

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board

MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2020

1:00PM

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

Quorum: 10 members required (currently 19 positions on the CB and 3 true vacancies)

NOTE: "Action Items" are in bold red.

Members present:

Jeremy LaPlante (Vice Chair), Susan Barnard, Jeanne Erickson, Don Johnson, Chad Miller, Clay Odell, Matthew Petrin, Greg Placy, Scott Schuler and Jeremy Thibeault **(10)**

Members absent:

Brian Allard, Kristen Krauss, Joshua Morrison, Michael Newhall, Lisa Patterson, Christine Arsnow, Mike Harnois, Frank Hubbell and David Tauber **(9)**

NH FST&EMS Staff:

Director – Deborah Pendergast, Assistant Director – Jeffrey Phillips, Bureau Chief – Justin Romanello, Rich Cloutier, and Liza Burrill (minutes) **(5)**

Guests:

Craig Clough, Steve Erickson, Sara Hennessey, Brian Nicholson, Joey Scollan, Mike Kelley, and Anna Sessa **(7)**

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:03PM by Vice Chair Jeremy LaPlante

Vice Chair LaPlante asked for a moment of silence to remember Coordinating Board member Susanna Ayers who recently passed away.

Welcome / Introductions / Membership / Expirations

- Vacancies: NH Medical Society and NH Hospital Association
- Upcoming Expirations:

Frank Hubbell (February 4, 2020)

Jeanne Erickson (February 21, 2020)

Chad Miller (February 21, 2020)

Greg Placy (February 21, 2020)

Jeremy LaPlante (March 31, 2020)

Mike Harnois (May 1, 2020)

- If your name is on this list we have not heard back from the Governor's office
- If you sent in your paperwork to the Governor's office, please also remember to cc: copies to Hayley so we can track progress.
- Don't forget to fill out and sign Form 15-A Financial Disclosure – also remember to fill one out for each board that you serve on.

- CB Chair Position Candidates;

Chad Miller – currently representing NH Municipal Association

Mike Newhall – currently representing NH Ambulance Association

Jeremy LaPlante – currently the Vice Chair of the CB and representing Professional Firefighters of NH

David Tauber – currently representing NH Association of EMT's

- Chief Romanello conducted to voting process for Chair and the winner was Jeremy LaPlante. Jeremy's position as Chair which will officially take effect at the next meeting.
- Chief Romanello asked that anyone willing to serve as Vice-Chair should contact him by February 10 (deadline for interest).
- A motion was made (Miller/LaPlante) – to close nominations for Vice-Chair position on Feb. 10, 2020 for members to notify Chief Romanello if they are interested in service as Vice-Chair; passed unanimously.

II. Approval of the Minutes:

November minutes were not distributed, but they were posted on the website. The approval of November minutes were moved to the next meeting, March 19, 2020.

III. Division / BEMS Reports

Item 1. Division and BEMS Updates – Director Deborah Pendergast and Bureau Chief - EMS Justin Romanello

- Director Pendergast reported that the Division has completed the final draft of the 5-year plan. A vision statement was added to the plan, which was never included before. When it was ready for distribution, they would be sent to the membership.
- J LaPlante stated that now that the CB Chair position is filled, he would work with the Chair of the MCB to schedule a meeting with the Commissioner's office to introduce themselves and talk about plans and direction for the future. C Odell asked if the intention was to also have the Chair of the TRMC join the leadership in this meeting. Brief discussion, and all agreed that would be appropriate.
- Chief Romanello reported that the interview process for the State Medical Director position continues and should be completed by the end of February.
- SN Bill 177 Re: Restraints – we haven't heard any grumblings about this bill.
- Bulletin 63 – Coronavirus – to date 2 possible cases are in NH, but they turned out to not be the coronavirus. Littleton Hospital should be given accolades for their handling of the situation in their area, as "they did everything right."
- NREMT Mobile Testing – the Division is looking for a candidate to fill this position. If you know of any interested persons, please have them be in touch with Bureau Chief Romanello.
- Unit Licensing is complete – 307 Unit licenses were processed this year utilizing the new RespondNH system. Chief Romanello explained how Unit licensing was mostly still a manual process requiring staff to track down missing parts, MRH agreements, etc.
- Provider licensing – upwards of 2500+ providers are due for provider license renewal by April 31, 2020. Because of staff shortages right now, we are pulling in multiple staff to assist in that effort. Brief discussion about how provider licensing will change in the future when RespondNH goes live.
- Trauma Coordinator Position – to date we have interview 3 candidates, and the field is now down to 2 candidates. We are hoping to complete the process by end of February.
- UMM (RespondNH) – Used for Unit Licensing, and next will be migration of Personnel to the new system, and then ambulances/Inspections.
- Working with AD Phillips and Chief Romanello, the Division will roll out 2 EMR Programs. The first will be in Bethlehem starting on March 4, 2020 at a cost of \$580 per person. The second will be in the southwestern part of the state beginning on April 25 and finishing on June 6, 2020. We plan to offer one in the Seacoast area – possibly beginning in August. J Erickson asked if there had been any consideration to the Division creating an EMR to EMT Bridge course. Chief Romanello replied that these discussions had not yet occurred but expressed concern about time vs. cost burden.
- Division-sponsored EMT programs – still on radar, but nothing scheduled yet – still working out agreements for ride time, etc., and this process currently sits with legal at this time.

- Division sponsored ConEd programs continue to run and interest is growing. We have training on week nights, and some weekend offerings.

Item 2. Legislative Report –Chief Romanello (Chief Mercuri unable to attend)

- The Division is tracking all bills pertaining to us and the plan is to get emails sent to members of this committee to keep track and encourage attendance at bill hearings that we should attend.
- C. Odell asked about SB 540 regarding the repeal of the Compact Act (formerly REPLICA). Chief Romanello stated that he and Chief Mercuri had met with Senators re: this compact “not being used” and should be repealed. Discussion occurred and S Schuler stated that because the Board voted to support the compact 2 years ago, it should not be repealed just because it wasn’t being currently used. Consensus was that this Compact is still in its infancy, and there needs to be time and participation from neighboring states before it could be determined whether or not it would be effective. We know neither the positives nor the negatives at this point.

A motion was made (Schuler/Petrin) – to write a letter from the CB to the Legislature against the Repeal of Senate Bill 540 Compact (Replica) until a time when more information could be gained with regards to the advantages/disadvantages, and its potential for success; motion passed with an opposition from J LaPlante.

IV. Committee/Board/Workgroup Reports

Item 1. Medical Control Board update – Frank Hubbell absent, Joey Scollan reported that they did not have a quorum at the January 16th meeting, but did have some informal discussion.

Next MCB meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2020.

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

Brief discussion on Trauma designation:

- Level 3 requirement needs approval by ACS
- Level 4 or “Trauma Ready” hospitals will further be discussed

Next TMRC meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2020.

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:** Vicki Blanchard not present – nothing to report.

b. **I/C Renewal & EMS Education:** Bureau Chief Romanello.

- This committee has not met since the last meeting of the CB.
- J Erickson asked where we were in the process, an Chief Romanello stated that discussion and vote as to whether to move forward or not should happen at this meeting. Chief Romanello explained that next steps included drafting rule language to bring back to the CB.

A motion was made (Miller/Thibeault) – to have the Division continue to move forward with the development of the ETA concept and start working out the details of the process; passed unanimously.

c. **Recruitment and Retention:** Bureau Chief Romanello

- Completed the Workforce survey with Rural Health and will be pushed out through the User Management System to all providers. This survey focuses on those who are entering the licensing system, currently in the licensing system and those who are exiting the licensing system. This will help tell the Division why providers are leaving, staying and entering the system.

NOTE: because the CB would lose quorum by 2:30, to preserve the ability to complete the possibility of action by motion, discussion moved to New Business at this time but the minutes reflect the discussion in the order listed on the Agenda.

d. **EMS Rules:** Assistant Director Phillips – no report

- **Equipment List:** comment was made that the equipment list needed to be looked over again. J Erickson asked if a workgroup should be formed to look at this issue. J LaPlante suggested that we hold this thought for discussion in the non-public meeting that is being planned.

Item 4. Stroke Care –Sue Barnard

- Free Stroke Workshop Continuum here at the Fire Academy on May 8, 2020. Save the Date is out already. There will be a sponsored lunch, and registration link to follow.
- Currently working through the ability to accurately document FAST ED scores. This is a challenge and unsure how well this will work out. Targeting February for a time frame. Dr. Jim Suozzi is currently looking it over.
- The group is creating a video, similar to the video created for the backboard removal process, for ED education on FAST-ED. Dr Suozzi has created a video and has given us permission to use and edit as needed. We will use the free video endorsed by the AHA/ASA for EMS education.

V. Old Business

Item 1. **Protocols:** the protocols were approved by MCB. J LaPlante stated that the only negative comments that he has heard relate to the process. He stated that the CB should consider how do we want the process to look like? What should happen, and in what order?

A motion was made (Schuler/Erickson) – to approve the protocols as presented with the added changes presented in email traffic related to needle decompression; passed unanimously.

Item 2. Provider Affiliations Requirement for State Licensure – tabled until March meeting.

Item 3. Process for State Approval of EMS Continuing Education – agreement among attendees that ConEd should be approved in some fashion, but no further discussion at this time.

Item 43. Vice Chair LaPlante briefly reported the piloting of the syringe program and how EMS plays in the syringe exchange. Jeremy reported that he attended some discussion by teleconference. Chief Romanello advised that is “we” play, then the SAMSA grant programs would participate in this effort first. This type of program has been piloted in other states and abroad, and has been successful.

VI. New Business

Item 1. NPI Number - Brief discussion regarding NPI numbers. Bureau Chief Romanello reported that he met with Aaron McIntire from Concord Fire several weeks ago. NPI numbers are a CMS requirement for data collection. No further action at this time.

Item 2. EMS License Suspensions – A rule matter regarding the need to change the rule language regarding violation and action as described in current rule: the language that currently reads “for each occurrence” should be changed to read, “for each sustained violation”.

A motion was made (Thibeault/Placy) – to approve the rule change as written; passed unanimously.

VII. Good of the Order / Items of Interest

Item 1. Senator Hassan's Office – Sara Hennessey introduced herself and offered her condolences on behalf of Senator Hassan's regarding the loss of Susanna Ayers. She stated that the Senator's office was available at all times for assistance as needed. If anyone is aware of any veteran's that need help, please feel free to let her know. She stated their office is always on the lookout for grants to help move the Division forward, and said the Senator's office is a good resource for any issues that need to be addressed. She also stated that she would continue to attend meeting and assist whenever and however she could.

VIII. Adjournment

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

NEXT MEETING REMINDER: March 19, 2020

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

(Minutes: Liza Burrill/Justin Romanello)