

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

MEETING MINUTES (Not Approved)

May 23, 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:

Chair Grant Turpin, Susanna Ayers, Susan Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Frank Hubbell, Don Johnson, Jeremy LaPlante, Chad Miller, Joshua Morrison, Clay Odell, Lisa Patterson, Matthew Petrin, Greg Placy, Scott Schuler, and David Tauber **(15)**

Members absent:

Mike Harnois, Kristen Krauss, Michael Newhall, and Jeremy Thibeault **(4)**

NH FST&EMS Staff:

Bureau Chief – EMS Justin Romanello; Captains: Kathy Higgins-Doolan, Vicki Blanchard, and Chip Cooper; and Liza Burrill, Joanne Lahaie, Gerard Christian, and June Connor (minutes) **(8)**

Guests:

Brian Allard, Steve Erickson, Fred Heinrich, Anna Sessa, Eric Schelberg, and Jason Grey **(6)**

I. Call to Order

Items 1 – 3: Welcome/Introductions/Membership

- Vacancies: NH Medical Society, and the NH Academy of Pediatrics
- Don Johnson: Term 2 approval from the Governor in process (POST MEETING: Term 2 approved by Governor Sununu; expires 1/19/2022)

Item 4: Vote on the new Vice Chair of the CB:

A motion was made (Hubbell/Ayers) - to appoint Jeremy LaPlante as the new Vice Chair of the CB; passed unanimously.

II. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion was made (Johnson/Erickson) - to approve the minutes as written from the March 21, 2019 meeting; passed unanimously.

III. Division / BEMS Reports

Item 1. Division and BEMS – Bureau Chief Justin Romanello

- Much information was gleaned at the NASEMSO Conference and will be shared in future meetings by Chief Romanello.
NH is behind other states who have already clarified the roles and responsibilities of the Local Medical Director, but leads the way in other areas.
- Chief Romanello is trying to visit as many EMS agencies around the state as possible and is impressed with everyone's desire to be on the cutting edge of improvement.
- Hep A Outbreak – Potential Public Health Epidemic: Work is being done to ensure that our pre-requisite protocol for immunizations (7.1) aligns better with Public Health levels and categories of escalation.

- Working with Rural Health in the introduction of the EMS User Management System (DERMIS); within the next 3-6 months, we will have access to all of the EMS providers in the state and will therefore be able to do a workforce study.
- TMRC asked the EMS Bureau staff to help with the “Stop the Bleed” program; one of the full-time staffers will work on helping to coordinate the program.
- Spot inspections have been re-instituted.
- Trauma Coordinator position: still in the budget process
- Wish list: more part-time positions (PIFT/Clinical Care and MIH program coordinators)
- Teleconferencing has increased and now includes the 45th Parallel, New London, St. Joseph, Monadnock, Wentworth-Douglass, and Concord. SOLO and Linwood Ambulance have requested.
- June 8th: Weekend quarterly NCCP training was cancelled due to low enrollment; another will be scheduled for September 14th.
- State Initial Programs Coordinator has been hired: Richard Murphy, retired from Portsmouth, starts June 7th.
- Simulation Program Coordinator: in process
- Funeral arrangements were announced for a member of the Jaffrey Fire Department who died from an accidental overdose over the weekend.

Item 2. Legislative Report – Bureau Chief Justin Romanello for Chief Nick Mercuri

- Legislative report:
HB 224 – Line of Duty Death is waiting to get to the Senate floor.

IV. Committee/Board/Workgroup Reports

Item 1. **Medical Control Board** update – Frank Hubbell

The MCB met this morning, May 23, 2019.

Highlights of the meeting:

- Protocols discussed: Acute Coronary Syndrome (Adult), Bradycardia (Adult & Pedi), Cardiac Arrest (Adult & Pedi), Congestive Heart Failure (Pulmonary Edema), Post Resuscitative Care (Adult & Pedi), Tachycardia (Adult & Pedi), Team Focused CPR (Adult), and Pediatric Transportation.
The members voted to approve the protocols, as discussed, with removing push dose nitro from the congestive heart failure protocol and pediatric transport, as discussed.
- By September, 2019, there will be an update on statewide CARES data.
- The members voted in favor of adding the appropriate dose of racemic epinephrine as an option to treat bronchiolitis and croup in Protocol 2.3 (Pedi).
- The members discussed air medical transport; now that more hospitals are becoming ACS verified, there will be a shift away from having Dartmouth Hitchcock as the only destination, and this has caused some confusion in terms of ETA qualifications.
- The members discussed Protocol 5.11 Ventilator in terms of whether or not medical control should be called; the protocol sub-committee will look into this.
- As of July 1st, the job of medical director will be separate from that of the chair of the MCB.

The next MCB meeting is scheduled for July 18, 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 – Gerry Christian reported for Scott Schuler

The TMRC meeting was held on April 17, 2019:

Highlights of the meeting:

- Chair Richard Murphy stepped down as chair; letters of intent and CVs were submitted to Bureau Chief Justin Romanello for consideration by the DOS Commissioner, Robert Quinn (deadline, May 1st). Dr. Eric Martin will fill in for Dr. Murphy until his replacement is chosen.
- Trauma Conference: being held at the Fire Academy on September 26 & 27, 2019.
- The Education sub-committee is working on a plan for hospital reviewer education.
- Stop the Bleed program: There is an issue with a lack of instructors.
- Work is being done to correlate/extract rehabilitation data in the trauma registry.
- The Medical Examiner's office reported that NH is currently #1 in the country in the rise of suicide deaths and that there continues to be a problem with EMS providers not documenting the number of IV sticks on deceased parties.
- The members voted to approve the 2019 trauma plan, as written, with the exception of the EMS section at this time.
- The members requested that both the PI and Pre-Hospital sub-committees come together with industry subject matter experts to examine the Air Medical Transport utilization and Trauma Triage protocols. (Clarification was made as to the TMRC's role as a committee that makes recommendations to the MCB, but the MCB is not bound by the TMRC.)
- Recommended hospital designations: Elliot and Concord (Adult Level II and Pediatric Level III) and Southern NH Medical Center (remainder of Adult Level III and Pediatric Level III through June 15, 2020)
- Designations on the horizon: Exeter, Littleton, Speare, and Frisbie.

The next meeting of the TMRC is scheduled for June 19, 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

Item 3. Workgroup Reports:

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

Nothing to report.

b. **I/C Renewal & EMS Education (See attachment)**

Bureau Chief Justin Romanello presented some slides to the CB members and thanked Liza Burrill for her work on this project.

Discussions ensued about testing, and Liza Burrill provided clarification.

c. **Recruitment and Retention:**

Chief Romanello reported for Nick Mercuri: working with Rural Health (explained above in III Division/BEMS Reports)

d. **EMS Rules:**

On May 17, 2019, JLCAR approved the EMS rules with 2 exceptions:

1. Trauma system – moved to its own section with no wording changes made (The current trauma rules will carry over until the new trauma section is approved.)
2. Paragraph on compliance (5922.11) – JLCAR requires more specific language regarding lengths of suspensions.

Bureau Chief Romanello asked the CB to accept the rules with the above mentioned changes, so that the rules could move forward.

The CB members were hesitant to approve without having seen anything and wanted to hold off on voting until legal had a chance to see it and make recommendations.

BC Romanello explained more about the JLCAR process:

Now that JLCAR has approved the EMS rules with the 2 changes listed above, the DOS Commissioner has to sign them within 30 days; if they are not signed, then the State of New Hampshire will have no EMS Rules. Therefore, the CB needs to decide how it is going to move forward regarding the compliance paragraph approval. (Trauma will be done separately now that JLCAR has removed it from the EMS Rules.) BC Romanello went on to explain that because JLCAR did not approve the rules until Friday, May 17th, and it took some time to clarify the language in the paragraph and have it reviewed by DOS Legal at the beginning of the following week, the 2-week timeframe of getting information to the members of the CB was impossible.

BC Romanello read the paragraph to the members even though it was outside of the correct procedure.

Chair Turpin asked that the following statement be in the minutes in transcript form:

“This is the second time in 3 months that something has been brought to the board and said, ‘You have to pass it or the State of NH won’t have rules.’ I want it in the minutes that this is about to be the last time or the commissioner is going to have to speak to the Division leadership about how this is happening because this is not okay for any of you, and I am very sorry that you are being put in this situation because I am furious that you don’t have at least 24 hours to look at this. It’s not fair that we are being put over a barrel without an opportunity to share with our stakeholder groups or to actually form our own opinions on this. We’re being asked to rubber stamp the Division’s language; we don’t have a choice.”

BC Romanello stated that the group could have a special meeting in 2 weeks as long as it is within the 30 days. He also volunteered to call legal during the meeting so that they could answer any questions.

Chair Turpin answered that the only way to call an emergent meeting is when the chair feels like there is an emergent need, and he does not feel that this is the case.

A discussion ensued and it was made clear that the CB’s vote was not necessary in order for the DOS Commissioner to sign it; the CB serves as an advisory board. However, BC Romanello replied that the EMS Rules were formulated by the CB and that the board, in essence, has ownership of them.

A motion was made (Hubbell/Odell) – to approve the EMS rules in their entirety, as presented; passed with opposition from David Tauber and an abstention from Jeanne Erickson.

BC Romanello apologized to the voting members and stated that he would try as much as possible to make sure this type of thing does not happen in the future.

After some discussion about how to make the new DOS Commissioner aware of these types of process issues, the committee members agreed that it would be a good idea to have a meeting between the commissioner and the 3 board chairs to help him understand the function of the 3 EMS boards as well as any issues that need to be solved. **BC Romanello will set up this meeting.**

Item 4. Stroke Care – Sue Barnard

- May 6th – stroke workshop at the Academy with 75 in attendance; great discussion about FAST ED.
- St. Anselm’s would like to do a stroke conference in November, 2019.
- AHA & ASA just rolled out new recommendations for stroke systems of care, focusing on education.

- FAST ED will be discussed by the protocol committee on May 24, 2019, and the CB members were shown a slide of the draft. Sue proclaimed the benefits of working with other states on topics such as FAST ED in terms of sharing information and experience.

V. Old Business

Item 1. QA/QI – J. LaPlante:

Since the last meeting, there has been discussion about forming a small joint committee made up of 3 members each from the CB and MCB. The biggest thing to accomplish is collection of patient outcome data.

Questions to be asked:

What kind of information do we want exchanged between the providers and the hospitals?

Who is going to enter the data?

Much needs to be done in terms of working collaboratively with hospitals on this and making data sharing a 2-way street. Pilot programs should lead the way.

Sue Barnard and Jeanne Erickson volunteered to help.

Item 2. Data Requests – C. Cooper

The language of the policy and application is in the vetting process.

Item 3. Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Privacy Committee – Chip Cooper
same as Item 2.

VI. New Business

None

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

Committee of Merit – September 30, 2019 at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Nominations are due by July 1, 2019.

Link to award nomination information:

<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/forms.html#awards>

Add MRH Director to the next agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made (Odell/Hubbell) – to adjourn the meeting at 3:00PM; passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER: July 18, 2019

(Minutes: June Connor, Administrative Assistant I)