

# **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 19, 2017**

- Members Present:** Grant Turpin (Chair), Susan Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Mike Harnois, Frank Hubbell, Don Johnson, Jeremy LaPlante, Stacy Meier, Richard O'Brien, Matthew Petrin, Greg Placy, Peter Row, Scott Schuler, and Jeremy Thibeault (14)
- Members Absent:** Susanna Ayers, Jason Grey, Eric Jaeger, Lukas Kolm, Chad Miller, Richard Murphy, Eric Schelberg, and Helene Zielinski (8)
- Division Staff:** Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Chief Nick Mercuri, Deputy Chief Jon Bouffard, Captains: Vicki Blanchard, Chip Cooper, and Kathy Higgins-Doolan; Richard Cloutier (compliance) and June Connor (administrative assistant) (8)
- Guests:** Michael Cloutier, Pamela Drewniak, Steve Erickson, Craig Clough, and Nathan Denio (4)

**NOTE: "Action items" are in bold red.**

### **I. Call to Order**

#### **Item 1. Welcome**

- The CB meeting was called to order at 1:00PM by Chair Grant Turpin. A quorum was present with 14 voting members present.
- Today's meeting is the last one for Vice Chair Stacy Meier, Michael Cloutier (replaced by Susan Barnard), and Eric Schelberg (not present).
  - \* A new Vice Chair will be selected during the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **Item 2. Introductions**

All CB members and CB guests introduced themselves.

## **II. Approval of the Minutes**

### **Item 1. September 15, 2016**

**Motion made (Hubbell/O'Brien)** – *to accept the minutes, as written, from the Coordinating Board meeting held on September 15, 2016; passed with an abstention from Susan Barnard.*

### **Item 2. November 17, 2017**

**Motion made (Erickson/Thibeault)** – *to accept the minutes, as amended, from the Strategy and Planning meeting held on November 17, 2017; passed with an abstention from Susan Barnard.*

## **III. Bureau of EMS Report – J. Bouffard**

- EMS in the Warm Zone Operations – on track to be out mid-March.
- Infection control memorandum – back at DHHS.
- Operations: licensing season!
- Background check federal legislation for new and lapsed applicants went into effect on January 1, 2017. State Police background checks, being done by individual services, are not a substitute. **Spread the word...DO NOT GO PAST THE APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> DEADLINE!** Changing certification levels – waiting for legal input on this as to whether or not it requires a background check; it does not at this point.
- “LEAN” process – This efficiency evaluation is being done for the Division’s course authorization, practical exam, and course completion processes. The current system will be analyzed and then streamlined into a more efficient way to doing business.
- EMS Week – May 21-27. The theme is “EMS Strong, Always in Service”.
- Ambulance inspections – Diane Bunnell is the contact person.
- Clinical Systems Section – working on protocols. This year, the scope of practice modules will be slimmed down to their required content and included in the protocol roll-out. This guarantees that every 2 years, everyone will get the expanded scope of practice education. (A discussion ensued about whether or not Medical Control Directors should have to take the protocols. Some EMS providers complain that there are MCD’s who do not know what the protocols contain which makes it very difficult to rely on them for advice. Jon Bouffard explained that there was nothing the State could do to require it. However, locally, this could be put into a contract agreement. ED educators and EMS Coordinators could also help with this issue.)

- New London DHART Conference – April 29 & 30, 2017
- Stroke Collaborative – tentatively set for June 8, 2017
- Brain Injury Association Conference – May 17, 2017 (Vicki Blanchard and Dr. Lukovits will be speaking about EMS stroke protocols)
- New England Guideline for Sepsis – Jim Suozzi and Vicki Blanchard are working on this.
- Simulation Coordinator – a conditional offer has been made for this position.
- This year’s AFG money bought a simulation Trauma Hal, a power stretcher, and a cardiac monitor. The new ambulance, bought with last year’s grant money, has been delivered.
- Chip’s Data Group –
  - \* Aaron McIntire has joined the group part time. The group is now completing the third party vendor information so they can submit compliant data to us.
  - \* “Todd’s RODS” – Revised OverDose Score based on the high and low readings for both the respiratory rate and GCS.
    - In 2016 there were 2,793 Narcan administration cases:
    - Of those, there were 1,222 with no improvement; 321 with some improvement; and 1,162 (42%) were considered to be “life saved”.
    - Overall, since 2012, 41% were considered to be life saved.
- Elite program – The TEMSIS and Trauma Registry User Management process has diverted, resulting in an RFP for the entire program.
- Chip Cooper and Jim Suozzi will be attending the NASEMSO National EMS Model Guidelines working group this coming weekend.
- Data analyst interviews – one candidate has been moved to a second interview.
- A part time person is still needed in the Data Group; this person should know TEMSIS and be skilled in Excel.
- Data sharing – working on how to share data with the CARES registry.

#### **IV. Committee / Board Reports**

##### **Item 1. NH EMS Medical Control Board report –F. Hubbell**

- The MCB met this morning, January 19, 2017 at 9:00AM.
- Highlights of the meeting included the following:
  - \* Josh Patrick, from the Peterborough Fire Department, gave a PowerPoint presentation on EMS sepsis care. After the presentation, the MCB voted to send the EMS sepsis issue to the Protocol Sub-Committee to be turned into a draft protocol.
  - \* The following protocols were discussed: Thoracic injuries, CPAP, Refusal of Care, Baby Safe Haven, Abdominal Pain, Adrenal

Insufficiency, Anaphylaxis/Allergic Reaction, Asthma, COPD, RAD, Pediatric Respiratory Distress, Behavioral Emergencies, Brief Resolved Unexplained Event (BRUE), Fever, Hyperglycemia, Hypoglycemia, Hyperthermia, Hypothermia, and Victims of Violence.

- \* Lou Chattel, from Monadnock Hospital, spoke to the group about inserting a code word into the domestic violence protocol.
- \* A cardiovascular epidemiologist group from Dartmouth Institute has agreed to fund a quarter of an FTE to hire a CARES state coordinator.
- \* The group continues to discuss MRH credentialing of EMS providers.
- The next regular MCB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2017 at the NH Fire Academy. Here is the link to the minutes from MCB meetings:

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

## **Item 2. TMRC report – S. Schuler for R. Murphy**

- The last TMRC meeting was held on December 21, 2016.
- Highlights from the meeting included the following:
  - \* The Hospital Designation Sub-Committee is looking for new reviewers. There will be a 4 hour workshop on February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - \* 5 hospitals are on the docket to be reviewed in 2017.
  - \* The Education Sub-Committee has 2 new co-chairs, and Karen Louis will join the group as a dedicated BEMS staff member.
  - \* The Pre-Hospital Sub-Committee will be shifting their focus from trauma triage to provider education.
  - \* A new Process Improvement Sub-Committee is in the process of being formed to deal with what kind of data is needed and how it is to be utilized.
  - \* Please see the minutes for the Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation reports.

- The TMRC will meet again on February 15, 2017 at 9:30AM.

- Here is the link to the minutes from TMRC meetings:

[http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma\\_minutes.html](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma_minutes.html)

## **Item 3. Drug Diversion and Best Practices – R. O'Brien for J. Stewart**

- After about 3 years of work, the 7<sup>th</sup> version of the Best Practice Guide Book for Drug Diversion is completed. Chief O'Brien explained the contents of the guide to the group. **(See attachment.)**
- **Motion made (O'Brien/Schuler) – to approve the EMS Diversion Best Practice Guide and make it available as an EMS resource; passed unanimously.**
- In discussion, some page numbering errors were pointed out and members talked about how the guide could be useful to a broad scope of providers.

- The next step for the Drug Diversion committee will be to work with the BEMS to get a training program developed for both the provider and UCDC levels.

**Item 4. Best Practices – R. O’Brien (combined with Item 3)**

**Item 5. Informed consent – G. Turpin**

- This issue was originally discussed at the May 19<sup>th</sup> CB meeting. A regional director submitted a letter asking about protection/liability issues for providers who encounter patients who refuse to be transported. A committee was formed, but members were unable to get together.
- The Informed Consent Sub-Committee was reformed: Jeremy Thibeault, Jeremy LaPlante, and Peter Row volunteered, and Nick Mercuri will assist the group. An MCB member will also be asked to join. (POST MEETING NOTE: Nick Mercuri sent out an email requesting a meeting in early March, 2017.)
- The CB discussed this topic in more depth; college towns are most often affected, and one of the best solutions is to involve college administrators and law enforcement. Refusal of care by EMS should also be part of the discussion. There are many legal ramifications.

**V. Old Business**

**Item 1. Data Advisory Committee and Elite – R. Cooper**

- This group is looking for new direction and is awaiting the results of the strategic plan and the EMS compass measures.
- Features are being turned on as they come along. Interesting validations are being found that need to be put in.
- Committee could work on adding functionality.
- The committee is ahead of ImageTrend at this point.
- **Chair Turpin will get together with the sub-committee to discuss direction.**
- **NOTE: This item can be removed from the agenda for the next meeting.**

**Item 2. Elite – R. Cooper**

(Combined with Item 1, above)

**Item 3. EMS Rules update – N. Mercuri**

The rules are stalled right now. (See “New Business”)

**Item 4. H.R. 4365 Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016 – N. Mercuri**

This rule is in the Senate right now. In one of the additions, statewide protocols were addressed.

**Item 5. I/C renewals**

The sub-committee will be reconvened. **More information should be available at the next meeting.**

**Item 6. Strategic Planning update – N. Mercuri**

Everyone on the CB should have received a survey on January 11<sup>th</sup>. **Please contact Nick Mercuri if you did not receive the survey. A presentation will be ready for the next meeting in March.**

**Item 7. Roles of Regions – J. Bouffard**

- Chair Turpin and Kathy Doolan met with all of the region chairs to discuss the future of the EMS regions.
- By rule, the regions should have people attending meetings as well as MCB meetings, but at this point, attendance is negligible in most of the regions.
- A QA process was discussed for the statewide EMS region level; there could be a blind QA processes for all services that don't have one right now. They could develop their own process and their own level of engagement. They could be provided with blinded access to TEMSIS data for the services in their region where they review certain standards for quality. Then, they could give feedback to the services in their region.
- The goal is two-fold:
  1. to drive the local option education portion of the NCCP; they report back the gaps they found.
  2. As fee for service goes away, we have to prove improved quality of service/life in order to get reimbursement. This QA process would provide a foundation on which to build.
- To start, every town will be identified and who provides their EMS service, what reporting mechanism they use, and what data system would have to be accessed in order to run a QA.
- We still have to work with the BEMS on access for the regions. Hospitals can also be pulled in to this.
- People who get involved with this should understand that the goal is to use the QA in order to know where to refocus education.
- The regions are interested in having the state develop training in the QA process as well as one in how to use TEMSIS.

- Chief Mercuri cautioned that there has to be some consistency amongst the regions.

### **Item 8. Reporting EMS employment changes**

This subject was originally brought up at the September meeting and had to do with what happens with an EMS provider leaves one employer and goes to another when they are under the investigation process. In the law enforcement community, non-voluntary separation of employment has to be reported to Police Standards and Training, and the CB was asked to consider doing something similar. One of the problems for law enforcement is that new things keep getting added to the list so that it becomes a kind of black list. A discussion ensued, and the group decided that it should be more the responsibility of the new employer to find out about a potential new hire; proper vetting is key. **Chair Turpin will go back to the person who submitted the letter of concern and tell him that the CB feels that an EMS employment reporting system has no traction.**

## **VI. New Business**

- Legislation:
  - \* HB 423 - Line of Duty Death has been filed; language revisions are ongoing.
  - \* Bill to reduce the budget of the Division.
- Review of rules, per Governor Sununu:
  - \* There is a 90 day pause on new and/or amended rules until the existing rules have been reviewed in terms of demonstrated need, cost benefit, restrictiveness, and effectiveness.
  - \* **Chief Mercuri asked the CB to go back to its constituent groups to get input on the current rules (Saf-C 5900).**
  - \* The report is due to the Commissioner on March 1<sup>st</sup> and to the governor by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - \* (POST MEETING NOTE: An email was sent out on September 20<sup>th</sup> to the CB members with the current rules and proposed changed rules attached.)
  - \* NOTE: These rules have been re-written already and are waiting to be re-submitted after this 90 day pause. However, some may still have some input as to what else needs to be changed.
  - \* Jon Bouffard explained that the point of reviewing the rules is to determine what is essential and what is not essential.

**VII. Good of the order / Items of interest**

Thanks to Stacy Meier, Mike Cloutier, and Eric Schelberg for their dedicated service!

**VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion made by Richard O'Brien; seconded by Stacy Meier – *to adjourn the meeting at 2:45PM*; passed unanimously.**

**Next regular scheduled meeting: Thursday, March 16, 2017.**

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Turpin (Chair)

Notes: June Connor