

N.H. EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES
COORDINATING BOARD

January 16, 2014
NH Fire Academy – Concord NH

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Susanna Ayers, Doreen Gilligan, Jason Grey, Eric Jaeger, Stacy Meier (Vice Chair), Richard O'Brien, Michael Pepin, Greg Placy, Peter Row, David Strang (Chair), Frank Hubbell, Eric Schelberg, Grant Turpin, Helene Zielinski.

Members Absent: Rosemary Durning, Mark Tetreault, Ron O'Keefe,

Excused: Dennis Tobin, Michael Cloutier, Don Johnson, Rae Mello-Andrews.

Guests: Fred Heinrich, Mark Hastings, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Jason Preston, Jeffrey Stewart, Aaron McIntire, Steve Robbins, Mary Ellen Gourdeau.

Division Staff: Bureau Chief Mercuri, Vicki Blanchard, Kathy Doolan, Chip Cooper, Shawn Jackson, Richard Cloutier, Janet Houston.

Welcome/Introductions – D. Strang, Chairman

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Strang. Introductions were made.

Acceptance of 11/21/13 Meeting Minutes – D. Strang, Chairman

R. O'Brien made a motion to accept the minutes. S. Meier (Vice-Chair) seconded and all present voted to approve the minutes with one change: Kathy Doolan stated that she did not arrange for the use of Concord Auditorium for the awards ceremony on September 23rd. Thanks/recognition should be given to Shari King. So noted.

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

F. Hubbell was not present. Vicki Blanchard and Eric Jaeger shared the updates from the MCB meeting that morning.

NH Bureau of EMS Report

The floor was turned over to Chief Mercuri for the Bureau/Division updates.

The Deputy Chief position is at the Dept. of Human Resources for approval. We are waiting for them to act on this.

The recently approved Rules will probably go to JLCAR in March or April.

POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) registry is moving forward. There have been discussions with the Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS) and E-911. It will create a registry much like Oregon's. There are concerns that it is a bit early to have this type of registry. Will keep everyone updated.

The bill to grandfather EMT-I's has been issued a number (HB1603) and has been assigned to the House Executive Departments & Administration Committee (ED&A). Once again, the Bureau does not support this legislation and at last month's meeting, this Board voiced support (by motion) of the current transition to AEMT. Once a date for the committee to hear this bill has been announced, we will email the Board members. Anyone interested in speaking, submitting written testimony or simply showing up to oppose this legislation is encouraged to do so at that hearing.

One of the things that have been discussed between Chief Mercuri and Shawn Jackson is looking into a National Registry continuing competency program. What this would do nationally, is drop the continuing education hours for each level to 60, 50 and 40 (Paramedic, AEMT and EMT respectively). There will be state level items that can be set for a certain amount of hours. It will save providers doing the standard 72 hours sitting in a classroom. There will be more flexibility with this option.

Data Advisory Committee Update – Chip Cooper

The committee met last month (December) and also this month. It is still looking at some elements that need some discussion. There is a list of things to be dealt with. They have mostly been focusing on upgrading the EMS licensing database and TEMSIS, which has been successful.

Updates on EMT-I to AEMT – Shawn Jackson

Test results are still 13% above the national average, with a 73% pass rate. We have issued 422 vouchers for one shot at the exam on the state. Still low numbers as far as the total number of people who have attempted the exam. Just over one thousand people are left to transition from EMT-I. Exam prep has almost doubled the demand over last season. Liza Burrell continues to bear the brunt of that and being an AEMT and an I/C who has gone through the transition and all the steps, she has a good idea of what is involved. Rich Cloutier also has been through the transition and is helping a lot. They can both speak to the difficulty of the exam, questions, etc. Jeanne Erickson

has been added as a presenter. Two more polling kits have been added. Shawn said he has gone through over 400 surveys and the evaluations of the course have been overwhelmingly positive.

They are making preparations to take the PearsonVue mobile testing lab around the state. They have already done two site visits.

Anatomy & Physiology (A&P) continues to be a struggling point and a topic that the National Registry focuses on during the exam. As a result, we have entered into an agreement with Mary Katherine Lockwood, a professor at UNH who teaches A&P at the college level. She will be here at the Academy for 4 sessions to help.

Equipment Sub-Committee Update – Chip Cooper and Ambulance/Licensing Update – Kathy Doolan

Chip said they have basically got the framework worked out of what is going to work for licensing of services to solve the paramedic equipment issue. The committee has spent 4 or 5 months reviewing this. All the ambulances would be licensed at the BLS level and they would be either in active license status or reserve. For ALS services, both at the intermediate and paramedic level, they would need a permit for equipment. If services want to advertise themselves as a fulltime paramedic service they would need to staff their trucks 24/7. For paramedic or intermediate intercepts, they would also need to request a permit. For intercept trucks, a licensing process needs to be developed. Any first responding services at the BLS level (non-transporting), would submit to us whatever their equipment plan is. The next meeting on this should be within the next month.

Best Practices (Narcotics Diversion) – Chief Richard O'Brien

Plan to meet in the next few weeks and will follow up on projects and updating the website. They are still gathering information. Anyone interested in participating on this committee should notify V. Blanchard.

Nov. 2013 Trauma Conference Review – Eric Jaeger

Held on November 22nd at the Mt. View Grand Hotel. It was very successful with over 200 participants and was a very good mix of hospital and EMS personnel. All presentations were generally well received, but they are still reviewing the evaluations. People liked the venue and the shorter format. The hope is to carry this forward into next year's conference. Chief Mercuri and Chairman Strang thanked Eric for taking on this project and doing such a great job in organizing everything.

EMS Line of Duty Death (LODD) Memorial – Jason Grey

J. Grey said they have gotten permission and support to build a memorial here on the property. He said there has been some initial fund raising already and they will be able to offer some sort of educational scholarship award for a winning design. They have set the award at \$2,000 and have done the initial push for proposals. The design deadline is April 1st and the winner will be chosen during EMS Week the following month. If anyone is interested in submitting a design, please go to the NHEMT.org website where the materials will be available. Please spread the word and help support the cause.

Board Membership

The terms for Don Johnson (Public member) and Mark Tetreault (FST Commission) both expire in March. Also, Ron O'Keefe was representing the Local Government Center, but this organization has split into 3 separate entities (subgroups). The "subgroup" that he represented does not have a seat on the Coordinating Board, so he will no longer be attending. No word yet on who will be replacing these members.

Chief Mercuri is looking for input about training for EMS providers in an "active shooting warm zone." Any course would be partnered with Police Standards & Training. He would like some information on how to enter these hazardous areas safely and some feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 20, 2014
Location: Fire/EMS Academy, Concord