

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

July 18, 2019

1:00PM

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

Quorum: 11 members required (currently 20 positions on the CB)

NOTE: "Action Items" are in bold red.

Members present:

Grant Turpin (Chair), Jeremy LaPlante (Vice-Chair), Susanna Ayers, Brian Allard, Jeanne Erickson, Frank Hubbell, Don Johnson, Chad Miller, Michael Newhall, Clay Odell, Lisa Patterson, Matthew Petrin, Scott Schuler, and David Tauber,
Jeremy Thibeault. **(15)**

Members absent:

Susan Barnard, Mike Harnois, Kristen Krauss, Joshua Morrison, and Greg Placy **(5)**

NH FST&EMS Staff:

Director – Deborah Pendergast, Assistant Director – Jeffrey Phillips, Bureau Chief – **of** EMS Justin Romanello, Chief of Strategy and Planning – Nick Mercuri; Captain ~~–~~ Kathy Higgins-Doolan; Gerard Christian, June Connor, and Hayley O'Brien (minutes) **(8)**

Guests:

John Chisholm, Pamela Drewniak, Steve Erickson, John Hall, Brian Nicholson, and Anna Sessa **(6)**

I. Call to Order

Items 1 – 2: Welcome/Introductions/Membership

- Vacancies: NH Medical Society, and the NH Academy of Pediatrics
- Anna Sessa (NH EMS-C): Pediatric representative is waiting for approval letter from Governor Sununu

II. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion Made (Hubbell/Johnson) - *to approve the minutes as written from the May 23, 2019 meeting; passed with an abstention from Jeremy Thibeault.*

III. Division / BEMS Reports

Item 1. Division and BEMS Updates – Director ~~Pendergast~~ and Bureau Chief Romanello

- Preventative maintenance is being done. Including, inspecting all vehicles, testing ladders and hoses, testing air trailers, and the aerial ladder truck. The Divisions ambulance is going through an inspection as well.
- The Division accepted the new delivery of a Hazardous Materials Tank Rollover Prop which is portable and may be delivered to any community that would like to do spill training or anything that has to do with hazardous materials.
- The full time, 10 week Recruit Program just started on Monday, July 15th with 27 members enrolled. At the end of 10 weeks they will have certifications and an opportunity to take the CPAT test, which will then allow them to be hired full time by departments.
- August is the Divisions busiest time of the year. Some classes being offered are; Firefighter I, Rescue Skills, Swiftwater Rescue, Confined Space Technician, Fire and EMS Instructor I, II and III, Fire Officer I and II.

Several seminars, including Fire Investigation for First Responders, Youth Firesetter, Stress Management classes, and Human Trafficking continuing education.

- The Candidate Physical Ability Test the Divisions held in June had a 68% pass rate on the first try. The final CPAT of the year is scheduled for September 16th.
- A review was done for the EMS investigation process. The newly improved process was done up with an algorithm to streamline the investigation process going forward. A noticeable difference will be seen in the fall.
- The Department of Safety played a huge part in the multiple fatality incident in Randolph, NH. Several meetings occurred with the Fire Chiefs and all the First Responders involved. Follow ups are still being conducted to be sure the needs are being met involving behavioral health. The State of NH has a resource available for information regarding a CISM Team.
- The State is in a continuing resolution, meaning the budget was not approved and we have last year's budget. Positions are now on hold that were looking to be filled. No hiring freeze or layoffs have been mentioned. An agreement in September would put the Division back where they need to be.
- June Connor is retiring! Today is her last day. Kim Mattil and Denise McAdoo have also announced their retirement.
- Richard Murphy was recently hired part time as the Divisions EMS Initial Programs Coordinator.
- Committee of Merit Awards Ceremony is September 30th a Capital Center for the Arts in Concord, NH.
- Trauma Coordinator position: on hold
- State of NH Medical Director Position: changing from chair of this committee to a contracted paid position did not go in effect July 1st like discussed because of the budget. Dates: August 5th at 11AM, Oral Presentations August 19th by 4PM, and notification August 26th by 11AM.
The hiring process has not been finished. Any questions regarding this position are directed to Heather Clough from the Division. The Commissioner has extended the chair of this board's position until that position is filled.
- EMS Operations: Rules were ratified and approved by the Commissioner.
- 1 of 4 states for the National registry to offer mobile testing. The Division will be hiring a part time mobile testing coordinator in the near future. The cognitive exam will be offered in Concord, Gorham, and Bethlehem locations.
- Clinical Systems: User Management System (respondNH) will be tested in 3 months will EMR recertification's coming up in the fall.
- TEMSIS Data Management Specialist position: actively hiring
- Education and Delivery: EMS continuing education has slowed down in the summer, but the Division is still ahead with offerings from previous years. Yoga for First Responders is being offered tonight too!
- September 14th 8:30-12:30 weekend, quarterly training for NCCP. \$5 includes 4 hours of CME time and breakfast.
- Possibility of a late fall EMR class if there is an interest. This will be a first test run of the state initial program.
- Staff Instructors: actively hiring
- Simulation Program Coordinator: on hold; the job was offered to a potential candidate, but they declined and the hiring process will now start from the beginning.
- Rural Health: 15 minute workforce survey will be sent to all new, current and expired/non-renewed licensee's once the new User Management System (respondNH) is up and running.

Item 2. Legislative Report –Chief Nick Mercuri

- Legislative report:
Senate bill 59 added PTSD to workman's compensation which was signed by Governor Sununu at Manchester Fire Department. Dispatchers were added to this piece of Legislation as part of the definition of Emergency Responders.
House bill 224 L.O.D.D has been enrolled; meaning extending L.O.D.D benefits is moving forward and waiting on a signature.

Use of restraints; Up to the transporting mechanism (law enforcement or ambulance crew) can make the decision as to who is putting the restraints on. Any behavioral health transports require handcuffs.

IV. Committee/Board/Workgroup Reports

Item 1. Medical Control Board update – Frank Hubbell

The MCB met this morning, July 18, 2019.

Highlights of the July meeting:

- Protocols discussed: Routine Patient Care, Pediatric Transportation, Bradycardia, Stroke, LVAD, Inter-Facility Transfers, Vaccination, Defibrillators and Cardiac Monitoring.
The members voted to approve the protocols, as discussed, with the Bureau working on the language to optimize data collection in the inner facility transport protocol as well as moving up non-cardiac diagnosis in the table and in the bullet points in reference to cardiac monitoring for AEMT's and updating the BEARS in their routine care protocol; passed unanimously.
The members voted in favor of Vicki Blanchard talking to Chip Cooper about adding a bullet referring to properly documenting crew configuration for Alternative 2.
- No report at this time on Cardiac Arrest/CARES, but expecting a report in September.
- Discussion ensued about pre-hospital physician certification, lifesaving procedure, including the liability and functioning on a physician's level.

The next MCB meeting is scheduled for September 19, 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 – Scott Schuler

The last TMRC meeting was held June 19th, 2019

Highlights of the TMRC meeting:

- Dr. Eric Martin was appointed the new chair of the TMRC. He is the head of Trauma at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.
- Prevention; Seatbelt legislation based on secondary stops in the works.
- 2 Point of Order Issues; a subcommittee cannot be chaired by a non-committee member. This will be addressed at the next meeting.
In the event people have to recuse themselves from a vote, their specific vote does in fact work against the quorum.
- Decision was made that the TMRC supports the AMT Protocol and the Trauma Triage Protocol as written at that time with a working group actively doing data analysis for all AMT that service the state.
- Trauma Conference: September 26 and 27, 2019. Pre-conference being offered, but limited to 24 attendees.

The next meeting of the TMRC is scheduled for August 21, 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: Gerard Christian reported for Captain Blanchard.

Call with Captain Blanchard, Dr. Trimarco, Dr. Morrison, Jeremy LaPlante, Grant Turpin and Gerard Christian. Discussion ensued about the boiler plate document that came out of the State of Pennsylvania, updated RSA references. Question came up about the type of credential given to physicians in the State of NH. Following the example from the Pennsylvania document, there is a Paramedic and an EMT physician. A physician boarded in Trauma, Critical Care or Emergency Medicine will have a Paramedic level of pre-hospital care certification/credential. A physician of any other sub-specialty would be an EMT level of credential. In this case a physician would need to provide documentation that they are credentialed to do so, their institution gives them

permission to extend those privileges out into the field, a discussion about liability and who is going to cover that liability of that physician. This still needs to be presented back to the workgroup for additional conversation.

b. I/C Renewal & EMS Education

Bureau Chief Romanello said there was a lot of great progress. Initial concept was approved by the subcommittee and passed by the CB members. Thankful for all of Liza Burrill's hardwork! A formal presentation to the CB members in November. In the meantime, they are actively working on 2 sections; Standards and Requirements. Once everything is done, a test presentation will be done to the stakeholders within the community.

c. Recruitment and Retention: Bureau Chief Romanello reported for Chief Mercuri:

They have been working with Rural Health, successfully completed and reviewed the questions and are currently coming up with how the survey will look. This survey will target new licensees, current licensees, and expired/non-renewed licensees. The Division has chosen 2 random individuals for each section to participate in this survey. A meeting with all the individuals will be set up to go through the survey with a member from Rural Health and then bring any feedback back to the Division.

d. EMS Rules:

Assistant Director Phillips shared that the EMS rules were approved, but we are waiting on Legislative Services to clean them up to finalize them. Hopefully by the next meeting in September we will be prepared to make any corrections to the rules.

Item 4. Stroke Care – Frank Hubbell reported for Sue Barnard

Adding more details, extending it from 6 hours to 24 hours.

V. Old Business

Item 1. QA/QI – J. LaPlante:

No movement forward, but more to report by next meeting in September.

Item 2. Data Requests – Bureau Chief Romanello reported for Captain Cooper

We have not received any data requests for research at this time. If anyone is interested in being a willing member, please email Chair Turpin, CC: Bureau Chief Romanello and Hayley O'Brien.

Item 3. Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Privacy Committee –Bureau Chief Romanello

No changes.

VI. New Business

Item 1. Clinical Bulletin #54:

Vaccination Protocol Clarification – If there is ever a Public Health Safety Epidemic declared in the state, Paramedic's & AEMT's may assist the public in giving vaccinations.

Item 2. Clinical Bulletin #55 & #56:

"Multi-Function Cardiac Monitors" AED Mode: Lifepak 12, 15, and 20's in AED mode will only shock in adult mode. The Multi-Function Cardiac Monitors in AED mode will not be able to shock a patient 8 years and younger at the appropriate electric shock. Everyone is being advised to have a plan until a long term solution is put in place. Consistent with AHA guidelines state it is okay to administer an adult amount of electricity to a pediatric patient if that is all you have. It has not been proven to be harmful.

Chair Turpin recognizes Jeremy Thibeault – Plugging in the pediatric pad will prompt a child to pop up on the screen on not.

Chair Turpin asked Anna Sessa (NH EMS-C) to reach out to her contacts out of the state to see what they are discussing.

VII. Good of the Order / Items of Interest

Item 1. Committee of Merit Update – Captain Higgins-Doolan

September 30, 2019 at the Capitol Center for the Arts. Many nominations for EMS, which will be decided within the next 2 weeks.

Chair Turpin asked: How are people chosen to be on the award selection committee?

Captain Doolan: Chairs of the two boards, but we are open to new volunteers participating. Which we will keep in mind for next year.

Item 2. Awareness Issue: Clay O'Dell from NH Paramedic Association

CMS is requiring as of this year a cost reporting for transporting ambulance services. Very intense, when people are acting in an EMS capacity versus a Fire capacity, down to 15 minute increments. Although it is a random selection, every service in the country will be required to report within the 3 year period.

Clay O'Dell: What level of awareness about this has been given out to others? Has this been discussed?

Jeremy LaPlante: The issue from the National level was that the cost reporting tool does not fit all things. Based on your ambulance running numbers on a two-person ambulance vs. a three-person ambulance. This will cause a variation of numbers. Another concerning concept was if you did not submit your reporting tool you are capped at a 10% reimbursement of the Medicare rate.

Item 3. Seatbelt Legislation: Director Pendergast

- 1.) 68% of fatalities in the State of NH that involve motor vehicles were not wearing their restraints. If anybody has a story, testify, or sign in on this Secondary legislation, please share to help get this finalized and passed. Seatbelts for All is the name of Legislation and would be for adults over 18.
- 2.) In the last 5 weeks, we have had 3 people take their own lives. We are number 3 in the country per capita for suicides that are happening in our state. In the State of NH, per capita, Emergency responder, hospital worker suicides are higher than the average of the rest of the country. In the fall we are looking at who is out there for resources and who can get the help they need. Firestrong.org was put together consisting of resources on depression, substance abuse, where to go for help, etc. Looking to put together a 2 page document to post on our website those that need help. The Director will let everybody know once a time and date has been decided, but if anybody is interested in sitting in on that board please let her know.

Don Johnson: Commended Chair Turpin for his efficiency in running the Coordinating Board!

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made (Hubbell/Petrin) – to adjourn the meeting at 2:30PM; passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING REMINDER: September 19, 2019

Voting members should let Hayley O'Brien know ASAP whether or not they can attend to ensure a quorum will be present.

(Minutes: Hayley O'Brien, Administrative Assistant I)