

NH EMS MEDICAL CONTROL BOARD

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

MINUTES OF MEETING (Approved) September 15, 2016

- Members present:** James Suozzi-Chair; Kenneth Call, Trevor Eide, David Hirsch, Michelle Nathan (left after first half of the meeting), John Seidner, Brian Sweeney, Thomas Trimarco, and Harry Wallus (9)
- Members absent:** Frank Hubbell & Joshua Morrison
- Member pending:** Joey Scollan
- Bureau staff:** Director Deborah Pendergast, Deputy Chief John Bouffard, Captains Vicki Blanchard and Chip Cooper, and Administrative Assistant, June Connor (5)
- Guests:** Sean Ellbeg, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Michael Flynn, Christopher Gamache, Fred Heinrich, Stephanie Locke, Aaron McIntire, Andrew Merelman, Brian Nicholson, Matthew Benu, Daniel Fitzgerald, David Rivers, and Stephen Lorenze (13)

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM. A quorum was present with 9 members present when the meeting began.

Introductions – All present introduced themselves.

Membership

- Region 2 has not yet submitted a letter for Dr. Scollan.
- Dr. Seefeld's membership is still pending.

Approval of July 21, 2016 Minutes:

Motion made by John Seidner; seconded by Kenneth Call – to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2016 MCB meeting; passed unanimously.

Item 1

Bureau and Division Updates –

Deputy Chief J. Bouffard:

- EMS Bill will go into effect in January 1, 2017. (change in definition of “patient”, background checks, etc.)
- State Medical Director – There is an ongoing discussion about a potential conflict of interest for the State Medical Director who is also acting as the Chair of the MCB; if the SMD is paid and appointed by the Commissioner, then this could conflict with the MCB Chair who is nominated by the EMS regions. Legislation is being drafted to separate the two.

Legislation:

- Narcan purchase legislation is being supported by Representative Linda Massimilla.
- In 2017, the EMS funding law will be updated so that fees go into the revenue account rather than the general fund.
- EMS rules will be discussed at the CB meeting this afternoon so that they can go to JLCAR and be in place in January, 2017.
- Background check rules will also be discussed at the CB this afternoon.

Grants:

- New ambulance to be delivered in December, 2016.
- Infection control grant with DHHS – moving forward with a MOA.
- 89 Law Enforcement officers have been licensed to give Narcan.
- 60 out of 240 State Police have applied for licensure.
- An RFP (Request for Proposal) for an EMS System Evaluation is being developed. NHTSA did an evaluation 25 years ago, and an RFP will go out for all interested parties. Money for this is being allocated through next year’s transportation funding.
- User Management Contract – should have the contract in the next month or two.

Human Resources:

- 4 candidates will be interviewed for the Data Analyst position.
- 1 applicant will be interviewed for the Simulation Program Coordinator position.

Other:

- Federal HR4365 – (Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medication Act 2016) – went to the House.
- November 17, 2016 – Strategic Planning Meeting for all 3 boards. Chief Don DeAngelis will be the facilitator; location TBA.
- Trauma Registry – 680 at last count!

- Warm Zone training – 911 people have taken the online course and 874 have completed it, many of which are from out of state. Note that there are 5300 providers in the state, so we need to continue to get out the word!
- High Performance CPR went to beta testing yesterday.
- Paramedic re-entry policy – working through the policy piece at this time. Confirmation from the medical director and the chief will be needed to say that the person meets the education standards before a letter will be issued by the State for re-entry.
- **Committee of Merit Awards** ceremony – September 26th at 6:30PM at the Audi in Concord.

Recipients:

- * Pamela Mitchell / Richard Connolly EMS Achievement:
 - the 2016 Elite Program Pilot Group
- * Bound Tree Corp. EMS Unit of the Year:
 - AMR – Manchester & the Manchester Fire Dept.
- * Dr. David Connor Memorial EMS Appreciation Award:
 - Todd Donovan (Derry Fire Dept. and NH Bureau of EMS)
- * EMS Educator of the Year:
 - Steve Turner, from Exeter Fire & Turner EMS Solutions
- * NH EMT Assoc. David F. Dow Memorial EMS Provider of the Year Award:
 - Stephanie Locke, Tri-Town EMS
- Director Pendergast spoke about the Division’s senior staff re-organization: The purpose of the re-organization is to help enable the Division to transition from being reactionary to proactive as well as continue to integrate Fire and EMS. Nick Mercuri will now be the Chief of Strategy and Planning for the entire Division. Bureau Chief Jeff Phillips will become the Assistant Director in charge of Operations for the entire Division. Deputy Chief Jon Bouffard will take over many of the things that Chief Mercuri used to do as EMS Bureau Chief and will also report directly to Jeffrey Phillips. Deputy Chief Andy Anderson will continue to handle Fire Service related tasks, and a third Deputy Chief will be hired to oversee things like the Instructor Program, E-Learning, Testing, and Processing.

Item 2

Coordinating Board Update – July 21st meeting was cancelled

- The CB will meet this afternoon, September 15, 2016 at 1PM.
- Here is the link to the minutes from the CB meetings:
<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/coordinating/cbminutes.html>

Item 3

Trauma Medical Review Committee – K. Call

- The TMRC meeting was held on August 17, 2016.
- Highlights from the meeting included the following:
 - CMC had their review on August 30th
 - The November 18th Trauma Conference at the North Country Grand is still in need of speakers.
 - A presentation was made about a new trend in rehabilitation involving more highly educated and trained physical therapists whose expanded roles are having an effect on decreasing patient lengths of stay in hospitals and the use of imaging, etc.
 - The group concluded that doctors/hospitals need to speak a common language with the Medical Examiner's Office that forms a bridge between medical and legal terminology.
 - The Bureau of EMS has been reorganized and has gone from 4 to 3 sections: Clinical Systems, Data Management, and Operations; all of these groups will report to Deputy Chief Jon Bouffard. Nick Mercuri has been named as Chief of Strategy and Planning for the entire Division.
 - The TMRC voted in favor of supporting the TXA Protocol along with the monitoring of compliance and education that the MCB will include. Tom Trimarco gave a presentation on the topic.
 - Jim Esdon (IPC/DHMC) spoke about the challenges involved with passing a seat belt law.
- **Motion made by John Seidner; seconded by David Hirsch – to submit a letter reappointing Kenneth Call as the MCB representative at TMRC meetings; passed unanimously.**
- The long awaited ACS Final Report was distributed to members and guests of all of the EMS Boards.
- The TMRC will meet again on October 19, 2016 at 9:30AM.
- Here is the link to the minutes from the TMRC meetings:
http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/boards/traumamedicalreview/trauma_minutes.html

Item 4

Elite Update –Chip Cooper

- The incident list will soon have customized filters.
- There were quite a few “save” issues that are in the process of being fixed.
- There are 1 or 2 updates a month.
- Chip has submitted provider impressions.

- Chip’s group is experimenting with placement of words on a list to see if it affects how reports are done (example: The word “weakness” was moved from the bottom of the list and other adjectives were put in front of it so that it was not an obvious choice.)
- The “Sign-In” page is now customized so that the NH part is more noticeable.

Item 5

Drug Diversion Meeting – J. Stewart not present; the following report was submitted via email and read by J. Suozzi:

The group last met on 25 Aug 2016 at the Fire Academy – the meeting was very well attended!!!

- The Best Practices were reviewed a few minor suggested edits and updates – group agreed to support the document moving forward with the Best Practices Committee with edits addressed.
- Review of the Educational Power Point for UCDC’s – some edits, updates, suggestions were provided development continues with “scripting”. A heads up to the NH-ODLE group was going to be put forward by Vicki so they know it is coming.
- Other items include:
 - monitoring the “Medication Tracking” regulation and its potential impact on EMS Agencies and Providers – at this point EMS agencies are not impacted BUT does not relieve the Pharmacy’s burden
 - Pharmacy’s EMS Survey Results and significant discussion on “Wasting” by EMS staff, looked at the “Medsaway®” product – will have an objective in the general EMS provider education on what is wasting and what are they signing for
 - Requesting a Generic Image Trend Report for Narcotic Usage- QA be available
 - Group agreed to move forward with developing a page on the NH Fire & EMS Resource Website
- Next meeting – 27 Oct 2016 @ 1300 hr. at the NH Fire Academy and we do also offer the call in number.

Respectfully Submitted
Jeffrey Stewart, Chair

Item 6

Cardiac Arrest update –J. Suozzi & Chip Cooper

Congratulations to the E-Learning Section for a great job on the High Performance CPR program which should be finished with beta testing in about a week.

4 people will be attending the next Resuscitation Academy in a few weeks:

Dave Rivers, Dr. Nathan, Chris Hickey, and Todd Donovan.

CARES – hoping to get things up and running within a couple of months. There is a subscription waiver that lasts for a couple of years. The biggest deal is to get hospitals to agree to give the outcome data due to concerns about privacy; CARES is a registry, so they have an exemption from the Federal Government regarding HIPPA, etc.

Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont are working on this together; Chair Suozzi hopes to get the New England group back together in January, 2017 to work out how resources can be shared and develop a Northern New England Resuscitation Academy.

Item 7

EpiPens – J. Suozzi

Can we find a way in NH for providers to safely administer epinephrine without an auto injector?

For a pilot project in NY, Bound Tree made “Epi Safe Syringes” with pre-set doses for pediatric and adult. We are looking to get Vermont and New Hampshire involved with this project if possible. A discussion ensued as to whether or not NH should get involved with this?

A motion was made by John Seidner; seconded by Trevor Eide – to support developing a process for EMTs to draw up epinephrine for anaphylaxis; passed unanimously.

Item 8

Bougie & PEEP valves on BVMs –J. Suozzi (& Andrew Merelman)

A discussion ensued about making these mandatory items on ambulances.

A motion was made by Thomas Trimarco; seconded by John Seidner – to recommend to the CB that PEEP valves be used on BVMs but that they should not be mandatory; passed unanimously.

Item 9

Protocol Committee – V. Blanchard (see attachments for informational articles and draft copies)

Report below provided by Vicki Blanchard:

Protocols reviewed:

Hazardous Material Exposure: No change.

Radiation Injuries: No Change.

Bariatric Triage, Care & Transport:

- NH Bureau of EMS contact information added.

Refusal of Care:

- Tabled until January 2017 meeting, Wallace to research further on the refusal of intoxicated patients.

Immunizations – No change.

Airway Management Procedure:

- Added that PEEP set at 5-15 cmH₂O is recommended with ventilating with a BVM.
- Added language to include BiPAP
Combitube to be removed from the 2017 protocols
- Removed examples of supraglottic airways, as there are many newer LMA on the market.
- Recommended that bougie be used for all intubation. **The MCB voted to support adding the Bougie to the required equipment list and to forward this to the CB for their consideration.**

BiPAP: New protocol for ventilators with BiPAP option.

CPAP:

- Discussion to move to EMT level failed, the board did not feel AEMTs were using it comfortably.
- Updated oxygen saturation limits to 94 – 99% to avoid over oxygenating at 100%.
- Added a section on using a BVM with PEEP value for CPAP. Mereland to send Blanchard updated bullet for nasal cannula.
- This protocol tabled until January 2017 meeting.

Nasotracheal Intubation:

- Change number of attempts from 3 to 2.

Orotracheal Intubation:

- Complete re-write
- Tabled until January 2017 meeting to give the board time to read over more closely.

Percutaneous Cricothyrotomy: No change

Airway Management Protocols – Adult & Pediatric: No changes.

Supraglottic Airway:

- Removed Combitube
- Removed examples of supraglottic airways, as there are many newer LMA on the market.
- Removed relative contraindications: Intact gag reflex and active vomiting

Suctioning of the Inserted Airway: No changes.

Voted to table Refusal of Care, CPAP and Orotracheal Intubation, all other changes approved.

Item10

Operational Medical Director – J. Suozzi

(Otherwise known as “Physicians in the Field”) The EMS rules do not address this issue clearly which is why the Coordinating Board is taking a look at it. In addition, the Board of Medicine does not define where physicians practice. Jon Bouffard explained that the crux of the problem comes down to RSA 153 which states that anyone providing pre-hospital medicine must have a license issued by the Commissioner.

Item 11

Credentialing

Jim Suozzi and Nick Mercuri asked NASEMSO about how states deal with credentialing. In New Hampshire, EMTs are certified by the National Registry, licensed by the State, and “credentialed”, per se, by local Medical Directors and the local EMS System. Our rules are not very clear, and this is a topic that requires some thought and discussion.

Jon Bouffard suggested that this could be a great topic for the strategic planning session in November.

Item 12

Topics ad libitum

- a) **A physician is needed for interviews at the Academy on September 27th for the data analyst position. Please contact Chip Cooper if you are interested.**
- b) **Chris Wyman from FMO – mandatory reporting of injuries (not present by the time this topic came up)**
- c) **There was a moment of silence for Steve LaBomba and Gary Johnson.**

Adjournment

Motion made by John Seidner; seconded by Tom Trimarco – to adjourn the MCB meeting at 11:50AM; passed unanimously.

November 17, 2016: An all-day strategic planning session with all 3 EMS boards.

Next actual meeting: January 19, 2017. A draft of the 2017 schedule will be emailed, and a vote can be taken at the January meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

James Suozzi, DO, Chairperson