

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

**MEETING MINUTES (Approved)**

**September 17, 2020**

1:00PM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy

**Via WebEx**

98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH 03301

**Quorum: 10 members required (currently 19 positions filled and 3 true vacancies)**

**Members present via Telephone:**

Jeremy LaPlante (Chair), Chad Miller (Vice Chair), Brian Allard, Sue Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Terry Jarvis, Neil Meehan, Joshua Morrison, Clay Odell, Lisa Patterson, David Tauber and Jeremy Thibeault **(12)**

**Members absent:**

Christine Arsnow, Mike Harnois, Frank Hubbell, Michael Kelley, Don Johnson, Michael Newhall, Matthew Petrin and Scott Schuler **(8)**

**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 and Hayley O'Brien **(7)**

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 1:03PM 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 – John Freese was appointed from the MCB as the representative to the Coordinating Board and Christine Arsnow has resigned from her position on the Board.

**II. Approval of the Minutes:**

**Motion made (Erickson/Thibeault) to approve the July 16, 2020 minutes; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

<b>Allard</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Barnard</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erickson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jarvis</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>LaPlante</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Meehan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Miller</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Odell</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Patterson</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Tauber</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Thibeault</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**III. Division / BEMS Reports**

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

- a. The Division has been awarded the 2019 AFG Grant from FEMA. Approximately 485,000 dollars towards the Division ladder truck fund.
- b. Programs that were interrupted due to Covid have finished or are finishing up. The evening EMR class in the North Country, all 10 students passed their final exam. They are currently preparing for their practical exam.
- c. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Division will welcome 16 students for the Recruit School Program. This is the Academy's full time 11 week program.
- d. The Division actively participates in Weekly Director's calls with other Director's and the Commissioner. Also, every week on Wednesday, the Director attends a call with Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
- e. The Division is still hosting the Governor's weekly conferences on Thursdays. They are unable to use those 2 classrooms for any of their classes at this time. Some full time staff members are currently teleworking.
- f. The Division submitted a budget with a 20 percent reduction from the previous budgets. The impact of this reduction will be significant. The Division still cannot fill the 5 vacant positions therefore they will remain vacant at this time. Programs are being affected by this budget reduction as well, due to reduction in funds for the Instructors.
- g. Weekly assessments of the Covid numbers are occurring. All current programs will end by late November, taking off the month for the holidays and then starting back up in the end of January for spring programs.
- h. The DOS legal team now has the number of providers required to transport and the licensing of non-affiliated members rules. The Bureau generated a report and it showed that the number of providers in the back of an ambulance for transport was 1 has been used 19 times during the pandemic. Each of these 19 calls will be dissected more in depth. There was an issue with running the report due to ImageTrend. Hopefully this can be fixed, but the Bureau is waiting to hear back from them.
- i. The Bureau issued the minimum requirement for PPE protocol.
- j. The full background check waiver will expire on October 1<sup>st</sup>, but the provisional certification to be utilized for a temporary license waiver will be in place 6 months after October 1<sup>st</sup> due to the back log of these.
- k. The 2020 Version 8.0 Protocols have been issued with great success and minimal errors. The deadline to complete the rollout is November 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore everybody in the State of New Hampshire will be using the new protocols.
- l. The end of the expiration period was July 30<sup>th</sup>. Overall, this year we are down 31 total people that did not renew their license.
- m. Practical exams are up and running, as well as Ambulance Inspections.
- n. The User Management System will be active for internal users/staff by the end of November. It is currently being used for inspections.

**Item 2. Legislative Report – Chief Mercuri**

- a. It is the beginning of the Legislation season.
- b. The House met at UNH and they did not override the Governors bill for veto of the Interstate Repeal Compact.

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

**Item 1. Medical Control Board Update – Frank Hubbell absent, Chair LaPlante and Vicki Blanchard reported**

- a. Dr. Suozzi wrote a letter to the Board to discuss Just Culture. An incident in the state occurred that prompted this discussion. Current administrative rule states "shall act on a license," with the word shall, being of question. The MCB & CB will get together to discuss this, more information to come.
- b. Voted on and approved a new updated Advanced Sepsis Packet.
- c. A discussion occurred about ketamine and the decision that it is not within EMT's scope of practice to administer vaccines even.
- d. 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 absent**

- a. Nothing to report.

- b. 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:**

- a. **EMS Physician Level of Licensure** – Have not met, nothing to report.
- b. **IC Renewal & EMS Education** – A meeting is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup>. Application is complete and the standards are currently being formalized by Liza. Dave Tauber has been added to the Sub-Committee.
- c. **Recruitment & Retention** – Working with Alia from Rural Health, the questions have been finished for the workforce engagement survey. More to come.  
Director Pendergast mentioned the possibility of EMS creating a State Hiring List similar to the CPAT State Hiring List. The Bureau is available to assist with this.
- d. **EMS Rules** – The public hearing was the day before this meeting for the equipment list and it had no comments. This will be moving forward.

**Item 4. Stroke Care** –Sue Barnard

- a. In the initial phase of how to help smaller hospitals with transferring stroke patients more efficiently.
- b. A few small hospitals are going for their acute stroke ready certification.

**V. Old Business**

**Item 1. Interstate Compact Repeal – HB1234**

Discussed under the Legislative Report.

**Item 2. BioSpatial**

Chief Romanello reported that Director Pendergast, AD Phillips, Dr. Scollan and himself met with the Commissioner in lieu of the letter of support to look into how much of a legislative change this would be to use BioSpatial. More discussion to come. Chair LaPlante agreed to leave this on the agenda under Old Business to keep all updates current.

**VI. New Business**

**Item 1. COVID-19**

- a. Emergency Rules → Rules  
Discussed under the Bureau report.
- b. Emergency Protocols → Protocols  
Meeting regularly, nothing more to report.
- c. Provider Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)  
Nothing more to report.
- d. COVID-19 General Discussion  
Discussion about administering the vaccine whenever we receive it and who can administer it.

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

**Item 1.** No public comments.

**Item 2.** Next meeting will be WebEx due to the majority of wishes from the Board.

**Item 3. The Board welcomes Neil Meehan** – Neil has been an Emergency Physician for approximately 25 years, he is the Chief Physician Executive at Exeter Hospital, a member of the NH Association Board and also a delegate of the NH Medical Society. 8 years of EMS experience before diving into the medical field. Neil is excited to be here and looking forward to learning the way EMS operates.

**The Board welcomes Terry Jarvis** – Terry is representing the American Red Cross, she is responsible for all the disaster health needs for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Terry's First job in the State was with the Bureau of EMS as a Training Coordinator. She has been an EMT for close to 40 years and is also a Registered Nurse.

**Item 4.** The Board did a Moment of Silence for Captain Steve Tower from Goffstown FD.

**VIII. Adjournment**

**A motion was made (Thibeault/Jarvis) – *to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 PM*; passed unanimously.**

**NEXT MEETING REMINDER: November 19, 2020 - WebEx**