

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

November 16, 2017

9:00AM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy
Classrooms 5 & 6, Dormitory Building
98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH 03301

Members present:

Grant Turpin, Chair; Susanna Ayers, Susan Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Mike Harnois, Frank Hubbell, Eric Jaeger, Don Johnson, Jeremy LaPlante, Chad Miller, Richard O'Brien, Greg Placy, Peter Row, and Jeremy Thibeault (14)

Members absent:

Jason Grey, Lukas Kolm, Richard Murphy, Matthew Petrin, and Scott Schuler (5)

NH FST&EMS Staff:

Director Deborah Pendergast and Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips; Captains Chip Cooper, and Kathy Higgins-Doolan; Gerard Christian, Richard Cloutier, and Joanne Lahaie (7)

Guests:

Steve Erickson, Chris Stawasz, Kevin Blinn, Stacey Meier, and Patrick Twomey (5)

I. Call to Order

Item 1. Welcome back to Jeremy LaPlante!

Item 2. Introductions were made.

Item 3. Membership

- * Eric Jaeger (NH Chapter of the Academy of Pediatrics) is working on his re-appointment which expired on April 13, 2016.
- * Jason Grey's (NH Assoc. of EMTs) membership expired on June 30, 2017; he has not submitted a formal resignation.
- * Chad Miller's (Municipal Assoc. rep.) membership expired on February 21, 2017; he has not submitted a formal resignation.
- * Richard Murphy's (NH Chapter of the ACS) membership expired on February 21, 2017; he has not submitted a formal resignation.
- * Scott Schuler's (TMRC rep) membership expired on August 31, 2017. (POST MEETING NOTE: A re-nomination letter and a copy of Scott's resume were sent to the Governor's Office from the TMRC during the first week of December, 2017.)
- * **Vacant Positions on the CB:** NH Ambulance Association, NH Paramedic Association, and a Public Member.

Item 4. Vice Chair vote

Chief Richard O'Brien and Jeremy LaPlante expressed interest in the position, and each spoke to the CB members about their qualifications.

By show of hands, Richard O'Brien was approved (8 in favor) by the MCB and will be the new Vice Chair.

II. Approval of the minutes

Motion made (Thibeault/Hubbell) – *to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2017 CB meeting, passed unanimously.*

III. Division / BEMS Reports

Item 1. Bureau of EMS and Division updates

Director Deborah Pendergast gave the following report:

- Facilities – new seating, carpeting and lighting in the auditorium! There are now 140 very comfortable/padded seats!
- New technical rescue prop dealing with doors and windows – working on getting this out to services
- EMS in the Warm Zone Operations – this online course is on the website.
- EMS Mobile Simulator Training Coordinator position – final interview was held
- Southeast NH Captain/Coordinator Position – completed interviews
- The EMS Deputy position should be posted in the near future.
- National Fallen Firefighters training is scheduled; Stress First Aid for Emergency Responders and Occupational Fire Service Cancer; Mark your calendars for December 6th; more information will be forthcoming.
- Funding: **The State Fire Academy is looking for ideas for our state funding grant. This AFG grant has been used to purchase needed training and safety equipment, including an ambulance and fire truck. Please contact Vicki Blanchard if you have any suggestions.**
There is a need for a mobile haz-mat prop which would cost from \$80,000 - \$95,000; we are allowed to apply for up to a total of \$500,000. The application period should open up sometime at the end of November, and we will have 6 weeks to complete the application.

Chief Nick Mercuri reported on 7 pieces of legislation will be proposed this year:

- 1) Criminal History Background Check
- 2) Clearing up a conflict about where funds get deposited – General Fund or Fire Fund
- 3) Removing data pieces in 21-P so that Chip Cooper's data team will not be under Health and Human Services. (Requests will therefore come through the Coordinating Board if this goes through.)
- 4) REPLICA Compact – This got filed and a senator was found who has agreed to support it. Chief Mercuri explained the benefits of the Compact to the members.
- 5) Separation of State Medical Director and State Medical Control Board Chair so that the State Medical Director can get paid as an employee (between \$10,000 and \$14,000 which will come out of the operating budget); this separation will eliminate perceived or actual conflict between the 2 positions.
- 6) Exemption of the part of the rule that deals with the protocol version from the rule making process so that we can go from the Protocol Committee to a Public Hearing to the MCB for a vote.
- 7) Withdrawal of proposed legislation about allowing family members to make the determination as to where an ambulance should go rather than EMS providers; will probably be pulled but not sure yet.

The CB members discussed the way Anthem intends to not cover unnecessary ER visits and its impact on EMS. This topic needs more vetting. Stacey Meier also reported that within the last 6 months, United Healthcare has required pre-authorizations for in-hospital transport; this is a new trend.

Grants:

- Awarding of \$75,000 grant from the Governor's Commission: This will involve more law enforcement training with Narcan as well as developing an additional awareness module for first responders; we will be collaborating with Health and Human Services.
- Awarding of 3.1 million dollars (about \$800,000/year) "Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration" (**SAMHSA**) grant to get more first responders to deliver Narcan and interact more with at-risk people to help them get needed services. The Division will hire 2 full time EMS people for this; more information will be forthcoming.

IV. Committee/Board Reports

Item 1. Medical Control Board update

- Frank Hubbell reported. The MCB meet this morning, November 16, 2017.
- Highlights of the meeting:
 - * The MCB members endorsed the UCDC training program and supported its being presented to the Hospital Pharmacist group and then to the Coordinating Board.
 - * Protocols will be changing from yearly to "versions".
 - * A few protocol changes were made, and the members voted in favor of changing the definition of hypoglycemia from 70 to 60 mg/dl; they also discussed the TXA protocol and voted in favor of leaving out wording having to do with transferring to a hospital capable of continuing TXA therapy.
 - * A CARES update was discussed.
 - * Dave Rivers asked the group for feedback about whether or not EMS providers want to work with Poison Control during an event.
 - * Eric Jaeger brought up an issue in the field regarding confusion over helicopter transfers now that they can bring patients to both Level I and Level II hospitals.
 - * Jim Suozzi has stepped down as Chair of the MCB but he will stay on as a member.
 - * David Hirsch also resigned from the MCB.
- The next MCB meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018.
- 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

- Gerard Christian reported. The TMRC met on October 18, 2017.
- Highlights of the meeting:
 - * The Trauma Triage Roll-out on NHOODLE was shown and discussed.
 - * Work has been completed on a draft copy of a data dictionary that goes along with the state's trauma registry; this is the first step in collecting a data set that will be collected from all of the hospitals that participate in the system.
 - * CMC received their Level III designation.
- The next meeting of the TMRC is scheduled for December 20, 2017 at 9:30AM.
- 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. Work group development

- Chair Turpin reported that CB members are not in favor of having work group meetings during lunch.
- He did receive some feedback from members regarding their choices for these groups.
- Work group members need to communicate with each other to determine the best time to meet.

- Work groups are listed on the last page of these minutes.

V. Old Business

Item 1. REPLICA update (covered during Chief Mercuri's report)

Item 2. EMS Provider Safety: Hours of Work

This was discussed at the last meeting, and CB members were asked to go back to their stakeholder groups and get some input on the topic.

The CB can come up with a best practice document or suggestions but does not have the authority to go further than that.

Factors to take into consideration:

- Not all shifts are the same; geography makes a difference as well as part-time versus full time
- Supervisors need training on how to recognize sleep deprivation and behavioral health symptoms, etc.
- Studies are available; Peter Row mentioned one that lauded the benefits of a 40 minute rest period.
- Chief Mercuri suggested that the Division work on gathering information to determine the actual problem before doing a best practices document. **Frank Hubbell will get information to Chief Mercuri.**
- Stroke awareness and physical impact also needs to be considered.
- Implied liability
- Best practices could be a problem with services/municipalities who want to handle this type of issue on their own; labor practices are not within the purview of the CB.
- Restricting hours could severely impact staffing, particularly up north.
- Patient care should always be the bottom line.

This is a conversation that needs to continue.

VI. New Business

Item 1. EMS Rules workgroup: Chair Turpin asked for volunteers to work on cleaning up the old language in the EMS rules. Our Governor's mandate from last March was to streamline everything; Richard O'Brien, Chad Miller, Sue Barnard, and Grant Turpin volunteered.

Item 2. Don Johnson brought up the topic of recruitment and retention that goes along with the discussion above about EMS hours. He volunteered to sit on a work group involved with this topic. Director Pendergast stated that this is actually a national issue and affects the fire services as well. The Ed Tech Dept. at the Fire Academy is in the process of putting together a public service announcement that can be shared with departments and agencies around the state.

Item 3. Stroke in NH: The NH Stroke Collaborative is similar, on a smaller scale, to the TMRC. They won the "Committee and Conscience Award" at the American Heart Association Regional Conference.

Representatives from NH, ME, and VT met to share practices.

The DAWN Trial was just published in November. It showed that patients 6- 24 hours after their Last Known Well Time could benefit from a thrombectomy and standard medical care versus standard medical care alone. Depending on what tertiary care and thrombectomy centers decide to do with their programs, this could affect both EMS and hospital EDs in that we could be looking to identify patients for stroke treatment using much longer time windows. It will be interesting to see what changes will occur in healthcare as a result of this trial. We should keep a close watch so as to maintain our best practices and protocols.

Chair Turpin asked Sue Barnard to come to an MCB meeting to give a report on changes in stroke care.

Item 4. Eric Jaeger brought up the decreasing volunteer issue (related to recruitment and retention) and questioned the role of Bureau of EMS and/or the boards in having a level of surveillance so that help with problem solving can be offered. Sharing more data will be a big part of solving this problem. Frank Hubbell also suggested that the EMS regions need to be more active. Peter Row wants to know exactly why we are losing volunteers; several members gave their opinions, but more specific data is needed. Chip Cooper also stated that many service leaders have no training in how to be leaders, resulting in a lot of dysfunction in services. There are also technical, cultural, and legal issues.

Item 5. (Actually Item 1 on agenda under "New Business")

Chief Mercuri went over the results of the town hall meetings held over the summer. He gave a PowerPoint presentation ([See attachment](#)) and **concluded by asking the CB members to go back to their groups and ask for their opinions on what they think the top 4-5 most important goals should be. This will be discussed at the next meeting.**

VII. Good of the Order / Items of Interest

- Chip Cooper introduced Joanne Lahaie, the new data analyst.
- Grant will send out the workgroup list to the members and will track the meetings.
- Future agendas will include a report from the spokesperson of each workgroup.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made (Hubbell/Ayers) – to adjourn the meeting at 3:10PM, passed unanimously.

EMS and Trauma Hospital Coordinating Board workgroups

Implied Consent and EMS refusals

Jeremy	LaPlante	nhjeremy@gmail.com
Jeremy	Thibeault	jeremy.thibeault@hanovernh.org
Peter	Row	peter@therows.net
Mike	Harnois	mike_harnois@neob.org
Eric	Jaeger	ejaeger@truenorthgroup.org

EMS Physician level of licensure

Frank	Hubbel	bearhubbell@aol.com
Jeremy	Laplante	nhjeremy@gmail.com
Peter	Row	peter@therows.net
John	Seidner	seidner@me.com

IC Renewal & EMS Education

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Recruitment and Retention

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EMS Rules Update

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Members not signed up

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Next Meeting: January 18, 2018

(Minutes written by June Connor)