

**NH EMS Medical Control Board**

**MEETING MINUTES (Approved)**

**September 17, 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), Michelle Nathan (Vice Chair), John Freese, Marc Grossman, Frank Hubbell, Joshua Morrison, Andrew Seefeld, James Suozzi, Brian Sweeney, Thomas Trimarco and Harry Wallus. **(11)**

**Members Absent:**

Patrick Lee **(1)**

**NH FST&EMS Staff:**

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

**I. Welcome/ Membership**

Meeting called to order at 9:02 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.

- Members that have upcoming expirations have been notified by Hayley and are encouraged to submit reappointment letters as soon as possible.

**II. Approval of the minutes**

**Motion Made (Hubbell/Nathan) - to approve the July 16, 2020 minutes as written; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

<b>Freese</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Grossman</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Hubbell</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nathan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rix</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Seefeld</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Suozzi</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Sweeney</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Trimarco</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Wallus</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**III. Division / Committee Reports**

1) **Bureau of EMS and Division Updates** – Director Pendergast and Captain Vicki Blanchard

- a. The Division has been awarded the 2019 AFG Grant from FEMA. Approximately 485,000 dollars towards the Division ladder truck fund.

- b. Programs that were interrupted due to Covid have finished or are finishing up. The evening EMR class in the North Country, all 10 students passed their final exam. They are currently preparing for their practical exam.
  - c. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Division will welcome 16 students for the Recruit School Program. This is the Academy's full time 11 week program.
  - d. The Division actively participates in Weekly Director's calls with other Director's and the Commissioner. Also, every week on Wednesday, the Director attends a call with Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
  - e. The Division is still hosting the Governor's weekly conferences on Thursdays. They are unable to use those 2 classrooms for any of their classes at this time. Some full time staff members are currently teleworking.
  - f. The Division submitted a budget with a 20 percent reduction from the previous budgets. The impact of this reduction will be significant. The Division still cannot fill the 5 vacant positions therefore they will remain vacant at this time. Programs are being affected by this budget reduction as well, due to reduction in funds for the Instructors.
  - g. Weekly assessments of the Covid numbers are occurring. All current programs will end by late November, taking off the month for the holidays and then starting back up in the end of January for spring programs.
  - h. The DOS legal team now has the number of providers required to transport and the licensing of non-affiliated members rules. The Bureau generated a report and it showed that the number of providers in the back of an ambulance for transport was 1 has been used 19 times during the pandemic. Each of these 19 calls will be dissected more in depth. There was an issue with running the report due to ImageTrend. Hopefully this can be fixed, but the Bureau is waiting to hear back from them.
  - i. The Bureau issued the minimum requirement for PPE protocol.
  - j. The full background check waiver will expire on October 1<sup>st</sup>, but the provisional certification to be utilized for a temporary license waiver will be in place 6 months after October 1<sup>st</sup> due to the back log of these.
  - k. The 2020 Version 8.0 Protocols have been issued with great success and minimal errors. The deadline to complete the rollout is November 1<sup>st</sup>, therefore everybody in the State of New Hampshire will be using the new protocols.
  - l. The end of the expiration period was July 30<sup>th</sup>. Overall, this year we are down 31 total people that did not renew their license.
  - m. Practical exams are up and running, as well as Ambulance Inspections.
  - n. The User Management System will be active for internal users/staff by the end of November. It is currently being used for inspections.
- 2) **Legislative Report** – Chief Nick Mercuri
- a. It is the beginning of the Legislation season.
  - b. The House met at UNH and they did not override the Governors bill for veto of the Interstate Repeal Compact.
- 3) **Coordinating Board Update:**
- a. Dr. Hubbell was not able to attend the last CB meeting. Minutes are posted online.
  - b. Dr. Hubbell stated his term on the Coordinating Board has ended and expressed his wishes of another member to step up and be appointed.
  - c. Here is the link to the minutes of the Coordinating Board:  
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>
- 4) **Trauma Medical Review Committee Update:**
- a. T. Trimarco stated the last TMRC meeting on August 19, 2020 with normal reports out.
  - b. Welcomed Dr. Sweeney to the Board.
  - c. Discussion about what the TMRC's Mission Statement and Vision was.
  - d. Here is the link to the minutes for TMRC meetings:  
[https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma\\_minutes.html](https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma_minutes.html)

**IV. Protocols**

- a. Vote on Advanced Sepsis Admin. Packet – some grammatical and typos were corrected also noting the QC check needs to be done every 30 days or upon receiving a new shipment.

**Motion Made (Nathan/Seefeld) - to accept and approve the Advanced Sepsis Care Prerequisite Protocol; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

<b>Freese</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Grossman</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Hubbell</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nathan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rix</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Seefeld</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Suozzi</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Sweeney</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Trimarco</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Wallus</b>	<b>Yes</b>

Dr. Grossman asked if every hospital needs to buy i-STAT’s to participate. Tim Quinn said as of right now, yes, but he is happy to look into more cost effective products.

- b. Discussion of “Just Culture”

Dr. Suozzi gave a brief synopsis of a scenario that occurred outside of protocol. The incident was self-reported by the service as inappropriate. An internal review was conducted at the local level, additional training and education was provided to ensure the incident wouldn’t happen again. Then, to ensure protocol was followed, the Division was notified. Due to the nature of the protocol violations, an investigation was conducted and licenses were suspended. The issue that has been brought to attention was the trust in the provider to self-report was eroded. Per the rules, the Bureau cannot notify the Medical Director of a provider issue until it has been acted on by the Commissioner. A suggestion was made to form a work group for the MCB and CB with the goal of developing a rule change to allow for more flexibility at the Bureau of EMS level. Changes to the action taken, not so much the wording. Chief Mercuri sent out the current rules regarding EMS compliance and sent them to the members. The Bureau will look into establishing the workgroup for this.

**V. Old Business**

- a. Vote on a Member appointed to the CB – Meets on the same day as the MCB, in the afternoon from 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM.

**Motion Made (Rix/Morrison) - to appoint John Freese as the MCB rep to the Coordinating Board; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

<b>Freese</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Grossman</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Hubbell</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Morrison</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nathan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rix</b>	<b>Yes</b>

<b>Seefeld</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Suozzi</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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<b>Trimarco</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Wallus</b>	<b>Yes</b>

- b. Maximum Quantities of Controlled Substances – Initially placed on the agenda because it was outdated. unsure if the Board has the authority to set limits on medication. A meeting with the Board of Pharmacy still needs to occur for this to move forward. Vicki will send Hayley a document to attach to the minutes.

**VI. New Business**

- a. CARES Update  
The funding for CARES has lapsed. The Division had a 22% decrease in the budget and still have 5 vacant positions. Dr. Freese stated that the subscription is 15,000 per year. There was discussion about modifying this number based on volume and us paying the same amount for our 1,000 cases. Data from CARES was sent out to the major organizations in the State and businesses, but everybody’s funding is also down. Dr. Freese will be reaching out Brian McNally to discuss a temporary solution for next year. CARES will most likely shut us down due to funding issues. HCA might potentially be a funding source, Dr. Freese will get back to us after his meeting.
- b. Ketamine Discussion  
Ketamine recently popped up in the news. Ketamine is currently under investigation because there are questions about proper usage. Dr. Rix stated that the Board needs to keep a close eye on Ketamine usage and how much it is being used. No decision was made to establish a sub-group to monitor the appropriateness of usage. The Board stated that they will keep this on the agenda to keep the most up to date information discussed.
- c. COVID-19 Vaccine Discussion  
Dr. Scollan brought up the inquiry at the Bureau of whenever the Covid-19 vaccine comes out, whether EMT’s are able to administer it or not. They supported this inquiry by stating they can give IM injections from the Ready, Check, Inject. Captain Vicki Blanchard stated the Ready, Check, Inject was for the epipen and information was provided for anaphylaxis. A question came up about whether the EMT could administer the vaccine under supervision, but EMS Medical Director Joey Scollan stated that she isn’t sure the need for extended resources will be that high. Brian Sweeney stated that Pharmacists are able to administer vaccines, but not EMT’s. The foundational knowledge of the vaccine is more of the concern and overseeing the program, not the administration technique. After discussion amongst the members, the Board agreed that EMT’s do not have the scope of practice to administer vaccines at this time.
- d. COVID-19 – Chief Romanello
  - 1. Emergency Rules → Rules  
Nothing to report.
  - 2. Emergency Protocols → Protocols  
Nothing to report.
  - 3. COVID-19 General Discussion  
Nothing to report.

**VII. Topics Ad Libitum**

- a. Chair Rix opened the discussion up to the public for any comments/questions.
- b. Tim Redding commented that the EMT’s administering the Covid vaccine would be okay to use all our resources, but only if it is needed. Many services did not do the Ready, Check, Inject. Also, made a comment that ketamine was potentially being seen as popular press and not reality. After reaching out through social media to many sources, clinically, he has seen almost no issues with ketamine.

- c. Dr. Trimarco mentioned whether the Board needs to think about adding the Covid-19 vaccine to the immunization protocols. Chief Romanello stated that at this time, we do not need to change it due to the last time on the immunization protocol. The Bureau is looking at issuing a separate protocol for strictly Covid.
- d. Hayley reminded all members and guests that all MCB meeting information is posted on the Divisions website.

**VIII. Adjournment**

**Motion Made (Trimarco/Sweeney) - to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 AM; passed unanimously.**

**Next Meeting: November 19, 2020 - WebEx**