

**NH EMS Medical Control Board****MEETING MINUTES** (Approved)**September 20, 2018**

9:00AM

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy  
Classrooms 1 & 2, Administration Building  
98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH 03301

**Quorum: 8 members required****Members present:**

Joey Scollan, Chair; Frank Hubbell, Joshua Morrison, Michelle Nathan, Andrew Seefeld, James Suozzi, Brian Sweeney, Thomas Trimarco, and Harry Wallus **(9)**

**Members absent:**

Kenneth Call, Trevor Eide, John Freese, Nicholas Larochelle, and Patrick Lee **(5)**

**NH FST&EMS Staff:**

Director Deborah Pendergast, Chief of Strategy and Planning Nick Mercuri; Bureau Chief Justin Romanello; Captain Vicki Blanchard; Joanne Lahaie, Rachel Horr, Andrew Mason, Todd Donovan, and June Connor (minutes) **(9)**

**Guests:**

Derick Aumann, Kevin Blinn, Joel Coelho, Jeff Dropkin, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Christopher Gamache, John Hall, Mark Hastings, Chuck Hemeon, Eric Jaeger, Aaron McIntire, Richard O'Brien, Clay Odell, Maureen Quirk, and Jared Whalen **(16)**

**I. Welcome**

a. Introductions / Disclosures / Membership...Meeting called to order at 9:10AM.

**POST MEETING NOTE: Tom Trimarco's nomination letter from Region 1 has been received and is on file. The MCB voting members must vote to ratify his renewed term at the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.** His new term will expire on November 30, 2021.

**II. Approval of the minutes**

**Motion made (Nathan/Suozzi)** – *to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2018 MCB meeting*, passed unanimously.

**III. Division / Committee Reports**

a. Bureau of EMS and Division updates

Director Pendergast:

- Dormitory mold issue in classrooms 5, 6, and 7 due to high humidity over summer; this has been remediated.
- Fire Investigator certification program; at the half-way mark. This is a first for us in NH and one of only a few in New England.

- October 29, 2018: Behavioral Health Symposium being held at the Academy in conjunction with NAMI. **(Flyer attached to these minutes.)**
- Recruit School program: 24 or 25 out of 28 students will be graduating on Friday, September 21, 2018.
- 2017 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG): award of \$360,000; 85% is funded by FEMA and 15% funded by the Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS.
- Monday, September 24, 2018: Fire and Emergency Medical Services Committee of Merit Awards and Recognition presentation at the Concord City Auditorium.

Chief Nick Mercuri:

- Strategic Plan – With the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) review completed, it is time to put together all of the information that has been gathered over the last 2 years into a strategic plan.
- Legislative update: New legislation is looking fairly light
  - 1) Exemption for firefighters from having to have an EMS license to administer Narcan. The bigger picture involves the consideration of exempting everyone from having to have a license due to the “over the counter” availability of Narcan. There is a lot to consider. There are several online training modules available.  
It will be necessary to define the difference between first aid and licensed care.
  - 2) Legislation regarding where funds are deposited, be in the General Fund or the Fire Fund - This only involves about \$3,500, but last year, the money we collected was put into the General Fund. (The money comes from fees for ambulance inspections, etc.) We would rather see this money go into the Fire Fund so it can help to support the Division.

Bureau Chief Justin Romanello:

- NHTSA and DOT review: Thanks to all who helped with this last week. A brief of the written report will be sent out. One of the facts that came out of the review is that NH has 10% of the total AEMT population in the United States.
- Protocol 7.1(latest update) – Public Hearing from 1:00PM to 3:00PM on October 4, 2018 in classroom 4 of the Academy Administration Building. If there is nothing that has to be re-addressed by the MCB, then it will be presented to the CB for a final vote.
- EMS Rules Public Hearings **(See attachment for schedule)**
- After the public hearings are completed, the EMS Rules will come back to the CB, then be submitted to the Commissioner, and finally be filed with JLCAR. These rule changes have been sent out on the list serve and are also posted on the Division’s website:  
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/documents/safc5900emsrules.pdf>
- Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips cautioned everyone to be careful when reading the rules because they are in an edited format; sections in brackets are meant to be deleted, and new items are underlined.
- EMS Symposium at CMC last week: Bureau Chief Romanello’s first “State of the State” with the intention of getting out and around the state to speak on a regular basis.
- November 1 & 2, 2018 – Trauma Conference at the Academy
- September 19 – 21, 2018 – North Country Conference; several Division staffers will be speaking
- September 24, 2018 – Bureau Chief Romanello announced the EMS award recipients. **(See attachment)** New award this year: EMS Unit Citation

- b. Coordinating Board update
- Frank Hubbell reported.

- Highlights of the meeting held on July 19, 2018:
    - \* Work group list of 5 topics: Implied Consent and EMS Refusals, EMS Physician Level of Licensure, IC Renewal & EMS Education, Recruitment and Retention, and EMS Rules.
    - \* Susan Barnard spoke about FAST-ED.
    - \* November 6, 2018 – Annual Stroke Conference at the Grappone Center in Concord.
    - \* Anna Sessa gave a presentation on EMS-C data from pre-hospital agencies and pediatric dosing tools.
  - The next CB meeting will be held this afternoon, September 20, 2018 at 1:00PM.
  - Here is the link to the minutes for CB meetings:  
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/coordinating/cbminutes.html>
- c. Trauma Medical Review Committee update
- Kenneth Call was not present; the last TMRC meeting scheduled August 15, 2018 was cancelled because a quorum was not present.
  - The next meeting of the TMRC is scheduled for October 17, 2018 at 9:30AM.
  - 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

Vicki Blanchard submitted this report:

**Burns/Electrocution/Lightning:** No changes

**Drowning/Submersion Injuries:** No changes

**Eye & Dental Injuries:** No changes

**Musculoskeletal Injuries:** Updated tourniquet link to hemorrhage control and changed fluid volumes to follow shock protocol.

**Traumatic Shock Protocol:** No changes

**Spinal Trauma:** Added soft collar to the bullet stating if rigid collar does not fit properly or patient poorly tolerates collar.

**Thoracic Injuries:** No changes

**Traumatic Brain Injury:** No changes

**Behavioral Emergencies:** The Protocol Committee sought guidance from the MCB on whether they would support light sedation for the anxious patient. There was much discussion, including getting input from the Mental Health community and having to call Medical Control.

**A motion was made (Wallus/Sweeney) - to include benzodiazepines in the Behavioral Emergency for anxiety after consulting with Medical Control,** passed unanimously.

**A motion was made (Morrison/Wallus) – to accept the protocols as reviewed,** passed unanimously.

#### V. Old Business

a. Cardiac Arrest / CARES update

Dr. Freese was not present; no report was submitted.

b. Poison Control and 911

- Statement, “I can’t breathe” will no longer be at the echo level; telecommunicators will assess on case-by-case basis.
  - Narcotics: “not conscious/not breathing” are going to be delta responses as opposed to an echo response.
  - The agonal tool is now called the “breathing diagnostic tool”.
- c. Ketamine concentration update  
Though the shortage is not as grave as it has been in the past year, it is yet to be determined how many different kinds of concentrations should be carried by hospitals and how available different concentrations are. **This can be taken off the agenda for the next meeting.**
- d. Shelter Care provided by EMS  
Chief Nick Mercuri pointed out that there is an NFPA standard on mass care and sheltering. We are still gathering information. EMS begins when a 911 call is activated, but EMS coverage in a shelter during events or emergencies is different.
- e. Role of Medical Director within the MRH  
Chief Mercuri is trying to come up with a date for a meeting of stakeholders. Bureau Chief Justin Romanello pointed out that one of the comments from NHTSA during its review was that we needed more “bite” at the local level. Right now, if a provider is not performing the way he/she should be, the only thing a Medical Director can do is to restrict medications. We want to give providers more opportunities to be the best that they can be before jumping ahead to the state compliance level.
- f. Stroke  
Vicki Blanchard reported that the protocol committee is working with the Stroke Collaborative and incorporating the FAST-ED assessment into the stroke protocol.

## VI. New Business

### a. RSI Training – Andrew Mason

We are working with the Ed-tech group at the Division to update RSI education in order for it to match the content of the RSI handbook. The goal is to standardize RSI education across the services in the state. Andrew asked for input from the MCB before finalizing a script and beginning to film. RSI service leaders will also be asked for input.

### b. Waste disposal and nurse refusal

Joshua Morrison stated there is an increasing problem with paramedics trying to dispose of waste in hospitals, and nurses are refusing to sign off. There is no standardized way of wasting. The Drug Task Force recommended that the optimal best practice is that when a patient is taken to a hospital, the waste is done at that hospital where it is witnessed by both the paramedic and a nurse. This came after getting input from the Pharmacy Board.

## VII. Topics Ad Libitum

### a. NH Project FIRST (First responders Initiating Recovery, Support, & Treatment) **(See attachment)**

Chief Nick Mercuri emphasized that this is a voluntary program. There will be a couple of pilot programs this fall. This will support MIH programs.

- b. Lawrence, MA incident
- Harry Wallus wanted to know if anyone was involved in an “after-action” plan, following the disaster in Lawrence, MA.
  - Chief Mercuri will check with Director Plummer from Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The EOC did not get activated. Bureau Chief Romanello expressed concern about EMS only being brought to the table after the EOC gets activated.
- c. Dispatching EMS for sedation  
Jim Suozzi spoke about a problem with police dispatching EMS to sedate people.
- d. EMS Rules changes are on the web with a copy of the proposed rules. Items in brackets will be deleted from the rules, and new items are underlined.
- VIII. A motion was made (Sweeney/Morrison) – to adjourn the meeting at 10:20AM; passed unanimously.**

**Next Meeting: November 15, 2018**

(Minutes written by June Connor)