

# **NH EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES COORDINATING BOARD**

**Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services  
Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy  
Concord, NH**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**(Approved)  
May 19, 2016**

**Members Present:** Grant Turpin (Chair), Susanna Ayers, Michael Cloutier, Jason Grey, Mike Harnois, Frank Hubbell, Eric Jaeger, Lukas Kolm, Jeremy LaPlante, Richard O'Brien, Matthew Petrin, and Jeremy Thibeault (12)

**Members Absent:** Doreen Gilligan, Don Johnson, Stacy Meier, Richard Murphy, Greg Placy, Peter Row, Eric Schelberg, and Helene Zielinski (8)

**Division Staff:** Director Deborah Pendergast, Bureau Chief Nick Mercuri, Deputy Chief Jon Bouffard, Captains: Vicki Blanchard, Chip Cooper, and Kathy Higgins-Doolan; Richard Cloutier (compliance) and June Connor (administrative assistant) (8)

**Guests:** Pamela Drewniak, Jeanne Erickson, Lee Frizzell, Fred Heinrich, Janet Houston, Aaron McIntire, and Scott Schuler (7)

**NOTE: "Action items" are in bold red.**

### **I. Call to Order**

#### **Item 1. Welcome**

The CB meeting was called to order at 1:05PM by Chair Grant Turpin. A quorum was not present with 9 voting members present. Several members arrived late, increasing the count to 12 (quorum minimum met before any votes were taken)

#### **Item 2. Introductions**

Chair Turpin dispensed with formal introductions as no one new was present.

NOTE: Dr. Lukas Kolm arrived later on in the meeting. He will be representing the NH Medical Society and replacing Dr. Strang.

## **II. Approval of the Minutes**

### **Item 1. March 17, 2016**

**Motion made by Richard O'Brien; seconded by Frank Hubbell– to accept the minutes, as written, from the Coordinating Board meeting held on March 17, 2016; passed unanimously once a quorum was present.**

Director Pendergast spoke about the theme of EMS week, “Call to Care”, reminding everyone to take care of themselves as well as those they serve. She thanked the members of the CB for their dedication and service.

Chair Turpin asked the group to take a moment of silence for Kyle Jameson, who passed away from cancer last week. Chair Turpin mentioned Kyle's 14 years of service for 4 different departments in NH. He also expressed gratitude to the FDNY for supporting Kyle and his family while he was being treated at Sloan Kettering and for their assistance with the escort out of New York yesterday.

Chair Turpin told those present that the CB has a duty to start talking about cancer awareness and come up with ways that it can support this issue. Richard O'Brien reported that he went to Washington DC and got a lot of support for a cancer registry for firefighters. This is good news considering that only a year ago, there was no support for a cancer bill that was proposed. Director Pendergast added that this presumptive legislation is going to be coming around again this fall; support from the CB will be appreciated.

## **III. Report of the Bureau Chief of EMS – J. Bouffard for N. Mercuri**

### **Legislative Update:**

- HB 1594 (background checks and definition of “patient”) – passed the senate and is moving on to the governor's office.
- HB 1586 (impersonation bill) – went to a study committee for the summer
- HB 1131(ambulance marking bill) – inexpedient to legislate (ITL)
- Rule updates – at legal for formatting

### **Grants:**

- Ambulance bids opened on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Infection control – still working out an agreement with DHHS for how funding will be spent.
- Narcan training – working on collaboration with DHHS to provide more training for law enforcement. (NOTE: EMS providers do not need to take a train-the-trainer class for this.)
- EMS system evaluation with NHTSA is moving forward; process is being clarified.

## **Education:**

- Captain Shawn Jackson resigned as of Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. He will be working for NEEMSI as a paramedic educator.
- The simulation program and the coordinator position have been updated. The position will be posted within a week. Director Pendergast added that official notification just came in from FEMA that we were awarded another federal grant; a trauma mannequin, a new state-of-the-art cardiac monitor, and a hydraulic stretcher will be purchased with this money.
- Warm zone training – 240 people have taken the online program. A great job was done by the education technology group!
- EMT testing numbers:
  - \* This year, 72% of EMT's passed the first time, with third and sixth attempt at 80%.
  - \* Drop back numbers for EMT-I's who expired in 2016: 96 fell back to EMT's, 228 transitioned to AEMT's, and 45 did not re-certify. These are the official numbers from the National Registry.
- Paramedic Re-entry: This policy, discussed at the last CB meeting, is being finalized.
- HR 4365 (protecting patient access to emergency medication) – This has been proposed in the Federal House of Representatives and has been assigned to a sub-committee. It is not thought that this will have much of an effect on our system in New Hampshire.
- The Bureau of EMS is now looking at all of its sections and will be re-aligning them with its core functions. EMS boards will be notified of any changes taking place.

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

### **Item 1. NH EMS Medical Control Board report –F. Hubbell**

- The MCB met this morning, May 19, 2016 at 9:00AM.
- Highlights of the meeting included the following:
  - \* Dr. Doug McVicar resigned from the MCB after 34 years of dedicated service.
  - \* Dr. Andrew Seefeld, from Speare Memorial Hospital, will be joining the MCB.
  - \* The board spent most of the meeting working on the 2017 protocols.
  - \* After discussion, the board voted to support a firefighter level of licensure similar to that of law enforcement.
- The next MCB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2016 at the NH Fire Academy.

Here is the link to the minutes from MCB meetings:

<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>

**Item 2. TMRC report – V. Blanchard for R. Murphy**

- The last TMRC meeting was held on April 20, 2016.
- Highlights from the meeting included the following:
  - \* The St. Joseph follow up review will be in July, and a review is scheduled for CMC in August.
  - \* The next Trauma Conference will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> in North Conway.
  - \* The Pre-Hospital sub-committee met and identified their focus as insuring proper trauma triage transport in NH. They began work on quick reference spreadsheet for field providers, supplying them with hospital designation criteria.
  - \* Jim Esdon provided an “Injury Prevention” report. Please refer to the link below to see the report in the minutes.
  - \* Vicki Blanchard is in the process of helping hospitals get involved with the trauma registry.
  - \* The members voted in support of asking Commissioner Barthelmes to make the ACS report public.
  - \* The TMRC is concerned about the fact that there are no available funds coming in for trauma, and is also looking for ways to encourage smaller hospitals to apply for designation.
- The TMRC will meet again on June 15, 2016 at 9:30AM.

Here is the link to the minutes from TMRC meetings:

[http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma\\_minutes.html](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma_minutes.html)

**Item 3. Drug Diversion – R. O’Brien for J. Stewart**

Work continues for the group that meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. A PowerPoint presentation was given on the history and goals of the sub-committee. [\(see attachment\)](#) A best practice document is in process. Chief O’Brien explained this in detail and a discussion ensued.

**Item 4. Firefighter level of licensure – G. Turpin (added to agenda)**

Chair Turpin brought up the issue of creating a level of licensure for firefighters who are not EMT’s to be able to administer Narcan in the same way that law enforcement providers can. The discussion centered on the duty to act component for responders who are not protected by Good Samaritan laws as well as the pros and cons and realities/challenges of putting something like this in place and who would benefit.

**A motion was made by Frank Hubbell; seconded by Michael Harnois – to support a firefighter level of licensure similar to that of law enforcement; passed with 10 in favor and 1 abstention by Eric Jaeger.**

For clarification, Jon Bouffard referenced RSA 153-A:11(I):

**153-A:11 Licensure of Emergency Medical Care Providers.** – I. Except for automated external defibrillation pursuant to RSA 153-A:28-31, a person shall not provide emergency medical services as a paid or volunteer member of a public or private emergency medical services unit in this state, or as a paid or volunteer member of any police or fire department who, as a condition of employment, may be expected to routinely provide emergency medical services in the line of duty, without being licensed by the commissioner.

Director Pendergast concluded a lengthy discussion by asking responders to think about their mission to protect and save the lives of citizens in New Hampshire. With this in mind, if adding this one little piece saves one life over the course of 12 months, then we've done our job. Yes, this will probably be limited to very rural areas, but there is really no negative.

## **V. Old Business**

### **Item 1. NCCP update – J. Bouffard**

There will be a stakeholders' meeting in another year.

### **Item 2. Data Advisory Committee update – R. O'Brien**

The next focus will be on best practice and quality assurance topics and making sure that the data collected mirrors the standards. The next meeting of this group is the second week of June. Chief O'Brien encouraged the CB to give input.

### **Item 3. Elite Roll-Out – R. Cooper**

- Six services piloted Elite.
- To date, there are now 3,425 records in the system from 5 of the services.
- June 1<sup>st</sup> is the drop dead date for go-live on all of the direct entry users for Elite, but services can transition over before this date if they wish to as long as they let Chip know.
- A lot of trainings are going on, and Chip's volume of calls is increasing exponentially.

### **Item 4. EMS Rules update**

(See III – Report of the Bureau Chief of EMS)

### **Item 5. H.R. 4365 – Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016**

(See III – Report of the Bureau Chief of EMS)

### **Item 6. I/C renewals**

Nothing new to report at this time.

## **Item 7. Strategic Planning update – G. Turpin**

Questionnaires will be sent out to board members to get their thoughts about EMS in the state. On November 17<sup>th</sup>, all of the boards will meet.

## **Item 8. Roles of Regions – J. Bouffard**

Deputy Chief Bouffard read the current roles of the region to the board, and it was clear that many of the roles no longer apply. As a result, region meetings are often not well attended and members are asking what the purposes of the regions are. In addition, the regions do not work together to share ideas, etc. Many people do not even know that the regions exist. Chair Turpin added that by RSA, the CB has a responsibility to oversee the regions, and in turn, they have a responsibility to the CB; he suggested that a group of people from the BEMS, the CB, and the regions convene to discuss needs and wants. **Kathy Doolan will put together a list of EMS region chairs/vice chairs. They will be invited to a meeting with Grant Turpin, Frank Hubbell, and Michael Cloutier.**

## **VI. New Business**

### **Item 1. Informed consent**

- This topic focuses on protection/liability issues for providers who encounter patients who refuse to be transported. After discussion, the group was reminded that EMS provider priority should always be about providing the most appropriate form of medical care in any given situation.
- **An informed consent sub-committee was formed to delve into this issue: Jeremy LaPlante, Jeremy Thibeault, Frank Hubbell, and Eric Jaeger (chair). In addition, the BEMS will assign a liaison.**

## **VII. Good of the order / Items of interest**

- Kathy Doolan reminded the group that nominations are being accepted online for [annual awards](#). The deadline is June 1, 2016.
- **A motion was made by Frank Hubbell, seconded by Jeremy LaPlante – to cancel the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting – passed with 1 abstention by Grant Turpin.**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion made by Richard O'Brien; seconded by Michael Cloutier – to adjourn the meeting at 3:15PM; passed unanimously.**

**Next meeting: September 15, 2016 (ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!)  
1:00PM to 3:00PM  
Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy,**

Respectfully submitted, Grant Turpin (Chair) .....Notes: June Connor