

**NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board**

**MEETING MINUTES (Approved)**

**March 21, 2019**

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:**

Susanna Ayers, Susan Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Frank Hubbell, Eric Jaeger, Don Johnson, Kristen Krauss, Jeremy LaPlante, Joshua Morrison, Michael Newhall, Clay Odell, Matthew Petrin, Greg Placy, Scott Schuler, David Tauber, Jeremy Thibeault **(16)**

**Members absent:**

Mike Harnois, Lukas Kolm, Chad Miller, Richard O'Brien, Lisa Patterson, Grant Turpin **(6)**

**NH FST&EMS Staff:**

Director Deborah Pendergast, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Chief of Strategy and Planning Nick Mercuri, Bureau Chief – EMS Justin Romanello; Captains: Kathy Higgins-Doolan, and Vicki Blanchard, Joanne Lahaie, and Gerard Christian (minutes) **(8)**

**Guests:**

Brian Allard, John Chisholm, Craig Clough, Doug Devine, Pamela Drewniak, Steve Erickson, Mark Hastings, Fred Heinrich, Brian Nicholson, Anna Sessa, Jeffrey Stewart, Eric Schelberg **(12)**

**I. Call to Order**

Item 1. Welcome – The meeting was called to order at 1302 by member J. LaPlante.

- LaPlante is filling in for Chair Turpin who is home ill today.

Item 2. Introductions were made

Item 3. Membership:

- LaPlante noted that Vice-Chair O'Brien will be departing the board; the Fire Chief's association is in the process of nominating a replacement.
- Director Pendergast noted that this meeting marks the end of E. Jaeger's third consecutive term on the Coordinating Board meaning that he has "termed-out". On behalf of the Coordinating Board, the Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services, and the EMS Community; Director Pendergast presented Jaeger with a framed certificate of appreciation for his efforts over the last 9 years.
  - Jaeger expressed his thanks to the board, and noted that he will continue to be active with the Medical Control Board and protocol committee. He encouraged the Coordinating Board and the Division to consider the role of data in evaluating system performance and employee retention.
  - Jaeger and A. Sessa are working with the New Hampshire Pediatric Society to nominate a replacement

**II. Approval of the Minutes:**

**Motion Made (Thibeault/Johnson)** to approve the minutes as written from the January 17, 2019 meeting as drafted **Passed Unanimously**

**III. Division / BEMS Reports**

Item 1. Division and BEMS

Director Pendergast Reported:

- The 2019 AFG Grant is on hold as a result of the recent government shutdown. The funds requested included the purchase of the new pediatric simulator, announcement on grant should be in the next 4-6 weeks
- Governor and Council approved the contract for the new ImageTrend user management product, this is the 'DERMIS' project that Capt. Cooper and team have been working on
  - AD Phillips: This is a user management module that will allow individuals and service administrators the ability to manage their own profiles and service profiles as well as training and recertification records.
    - A goal of the system is to allow automated license renewal provided the individual has met the requirements for renewal, including a direct connection to the NREMT for verification
  - There was also funding secured for an all-hazards reporting system as well, think the Fire Version of TEMSIS, allows direct linkage of all hazards reports and TEMSIS EMS reports
  - The Division is hoping to test out the new system in September when the EMR renewal period opens.

**\*POST MEETING NOTE:** The Project will officially be called NEUMIS: New Hampshire Emergency Services User Management Information System

- The Division's request for a new Arial Ladder Truck was cut from the Governor's budget; however Division leadership is working to get the vehicle put back in to the budget through the House and Senate, with a portion of the funding coming from the AFG grant.
- The Division has obtained funding from NAMI, NH State Police, and the Division for the next 3 years to host Crisis Intervention Team training. The 40-hour program focuses on de-escalation in cases of crisis. The program is open to Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS responders. The next offering of the course will be in the North Country.
- There will be an 8 hour Mental Health for First Responders course held here at the Academy on April 9<sup>th</sup>
- 100+ students enrolled in various fire programs and there has been an impressive increase in the amount of EMS education that has been offered over the past few years.
- June will be back on a part-time basis soon (Yay!)

Chief Romanello Reported:

- +/- 100 providers left to recertify/relicense in this cycle.
- As of 04/01/19 Local hours will now be content based and will consist of 1 hour modules. The Sleep Deprivation and Responder Mental Health into one module so for the 2020 cycle there will be three modules: EMS in the Warm Zone/Rescue Taskforce Concepts, Documentation, Sleep Deprivation/Responder Mental Health.
- There were trauma staffing positions that were requested in the Governor's budget based on the NHTSA and ACS assessments these positions were not funded in the Governor's budget; however the Division is continuing to move forward to secure funding for these positions.
- Educational delivery opportunities have increased including more night classes and a new quarterly weekend offering beginning on June 8<sup>th</sup> 0830-1230

- The class will cost \$5 and includes breakfast and 4 hours of NCCP content
- We are up about 220% on EMS Education overall with more continuing education and initial course delivery to come.
  - In 2017 there were 483 individuals that came through the Academy for continuing education.
  - In 2018 there were 941 individuals who attended continuing education
  - As of the beginning of March 2019 we have had 181 individuals attend continuing education
- We are actively hiring for EMS instructors, and two program coordinator positions:
  - Initial programs coordinator – responsible for Division run EMT programs
  - Simulation program coordinator
- All continuing education programs are available for teleconference to all hospitals through the EMS coordinators and the 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel EMS
  - Programs can also be teleconferenced to the Bethlehem and Gorham offices
- Contact BC Romanello for more information

Item 2. Legislative update

Chief Mercuri Reported:

- 11 bills are being monitored, update on 6 of these:
  - HB 224 regarding Line of Duty Death Benefits for EMS providers: gone through the House and passed out of the Finance committee 21-0. This bill now moves onto the Senate and still includes benefits for private services that provide 9-1-1 coverage.
  - HB 240 regarding First Responder Suicide has been retained. This is okay as SB 59 is a parallel bill from last session that is still on the senate floor. SB 59 will do everything that HB 240 would have done; having the one bill allows for consolidation and prevents duplication of efforts.
  - HB 685 regarding balanced billing for EMS/Ambulance bills has been retained in committee at this time. The bill has not been killed, but it is not progressing any further at this time.
  - SB 118 regarding establishing a Child Fatality Review Committee. The committee is not new, in fact it has existed for many years and Capt. Blanchard sits on the committee as the Dept. of Safety representative. This bill formalizes the committee in law, and adds a position for a representative from the Division as well as the existing Dept. of Safety representative.
  - SB 177 regarding the use of restraints in an IEA transfer situation. This bill has had some back and forth with several changes. Ultimately as the bill stands now the use of restraints and transporting unit will remain a collaborative decision of EMS, Law Enforcement and the patient's care team. This bill could undergo another round of changes as it progressed through the senate and onto the house.
- SAMHSA Grant update: The grant has been completely approved by Governor and Counsel. There are now 5 communities who have been approved to provide quick response teams to link opiate overdose victims and families with available recovery and support services.
  - Communities include Concord, Dumbarton, Epping\*, Hooksett, and Laconia
    - \*Epping has taken a community response approach, their team will respond to 28 different communities to provide service. They were on their first call at the time of this meeting.

- Jaeger asked Mercuri about a Statewide DNR/POLST registry that has been approved in law but never funded. Jaeger asked if the Division could push for funding. **Mercuri will investigate options for funding and report back.**

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

##### Item 1. Medical Control Board update

F. Hubbell Reported, The MCB met this morning, March 21, 2019:

- The following protocols were discussed:
  - Restraints
  - Resuscitation Initiation and Termination
  - Pediatric Transport
  - Patient Acuity
  - Childbirth and Newborn Care
  - Asthma/COPD/RAD
  - MCI
  - HAZMAT
  - Refusal of Care
  - Police Custody
  - Hospice
  - DNR/POLST
  - Radiation Injuries
    - The members voted to send the Restraint protocol back to committee for further discussion in light of SB 177.
    - The members voted to approve all other protocols presented
- There was discussion about EMS stand-by coverage at shelters, Chiefs Romanello and Mercuri will continue to assess the options for how to formalize response to this type of an event.
- LaPlante also noted that there is ongoing discussion at the MCB on the role of the protocols and clinical decision making.
- The next MCB meeting is scheduled for **May 23, 2019 THIS IS AN OFF-CYCLE MEETING.**
- 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

S. Schuler Reported, the TMRC meeting was held on February 20, 2019:

- There was a report given on the availability of rehabilitation beds in the state, including some of the barriers/challenges with accessing the rehabilitation network.
- Ongoing discussion regarding the need for additional trauma program managers to the committee as well as making the process transparent but still within the confines of the law.
- The next meeting of the TMRC is scheduled for April 17, 2019 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](https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma_minutes.html)

##### Item 3. Workgroup Reports:

###### **a. Implied Consent and EMS Refusals:**

Chief Romanello Reported:

- The final drafted letter from the board was hand delivered to Region II by Romanello. The Region II counsel accepted the letter. The letter was also presented to the New Hampshire Ambulance Association.

- Contact BC Romanello for further information on this topic
- With the release of this letter, the tasks assigned to this workgroup are complete. **This item will be removed from the next agenda.**

**b. EMS Physician Level of Licensure:**

Capt. Blanchard

- Physicians continue to meet, working to draft a framework based loosely on documents from Drs. Morrison, Suozzi, and the State of Pennsylvania.

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

Chief Romanello Reported:

- Work continues toward the training agencies and EMS instructor concepts. The goal is to have plan to present at the next Coordinating Board Meeting
  - Jaeger: How can we assess the quality of education that is being provided?
    - Romanello: Quality is built in based on a set of basic questions and requirements that will need to be demonstrated and sustained at re-licensure. The Division will be held to the same standard as private organizations as enforced by the compliance section.
  - Jaeger: As a consumer of EMS education will there be any way for a provider to know which programs are quality programs (i.e. the use of statewide evaluation forms, publication of pass/fail rates for initial certification programs)?
    - Romanello: For the ETA concept, it is primarily focused on the initial training programs. In the case of continuing education, there is work being done to move toward exploring continuing education approval in the State.

**d. Recruitment and Retention:**

Chiefs Mercuri & Romanello

- Met with Georgia who has surveyed their workforce lots of good data and lessons learned out of the Georgia study, however some won't translate well here in New Hampshire (i.e. there no volunteers in Georgia).
- Working closely with the DHHS Rural Health Office to help/ adapt their workforce studies to EMS.
  - May potentially include a survey for providers as they build their profile in the new user management system.
- Independent study in VT and NH (not yet published) by one of J. Suozzi's interns and another by NREMT that may help the State to develop its own survey and/or get a more realistic idea of system/workforce status

**e. EMS Rules:**

Chief Romanello Reported:

- The rules went to JLCAR on March 15, 2019 and received preliminary objection by JLCAR due to returned comments. Dept. of Safety Legal has begun an appeal process

**Item 4. Stroke Care – S. Barnard:**

- The Collaborative goal is to spread the word to the whole system. There have been barriers including reaching the Critical Access Hospitals. To this goal, members of the collaborative met with the CEOs/CMOs of the CAH's last month, no new traction noted at this time.
- FAST-ED protocol moving along and making good progress.
- Free stroke workshop at the Fire Academy on May 6, 2019
- Barnard will be providing Stroke continuing education through the continuing education program at the Academy.
  - Pendergast: Is there best practice sharing or a data registry for stroke?

- Barnard: Yes, there is best practice sharing through the NECC. AHA's Get with the Guidelines is the data registry, but data and GWTG availability is limited.

**V. Old Business**

**Item 1. QA/QI – J. LaPlante:**

- QA/QI is in law, but the availability of data back to providers and the flow of data back to providers is difficult at this time
  - Romanello: Research into improving the process is ongoing. Communication remains an issue. Division is seeking the input of the NHHA hospital EMS Coordinators and bringing these parties together to identify the barriers. The responsibility of providing feedback is on the MRH and EMS coordinator.
  - LaPlante: There are feedback mechanisms and fields built into TEMSIS, based on ICD-10 codes.
  - Romanello: Next step is to set a date for a Stakeholder meeting.
  - Interested parties can contact G. Turpin

**Item 2. Data Requests – C. Cooper:**

- Tabled for this meeting as Capt. Cooper was not in attendance.

**VI. New Business**

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

- Blanchard: There are 4 upcoming workshops/conferences
  - Mt. Sunapee EMS Conference April 27 & 28, 2019
    - Information available here: <https://www.newlondonhospital.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/EMS-Conference-Info.pdf>
    - Registration Here: <https://www.newlondonhospital.org/2019-ems-conference-registration/>
  - NH Stroke Workshop May 6, 2019
    - Information available here: <https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/2319con747.pdf>
    - Registration Here: <https://nhfa-ems.com/events/spring-stroke-workshop-highlights-spotlights-bright-ideas-2319con747-5-6-19/>
  - Northern New England Resuscitation Academy May 30 & 31, 2019
    - Information available here: <https://www.maine.gov/ems/documents/RA%20Brochure.pdf>
    - Registration: PENDING
  - Trauma Conference is September 26 & 27, 2019
    - More Info to Follow
- J. Stewart: The New Hampshire EMT association is selling challenge coins to raise funds for the construction of an EMS LODD Memorial. \$15 for one or \$25 for two

**VIII. Adjournment**

**A motion was made (Jaeger/Hubbell) – to adjourn the meeting at 1408hrs passed unanimously.**

**NEXT MEETING REMINDER: May 23, 2019 THIS IS AN OFF-CYCLE MEETING**

(Minutes recorded by Gerard T. Christian, AS, NRP, Clinical Systems Program Coordinator)