardiac, seizures, burns and more. (See MCB minutes for specifics).

Dr. Strang asked if the Board of Pharmacy was agreeable to continuing the process? It was felt by those who attended that it was but that they would require paperwork between the services and hospitals involved.

[MCB Minutes are posted on website - draft and approved]

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

C. Odell referred to the Bureau Bulletin that was circulated to the membership and available hard-copy to the audience and summarized on-going projects and events. The pediatric simulation manikin is in process of being set-up and the hiring of instructors is underway. This has been accomplished with funds from the EMS for Children project, and gratitude for the funding was expressed.

The Gorham EMS Field Office will be moving to a consolidated location with other Department of Safety agencies which will be a savings for the Department and offer a more accessible location in Gorham.

The survey recently sent out to EMS Instructors asking for input on new ways to teach the upcoming Education Standards received a high response rate. The responses showed that the Instructors would appreciate the Division bringing in the National EMS Education organization to present new methods of instruction on the updated standards. C. Odell stated that it is a costly endeavor but the funds will be located and plans will be finalized. The Bureau will plan two dates (Fri/Sat) for the one-day session, for all instructors to attend. The survey also indicated that the majority of instructors that responded felt strongly that this presentation must be mandatory in order to remain an EMS IC.

The conversion from EMT-I to Advanced-EMT work group is ongoing. The group will be broken down into smaller sub-groups in order to tackle specific topics/sections for the overall plan.

Kevin McGinnis from the EMS office in Maine gave a lunchtime presentation on Community Paramedicine, it was well attended and offered great information to all that sat in.

D. Strang asked to speak further about the Instructor survey results. He was impressed that 85% of the responses stated that they wanted a 1-day presentation and that 71% agreed that it should be mandatory for all ICs but when it came to paying for it, most did not want to. Those that responded did say they would be willing to pay for lunch if it was made available. Half of the responses wanted the National Educators group to present rather than NH Educators and Bureau Staff members and felt that bringing in “experts” was best. C. Odell explained that because of the expense of bringing in the national group there will be two sessions in Concord rather than many sessions available throughout the state. D. Strang further noted that 62% of those who responded did not want a “hands-off” approach by the Bureau. C. Odell mentioned that out of approximately 148 instructors, 96 responded to the survey. He also mentioned that the National Educators would be contacted soon in order to schedule the presentation dates. D. Strang stated that he felt that this survey was very valuable.

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

Old Business:

Best Practices Update- M. Pepin

M. Pepin not in attendance – no update given.

EMS Survey Update – C. Cooper

C. Cooper reported on the status of the EMS Survey stating that a comprehensive report is being finalized for publication. The draft is being reviewed at this time and the final version will be sent out electronically. If printed copies are sensible these too can be produced. He had hoped to have the final version for today's meeting but it was not possible.

Benchmark Committee Update – C. Cooper

C. Cooper mentioned that the group has not made a great deal of head-way as yet. R. Mello-Andrews stated that he group has met via a phone conference, discussed procedures and cut the list of benchmarks down a bit. Eight participants were involved in this meeting. There is still room for more participants on this committee and a wider representation from across the state is encouraged. Next month they will work on reviewing all of NEMSIS Version 3 elements for future run reports. C. Cooper mentioned that it is “dry” work, but very important. R. Mello-Andrews mentioned that they have learned a lot already as individuals and the participants have passed great information on to their own services through the process. C. Cooper stated that the meetings are planned for the second Tuesday of every month at 1 PM.

PIFT “Opt-Out” Update – V. Blanchard

D. Strang asked that this be revisited to see just how many hospitals were reporting an “opt-out” for a PIFT level transfer. V. Blanchard mentioned that between September 1, 2011 and December 30, 2011 only one reported opt-out took place, and since this time there has only been one additional self-report submitted when no respiratory therapist was available for the transfer. There were 6440 PIFT level calls reported and only 2 opt-outs.

P. Row asked if there is a list of comparable courses that are acceptable for Paramedics to complete. C. Odell mentioned many of the courses and stated that there is in fact a list available for review. V. Blanchard stated that she has had providers send in various curricula for comparison to the NH PIFT, and they have matched up very well and been acceptable. V. Blanchard state that she would send along the list to P. Row for reference.

Coordinating Board Email/Website Update – K. Doolan

K. Doolan reminded the group that she is still awaiting confirmation from some members concerning the activation of the “Yahoo accounts” that will be posted on the Divisions web site. Many mentioned that they had completed it but had not sent notification to K. Doolan. The web site will be activated soon. P. Plummer mentioned that if any member needs assistance with getting up and running, we can put them in contact with knowledgeable staff that can help. P. Row offered to send along directions on how to make the email accessible from smart phones.

EMT-I to AEMT Task Force – C. Odell (see information in the Bureau report)

C. Odell mentioned that 1400 letters had gone out, to each current EMT-Intermediate, explaining the upcoming process of “conversion”. This information is also posted on the Bureau’s web page. The Bureau Chief has been trying to attend each of the five EMS Regions council meetings in order to get the word out to as many in the EMS community as possible. P. Plummer also mentioned that Chief Odell had met proactively with the Fire Chiefs and PFFNH on this topic, and that they each were on-board with the plan. A suggestion was made to organize a conference call with any Regional Council members that have not yet been reached. C. Odell thought this was a good option and will look into this format for communicating this information.

EMTs working in the non-traditional setting – C. Odell

D. Strang mentioned that C. Odell has been working to get a sub-committee together on this topic but that since the last Board meeting legislation has been introduced on this very matter.

HB 1631: C. Odell gave an overview of HB 1631 which would allow persons certified by the National Registry to work public events and gatherings (potentially without state licensure). Concerns were discussed about no medical oversight of these “persons” and the question of what protocols they would work under as the NH Patient Care Protocols are for licensed Providers only. Additionally, the discussion concerned a “certified” person not being affiliated

with a licensed unit and the liability they personally will incur. Much discussion ensued. A note was made that currently any entity can become a licensed non-transporting unit, at no cost if non-profit (Ex: Camp/sports league/school), as long as they have proper insurance and medical oversight (MRH). The membership recognized that purchasing insurance can be expensive. R. O'Brien asked if there would be any liability incurred by a municipality if one of their EMS providers were working at a function or camp, without the affiliated units approval, and something went wrong causing a lawsuit? – R. O'Keefe was unsure and stated that he would look into it.

Board members present were amazed that this could be proposed and thought that the Legislative Committee needed to be made knowledgeable of the fact that the EMS Coordinating Board is currently working on this very subject. The Board voted unanimously to have the Chair write a letter in opposition to this bill. It was suggested that Board members reach out to legislators on the committee and assist in this education; also any members are welcomed to come and testify. They need to understand that the Board is not opposed to the concept but is opposed to the bill as it is written. Hearing is scheduled for February 16, 2012 at 1:15 PM.

The sub-committee (T. D'Aprix, D. Johnson, G. Placy & D. Strang) working on this will schedule a meeting for the 30th or 31st of January depending on T. D'Aprix's availability.

D. Strang gave a description of the process that a bill takes and then agreed to draft a letter to the Legislative Committee from the Coordinating Board stating the Board's opposition to the bill as written.
~A short break was taken.~

New Business:

EMS Legislation – C. Odell

Recently C. Odell and P. Plummer went to a Hearing regarding proposed legislation looking to combine all three EMS Boards with the Emergency Management advisory board. At the hearing they were able to educate the Committee hearing the bill on each of the EMS Boards' purposes and responsibilities, and stated that combining these many groups would not be a prudent use of the resources. The Chair of the Medical Control Board (D'Aprix), the Trauma Review Committee (Sutton) and the Coordinating Board (Strang) have written letters in opposition of this legislation.

HB 1441: D. Strang explained one more piece of legislation being proposed – HB 1441 - proposing to repeal TEMSIS. Great discussion ensued noting the fact that if this were to pass no incident reports would be necessary, no reporting of patient information to the hospitals would be required (unless written into the MRH agreements) and surveillance of pandemics would be impossible. C. Odell also mentioned that all recordkeeping and reporting would no longer be necessary by any Units to the Division if this passed as written. This would include changes to unit names, addresses, leadership, providers etc.

R. Mello-Andrews stated that the Emergency Nurses Association would be testifying against this bill. C. Odell passed around copies of a letter from the Hospital Association opposing HB 1441. D. Strang mentioned that the MCB has agreed to write a letter in opposition of this bill and asked if the Coordinating Board wished to do the same. More discussion took place: It was mentioned that the NH Association of EMT's has posted information about this bill on their website and anyone can visit the site, open and print off a formatted letter in opposition to the bill, print, sign and send it to the contacts listed.

P. Row asked if the problem was the TEMSIS format itself, why couldn't other interfaces be used? C. Cooper stated that there are many other interfaces already being used and it is possible currently. P. Plummer and M. Hastings both stated that they had reached out to the

sponsor of the bill to find the motivation behind it but even after talking with him were a bit puzzled. It seemed that he just thought TEMSIS was a waste of time.

R. Mello-Andrews mentioned that many federal dollars are going toward electronic medical records and the NH EMS would be going backwards if this passed. The question about a letter of opposition from the Board was brought back to the table in a motion by J. Grey, seconded by R. Mello-Andrews. More discussion took place. D. Strang stated that if this were to pass the outcome would be worse for patient care. C. Odell mentioned that there would be no data available to help improve the system. He also stated that NH DOT has received funding based off of data collected within the TEMSIS system and this would be lost, DOT has been contacted for support. R. O'Brien suggested requesting support from DHHS Commissioner. M. Tetreault mentioned that many grants are based on statistics that come out of TEMSIS data and that these capabilities would be lost.

D. Strang asked if anyone was in favor of this bill – no hands were raised or voices heard. **The motion to have the Coordinating Board write a letter in opposition to this bill was again brought to the table and a vote was called: All were in favor by a show of hands, none opposed, no abstentions.**

HB 1179: R. Mello-Andrews brought to the table one additional piece of legislation (HB 1179) proposing extended terms of imprisonment for assault against a health care worker. This will also be heard on January 24, 2012 at 10:30 AM at the LOB. D. Gilligan mentioned that it would make it a felony to strike a health care worker, and that it would make it mandatory for law enforcement to take reports on any incidents which currently do not always get written up if they take place in a hospital and the patient has a behavioral issue. C. Odell stated that the Bureau is in support of this bill. **After separate discussion on HB 1250 (below) a motion was made by R. Mello-Andrews and seconded by S. Meier, to have the Board write a letter in support of HB 1179. All were in favor of this motion.**

HB 1250: C. Odell mentioned this bill that has since been deemed “inexpedient to legislate” by the committee hearing it. The bill proposed making it legal for anyone to assist a person with any medications. This would have opened doors to EMS personnel assisting with medications not within their protocols. It was not the initial intent of the legislation but would have made it possible.

R. O'Brien asked if any legislation has been proposed in opposition of the upcoming changes for NH EMT Intermediate and the required conversion to Advanced EMT, some rumblings had been heard that this might happen. C. Odell stated that he is not aware of anything.

Items of Interest:

K. Doolan mentioned to any of the Board members that had photos taken for the wall display, there were duplicates available and to see her after the meeting if they were interested in taking them.

K. Doolan also mentioned the change of meeting plans for “on-the-road” this year and an updated meeting list was distributed. The May meeting will be on-the-road, possibly on the seacoast, and July and August will be on the Academy campus.

Adjournment – All present agreed to adjourn – 3:30 PM

Next Meeting

**Thursday – March 15, 2011
Fire/EMS Academy – 1:00 PM (Board member lunch - 12 noon)**