

**N.H. EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES
COORDINATING BOARD**

January 20, 2011

Fire & EMS Academy, Concord, NH

Approved Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Doreen Gilligan, Matthew Goudreau, Eric Jaeger, Don Johnson, Terry LeBlanc, Rae Mello-Andrews, Stacy Meier, Richard O'Brien, Clay Odell, Michael Pepin, Eric Schelberg, David Strang (Chair), Jim Suozzi, Dennis Tobin

Members Absent: Al Burbank, Jason Grey, Mark Tetreault,

Excused: George Sykes, Michael Cloutier

Guests: Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Mark Hastings, Janet Houston, Steve L'Heureux, Kevin MacCaffrie, Sue Prentiss, Dave Rivers, Steve Robbins, Peter Row

Bureau Staff: Vicki Blanchard, Chip Cooper, Kathy Doolan

Welcome/Introductions - D. Strang, Chair.

Welcome and introductions were completed.

A Moment of Silence was requested and held for Harold Frey from Care Plus Ambulance and Sandown FD – who passed away after a cold water rescue training drill – funeral arrangements were announced.

Acceptance of 11/18/10 Meeting Minutes - D. Strang

A motion was made by D. Johnson and seconded by T. LeBlanc to approve the minutes as written. All approved.

N.H. EMS Medical Control Board (MCB) Report – J. Suozzi

Dr. J. Suozzi gave a summary of the morning meeting. It was reported that the MCB supported the EMD protocols that were presented. A final review of the 2011 protocols was completed, Rollouts will start next month. J. Suozzi will replace T. D'Aprix as Chairman of the protocol committee. C. Fore mentioned the RSI standardized curriculum and training prerequisites. Suggestions for future updates to the protocols should be given to V. Blanchard, J. Suozzi or T. D'Aprix. Cardiac care and patient safety are two suggested topics for 2013.

[MCB Minutes are posted on website once approved]

N.H. Bureau of EMS (NHBEMS) Report – C. Odell

Bureau Chief Odell referenced the handout which will be the new format for the Bureau Report, formatted as a bulletin. The Bulletin is a condensed format and

and he would appreciate feedback from the Board and Guests. This document will be given out several days ahead of the Board meetings in the future and it will also go out over the Divisions ListServe.

C. Odell mentioned the retirement of Director Rick Mason as of early February. The Director has been very supporting of EMS since we have come to the Division and he will be missed.

Legislative update: HB58 repealed the interfacility transport exception (IFTE) – the history of the rules were given, only 7 nurses had taken the training and licensed, none of these individuals re-licensed. It is felt that this option is really not necessary, if the public hearings bring out concerns to prove that it is needed the Bureau will reconsider deleting these rules. Chief Odell has spoken with ambulance services who state that they have not done any of these IFTE transfers.

Additionally, there is legislation being proposed for mandated CPR training in schools, more information to follow.

[Please see written Bureau report in folder for complete information]

Old Business:

Equipment Approval Process update – Dr. Strang made comment on the possible size changes to the required supraglottic airways. No further discussion took place.

Recertification allegations update/Ad Hoc Committee – C. Odell gave a status report of the ongoing investigation. Also reported on was the Commissioners Ad Hoc Committee which has met once and will meet again next week. Topics of discussion will be the refresher and practical process and security and accountability. The group is also looking at due process and the possibility of having a newly formed Board review licensing decisions instead of the Hearing Examiners that currently are used. C. Odell mentioned that a report will be given to the Coordinating Board as soon as possible – the Committee has 180 days to deliberate – rules will need changing also.

Best Practices Update- M. Pepin

M. Pepin and J. Suozzi discussed 911 determinants and how they are used in this state and the membership gave comments from local experiences. The group discussed the possibility of giving out information at the upcoming Protocol Rollout Sessions, but it was felt that the 911 experts were truly the best ones to give this presentation.

M. Pepin updated the membership on the subcommittees status – upcoming meetings will be held 1/26 and 2/24 – 9 AM at the Academy all are welcomed. Further discussion took place about getting input from insurance companies and the Ambulance Association on the use of lights and sirens.

Special Item / Director Mason's Retirement: R. Mason is looking forward to retirement. He thanked the Membership for the work completed together over the years and wished everyone well.

R. Mason described the process by which a new Director would be appointed: individuals are nominated, background checks and interviews take place, the suggested nominee is brought forward to the Fire Standards Commission and the Coordinating Board by the Commissioner of Safety for letters of approval. These letters are forwarded to the Governor with the nominee's name. A special meeting may need to be called for this approval to be voted upon.

D. Strang reported that he had met with the Commissioner to learn more about the selection/approval process and had suggested to the Commissioner that allowing the Board the opportunity to meet with the nominee and ask questions, would make the Board's approval much more meaningful. In light of the tight schedule for forwarding the nominee's name to the Governor, it was noted by D. Strang that a special meeting or subcommittee may need to be convened for this purpose. It was noted that although a subcommittee could be convened to meet with the nominee, a vote to approve could not be done by email/letter and must be conducted by the full Board at a formal meeting.

EMS Survey Update – C. Cooper

C. Cooper reported that the survey is not as far along as he had hoped it would be at this point. Being a web based survey has presented challenges not anticipated. He stated that Units will be receiving email information about the upcoming survey, additionally hardcopy information will also be sent.

C. Cooper asked the membership to make their constituents aware of this upcoming survey, and request that they take it seriously as it will help with System development.

Benchmark / System Monitoring Committee Update – R Mello-Andrews

R. Mello-Andrews stated that only a few members of this subcommittee have been available to meet but that many topics have been discussed (i.e. chest pain, stroke system, supraglottic airways). The group will have a tele-conference, at minimum, before the next Board meeting. Some suggestions were made for additional sources of input on these topics – Dr. MakNiles at DHMC, and LRGH would have evidence based on their current procedures.

Board Membership – D. Strang

The positions currently open on the Boards memberships roster was discussed. A new Public member has been nominated and a new Local Government Center Member (Municipal Association) is also in process. C. Odell is trying to get interest from the College of Surgeons, and ACEP will be nominating a representative soon.

New Business:

Division Director Appointment (discussed above)

Items of Interest – All present

J. Houston asked about the Strategic Plan developed by the Boards. C. Odell handed out a copy of the Goals and Objectives from the 2009 plan. Much discussion ensued.

C. Cooper brought up a need for an advisory committee for data needs, the Research and Quality management section of the Bureau needs input. He asked how the Board wanted to proceed. If a council or committee is set up, similar to the old TEMSIS sub-committee, they will need to meet regularly.

C. Odell supports this initiative and discussed the possible next steps – subcommittee with outside membership? Much discussion ensued. It was felt that this group could be very beneficial to the Benchmark group. R. M-Andrews felt that the Benchmark group members should be a part of this committee.

At this point a motion was made by J. Suozzi to create a data council, it was seconded by S. Meier and all agreed. The membership of this committee was discussed; Staff members, Coordinating Board members, geographic representation and Benchmark committee members. Further discussion. It was decided to withdraw the past motion, and re-word by D. Strang to state: **That a data council be created using the Benchmark Committee as the representation from the Coordinating Board.** – This was seconded by S. Meier and All present were in favor of the motion.

S. Robbins brought up HB 31 concerning reimbursement procedures from insurance companies to ambulance services. S. Meier stated that currently Anthem sends a check for services directly to the patient that used the ambulance service, and the ambulance company may never see that payment. There will be input given by the Ambulance Association on this and they are hoping to at a minimum have the process changed to where both the patient and the ambulance service's name is on the check. A class action suit has been brought forth in Pennsylvania on this issue.

M. Goudreau asked about protocols for critical care paramedics. Further discussion took place about CCT and PIFT training and what prerequisites were currently in place.

Adjournment – **Motion made (M. Pepin) and seconded (R. Mello-Andrews) and voted unanimously.**

Next Meeting
Thursday – March 17, 2011
Fire/EMS Academy - Concord, NH
1:00 PM