

NH EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND TRAUMA SERVICES COORDINATING BOARD

July 16, 2020

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

July 16, 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), Chad Miller (Vice Chair), Brian Allard, Sue Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Mike Harnois, Michael Kelley, Matthew Petrin, Scott Schuler, David Tauber and Jeremy Thibeault **(11)**

Members absent:

Christine Arsnow, Frank Hubbell, Don Johnson, Joshua Morrison, Michael Newhall, Clay Odell and Lisa Patterson **(7)**

NH FST&EMS Staff present:

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

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:22PM 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.

Membership – Waiting on the Governor's responses.

II. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion made (Thibeault/Erickson) to approve the May 21, 2020 minutes; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Allard	Abstain
Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Yes
Harnois	Yes
Kelley	Yes
LaPlante	Yes
Miller	Yes
Petrin	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes
Thibeault	Yes

III. Division / BEMS Reports

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

- a. Staff in call centers have been pulled back to the Division. Although most staff members are back to their original duties, the Division is still involved with contact tracing. Also involved in making phone calls to those who are in Tier 1, 2, or 3 housing.
- b. Vacant/open positions are still on hold at this time.
- c. No new emergency protocols or rules.
- d. 10 business days left in the relicensing period. This expires the 30th of July. 711 providers still need to relicense still. 300 of those are not affiliated, therefore they will not relicense unless they become affiliated.
- e. As of July 13th practical exam programs will resume. Mouth to mask station has been removed for EMR's and the cardiac arrest station has been removed for EMT's. Mannequin use is encouraged. Combining skill stations is now allowed. On a case by case basis with prior approval, smaller exam session will be allowed.
- f. Once the licensing period is complete, the Bureau will issue a Protocol Rollout. Last minute edits are being conducted. Hopefully being pushed out by the end of August, early September.
- g. User Management System is moving along. At this time all vehicles and services have been entered and the Division is going to start incorporating the inspection process. Personnel is being added, but due to the Records Management System Coordinator position being vacant, things are moving slower. A waiver is at the Governor's Office to hopefully get this critical position filled.
- h. The individuals that were enrolled in the EMR program up north were approximately half way through the program when COVID hit. The Bureau is facing issues with instructor availability and how to effectively manage a larger class, but it is a work in progress to get this moving.
- i. The Simulation Program is scheduled to get back up and running. The Bureau has acquired 2 new pediatric mannequins to add to the 5 mannequins we currently have.

Item 2. Legislative Report – Chief Mercuri

- a. SB540 that was filed to repeal the inner state compact was incorporated into HB1234 and will be moving forward. If the Governor signs this bill, this will repeal the EMS inner state compact. HB685 regarding ambulance billing has changed to insurance covering emergency abortions. HB1122 regarding the addition of first responder suicide being added as a Line of Duty Death does not look like it is going to move forward. SB670 regarding ambulance transports where they can and cannot transport went from a restriction to a study committee. Unfortunately, when a bill gets incorporated into another bill, there is no definitive tracking mechanism.

IV. Committee/Board/Workgroup Reports

Item 1. Medical Control Board Update – Frank Hubbell absent, Chief Romanello presented

- a. MCB voted and passed the recommended to the Commissioner and State Medical Director the mandatory usage of simple masks, eye protection and gloves for all patient contact during the declared public safety and health incident.
- 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. T. Trimarco stated the last TMRC meeting on June 17, 2020 with normal reports out.
- b. Sub groups did not have a chance to meet prior to this meeting.
- c. No Trauma Conference on site this year.
- d. The American College of Surgeons has extended hospital designations from a trauma side for 1 year. The State has also extended this for Level 3 and 4's.
- e. Scott Schuler has been reappointed to be the TMRC representative.
- f. 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** – No meeting with the sub-committee in June, but hopeful for a meeting prior to the next CB meeting. Currently working on the standards for the ETA's.
- c. **Recruitment & Retention** – Waiting on the results from the workforce study.
- d. **EMS Rules** – Corrections have been made to the equipment list and they are still in the process with legal.

Item 4. Stroke Care –Sue Barnard

- a. Meeting monthly via ZOOM. A 3 hour virtual education was held for Rural Health hospitals. 25 people logged onto this meeting. If interested in the link where this recording is located please contact Sue. They discussed the difficultness of having to make multiple phone calls to transport a stroke patient.
- b. A new stroke coordinator at Lakes Region Hospital and at Concord Hospital.
- c. AHA website → heart.org/coronavirus for information pertaining to the coronavirus.

V. Old Business

Please note spot inspections is not listed for discussion due to more work required.

Item 1. Rule Change 5904.04 – Provider Affiliation

This rule change regards EMS providers not being required to be affiliated, but still maintaining a license. The only individuals that can provide EMS services in the State are licensed services. How they provide EMS services is through EMS providers. Other states also use this non affiliation, but still able to maintain a license rule.

Motion made (Schuler/Petrin) to approve the presented Rule Change stated above, pertaining to EMS providers not being required to be affiliated, but still maintaining a license; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Yes
Harnois	Yes
Kelley	Yes
LaPlante	Yes
Miller	Yes
Petrin	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes
Thibeault	Yes

Item 2. Rule Change 5902.06 – Requirement of Two Licensed Providers

This rule change regards to the emergency rule that is set to expire in September. Reducing the requirement of two licensed providers in the back of an ambulance to transport, down to one provider. The word changing that will be proposed goes as follows;

“Notwithstanding any of the rules to the contrary in the event of a declared state of emergency, public health safety incident or mass causality incident, staffing levels in each EMS land or water vehicle during patient transport may be one provider at the level of EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic who shall attend to the patient. Staffing level requirements cannot be modified for day to day operations that do not involve the affirmation in events.”

David Tauber asked a question regarding the legalities/procedure of a declared MCI. Chief Romanello clarified that the definition of an MCI could be different for many services in different parts of the state. At the local level, if declaring an MCI it should fall in line with the definition listed in rule. Discussion ensued about the concerns of improperly using the rule, but the Division ensured that mechanisms/tools are in place if it becomes a compliance issue.

Motion made (Schuler/Miller) to approve as written the presented Rule Change above, reducing two licensed providers down to one licensed provider in the back of an ambulance; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Allard	Yes
Barnard	Yes
Erickson	Abstain
Harnois	Yes
Kelley	Yes
LaPlante	Yes
Miller	Yes
Petrin	Yes
Schuler	Yes
Tauber	Yes
Thibeault	Yes

Jeremy Thibeault requested Bureau staff prepare a report prior to the next few MCB meetings and report out on circumstances of the new rule being used. With the understanding this rule still needs to go through the rule process. This will be left on the agenda to be brought up for the next meeting.

Item 3. Interstate Compact Repeal – HB1234

Discussed under the Legislative Report. A lot of work is needed to come back from this.

Item 4. BioSpatial

Unfortunately, the Division is unable to have a contract with them based on current legislation, data sharing issues and use agreement. Modifications to RSA 21:P or 153 privacy section would need to occur to allow such a agreement. ImageTrend offers this, but it is a more robust system and costs fifty thousand dollars a year. The MCB voted to draft a letter of support in favor of BioSpatial to be given to the Commissioner.

Item 5. Saf-C 5906.08 Vehicle Equipment Supplies

Chair LaPlante reached out to multiple stake holders throughout the State that were willing to provide input on the current state of out vehicle equipment supply list. Great feedback was received, but due to the fact that this is a sub-committee of the CB, 3 Board members from this Board are required to be on the sub-committee to allow for a quorum. These 3 members would be the voting members of the sub-committee. Chad Miller and Michael Kelley expressed interest in being a voting member on this sub-committee. Chair LaPlante will reach out to those individuals to get this list moving forward.

VI. New Business

Item 1. State Practical Exams – BLS

Addressed in the Bureau report.

Item 3. COVID-19

Addressed in the Bureau report.

- a. Emergency Rules → Rules
Nothing more to report.
- b. Emergency Protocols → Protocols
Nothing more to report.
- c. Provider Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
A brief discussion ensued about PPE.

d. COVID-19 General Discussion

Fire Responder COVID-19 testing is taking a longer time to get results back. There is no longer a priority for First Responders due to the increase in testing and workload from the long term care facilities.

VII. Good of the Order / Items of Interest

Item 1. Chair LaPlante asked the voting members to please respond as soon as possible to the attendance emails that are sent out from Hayley to ensure a quorum is present for meetings. Chair LaPlante and Hayley greatly appreciate those with prompt replies.

Item 2. No public comments.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made (Thibeault/Kelley) – to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 PM; passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER: September 17, 2020