

NH EMS Medical Control Board

MEETING MINUTES (Approved)

November 19, 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, Patrick Lee (late), Joshua Morrison, Andrew Seefeld, James Suozzi, Brian Sweeney, Thomas Trimarco and Harry Wallus. (10)

Members Absent:

Frank Hubbell (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)

Please note the agenda changes and actions made in red.

I. Welcome/ Membership

Meeting called to order at 9:06 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 (Morrison/Wallus) - to approve the September 1, 2020 minutes as written; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Grossman	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

III. New Business:

- a. Vote on reappointment for Region II, Patrick Lee and Brian Sweeney

Motion Made (Trimarco/Nathan) – to approve Region II reappointment for Patrick Lee and Brian Sweeney; passed unanimously.

Freese	Yes
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Grossman	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

b. Vote on reappointment for Region III, John Freese and Harry Wallus
Motion Made (Trimarco/Sweeney) – to approve Region III reappointment for John Freese and Harry Wallus; passed unanimously.

Grossman	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

c. Vote on reappointment for Region IV, Andrew Seefeld and Joshua Morrison
Motion Made (Nathan/Trimarco) – to approve Region IV reappointment for Andrew Seefeld and Joshua Morrison; passed unanimously.

Grossman	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

d. Vote on appointment for Region V, David Hirsch and Jared Blum
Motion Made (Suozzi/Wallus) – to approve Region II reappointment for David Hirsch and Jared Blum; passed unanimously.

Freese	Yes
Grossman	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes

Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

1) Coordinating Board Update:

- a. Dr. Freese was not able to call into the last meeting. Minutes are posted online.
- b. Here is the link to the minutes of the Coordinating Board:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/medicalcontrol/mbminutes.html>

2) Trauma Medical Review Committee Update:

- a. T. Trimarco stated the last TMRC meeting on October 21, 2020 with normal reports out and minutes posted online.
- 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. Division / Committee Reports

3) Bureau of EMS and Division Updates – Chief Justin Romanello

- a. The FROST program is optional for any 1st responder agency. This testing occurs once a month. So far, 60 primary departments are participating. This was launched on November 9th.
- b. 93 electrostatic sprayers have been given out to transport departments. The next delivery will go out to the remainder of transport services and then non-transport services.
- c. Actively working on the vaccination planning with HSEM and DHHS. 13,500 first responders to vaccinate. EMS will only assist by acting as a vaccinator if you are an AEMT or Paramedic.
- d. Complacency with PPE usage is a protocol violation. Please address any complacency issues that you see. The Division will help if the local level needs assistance.
- e. Dr. Scollan and others have been reviewing the current Emergency Protocols. The Chair and Vice Chair of both the MCB & CB will be included in the updates made.
- f. November 1st was the deadline to complete Protocol Rollout 8.0. A little over 1,000 providers have yet to complete 8.0. Emails have gone out to encourage the completion of this Protocol Rollout.
- g. As of the 30th of September, 34 EMR’s were deactivated, leaving approximately 180 EMR’s in the State.
- h. The Division is transitioning internally to the User Management System soon, then the public will be introduced to it around 1 year of internal staff using it.

Dr. Seefeld asked if any other members are having issues with the reusable N95 mask, as far as EMS coming in wearing them or utilizing them. A comment was made about the exhalation port on these masks needed to be covered. Some hospitals are buying the cover for this port or using a surgical mask over it. Chief Romanello stated that addressing this at the local level would be ideal.

V. Protocols

- a. Pain Dose Ketamine for Transcutaneous Pacing
 Chair Rix was looking for thoughts on the painful procedure involved in transcutaneous pacing and potentially using analgesia instead of sedation and using critical thinking when needed .Dr. Suozzi agreed. Chief Romanello also mentioned the appropriate necessity of encouraging providers to critically think. Chari Rix mentioned that some ALS providers are interpreting in the cardiac arrest algorithm “consider epinephrine” as a take it or leave it option. Put there to allow Paramedics to assess the appropriate needs based on the clinical situation. Scenario type teaching has a huge benefit to get providers thinking critically.
 A brief discussion ensued about how the protocols are interpreted based on the language used.

VI. Old Business

a. Maximum Quantities of Controlled Substances

The Board was questioning whether changing the maximum quantity would need to filter through the Board of Pharmacy or not. Nobody thought the amount of Fentanyl wasn't enough, but a potential issue could occur on a busy holiday weekend where more Fentanyl could be needed. Chief Romanello mentioned the Board could vote on it and then the Bureau could check on it with the Board of Pharmacy.

Motion Made (Trimarco/Suozzi) - to remove the term RSI only indication on the maximum quantity of controlled substance list from Ketamine; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Blum	Yes
Freese	Yes
Grossman	Yes
Hirsch	Yes
Lee	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

b. "Just Culture"

A subcommittee met that included Dr. Rix, Dr. Suozzi and Dr. Freese. They discussed potential language changes regarding the revocation of a license for an actionable complaint wording. The word "shall" was of discussion. Chief Nick Mercuri explained that the law states what the Commissioner can do and the rules are how it gets implemented. Chief Mercuri discussed this with a Department of Safety Attorney and a Senator. Chief Mercuri stated that the word "shall" was carefully chosen for multiple scenarios. Chief Mercuri confirmed that we cannot change the word "shall" to "may" in the rules because it would conflict with the law. The ability to change this rule is unavailable without a law change (153-A:13.) If the word "may" is used, the determination of when it will be used and when it will not be used has to be stated. The objective is to focus on when there is a clear violation seen, documentation can be noted. Then, if a pattern is recognized, the ability to look back on the violation is there. When the time comes to talk with the legislature, having that support in person or in a letter. This discussion will also be talked about in the Coordinating Board.

VII. New Business

a. Language Changes for License and Notification of an Actionable Complaint

Discussion occurred under Old Business, "Just Culture." Motion made under New Business.

Motion Made (Suozi/Sweeney) – to support language change regarding 153-A:13 revocation of a license to support adding an additional tool such as a letter of concern in addition to suspension or revocation of a license ; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Blum	Yes
Freese	Yes
Grossman	Yes

Hirsch	Yes
Lee	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

Chair Rix explained that the sub-committee also discussed notification of an actionable complaint. When a complaint is filed or if the Bureau seeks immediate suspension or if the Director determines the provider is a potential threat to public health or safety, nowhere is it stated that the Medical Director or MRH is informed. The MCB had discussed adding the step of informing the Medical Director. Coordinating Board Chair Jeremy LaPlante stated his concern with employer/employee relationship. Dr. Trimarco mentioned physicians in medicine are required to notify any potential employer or hospital that is going to credential them to work in that hospital if any action has been taken against their license at any point, including any claims or investigations whether they became truthful or not. Chief Nick Mercuri confirmed that at times, complaints are filed against providers and or investigations are started and Medical Directors are not always brought in as part of the complaint process depending on the facts of the case.

Motion Made (Suozzi/Trimarco) – to support language change in section F2 and 3 that the primary medical resource hospital and Medical Director would be notified pursuant to RSA 541-A:30 section 3; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Blum	Yes
Freese	Yes
Hirsch	Yes
Lee	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

Motion above amended to clarify primary notification to all MRH’s would be notified.

Motion Made (Suozzi/Trimarco) – to support language change in section F2 and 3 to remove the word primary and add as well as the respondents medical resource hospitals and Medical Director’s would be notified pursuant to RSA 541-A:30 section 3; **passed unanimously via rollcall vote.**

Blum	Yes
Freese	Yes

Hirsch	Yes
Lee	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

b. Vote on 2021 MCB Schedule

Motion Made (Sweeney/Nathan) – to accept the proposed 2021 MCB schedule; passed unanimously via rollcall vote.

Blum	Yes
Freese	Yes
Hirsch	Yes
Lee	Yes
Morrison	Yes
Nathan	Yes
Rix	Yes
Seefeld	Yes
Suozzi	Yes
Sweeney	Yes
Trimarco	Yes
Wallus	Yes

Meetings will remain being held virtually through WebEx.

c. COVID-19 – Chief Romanello

1. Emergency Rules → Rules
Nothing more to report.
2. Emergency Protocols → Protocols
Nothing more to report.
3. COVID-19 General Discussion
Items below discussed in the Bureau of EMS Report by Chief Romanello.
 - Electrostatic Sprayers
 - FROST Program
 - Vaccination of First Responders
 - First Responders as Vaccinators

VIII. Topics Ad Libitum

- a. Hayley reported that the Secretary of State is undergoing a new online platform to submit the Financial Disclosure Forms. These forms are required to be completed by all Board members by mid-January. This could be last minute so please pay attention to your email and complete it as soon as you see it.
- b. Chair Rix opened the Board up to the public for any questions or comments.

- c. Dr. Freese gave a brief update on the CARES funding. A meeting is scheduled for December 2nd. The fees have been upped for 2021. It was \$15, 000 for all States, but an argument was made that the numbers of cases in California compared to here, paying the same price is a little ridiculous. They prorated our State to \$17,500 and the bigger states a little over \$20,000. An update will be provided to the Board in January.
- d. Data submission law change upcoming regarding working with agencies doing work on our behalf. Also, an EMS license plate in the works in addition to the firefighter plate.

IX. Adjournment

Motion Made (Morrison/Trimarco) - to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 AM; passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2021 – Virtual through WebEx