

N.H. EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES  
COORDINATING BOARD

November 21, 2013  
NH Fire Academy – Concord NH

**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Susanna Ayers, Doreen Gilligan, Jason Grey, Eric Jaeger, Don Johnson, Rae Mello-Andrews, Stacy Meier (Vice Chair), Richard O'Brien, Michael Pepin, Greg Placy, Peter Row, David Strang (Chair), Mark Tetreault, Dennis Tobin, Frank Hubbell, Michael Cloutier.

**Members Absent:** Rosemary Durning

**Excused:** Grant Turpin, Eric Schelberg, Helene Zielinski, Ron O'Keefe.

**Guests:** Fred Heinrich, Mark Hastings, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Jason Preston, Jeffrey Stewart, Aaron McIntire, Steve Robbins, Bruce Goldthwaite, Chris Stawasz, Scott Schuler, Ken Berkenbush.

**Division Staff:** Vicki Blanchard, Chip Cooper, Shawn Jackson, Richard Cloutier, Janet Houston.

**Welcome/Introductions – D. Strang, Chairman**

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. by Chairman Strang. Introductions were made.

**Acceptance of 09/19/13 Meeting Minutes – D. Strang** – P. Row made a motion to accept the minutes as written, R. O'Brien seconded and all present voted to approve the minutes.

J. Erickson asked if it is possible for the non-Board Members to receive the agenda and draft minutes of the previous meeting via e-mail before the meeting. Dr. Strang said he did not see a problem with that. He asked that interested, non-Board Members put their e-mail address on the sign-in roster and he will ask Kathy Doolan to send these documents to those people.

## **NH EMS Medical Control Board (MCB) Report – F. Hubbell**

F. Hubbell updated everyone on the protocols and the last Trauma Review Committee and Subcommittee meeting. There was discussion concerning the obstetrics protocol. There are 6 hospitals in NH which are not prepared for obstetrical emergencies. They are looking into creating a document for official diversion to a neighboring hospital that can handle such an emergency. He said there was a lot of discussion on the pain and spine protocols. The spine protocol has been completed/approved and consequently, pre-hospital personnel are encouraged not to put everyone on a back board. Sue Prentiss contributed the critical care update.

## **NH Bureau of EMS Report - N. Mercuri**

The floor was turned over to Chief Mercuri for the Bureau/Division updates. A bill has been introduced in the NH House of Representatives to grandfather I-85s. The Bureau does not support this bill at this time and feels that the course we are presently on is the best course, as it keeps us on a track consistent with what is happening all around the country. Also, this bill does not cover every I-85, only a portion of them. The way the bill is written also raises a significant amount of concern at this time. The Bureau has been offering test preparation and Chief Mercuri recommends I-85s utilize this test preparation. Everything that can be done to help someone prepare for the test should be done. **E. Yeager made a motion for the Coordinating Board to declare its support for the current efforts of the Bureau to implement the new, National Registry scope of practice levels and oppose the maintenance or creation of any alternative or parallel system. Seconded by Jason Grey. The motion passed unanimously.**

There is also another bill that has been introduced in the NH Senate, which creates a registry for physician orders for life sustaining treatment (no bill number as of yet). There are still some operational issues with this one and we will be keeping an eye on it.

Chief Mercuri said that after speaking with Director Pendergast, a decision had been made to hire an EMS Deputy Chief. This position will be combined with the vacant Trauma Coordinator position along with additional duties. There is still work to be done on the full job description. Hopefully, this position will be posted shortly after January 1, 2014.

The Rules reviewed at the September meeting are with the Department Attorney and are moving forward.

The Trauma Medical Review Committee is still working with the State's smaller hospitals on any roadblocks to bringing them into the system. Bill Wood is tracking AED saves and has presented certificates to several EMS units for these.

In 2014, Chief Mercuri and C. Cooper will begin drawing information out of TEMSIS to examine how much providers are documenting. They want to make sure they have valid information to provide when there are questions.

Chief Mercuri announced the awards that were presented at the annual ceremony on September 23<sup>rd</sup>: The Pamela Richard/EMS Achievement Award went to Rebecca Bean from Errol Rescue Squad and also to Bob Wright of Washington Rescue; The Boundtree Corp. EMS Unit of the Year Award went to Bedford Fire Dept.; The David Connor Memorial EMS Appreciation Award ("Connor Honor") went to Janet Houston; The David S. Dow Memorial EMS Provider of the Year Award went to Bruce Goldthwaite of Franklin Fire Dept.; and the EMS Educator of the Year Award went to Chris Malley from NH CPR. A special thank you to S. Demers for arranging the use of the Concord Auditorium.

C. Cooper updated the Board on the Data Advisory Committee. There is a meeting planned for December with several odds and ends that need to be resolved. He said they are hoping to complete a "data dictionary" to release to the public soon.

Chief Mercuri mentioned that he and C. Cooper attended a 911 Commission meeting concerning the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). There are currently 89 individual dispatch centers in NH. PSAP is another data field in the system. This is going to be turned back on and is a manual data field.

### **Updates on EMT-I to AEMT – S. Jackson**

200 EMT-I's have passed the AEMT transition test. 276 tested with a 72.5% overall pass rate, 64% on the first attempt, which is well above the national average. The Bureau is participating in "alpha testing" of the PearsonVue test equipment for the National Registry exam. We have hired a part-time coordinator to administer this program. The Bureau will start taking reservations for the exam (using the PearsonVue equipment) December 1<sup>st</sup> with a 30 day window to make sure everything works properly.

### **Equipment Sub-Committee Update – J. Houston**

J. Houston said the sub-committee has met twice and is focusing on the licensing issue, rather than specifics of equipment. Representatives from several services were present at the last meeting where there was a very productive discussion. There were some very good ideas, with some new ones being proposed as well. The next meeting will focus on reviewing these ideas.

### **Ambulance/Licensing Update – K. Doolan**

As K. Doolan was not present, R. Cloutier gave an update on licensing. He reminded all service unit leaders not to let their licenses expire. All unit licenses are coming up for renewal (12-31-13), please get the application done! This can be acquired from our website.

### **Trauma Conference Update – E. Jaeger**

E. Jaeger said there are over 180 people registered for tomorrow's Trauma Conference in Whitefield. He is looking forward to a good conference and will see everyone there.

### **Best Practices (Mass Gatherings) – R. O'Brien**

Chief O'Brien said there was a conference call and discussion regarding mass gatherings and the issues encountered this past year. He said there are documents on the website and they would like feedback on their formatting and if they are user-friendly. He said they also looked for guidance documents on mass gatherings and found a FEMA document from 2012 that does have some good components, however it is a rather long document. It was decided to create a two page checklist for use by service leaders and policy makers. This will be forthcoming. If anyone has developed or knows of a department that has fashioned a checklist for events, please forward it to Chief O'Brien.

The group will also be working with the Board of Pharmacy and MCB on creating a document to define how departments and ambulance services should be storing controlled substances and documenting their usage.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 16, 2014**

**Location: Fire/EMS Academy, Concord**