

NH EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRAUMA SERVICES COORDINATING BOARD

May 21, 2020

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

May 21, 2020

1:00PM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy

Via Teleconferencing

98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH 03301

Quorum: 10 members required (currently 18 positions on the CB and 4 true vacancies)

Members present via Telephone:

Jeremy LaPlante (Chair), Christine Arsnow, Sue Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Michael Kelley (later), Frank Hubbell, Chad Miller, Josh Morrison, Lisa Patterson (later), Scott Schuler, David Tauber and Jeremy Thibeault **(12)**

Members absent:

Brian Allard, Mike Harnois, Don Johnson, Michael Newhall, Clay Odell and Matthew Petrin **(6)**

NH FST&EMS Staff present:

Director Deborah Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Bureau Chief - Justin Romanello, Chief Nick Mercuri, Medical Director - Joey Scollan, Captain Kathy Higgins-Doolan, Captain Vicki Blanchard and Hayley O'Brien (minutes) **(8)**

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:07PM by Chair Jeremy LaPlante

Chair LaPlante read "Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-To-Know Law during the State of Emergency" and then Hayley did a rollcall attendance for board members.

II. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion made (Erickson/Thibeault) to approve the March 17, 2020 minutes; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Arsnow	Yes
Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Yes
Hubbell	Yes
LaPlante	Yes
Miller	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes
Thibeault	Yes

Motion made (Erickson/Thibeault) to approve the March 19, 2020 minutes; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Arsnow	Yes
Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Yes
Hubbell	Yes

LaPlante	Yes
Miller	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes
Thibeault	Yes

Motion made by Chair LaPlante (Thibeault/Schuler) to table all Division reports, Committee/Board/Workgroup Reports and Old Business until the end of the meeting, jumping straight to New Business due to the time constraint and maintaining a quorum; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Arsnow	Yes
Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Yes
Hubbell	Yes
LaPlante	Yes
Miller	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes
Thibeault	Yes

Please note the change in the order of the agenda, the minutes reflect the correct order topics were discussed in.

III. New Business

Item 1. BioSpatial - A free program for the State of New Hampshire that will allow the Division to track motor vehicle data, COVID-19 data, etc. A handful of other states are also using this. The Division will use this to visually look at all the data that the Division has.

Item 2. Saf-C 5906.08 Vehicle Equipment Supplies – An ongoing discussion about required equipment list for Ambulances, the CB responsibility for maintaining that list. Providing the Board with as much time as possible. List to be presented at the July 16 meeting. Clarification was made that Chair LaPlante is looking to establish a work group to discuss the rule set and every other rule change would be different items addressed. The need to address this quickly is to be a productive board and understand the lengthy timeline associated with JLCAR.

Motion made (Thibeault/Tauber) to establish a subcommittee to review and make recommendations to establish the Vehicle Equipment Supply List; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Schuler looking for clarification from staff whether this group needs to be a working group or sub-committee. Chief Romanello stated he would report back to the Board with a definite answer.

Thibeault commented if there is more than 1 voting member of the body (CB), it is a sub-committee and fully applies to 91-A. If there is only 1 voting member of the CB, then it could be a working group and include other outside voting members.

Motion AMENDED (Thibeault/Tauber) to establish a subcommittee to review and make recommendations to

establish the Vehicle Equipment Supply List; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Arsnow	Yes
Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Yes
Hubbell	Yes
Kelley	Yes
LaPlante	Yes
Miller	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes
Thibeault	Yes

Chair LaPlante stated he will get with the Bureau staff to ensure the Board moves in the right direction, going forward with this subcommittee group establishment.

Item 3. COVID-19

- a. Emergency Rules → The rules in place expire 6 months after inception.

First Rule Discussion: Chief Romanello stated he is looking to put something in the rule permanently to waive the 2 providers down to 1 during significant events, in the mass casualty section of the rules.

Copying the current emergency rules with a proposed addition states this;

“Notwithstanding any other rule to the contrary in the event of a declared state of emergency, public health or public safety incident **and mass casualty incidents**, staffing levels in each EMS land or water vehicle during patient transport may be 1 provider at the level of EMT, AEMT or paramedic, who shall attend the patient.”

A discussion ensued about the ability and difference in an ambulance ride from an untrained individual driving an ambulance, transporting a patient. The definition of what a mass casualty event was and concerns were expressed with the wording.

Chief Romanello will get the wording clarified and corrected to properly address the Board members concerns and he will email the Board members with the final wording. A vote to move this forward would be at the July 16 meeting.

Second Rule Discussion: Chief Romanello discussed affiliate versus non affiliation and the necessity of this. As the Bureau is looking forward, issues with background checks for lapsed individuals and those who would like to maintain their certification/licenses, but do not have affiliation have aroused. A question was brought up about the need for affiliation. Chief Romanello suggested instead of removing affiliation, adding a non-affiliated mechanism for licensing. RSA 153:A:10:1 and A:11 was read to clarify the meaning of practicing while nonaffiliated. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Motion made (Tauber/Morrison) affirming the affiliation mechanism; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Arsnow	Yes
Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Yes
Hubbell	Yes
Kelley	Yes

LaPlante	No
Miller	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes
Thibeault	Abstain

Third Rule Discussion; Change the current inspection process for ambulances to a spot inspection only process to ensure the equipment on ambulances is appropriate at all times annually. Any newly acquired vehicles or used, but new to that service would remain the same continued practice with scheduled spot inspections. Any fleets outside of this would transition to a fleet inspection.

This new process would include; at the time of a licensed unit within 2 years the Bureau would come out and inspect 10% of your fleet (up to 3 ambulances) randomly. Based on the current inspection process for what is being inspected. New units would still expire December 31st. A discussion ensued about concerns members had.

Motion AMENDED (Tauber/Morrison) affirming the affiliation mechanism; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Motion made (Schuler/Kelley) to move all 3 rules forward for development and Chief Romanello will draft the final language of all 3 rules by June 16 and send out to the Board members. These 3 rules will be voted on at the July 16 meeting; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Yes
Hubbell	Yes
Kelley	Yes
LaPlante	Yes
Miller	Yes
Morrison	Abstain
Patterson	Abstain
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes

- b. Emergency Protocols → Protocols
Next couple weeks/month, the Bureau will continue with emergency protocols while the state is in a declared state of emergency or public health or public safety incident. More planning to come for the future.
- c. Provider Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Nothing more to report.
- d. COVID-19 General Discussion
Nothing more to report.

IV. Division / BEMS Reports

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

- a. Happy EMS week! Director Pendergast and Chief Romanello thanked everybody for all that they do for EMS! Also, thanked Concord Hospital for doing a Pizza Party today.

- b. Chief Romanello gave a summary of the Emergency Protocols released for COVID-19. Emergency Rules have also been released and will expire September 2020. Waivers for Provisional Certification and Partial Background Checks was released and will expire October 1, 2020.
- c. An Executive Order has been drafted, but not yet issued for Alternate Vehicle Use and Waiver of Required Equipment. This would only be used if there is ever a surge.
- d. Everything at the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS is on hold. The Division has been tasked with several other responsibilities. Ranging from contract tracing for the Department of Safety, PPE distribution and working call centers. Many staff members have been repurposed and assigned different responsibilities at this time.
- e. The Division is actively working with the Commissioner's Office and other Divisions to establish a reopening plan. A date has not been set yet, but the Division will need to be brought back up to speed before reopening can take effect.
- f. 2,500 EMT license renewals this cycle, still have 800 left. They have all been contacted by Chief Romanello.
- g. The Division cannot fill vacancies at this time, including the Licensing Coordinator full time position, Ambulance Inspector part time position, NREMT remote testing coordinator part time position, PIFT critical care program coordinator part time position, and MIH program coordinator part time position.
- h. Protocols have all been approved and the Commissioner has signed off on them. Release date to remain after the licensing period, around August/September.
- i. Trauma program site visits have been extended by 1 year.
Once the Division is open, the goal is to complete the EMR class first and foremost.

Item 2. Legislative Report – Chief Mercuri

- a. Anticipate things ramping up within the next couple of weeks. The House meeting mid-June. Have not heard anything from the Senate.

V. Committee/Board/Workgroup Reports

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

- a. Hubbell stated Protocols are done, corrections will be made to reflect typo issues.
- b. Here is the link to the minutes for MCB meetings:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>

Item 2. **Trauma Medical Review Committee Update** - Scott Schuler

- a. Schuler stated the last TMRC meeting on April 15th was canceled due to the pandemic.
- b. Here is the link to the minutes for TMRC meetings:
https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma_minutes.html

Item 3. Workgroup Reports:

- a. **EMS Physician Level of Licensure** – None
- b. **IC Renewal & EMS Education** – None
- c. **Recruitment & Retention** – None
- d. **EMS Rules** – Chief Romanello
The corrections were made to the equipment list and the list has been submitted to JLCAR for approval.

Item 4. Stroke Care –Sue Barnard

- a. Increase in stroke patients, under 50 who have significant COVID-19.

VI. Old Business

Item 1. Provider Affiliation Requirement for State Licensure – Discussed under New Business and will be removed from agenda.

Item 2. Process for State Approval of EMS Continuing Education – All set for now and will be revisited another time.

VII. Good of the Order / Items of Interest

Item 1. Schuler asked if the Division is able to move to a video platform for these meetings in the future. Chief Romanello explained that it is not an option for the Division at this time.

Item 2. No public comments.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made (Erickson/Schuler) – *to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 PM*; passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER: July 16, 2020