

**NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board**

**MEETING MINUTES (Approved)**

**March 19, 2020**

1:00PM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy  
Via Teleconferencing & Classrooms 4  
98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH 03301

**Quorum: 10 members required (currently 19 positions on the CB and 3 true vacancies)**

**Members present via Telephone:**

Jeremy LaPlante (Chair), Jeanne Erickson, Frank Hubbell, Chad Miller, Josh Morrison, Lisa Patterson, Matthew Petrin, Scott Schuler, David Tauber and Jeremy Thibeault **(10)**

**Members absent:**

Brian Allard, Christine Arsnow, Sue Barnard, Mike Harnois, Don Johnson, Michael Kelley, Michael Newhall, Clay Odell, and Greg Placy **(9)**

**NH FST&EMS Staff present:**

Assistant Director, Jeffrey Phillips (later), Bureau Chief, Justin Romanello; Medical Director, Joey Scollan and Captain Vicki Blanchard **(4)**

**Guests:**

Craig Clough, Steve Erickson, Fred Heinrich, Sara Hennessey, Eric Schelberg and Anna Sessa **(6)**

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 1:03PM by Vice Chair Jeremy LaPlante

Romanello thanked the board for participating in the emergency telephonic meeting held March 17, 2020 at 18:00 to approve an emergency rule that would allow the Commission and State Medical Director to pass emergency protocols.

Romanello did a roll call for board members attendance.

**II. Approval of the Minutes:**

**Motion made (Erickson/Thibeault)** to approve the November 21, 2019 minutes; **pass with unanimous rollcall vote.**

**Motion made (Erickson/Thibeault)** to approve the January 30, 2020 minutes; **pass with unanimous rollcall vote.**

**III. Division / BEMS Reports**

Item 1. Division and BEMS Updates - Bureau Chief - EMS Justin Romanello

- a. An emergency protocol was released on March 17, 2020 addressing EMS response to suspected or confirmed COVID19 patients.
- b. Future emergency protocols we create will be pushed to the board for input with strict deadlines; the same for the Coordinating Board.
- c. The Joint Information Center (JIC) has been created. All information must go through the JIC before it is release regarding COVID19. We do not want to say something different than DHHS or the Attorney General's office. Any emergency protocol will also go through the JIC before being released.
- d. The Fire Academy and EMS has suspended all classes with the exception of some testing that may go to finish up a couple classes and is now closed to the public. Also all open positions or hires are on hold.

- e. Two more emergency rules are in the works. The first is National Registry has extended certification expirations to 06/30/2020; our rules say EMS license expire 30 days after National Registry, so we will extend our expiration to 07/30/2020. The second emergency rule change is to allow only one licensed provider on an ambulance, that provider must provide patient care. That provider must be an EMT, AEMT or Paramedic. This is thinking proactively as this pandemic expands and EMS staff becomes more limited if providers are quarantined or we experience an increase need for ambulance transports.
- f. Dr. Joey Scollan is officially the State's EMS Medical Director as of Friday, March 13, 2020.

Item 2. Legislative Report –Chief Romanello (Chief Mercuri unable to attend)

- a. A letter was drafted to oppose SB 540 Compact (Replica) and was sent to LaPlante for review.

**IV. Committee/Board/Workgroup Reports**

Item 1. **Medical Control Board** update – Frank Hubbell

- a. Hubbell voted as the MCB representative for another term  
Dr. Rix was vote chair and Dr. Nathan as vice chair. With Dr. Scollan taking the State EMS Medical Director position she no longer is able to chair the MCB.
- b. There was discussion on the bronchospasms and medication as well as the new E911 Card 36 protocol which will be introduced tonight at midnight which will broaden the surveillance of flu-like symptom questioning. They will also screen ALL calls asking if anyone in the home is sick or under surveillance.
- c. Here is the link to the minutes for MCB meetings:  
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>

Item 2. **TMRC** Report – Scott Schuler

- a. Discussed how to move forward with ACS levels I, II, and III AND a Trauma Ready and Level IV designations.
- b. Site visits postponed
- c. Here is the link to the minutes for TMRC meetings:  
[https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma\\_minutes.html](https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma_minutes.html)

Item 3. Workgroup Reports: **none**

Item 4. Stroke Care –Sue Barnard

- Dr. Suozzi will be filming the new stroke FAST ED training for the Protocol Rollout
- Chip Cooper help develop a report to pull stroke data
- Stroke Workshop in May cancelled.

**V. Old Business**

Item 1. **A motion was made (Thibeault/Schuler) – to table OLD BUSINESS, passed unanimously rollcall vote.**

**VI. New Business**

Item 1. Elect Vice Chair: Chad Miller was the only one to express interest. Thibeault/Petrin *moved the Chair cast 1 ballot for Miller, passed unanimously rollcall vote.*

Item 2. Emergency Protocols – As stated earlier the emergency rule change allows the Commissioner to approve emergency protocols with consultation with the State EMS Medical Director. We want to respect the expertise of this committee and should more emergency protocols come out we will push them to you for review with a deadline for comments. There was discussion about how they were to be pushed out, it will be via email.

Item 3. PPE - PPE was another topic of discussion with concerns with resources by all. Additionally it was noted that fire fighter bunker gear is not a form of medical PPE.

Item 4. Next meeting – There was discussion if the Board should meet every other week or when the Bureau deems necessary. **Motion to have meeting when deemed necessary by the Bureau of EMS (Morrison/Thibeault), pass unanimously rollcall vote.**

**VII. Good of the Order / Items of Interest**

Item 1. Tauber inquired about the calls to Locals by EOC. Phillips stated to contact the EOC to get on the conference calls, there number is 223-3704

It was asked if EMS had to report any suspected COVID19 cases to DHHS, no one had a definite answer but the Bureau of EMS will find out

It was asked if a patient is told to shelter in place is emergency services notified, and the answer was only if they are being dispatched to that location.

Finally, it was asked if EMS could refuse to take a patient to the hospital if they were not sick enough. Romanello stated that it is our priority to get another emergency protocol out for this, but we have to wait for guidance from CDC and DHHS. In the meantime we have built into the current Emergency COVID19 Protocol which says, "Consider contacting medical control for destination determination and/or alternative transport options based on clinical impression of the patient".

**VIII. Adjournment**

**A motion was made (Tauber/Thibeault) – to adjourn the meeting at 14:07 PM; passed unanimously.**

**NEXT MEETING REMINDER: May 21, 2020**

**Voting members should let Hayley O'Brien know ASAP whether or not they can attend to ensure a quorum will be present.**