

# **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)**

**March 16, 2017**

**Members Present:** Grant Turpin (Chair), Susan Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Frank Hubbell, Don Johnson, Chad Miller, Richard Murphy, Richard O'Brien, Matthew Petrin, Greg Placy, Peter Row, and Jeremy Thibeault (12)

**Members Absent:** Susanna Ayers, Jason Grey, Mike Harnois, Eric Jaeger, Lukas Kolm, Jeremy LaPlante, and Scott Schuler (7)

**Division Staff:** Director Deborah Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Chief Nick Mercuri, Deputy Chief Jon Bouffard, Captains: Vicki Blanchard and Chip Cooper, and June Connor (administrative assistant) (8)

**Guests:** Nathan Denio, Steve Erickson, Will Fischer, Mark Hastings, Aaron McIntire, Steve Robbins, and Chris Stawasz (6)

**Guest Speakers:** Sue Prentiss (REPLICA)  
Jeffrey Kellett, State Police Criminal Records Unit –  
Federal Background Checks

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

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

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

The CB meeting was called to order at 1:04PM by Chair Grant Turpin. A quorum was not present (9 members) when the meeting was called to order but was within a few minutes as 3 late comers arrived.

## **Item 2. Introductions**

All CB members and guests introduced themselves.

## **Item 3. Membership (Vice Chair and Public Member)**

- Re-nomination letters are overdue from 9 CB members (Miller, Erickson, Ayers, Hubbell, LaPlante, Placy, Murphy, Jaeger, and Harnois). Please be sure to get copies to June Connor so that terms can be properly tracked. June will check on Don Johnson's term to see if it is correct. Several people on this list stated that their organizations had already submitted letters to the Governor's Office; these letters have not yet made their way to the Academy. Director Pendergast said that there can be a delay of up to 2 months during the transition.
- Vice Chair – **(actually discussed after IV. Item 4)** With Stacy Meier now off the CB, a new Vice Chair needs to be chosen. Both Jeremy LaPlante and Richard O'Brien expressed interest; Jeremy is currently deployed and will return in 3 months. Richard O'Brien is currently serving his third term on the CB; this term will expire at the end of August, 2019.

**Motion made (Thibeault/Miller)** – *to hold a vote for the Vice Chair of the CB with nominees Jeremy LaPlante and Richard O'Brien.* **The motion was tabled until the BEMS staff researches the proper procedure.**

## **II. (See page 3 – out of order on agenda)**

## **III. Bureau of EMS Report – D. Pendergast & J. Bouffard**

**NOTE: A quorum was present during this item on the agenda.**

Director Pendergast reported that Elliot Hospital invited her to speak at their EMS Conference on "Compassion Fatigue".

The Governor's Office has given approval for the Division to hire a full-time data analyst and a part-time simulation program coordinator.

### **Clinical Systems:**

- Jon Bouffard reported that the TMRC has completed 2 reviews and 4 more are scheduled.
- Protocol roll-out – nearly complete with the Scope of Practice Modules included.
- Ebola grant money – the MOU has been signed. \$225,000 will be used over the next 2 years to work with an infection control program coordinator, some leadership education, and money for the User Management Module.

### **EMS Data Management:**

- Todd Donovan was invited to speak on "Todd's RODS" (revised overdose score – lives saved by Narcan) at the ImageTrend Conference. He is also developing a 12-lead PI report that will be available shortly.

## **Operations:**

- The course authorization process went through the LEAN process (an efficiency method) for both fire and EMS courses; the two processes will mirror each other.
- Licensing:
  - \* 1,517 people have not yet filed for re- licensure; about 200 are in process right now.
  - \* Background check process – a rough start but getting better; 49 are in waiting. Please contact Jon Bouffard or Jeffrey Phillips with questions/concerns. **A “Frequently Asked Questions” document will be sent out to service heads about the background check process.**
- EMS Warm Zone Operations – in production

## **Save the Dates:**

- April 29 - 30 is the New London DHART Conference in Sunapee.
- May 17 is the Brain Injury Association Conference
- May 21 – 27 is EMS Week “EMS Strong – Always in Service”

## **Legislative Updates (N. Mercuri):**

- Line of Duty Death (LODD) – moving over to the Senate. This bill will capture volunteers and non-profits.
- HB 433: Firefighter License Plates – gone through the House; fire chiefs will issue them. This bill is not supported by Firefighter Associations due to some concerns with the way it is written; plates for EMS not included.
- HB 407: Prophylaxis exposure – Right now, workmen’s compensation does not need to provide coverage for this under state law; this law would make it mandatory. It is going to go to a study committee.
- SB 59: HIV exposure – This has moved through the Senate and will go over to the House. This bill will expand mandatory testing to other diseases like Hepatitis B and C.

## **II. Approval of the Minutes (out of order on the agenda)**

### **Item 1. January 19, 2017**

**Motion made (Hubbell/Thibeault) – to accept the minutes, as written, from the Coordinating Board meeting held on January 19, 2017; passed unanimously.**

## **IV. REPLICA Presentation – S. Prentiss & N. Mercuri**

- Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact
- Chief Nick Mercuri introduced Sue Prentiss, who is the REPLICA representative for NASEMSO and has traveled all over the country talking about how this can work.

- This is about how providers can practice within a compact under certain circumstances.
- Next steps:
  - \* Meet with Sue to make sure we understand everything.
  - \* 3-state meeting in May
  - \* Bring it back to the Board for support for moving forward.
  - \* Try to have everything in place before the legislative season starts in September, 2017 if possible; the legislation is already written and it is a matter of building a coalition between the states.
  - \* **The CB would like to be updated in May.**

## V. 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:
  - \* Christina Swanberry, Concord Hospital's Stroke Program Manager, gave a presentation on the severity-based stroke triage algorithm for EMS. (See attachment)
  - \* The following protocols were discussed and edits approved: Smoke Inhalation Adult; Syncope Adult & Pediatric, Smoke Inhalation Pediatric, Northern New England Unified Guideline for Sepsis-Pediatric and Adult; Pain Management Pediatric and Adult; Newborn Resuscitation; Nausea/Vomiting Adult & Pediatric; Nerve Agents Organophosphate Poisoning Adult and Pediatric; Trauma Triage and Transport Decision; Surgical Cricothyrotomy Bougie Assisted Adult; Ventilator; Gum Elastic Bougie/Flexguide Adult; and Orotracheal Intubation
  - \* The MCB members discussed in detail MRH Credentialing and voted to support the position statement for New Hampshire that is stated in the National Scope of Practice Model that defines the roles of medical directors and their interaction with EMS providers.
  - \* Dr. Suozzi gave an update on the CARES Registry.
  - \* Regarding RSA 265-A (Blood Draws by EMS), the group voted to not support EMS providers being able to perform drug alcohol blood draw tests on people who have been charged with a DUI.
- The next regular MCB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 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 –R. Murphy

- The last TMRC meeting was held on February 15, 2017.
- Highlights from the meeting included the following:

- \* The importance of updating the 2010 Trauma Plan was discussed, and the sub-committees divided up the task by taking on different sections.
- \* The Pre-Hospital sub-committee is working on trauma triage training modules which will be released with the 2017 protocol roll-out. Additionally, the hospital capabilities matrix is nearly complete and will be kept updated by “Knowledge Center”.
- \* Refer to the minutes for the Injury Prevention report.
- \* The Process Improvement sub-committee began trying to figure out how to best wade through data to get answers.
- \* The committee voted in favor of recommending to the Commissioner of the DOS that Dartmouth Hitchcock be officially designated as a State Level One Adult and State Level II Pediatric until January 30, 2018 due to its successful completion of an ACS verification.
- 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**

With the Best Practices document completed, the focus of the committee will shift to education programs for UCDC’s and medical resource hospitals.

### **Item 4. Informed consent – G. Turpin**

There has been very limited success in getting this committee off the ground. Chair Turpin asked Jeremy Thibeault, Peter Row, and Nick Mercuri to get together on this via email.

### **GUEST SPEAKER: JEFFREY KELLETT (added to agenda)**

Chief Nick Mercuri introduced Jeff Kellett from the Criminal History Unit of the State Police. He clarified for the members of the CB what is involved with Federal Fingerprint background checks.

### **Why do both state and federal background checks need to be done when, in theory, the FBI has all the state’s information?**

- The FBI record search is done by fingerprint images, and only reports of arrests that are fingerprint supported are entered into their database; sometimes, no fingerprints are taken or those that are of poor quality are rejected, so not all arrests are in their database.
- NH passed a specific law that requires criminal background checks for those who want to be licensed EMTs – a non-criminal just purpose. Therefore, applicants need to submit their fingerprints to the State Police who then forward them to the FBI.

- Unlike the FBI, NH State Police keep records of all arrests, whether or not they are fingerprint supported. This is why both checks have to be done.

#### **Narrow scope of the process:**

- Only the staff of the Criminal Records Unit is authorized to do these checks.
- Agencies should be aware that other private companies offer background checks, but only 16 companies have been contracted and have access to the FBI criminal history database for various reasons; the NH State law requiring EMTs to get background checks is **not** one of the reasons.
- The applicant fills out a state form for the state background record.
- Then fingerprints get taken and sent to the State Police.
  - \* Applicants can choose the “inked” method or live scan technology which captures the fingerprint images electronically and instantly sends them to the Criminal Records Unit.
- All background check results are sent directly to the BEMS. (The BEMS, by law, cannot share the results with other agencies or municipalities.)

#### **Discussion:**

- Chad Miller pointed out that unlike teachers and nurses, for example, EMTs can only become licensed once they are affiliated with an agency; perhaps this is something that should be changed. A discussion ensued, and Chief Nick Mercuri reminded the group about RSA 153:A states that one has to be licensed in order to provide emergency medical care; to circumvent this law for a few hundred people could open up a Pandora’s box of other issues.
- Problems – EMS agencies are having difficulty with time frames; people who have been hired cannot be put on an ambulance until their licenses come through; delays are an unintended consequence of a well-intended program. Additionally, 911 contracts that agencies have with municipalities have different specifications for doing criminal background checks, and this is causing confusion.
- Question – What happens when a criminal background check shows that a hired EMT has a criminal record? Right now, per RSA 153:13, the BEMS has the ability to deny, revoke, or suspend licenses. Legal counsel would be sought on a case-by-case basis. Certain felonies, like felony murder, would result in a denial.
- Director Pendergast met with Chief Nick Mercuri, Richard Cloutier (Compliance) and the Commissioner, to brainstorm what would be involved with a waiver process or a temporary license. More conversations need to occur with legal, and solutions will probably come in phases.
- What is the Criminal Records Unit doing to speed up the process? Once the unit receives the fingerprints, there is about a 7-8 day turnaround. The problem lies in getting the fingerprints to the unit. Applicants are encouraged to go to a live scan site because the images they do are of very

high quality and will therefore not be rejected. However, the State Police currently only have 6 live scan sites throughout the state. The Governor has just approved the hiring of more staff, and so more sites will be added to alleviate the 4-6 week backlog. The Criminal Records Unit averages about ¼ million record checks a year and the staff consists of just 4 people. Due to payment and paperwork issues, going to a municipality to get prints done can potentially delay the process even further. Applicants are encouraged to make appointments.

- **A request was made for the BEMS to send out a “best practices” document to the EMS agencies; this is in process, and the document will be sent out soon.**

## **V. Old Business**

### **Item 1. EMS Rules update – N. Mercuri**

The Rules are on hold at this time. Chair Turpin reported that he has been approached by a few people who are frustrated that things seem to come to a halt when they reach the office of David Hiltz; **BEMS will pass along the message.**

### **Item 2. Strategic Planning update – N. Mercuri**

Chief Nick Mercuri asked people to do the survey. Some members of the CB stated that they could not open up the survey on their emails. Please let Chief Mercuri know if you have had difficulties such as this. **Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips said that the Survey Monkey link could be put on the web and then the link could be sent out.**

## **VI. New Business**

### **Item 1. RSA 265-A:5 Blood Draws by EMS providers**

If a person is arrested with a DUI, he/she can request a med tech or phlebotomist to do the blood draw within 2 hours of being stopped. The State Lab has requested that the EMS boards discuss whether or not EMTs should also be allowed to draw blood at the request of an arrested DUI person. The MCB does not support this because there is no protocol for it and also, people who are arrested for DUI are not “patients”. There are also potential legal issues with no witnesses, etc.

**Motion made (Hubbell/Thibeault) – to support the MCB’s opinion to” just say no” to the idea of allowing EMTs to draw blood at the request of those who are arrested for DUIs; passed unanimously.**

### **Item 2. Rules Review (Saf-C 6200)**

These rules are up in June and have to do with fees. Chief Mercuri asked for comments/suggestions on them before they go to the FST Commission in April. One of the issues is that “EMS provider” is not defined; most fees are on the fire



side of the Division's operations. Jeremy Thibeault stated that the reciprocity language was too vague. (The original intent of the \$400 fee was for Fire Officer III/IV which involves a portfolio process.)

**There was no motion from the members of the CB, but there was a consensus, as amended. (Several members left the meeting early, so there was no quorum.)**

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

- Director Pendergast spoke to the group about her term, which is expiring at the end of March. By RSA, the DOS Commissioner decides and puts her name forward to the Governor and Council. Letters of support are needed from the members of the CB and the FST Commission.

**Motion made (Hubbell/Erickson) – to fully support Deborah Pendergast's re-appointment as the Director of the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS. There was a consensus amongst the CB members to support the motion. (A quorum was not present.)**

- Peter Row spoke about the paper he wrote on the EMS relationship with non-EMS providers. He would like the members to read the paper and give comment. **Chair Turpin will get a group together to work on this.**
- April 10, 2017 – Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee will be coming to the Division for an informational session and tour. Members of the CB are also invited; a flyer will be sent out. **Please RSVP to June Connor.**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:30PM; no vote taken to adjourn.**

**Next regular scheduled meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2017.**

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Turpin (Chair)