

NH EMS Medical Control Board

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

May 21, 2020

9:00 AM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy

Via Teleconferencing

98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH 03301

Quorum: 7 members required (currently 12 positions on the MCB)

Members Present via Telephone:

Robert Rix (Chair), Marc Grossman, Frank Hubbell, Patrick Lee, Joshua Morrison (later), Michelle Nathan, Andrew Seefeld, James Suozzi, Brian Sweeney, Thomas Trimarco and Harry Wallus. **(11)**

Members Absent:

John Freese **(1)**

NH FST&EMS Staff:

Bureau Chief – EMS Justin Romanello, Chief Nick Mercuri, Captain Vicki Blanchard, EMS Medical Director - Joey Scollan and Hayley O’Brien (Minutes) **(5)**

I. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 9:04 AM by Chair Rix

Chair Rix read the “Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-To-Know Law during the State of Emergency” and then Hayley did a rollcall attendance for board members.

II. Approval of the minutes

Motion Made (Hubbell/Grossman) - to approve the March 13, 2020 minutes as written; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Grossman	Yes
Hubbell	Yes
Lee	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

Motion Made (Nathan/Grossman) - to approve the March 19, 2020 minutes as written; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Grossman	Yes
Hubbell	Yes
Lee	Yes
Nathan	Yes

Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

III. Division / Committee Reports

- 1) Bureau of EMS and Division Updates –Bureau Chief of EMS Justin Romanello
 - a. It’s EMS week, Chief Romanello thanked everybody for all that they do for EMS! Also, thanked Concord Hospital for doing a Pizza Party today.
 - b. Chief Romanello gave a summary of the Emergency Protocols released for COVID-19. Emergency Rules have also been released and will expire September 2020. Waivers for Provisional Certification and Partial Background Checks was released and will expire October 1, 2020.
 - c. An Executive Order has been drafted, but not yet issued for Alternate Vehicle Use and Waiver of Required Equipment. This would only be used if there is ever a surge.
 - d. Everything at the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS is on hold. The Division has been tasked with several other responsibilities. Ranging from contract tracing for the Department of Safety, PPE distribution and working call centers. Many staff members have been repurposed and assigned different responsibilities at this time.
 - e. The Division is actively working with the Commissioner’s Office and other Divisions to establish a reopening plan. A date has not been set yet, but the Division will need to be brought back up to speed before reopening can take effect.
 - f. 2,500 EMT license renewals this cycle, still have 800 left. They have all been contacted by Chief Romanello.
 - g. The Division cannot fill vacancies at this time, including the Licensing Coordinator full time position, Ambulance Inspector part time position, NREMT remote testing coordinator part time position, PIFT critical care program coordinator part time position, and MIH program coordinator part time position.
 - h. Protocols have all been approved and the Commissioner has signed off on them. Release date to remain after the licensing period, around August/September.
 - i. Trauma program site visits have been extended by 1 year.
 - j. Once the Division is open, the goal is to complete the EMR class first and foremost.

2) Coordinating Board Update:

- a. F. Hubbell stated the last meeting was March 19th with normal reports out.
- b. Site visits have been postponed for the moment.
- c. Chad Miller was elected as Vice Chair.
- d. Here is the link to the minutes of the Coordinating Board:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>

3) Trauma Medical Review Committee Update:

- a. T. Trimarco stated the last TMRC meeting on April 15th was canceled due to the pandemic.
- b. Here is the link to the minutes for TMRC meetings:
https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma_minutes.html

IV. Protocols

- a. Vicki sent out the second draft of the Version 8.0, she is cleaning them up and getting them ready to be released. The rollout is coming along and will be out sometime in the early summer.

V. Old Business

- a. Maximum quantities of controlled substances - No new information on this due to the pandemic. Need to find out if the Board has the authority to set maximums. A meeting with the Board of Pharmacy has not occurred yet.

VI. New Business

- a. Vote on a member appointed to the CB – F. Hubbell’s appointment is expired and he is not eligible for reappointment
No volunteers expressed interest, this item will stay on the agenda until someone is interested.
Hayley O’Brien will send out an email with a description of what duties they would be responsible for and allow any interested parties to notify her.
- b. BioSpatial – A free program for the State of New Hampshire that will allow the Division to track motor vehicle data, COVID-19 data, etc. A handful of other states are using this to visually look at all the data that the Division has.
- c. COVID-19 – Chief Romanello
 - 1. Emergency Rules → Rules
Nothing further to report.
 - 2. Emergency Protocols → Protocols
Nothing further to report.
 - 3. COVID-19 General Discussion
 - Dr. Suozzi asked Chief Romanello about PPE, Chief Romanello responded that the State of New Hampshire is in a good position as far as having a stock pile of PPE, other than thin on N95 masks. Comments were made about PPE shortage concerns.
 - A brief discussion ensued in regards to concerns about antibody, point of care testing.

VII. Topics Ad Libitum

- a. Dr. Suozzi asked about using telehealth with EMS. Dr. Nathan mentioned they have not used telehealth with EMS, only with patients. Dr. Grossman mentioned his hospital is looking at Zoll within the next month or so.
- b. Chair Rix opened the discussion to the public. David Tauber had comments about the overuse of PPE on prehospital calls, all EMS responds wearing N95 mask due to the unknown of the patient’s condition. He also had a questions about transporting patients who are conscious and alert, not showing symptoms, but in a prone position. He was unsure about the usefulness due to the long transport times in certain towns.
- c. Dr. Suozzi reported that the CARES report has great data and encouraged others to also look at it, but it is off to a great start.
- d. Chief Nick Mercuri reported the Legislation process is stalled, but we have been on hold for several months. The Division is currently tracking 12 bills.
- e. Eric Yaeger asked Chief Romanello about the adequacy of PPE in case of a resurgence of COVID-19. Chief Romanello mentioned we need to plan for the future and more is to come with this and a lot of work is ahead of us.
- f. Dr. Seefeld is doing a con ed on June 10th bridged with the Science of Addiction lecture. If anybody is interested in adding this zoom, please email Dr. Andrew Seefeld at globaldoc77@gmail.com.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion Made (Hubbell/Trimarco) - to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 AM; passed unanimously.

Grossman	Yes
Hubbell	Yes
Lee	Yes
Nathan	Yes

Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

Next Meeting: July 16, 2020