

NH EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES COORDINATING BOARD

**Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services
Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy
Concord, NH**

MINUTES OF MEETING (approved) January 15, 2015

Members Present: Grant Turpin (Chair); Michael Cloutier, Doreen Gilligan, Jason Grey, Frank Hubbell, Eric Jaeger, Stacy Meier, Chad Miller, Rich O'Brien, Mike Pepin, Greg Placy, Peter Row, Eric Schelberg, David Strang, Jeremy Thibeault, Helene Zeilinski

Members Absent: Susanna Ayers, Rosemary Durning

Guests: Janet Houston, Sean Ellbeg, Jason Preston, Aaron McIntire, Steve Erickson, Jeanne Erickson, Paul Feely, David Hilts, Casey McDermott, Scott Schuler, Ken Berkenbush

Division Staff: Bureau Chief Nick Mercuri, Deputy Chief Jon Bouffard, Captains: Vicki Blanchard, Chip Cooper, Kathy Higgins-Doolan, Shawn Jackson, Richard Cloutier; Administrative Assistant: June Connor

NOTE: "Action items" are in bold red.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by Chair Grant Turpin.

Investigation Subcommittee / Saf-C 5903.10 Update - Grant Turpin (out of order- Old Business)

The board discussed the pros and cons of the proposed language, debating whether or not the "threat to public safety" wording is too nebulous.

- *Dr. Strang made a motion to strike all of the wording in Saf-C 5903.10 Paragraph (h) that refers to the respondent being a potential threat to public safety (after the word "suspended") so that it reads as follows:*

If the complaint in (g) above is determined to meet the requirements of RSA 541-A:30 III and the respondent's license is immediately suspended, the Division shall send the letter specified in (g) to the heads of all units with whom the respondent is employed or affiliated....

The motion was seconded by Jason Grey; 6 in favor and 10 against; the motion failed.

- *Peter Row made a motion to acknowledge the changes to the draft of 5903.10 made in November, 2014; seconded by Stacey Meier; motion passed unanimously.*
- *Stacey Meier made a motion to forward to the Commissioner's Office the final draft of Saf-C 5903.10, including the changes made during the November meeting; seconded by Peter Row; the motion passed unanimously.*

Introductions – Grant Turpin, Chair (out of order)

Due to the more pressing issue of finalizing the work of the Investigation Subcommittee, introductions were made after the discussion and votes were taken regarding the committee's work on Saf-C 5903.10.

Acceptance of November 20, 2014 Meeting Minutes:

Dr. Strang pointed out several inaccuracies in the "Saf-C 5903.10 Update" section, and corrections were noted. Bureau Chief Nick Mercuri also pointed out that Janet Houston's name should not be listed as a member of the Bureau of EMS staff. *Jeremy Thibeault made a motion to approve the November 20, 2014 minutes, as amended; seconded by Eric Schelberg; motion passed unanimously.*

NH EMS Medical Control Board (MCB) Report – Frank Hubbell

The MCB meeting was held this morning (Jan. 15, 2015). The minutes are available for review on the website (link below).

<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>

Highlights of the MCB meeting:

- Drug Diversion Subcommittee – identified a gap regarding notification and recommended an addendum in the language in the MRH agreement to not only include the pharmacist and Unit Control Drug Coordinator (UCDC), but also the unit medical director and the Bureau of EMS within 24 hours of verbal notification. The MCB voted in favor of the addendum.
- [Pegasus Project presentation](#) by Dr. Manish Shah – (click on link to see the presentation)

NH Bureau of EMS Report – Nick Mercuri

Bureau Chief Nick Mercuri presented his report at the MCB meeting held this morning (Jan. 15, 2015). The report is available for review on the website – link on page 2.

Topics in the report:

- **Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)**
- **EMS Education** – NH Connect System and expansion of education at the Bureau of EMS
- **Fire Act Grant** – almost \$300,000 for ambulance and OB mannequin simulator
- **Field Services** – LIN letters sent out
- **Work Force Issues – gathering information about issues such as recruitment, retention, and education within EMS. This has been targeted as a potential new task for the Coordinating Board.**

At the request of Chair Grant Turpin, Bureau Chief Mercuri reported on the press release from the Governor's Office regarding the recommendations of the Opioid Task Force and the administration of Narcan. At the request of the task force, the Coordinating Board took a look at a draft of an addendum to the rules for the NH Bureau of EMS. A new level of licensure, Law Enforcement Provider, is being proposed in this addendum which will allow police to administer Narcan. In order to obtain this license, police officers will have to be affiliated with a licensed EMS unit, meet prerequisites, and have some required training. (A copy of the proposed addendum was circulated, and a discussion ensued about the content of the document.)

A motion was made by Richard O'Brien; seconded by Michael Cloutier, to accept these rule changes as presented and move them forward to the Commissioner; passed unanimously.

Old Business (continued)

National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) – Shawn Jackson

Captain Shawn Jackson presented his report at the MCB meeting held this morning (Jan. 15, 2015). A draft of the report is available for review on the website – link on page 2.

Chad Miller accepted the nomination to be a representative from the CB to the Stakeholder Group being formed to look at statewide continued competency requirements for education.

EMS in the Warm Zone (Best Practices) – Richard O'Brien

A final draft should be sent to Bureau Chief Mercuri on Friday, January 16, 2015. Point of consideration offered by Captain Shawn Jackson: **The Coordinating Board should consider EMS line of duty death and disability benefits for EMS personnel operating in the warm zone.** Chair Turpin suggested that this be recommended to the CB when the Best Practices work is completed and then the CB will move forward with a legislation request for line of duty death benefits for EMS. **Richard O'Brien added that the final Best Practices document will be in front of the CB by the next meeting in March.**

Data Advisory Committee Update - Chip Cooper

The Elite transition is still on track for June, 2015. *(Note: This date is no longer accurate; Chip will give a more accurate date at the next CB meeting.)* Several challenges were discussed at a meeting held on Tuesday, January 13th, including narrowing down the Rx name choices. Benchmarking was also discussed. Chip then presented information on [aspirin tracking](#) and [stroke management](#). The importance of good data collection was strongly emphasized.

Bureau Chief Mercuri added at the end of Chip's presentation, that there are approximately 15,000 runs per month that are being reported to TEMSIS, and a great amount of time is spent cleaning up the data to make it presentable.

Board Membership – Grant Turpin

- Doreen Gilligan – NH ENA (letter coming from Governor's Office)
- Dr. Strang – has not heard from the Medical Society, but he will inquire.
- Michael Pepin – the Professional Firefighters of NH intend to keep him on.
- Need one more member from the general public
- American College of Surgeons – (letter has been sent to Dr. Rick Murphy)
- New England Organ Bank – no response

There is an issue with term limits; legislation is required to get rid of them. In addition, because the CB has 22 members, 12 votes are needed to make a quorum.

At the next meeting, the CB will look at the term limit language as well as the organizations represented and then send it on to legal counsel.

EMS Strategic Planning – Nick Mercuri

There is nothing new to report; **Bureau Chief Mercuri has not been given a charge from the CB and requires more guidance.**

Potential legislation affecting EMS:

- An **exemption for the Fire Academy and EMS was removed** and needs to be put back in; otherwise, the Division will wind up under the Dept. of Education's rule set (RSA 188.g); this was an oversight.
- The Division has asked for some **changes in MIH**; widening the definition of "patient" by removing the words "immediate" and "imminent".
- An **"Authority for Licensed Healthcare Providers" bill has been proposed to expand where EMS providers can work** to include many types of healthcare facilities instead of just hospitals.
- **Blue Light bill filed** – allowing ambulances to be more visible. The blue light would be affixed to the upper left hand corner rear of the ambulance.
- The Assistant Commissioner has asked for legislation to be filed to **change how "ethics" is defined within EMS to make it match more closely with how it is defined in the nursing profession. (Nick will get the LSR numbers.)**

New Business:

Eric Jaeger suggested that work needs to be done by the CB clarifying whether or not EMS units have to report to the Bureau of EMS if they suspect that a paramedic has been diverting drugs or committing some other kind of offense. A group needs to be put together to talk about the language, etc.

Good of the Order / Items of Interest:

A plaque was presented to Dr. Strang for his 8 years of dedicated service to the Coordinating Board.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:30PM was made by Peter Row and seconded by Stacey Meier; passed unanimously.

**Next meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2015
Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy,
Dormitory Building / Classrooms 5 & 6**

Future meetings: May 21, July 16, September 17, and November 19, 2015

Respectfully submitted,
Grant Turpin, Chair

Prepared by:
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