

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

September 20, 2018

1:00PM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy
Classrooms 1 & 2, Administration Building
98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH 03301

NOTE: "Action items" are in bold red.

Members present:

Grant Turpin (Chair), Susanna Ayers, Susan Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Mike Harnois, Frank Hubbell, Eric Jaeger, Kristen Krauss, Jeremy LaPlante, Chad Miller, Michael Newhall, Richard O'Brien, Clay Odell, Lisa Patterson, Matthew Petrin, Greg Placy, and Scott Schuler **(17)**

Members absent:

Don Johnson, Lukas Kolm, Joshua Morrison, David Tauber, and Jeremy Thibeault **(5)**

NH FST&EMS Staff:

Director Deborah Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Bureau Chief Justin Romanello; Captains: Kathy Higgins-Doolan, and Vicki Blanchard; Joanne Lahaie, Rachel Horr, Liza Burrill, and June Connor (minutes) **(9)**

Guests:

Brian Allard, Pam Drewniak, Steve Erickson, John Hall, Anna Sessa, and Patty Rocca **(6)**

I. Call to Order

Item 1. Welcome – Chair Grant Turpin called the meeting to order at 1:00PM when a quorum was present. Several other members arrived later on in the meeting.

Item 2. Introductions were made; new member, Kristen Krauss, representing the general public was introduced.

Item 3. Membership

- 1 expired term: Lukas Kolm
- POST MEETING NOTE: Don Johnson's term will expire on January 19, 2019.

II. Approval of the minutes

Motion made (Newhall/Erickson) – *to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2018 CB meeting*, passed with an abstention from Kristen Krauss.

III. Division / BEMS Reports

Item 1. Division and BEMS

Director Pendergast:

- Dormitory mold issue in classrooms 5, 6, and 7 due to high humidity over summer; this has been remediated.
- Fire Investigator certification program; at the half-way mark. This is a first for us in NH and one of only a few in New England.
- October 29, 2018: Behavioral Health Symposium being held at the Academy in conjunction with NAMI. **(Flyer attached to these minutes.)**
- Recruit School program: 24 or 25 out of 28 students will be graduating on Friday, September 21, 2018.
- 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG): award of \$360,000; 85% is funded by FEMA and 15% funded by the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS.
- Monday, September 24, 2018: Fire and Emergency Medical Services Committee of Merit Awards and Recognition presentation at the Concord City Auditorium.

Chief Nick Mercuri:

- NH First update **(See attachment)**
- There should be a couple of pilot communities starting up this fall.
- Strategic Plan – With the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) review completed, it is time to put together all of the information that has been gathered over the last 2 years into a strategic plan.

Bureau Chief Justin Romanello:

- NHTSA and DOT review: Thanks to all who helped with this last week. A brief of the written report will be sent out. One of the facts that came out of the review is that NH has 10% of the total AEMT population in the United States.
- Protocol 7.1(latest update) – Public Hearing from 1:00PM to 3:00PM on October 4, 2018 in classroom 4 of the Academy Administration Building. If there is nothing that has to be re-addressed by the MCB, then it will be presented to the CB for a final vote.
- EMS Rules Public Hearings **(See attachment for schedule)**
- * After the public hearings are completed, the EMS Rules will come back to the CB, then be submitted to the Commissioner, and finally be filed with JLCAR. These rule changes have been sent out on the list serve and are also posted on the Division's website:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/safc5900emsrules.pdf>
- * Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips cautioned everyone to be careful when reading the rules because they are in an edited format; sections in brackets are meant to be deleted, and new items are underlined.
- EMS Symposium at CMC last week: Bureau Chief Romanello's first "State of the State" with the intention of getting out and around the state to speak on a regular basis.
- November 1 & 2, 2018 – Trauma Conference at the Academy
- September 19 – 21, 2018 – North Country Conference; several Division staffers will be speaking
- September 24, 2018 – Bureau Chief Romanello announced the EMS award recipients. **(See attachment)** New award this year: EMS Unit Citation

Item 2. Legislative update

Nick Mercuri: At this point, new legislation is looking fairly light.

- 1) Exemption for firefighters from having to have an EMS license to administer Narcan. The bigger picture involves the consideration of exempting everyone from having to have a license due to the "over the counter" availability of Narcan. There is a lot to consider. There are several online training modules available. It will be necessary to define the difference between first aid and licensed care.

June Connor was asked to look through the minutes from the last 2 years to find the CB's discussion/vote on Firefighter level of licensure. *Below is the text from the May 19, 2016 minutes, page 4:*

"IV. Committee / Board Reports

Item 4. Firefighter level of licensure – G. Turpin (added to agenda)

Chair Turpin brought up the issue of creating a level of licensure for firefighters who are not EMT's to be able to administer Narcan in the same way that law enforcement providers can. The discussion centered on the duty to act component for responders who are not protected by Good Samaritan laws as well as the pros and cons and realities/challenges of putting something like this in place and who would benefit.

A motion was made by Frank Hubbell; seconded by Michael Harnois – to support a firefighter level of licensure similar to that of law enforcement; passed with 10 in favor and 1 abstention by Eric Jaeger.

For clarification, Jon Bouffard referenced RSA 153-A:11(I):

153-A:11 Licensure of Emergency Medical Care Providers. – I. Except for automated external defibrillation pursuant to RSA 153-A:28-31, a person shall not provide emergency medical services as a paid or volunteer member of a public or private emergency medical services unit in this state, or as a paid or volunteer member of any police or fire department who, as a condition of employment, may be expected to routinely provide emergency medical services in the line of duty, without being licensed by the commissioner.

Director Pendergast concluded a lengthy discussion by asking responders to think about their mission to protect and save the lives of citizens in New Hampshire. With this in mind, if adding this one little piece saves one life over the course of 12 months, then we've done our job. Yes, this will probably be limited to very rural areas, but there is really no negative."

- 2) Legislation regarding where funds are deposited, be in the General Fund or the Fire Fund - This only involves about \$3,500, but last year, the money we collected was put into the General Fund. (The money comes from fees for ambulance inspections, etc.) We would rather see this money go into the Fire Fund so it can help to support the Division.

IV. Committee/Board Reports

Item 1. Medical Control Board update

Frank Hubbell reported. The MCB meet this morning, September 20, 2018.

- Highlights of the meeting:
 - * At this point in time, the protocols only require some finessing rather than making drastic changes.
 - * The anxiety protocol was discussed at length. The MCB members voted to write a protocol specific to this topic.
 - * Ketamine shortage looks like it is coming to an end.
 - * Shelter Care (Chief Nick Mercuri) – RE using EMS providers at shelters when they are open for emergency situations. Research is on-going.
 - * Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) – education and standardization are being worked on; consistency is the goal.
 - * Issues with narcotic waste; who is responsible and problems with signing off.
- The next MCB meeting is scheduled for November 15, 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. TMRC report

The TMRC meeting scheduled for August 15, 2018 was cancelled because a quorum was not present. Vicki Blanchard repeated the highlights of the meeting on [June 20th \(See minutes\)](#).

- The next meeting of the TMRC is scheduled for October 17, 2018 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 reports

a. **Implied consent and EMS refusals** (Chief Nick Mercuri)

- A letter is being drafted for Grant to use to reply to Region 2 regarding when patients can and cannot refuse transport.
- Chief O'Brien spoke about an incident on the VT border involving 2 minors and whether or not their parents could be contacted. Ultimately, the officer at the scene thought that if EMS transported the unwilling minors, it could be considered to be kidnapping.
- There is a need for much more education on this expanding topic that has gone from a discussion about inebriated patients to issues with minors, etc.
- Chair Turpin requested that this work group define a new focus for implied consent and EMS refusals now that the initial task of writing a letter to Region 2 is nearly done.

b. **EMS Physician level of licensure**

- Another meeting will be scheduled this fall. A report will be presented at the November meeting.
- Research is being done particularly on credentialing. Medical Directors are excluded.
- It is possible that not many physicians will be interested due to liability issues.
- Other issues include determining who will oversee physician quality of performance as an EMS provider and clarifying the scope of what a physician can do on an ambulance.

c. **I/C Renewal & EMS Education**

- This group will meet prior to the next meeting.

d. **Recruitment and Retention** –

- There was a meeting in May. Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips and Chief Nick Mercuri met with State Police and the NH Association of Fire Chiefs (NHAFC) over the summer to see what they have done about this issue. Chief Mercuri would like to see the work group meet with representatives from these two organizations.
- Chief Mercuri has also been in contact with Rural Health at the DHHS; they are doing a healthcare provider survey and are willing to do a survey for us as well.

e. **EMS Rules**

Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips reported that the EMS Rules have been submitted to JLCAR; because the September 8th deadline was met, the rules do not expire. He encouraged everyone to attend the public hearings mentioned by Bureau Chief Romanello (**see attachment**). Any conversations you have with Division staff on this topic will not be considered to be official comments. There is a process that has to be followed. Anyone on the CB who decides to make comments at the public hearings can only do so as a private citizen; not as a voting member of the CB.

...and about the pelvic binder: From the March 15, 2018 minutes, "**A motion was made (O'Dell/Schuler) – to cross out the word "commercial" on the equipment list as it refers to a pelvic splinting device; passed with an abstention from Chad Miller.**"

Item 4. Stroke care – S. Barnard

- The Stroke Collaborative met on Monday, September 17th, at the Exeter Hospital. We are slowly and cautiously moving forward (given a lack of an evidence-based screen) with the FAST-ED, a pre-hospital scale to detect large vessel occlusion strokes.

- Susan asked about the process for getting approved by the MCB.
- The Stroke Collaborative members decided to attend the Protocols work group webex meeting as a place to start. Vicki Blanchard explained that the Protocol work group will decide about adopting FAST-ED into the protocol. This will go before the CB at its November meeting and will not become live until the new version of the protocols comes out, probably in another year or so.
- Susan described some of the other EMS assessment pieces of the FAST-ED, such as neglect and eye deviation. She also emphasized that hospitals will **not** be bypassed if the patient is tPA eligible.
- A training video will be available to all EMS services on how to do FAST-ED; Susan will get the details for everyone.
- November 6, 2018 – Stroke Conference at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Wentworth-Douglass is offering 10 scholarships to it.

V. Old Business

Item 1. EMS Provider Safety: Hours of Work

Chief Mercuri reported that there is nothing new on the NASEMSO website on this topic. **This will be taken off the agenda for the next meeting, but can be put back on at a later date.** Director Pendergast advised that other emergency response groups should be studied.

Item 2. NREMT LCCR – State Required subjects

- Bureau Chief Romanello only received 2 responses about topics for the NREMT LCCR.
- Jeremy LaPlante reminded the group that the intent of the work group was to make sure that the State would never receive more than 4 things to mandate.
- Scott Schuler added that whatever is done should be on a March/April cycle, and the first year of doing it should be on a 2-year cycle.
- Bureau Chief Romanello asked that any other suggestions be sent to him immediately with the intent of coming back to the next CB meeting with a recommendation for 4 topics (not classes, as cautioned by Assistant Director Phillips; local service directors should decide how the topics actually get done.)
- Chair Turpin asked about whether or not data is being used to determine EMS educational needs in NH, and a discussion ensued.

VI. New Business

- NCCP is no longer honoring refreshers as a means to re-certify; an announcement was sent out. It is now up to the providers taking refreshers to plug in the hours in their National Registry profiles.
- Data requests – The CB now has the responsibility of reviewing all data requests in conjunction with EMS staff at the Division. **Please email Grant Turpin if you are interested in being on a list of people for Grant to pull from; meetings have to be done in person.** Joanne Lahaie mentioned that we now will have to come up with our own data suppression rules.

VII. Good of the Order / Items of Interest (none)

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made (Petrin/Ayers) – to adjourn the meeting at 2:35PM; passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2018

(Minutes written by June Connor)