

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

November 15, 2018

1:00PM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy

Classrooms 5 & 6, Dormitory

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, Eric Jaeger, Don Johnson, Chad Miller, Joshua Morrison, Michael Newhall, Richard O'Brien, Clay Odell, Greg Placy, Scott Schuler, David Tauber, and Jeremy Thibeault **(15)** QUORUM = 12

Members absent:

Mike Harnois, Frank Hubbell, Lukas Kolm, Kristen Krauss, Jeremy LaPlante, Lisa Patterson, and Matthew Petrin **(7)**

NH FST&EMS Staff:

Director Deborah Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Chief of Strategy and Planning Nick Mercuri, Bureau Chief Justin Romanello; Captains: Kathy Higgins-Doolan, Vicki Blanchard, and Chip Cooper; Joanne Lahaie, Rachel Horr, and June Connor (minutes) **(10)**

Guests:

John Chisholm, Steve Erickson, John Hall, Fred Heinrich, Aaron McIntire, Anna Sessa, Brian Nicholson, Craig Clough, and Doug Devine **(9)**

I. Call to Order

Item 1. Welcome – Chair Grant Turpin called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Item 2. Introductions were made, and Eric Jaeger informed the group that he could only stay for a half hour; the quorum was not affected.

Item 3. Membership

- 1 expired term: Lukas Kolm
- Don Johnson's term expires on January 19, 2019. June Connor will assist with the re-nomination process.

II. Approval of the minutes

A motion was made (Erickson/Barnard) – *to approve the minutes, as corrected, from the September 20, 2018 CB meeting, passed unanimously.*

III. Division / BEMS Reports

Item 1. Division and BEMS

Bureau Chief Justin Romanello reported:

- **EMS Rule changes:** 4 public hearings were held; attendance was low. Some comments were emailed. After meeting with attorneys and determining that there will be no substantive changes, the rules will then go to the Coordinating Board for approval. These rules will be a foundation for future needed changes.
- **Protocols public hearing:** No one attended; these will move on the CB this afternoon, November 15, 2018.
- **NHTSA report: The final report was submitted. BC Romanello will make available a summary of the report within the next 2 months.** This report, combined with information gleaned from the ACS 2016 assessment and all of the town hall meetings that were held in 2017 will drive future plans for the Bureau of EMS, the Division, and the EMS system in NH as a whole for the next 5 – 10 years.
- **Bureau of EMS re-organization:** The 16 existing positions have been adapted to meet current needs; at this time, there is no budget for additional positions.
 - **New sections of the BEMS:** Special Projects (Liza Burrill) and Educational Delivery. The Bureau will be augmenting training in the state, with a focus on initial programs, standardized programs (TCCC, TECC, ALS), and continuing education. Teleconferencing will be utilized to reach as many people as possible in the state; facilitators will be needed at each site.
 - An announcement was put out that instructors with EMS backgrounds were needed; **please contact BC Romanello if you know of anyone that meets these requirements.**
 - Link to updated staff directory:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/staffdirectory.html>
 - It will take at least 6 months to prepare for this new direction.
- **EMS Bulletins:** These will start on January 1, 2019 as a way of disseminating information about what is going on in the Division.
- **DERMIS:** The User Management contract is finally moving forward, and the new system should get going in about 6 months. The result of this new system will be to free up staff in the Bureau to concentrate on other things.

Director Deborah Pendergast gave the Division report:

- The application has been submitted for the 2018 Federal AFG grant; if awarded, the oldest SCBA cylinders will be replaced as well as the lining of the Class "A" burn building out on the drill yard. Additionally, one of the haul tractors will be replaced with a 10-wheel 60,000 pound haul tractor that will make it so that only one trip will be needed to get training equipment to a site. One of the oldest pediatric mannequins will be replaced with an \$80,000 simulation mannequin. Finally, the education technology department will get updated camera equipment. The total request this year is \$420,000.

The Division has received grant money over the last 5 consecutive years and is hoping to keep the trend going.

- October 29th: Behavioral Health Symposium was very successful and the Division has been asked to plan for another such symposium next year.
- 2017 AFG grant: approval from Governor and Council to accept and expend the money is expected by the end of this month.

Clay Odell commented about the need for improved pay ranges for instructors. Director Pendergast agreed but stated that instructor pay is dictated by job descriptions which give a definitive pay range which cannot be changed. Instructor requirements were discussed, and BC Justin Romanello added that instructors are needed mostly to teach the initial courses; a sub-committee may be needed to address this topic.

Item 2. Legislative update

Nick Mercuri:

- Law enforcement and fire licensure for Narcan – no movement
- The legislative period was opened for new requests; nothing has been filed for fire and EMS at this point. This period closes in the first week of December.

IV. Committee/Board Reports

Item 1. Medical Control Board update

Vicki Blanchard reported for Frank Hubbell. The MCB met this morning, November 15, 2018.

Highlights of the meeting:

- The Drug Diversion Task Force final report was submitted and the MCB voted in favor of the task force continuing with a new direction listed on page 7 of the final report.
- The members discussed a letter submitted from PFFNH in opposition to calling Medical Control prior to administering benzodiazepines; this will remain in the protocol for at least a year before changes will be considered.
- Changes were made to the following protocols:
 - Behavioral Emergencies – Adult and Pediatric
 - Restraints – Adult and Pediatric
 - Hemorrhage Control – Adult and Pediatric
 - Obstetrical Emergencies
 - Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
 - 12-Lead ECG Acquisition
 - Capnography
- The members voted to approve the protocols with changes to behavioral emergencies and anxiety as pharmacy recommends for the PO benzodiazepines and with potential changes to the pediatric IM ketamine dose to increase it from 2mg/kg to 4mg/kg; additionally, the central catheters protocol will be tabled until learning objectives can be written.
- Frisbie Hospital is now overseeing the CARES project.
- The group was informed about the re-activation of the CB workgroup for pre-hospital certification and would like to be part of the discussion moving forward.
- The members discussed the fact that not all hospitals in NH accept pre-hospital lab draws and the issues involved.

- The next MCB meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2019.
- 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 was held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

Vicki Blanchard reported for Scott Schuler who could not attend the last TMRC meeting.

- Highlights of the meeting:
 - * The pre-hospital hospital capabilities information continues to be refined.
 - * The rehabilitation report emphasized the need for relying more on vestibular certified therapists to help with patients in the ER; Chair Murphy asked for more data about rehab services are being utilized in the state.
 - * The group was informed that 13 critical access hospitals in NH are able to take rehab patients in an effort to allow more acute care hospitals to concentrate on patients with more severe issues; transportation and communication remain stumbling blocks to this becoming a reality.
 - * Though suicide data was not yet available from the Medical Examiner's Office, drug data indicated that NH has secured the #2 spot in the entire country.
 - * The group discussed posting more trauma related lectures given at hospitals around the state on the Division's YouTube site.
 - * The TMRC will be voting on the 2019 NH Trauma Plan at the next meeting.
 - * Gerard Christian updated the members on the progress of the Trauma Registry and will present the latest version at the December meeting.
 - * Reviews coming up: Concord and Elliot (ACS Level II and Pediatric Level III) and Exeter sometime in 2019 for a State Level III and Pediatric Level IV.
 - * Frisbie, Speare, and CMC are in the "wings".
 - * The members are working through the issues involved with running more procedurally correct meetings.
- The next meeting of the TMRC is scheduled for December 18, 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)

Nick Mercuri will send the letter on this topic to Chair Turpin.

b. **EMS Physician level of licensure**

This was brought up at the MCB meeting, and the MCB members appreciated being part of the discussion. A Doodle Poll will be sent out to arrange a meeting. Joshua Morrison told the group about the discussion that took place at the MCB meeting.

c. I/C Renewal & EMS Education

AD Jeffrey Phillips reported that with Liza Burrill now being freed up to work on this, a more structured approach is forthcoming.

d. Recruitment and Retention (actually done after V. Item 2)

Chief Nick Mercuri and AD Jeff Phillips have spoken with Kirk Beattie from the NHAFC, and there has been no further progress. BC Justin Romanello added that part of the NHTSA report was to get together with Rural Health and discuss strategies.

e. EMS Rules

The public hearings have been held and public comments received. The sub-committee will be meeting with the legal office at the end of the month to go through the comments. We are still waiting on comments from the legal office. The plan is to come back to the CB in January.

Chair Turpin wants more substantial reports at the next meeting in January.

Item 4. Stroke care – S. Barnard

NH State Stroke Conference – over 140 people attended.

FAST ED – Sue attended the protocol sub-committee meeting during which this was put in to the protocols. Work will continue on this at the next meeting of the sub-committee, and Dr. Joey Scollan is in communication on this with other state medical directors.

V. Old Business

Item 1. NREMT LCCR – State Required subjects

2019 re-certification cycle (April 1) – subject specific; 4 separate 1-hour modules:

1. Documentation
2. EMS in the Warm Zone (Rescue Task Force)
3. Mental Health
4. Sleep Deprivation and Fatigue

Item 2. Data requests – establishing list of people to help review data requests

Chair Turpin asked if someone who is not on the CB could participate in this. Chief Mercuri answered that the law is written to include public members. He then went on to explain that the way the law is structured is not operationally specific. Vital Records shared their data privacy agreements, policies, and procedures, and so time is now being spent wading through all of this information. **Chief Mercuri will report back in January with a status update.**

VI. New Business

Item 1. Vote on protocols for 7.1

During discussion after a motion was made to approve the 7.1 version of the protocols, David Tauber brought to everyone's attention 3 corrections/clarifications that needed to be made regarding inconsistent wording in the child restraint protocol, no mention of the "Rule of 10's" in the burns protocol (has to go back to the MCB for consideration of the update in treatment in burns diagnosis), and confusion about providers following a Designated Power of Healthcare (DPOH) versus DNR.

A motion was made (Thibeault/O'Brien) – *to recommend that the MCB review the wording in the child restraint protocol, update the treatment called for in burns diagnoses, and review DPOH versus DNR before the next rollout*; passed unanimously after discussion.

Discussion ensued about the challenges involved with making minor changes versus more complicated ones, like the burns protocol.

Jeremy Thibeault questioned why a 7.1 version is even necessary due to a lack of substantive change.

AD Jeffrey Phillips then explained the following:

- With the latest law change, 7.0 is not the approved protocol in NH; the 2015 protocols are still in effect legally because we have never actually gone through the proper rule process; the 2017 version is not legal because procedures for approval were not followed.
- With the last recent legislative change, the protocols were taken out of the **rule making** process; so once the CB recommends it to the Commissioner of the Dept. of Safety, he can agree with it and then change the rule without going through the lengthy JLCAR process that involves public hearings, etc.
- AD Phillips asked the members to consider if the changes being requested today can instead be done in the next version so that the 7.1 version can finally replace the 2015 protocols; this would correct the situation with the 2015 protocols being the current legal standard. He emphasized his point by reminding everyone that currently, if there is a problem with an EMS provider not adhering to the 7.0 version of the protocols, the 2015 version would determine the outcome of the case.
- NOTE: If the members of the CB want 7.1 to become the current protocol legally, then it has to be approved by the CB and thus recommended to the commissioner. (7.0 cannot be approved because it was posted 8 months before the rule changed and no public hearing was held.) This is a process change being addressed for the first time; it will help to correct procedural issues that were not followed in the past.

Chair Turpin expressed his displeasure with the CB being put in situations in which they have to approve something due to procedural issues.

A motion was made (Miller/Ayers) – *to approve the 7.1 version of the protocols as printed and distributed*; passed unanimously.

Item 2. Vote on proposed 2019 MCB/CB Schedule of meeting

A motion was made (Thibeault/Morrison) – *to approve the 2019 MCB/CB schedule of meetings, as proposed*, passed unanimously.

VII. Good of the Order / Items of Interest (see attachment)

- Friday, November 30th: Governor Sununu's School Safety Preparedness Task Force has invited Scarlett Lewis to speak on creating safer schools and healthier communities. The flyer is attached to these minutes. Scarlett's 6 year old son was murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School. There will be a morning and afternoon session.
- Air medical transport documentation – not required to be done for TEMSIS. It was suggested that this would be a good topic for the Rules Committee. Traditionally, they have been considered as a part of mutual aid system. Chip Cooper added that DHART has started to submit data but it is not consistent. Scott Schuler added that this is something that would interest the TMRC. Chad Miller suggested that these kinds of services be invited to come to the table as this topic is addressed.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made (Morrison/Ayers) – *to adjourn the meeting at 2:20PM*, passed unanimously.

2019 CB/MCB Schedule of Meetings:

January 17, 2019 (next meeting)

March 21, 2019

May 23, 2019

July 18, 2019

September 19, 2019

November 21, 2019

(Meetings begin at 1:00PM)

(Minutes written by June Connor)