

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

November 15, 2012

NH Fire Academy – Concord, NH

Approved Meeting minutes

Members Present: David Strang (Chair), Michael Pepin, Dennis Tobin, Eric Schelberg, Rae Mello-Andrews, Peter Row, Greg Placey, Don Johnson, Richard O'Brien, Jason Grey, Eric Jaeger, Mike Cloutier, Theresa Leblanc.

Members Absent: Doreen Gilligan, Stacy Meier, Ron O'Keefe

Excused: Mark Tetreault

Guests: Richard Cloutier, Steve Erickson, Jeanne Erickson, Jeff Stewart

Division Staff: Vicki Blanchard, Liza Burrill, Janet Houston, Shawn Jackson, Clay Odell, Chip Cooper

Welcome/Introductions – D. Strang, Chair

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introductions were given by all present. Quorum present.

Acceptance of 9/20/12 Meeting Minutes – D. Strang – All members present today briefly reviewed the September minutes. No changes / corrections / edits brought forward. Motion was made by M. Pepin and seconded by D. Tobin to approve the minutes. Unanimous vote to accept the minutes as written/presented. (one change made post-meeting to the incorrectly listed title of D. Strang in circulated minutes)

N.H. EMS Medical Control Board (MCB) Report – V. Blanchard

V. Blanchard gave a summary of the morning meeting – minutes can be viewed on the Division website once approved.

Discussion / report:

- Dr. Tom Trimarco was voted in as a new MCB Member, replacing Dr. Norm Yanofsky
- Community Paramedicine Committee is continuing their monthly meetings
- Janet Houston is working on a Pediatric Readiness Project to help improved the ER care of Pediatric patients. She will be starting out with a State survey
- Protocols reviewed this months are: Shock, ACS, 12-lead within 10 minutes, STEMI Plan, Securing Pedis in Ambulances, Capnography, LVAD (New), Ventilators (complex vs. non-complex and new procedures for RSI patients), Police Custody Protocol (New) – Police should remove Taser probes (if not a life-threatening emergency), Patient Care Refusal, Exception / Exclusion Protocol – “Rule 13”.

[MCB Minutes are posted on website - draft and approved]

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

C. Odell stated that the “EMS Bulletin” would be published and sent around next week.

Bureau Report cont.

- C. Odell announced that while present in Rumney to do an AEMT Prep Class, Bill Taft, Director of Rumney EMS, suffered a medical emergency in the parking lot before the program started. Chief Odell passed around a card and asked all present to sign it so he could send it along to Mr. Taft.
- Angela Shepard, Trauma Coordinator was absent from today's meeting as she is already at Day 1 of the Trauma Conference being held in Whitefield, NH at the Mountain View Grand Resort.
- Interviews for the open position of EMS Field Services Representative, was briefly discussed. There are 18 applicants that will be interviewed from November 26 – 28. He thanked those that had volunteered to help in the interview process.

[Please see written Bureau Bulletin for additional information]

Old Business:

Administrative Rule Changes – update – C. Odell

C. Odell reported that the proposed rule changes are with the Department's legal counsel and he will be working with Attorney Kelloway on the final changes. They will then be sent on to JLCAR. We are hoping for a Public Hearing the first week in December, and hopefully, they will be approved by the beginning of the new year.

Pre-planned Medical Standby Coverage – update – C. Odell

C. Odell reported that the plan has been reviewed and approved by the Commissioner and had been "passed by" the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire (PFFNH) and their attorney for educational purposes. Discussion ensued and a couple of clarifications were made by those present:

- "Policy for NHEMS Licensed Providers. . ." has been changed to "Plan for NHEMS Licensed Providers. " – Title change.
- Provider Accountability:
 - While working at these events providers need to understand that they are functioning without affiliation,
 - They are NOT protected under the Good Samaritan Laws.

Motion to Accept the proposed changes in the Policy (now a Plan) was made by R. O'Brien and seconded by M. Cloutier / D. Tobin.

Discussion:

E. Schelberg & P. Row agreed that they feel that although this information is not necessarily intended to be included in the actual Plan, they feel strongly that it should be included as an education piece in the rollout of the document. P. Row mentioned the importance of shielding the "home" agencies by making sure that "volunteers" understand that they are NOT representing their agencies, and that Services / Units should (if they haven't already) create a policy for how to deal with these types of events. D. Johnson asked if out of state providers would be able to work under this "plan". C. Odell reported that they cannot as they need to be licensed in NH to be eligible to work under this Plan.

There was also discussion as to whether or not this Plan should be added to the protocol document, but as it is NOT a protocol per se, it could probably be mentioned in the protocols document stating something like, "Protocols don't apply, but see companion document."

D. Strang clarified a few points stating that for the most part, providers working under this Plan would be remanded to doing BLS care, but in the event of a 9-1-1 situation, they would be able to use their NH protocols to provide the initiating care (as they are licensed in

NH), BUT 9-1-1 would have to be called, and the patient transported as they normally would be.

C. Odell stated when asked, that the document needed to be completed no later than July 2013, and does not have to go back to the Legislature. The directive is that it needs to be developed “with the approval of the NH CB / MCB and the Commissioner.”

Discussion ended and the vote was moved. Motion passed unanimously.

Equipment “Group Purchase Plan” Project update – C. Odell

C. Odell reported that this had been researched and looked into, and there are currently no Bureau/Division resources available to do this at this time.

Community Paramedicine – C. Odell

As was reported by V. Blanchard, the committee continues to meet. C. Odell reported that agencies are looking forward to starting this effort in 2013. He also reported that he wants to meet with the NH Board of Nursing and DHHS Office of Healthcare Facilities to educate them about this process as the EMS community will be interacting with patients that may currently be overseen by nurses and other allied health care industries.

Board membership/attendance discussion – D. Strang

D. Strang reported that the composition of the Coordinating Board (CB) is established in Law. He read down through the attendance list and the organizations that they represent. He stated that of the 22 seats on the NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board, only 17 are currently filled. The Division Director and the EMS Bureau Chief are non-voting members of the board. The 5 seats that are open are: 1 Public Seat, 1 MCB Seat, 1 seat for New England Organ Bank, 1 seat for the NH Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, Subcommittee on Trauma, and 1 seat for the American Red Cross.

Per the last meeting of the Board, members were asked to “beat the bushes” for possible candidates for the open Public Member seat. E. Schelberg stated that he had someone in mind, but has yet to speak to that person. C. Odell clarified some information about the public seat: the public member should not be someone already in the EMS community, but if that seat becomes impossible to fill, then an EMS person could be put in there.

There was discussion about placing a representative of the EMS Hospital Coordinators in that seat also. C. Odell stated that if the EMS Hospital Coordinators were to take that seat, then they could not “represent” their group. Chip Cooper stated that the EMS Hospital Coordinators could represent the NH Hospital Association, but T. Leblanc stated that she thought the Hospital Association Group would prefer that not to happen. **D. Strang stated it would be possible to create a seat for them, but that would take some time. J. Erickson offered to take the information back to the group for more discussion. [**Note: this sentence was corrected at the end of the meeting 1/17/13 by D. Strang to better reflect his statement on 11/15/12.]

D. Strang reported that he had prepared a letter to the three organizations (NEOB, ACS, ARC) that had vacant seats on the board asking for them to either nominate a candidate, or to let him know if they were no longer interested in representation on the CB. It was suggested that D. Strang also do follow-up calls in about 2-3 weeks, which he agreed to do.

If it turns out that any of the three organizations decide that they don’t want to participate, then there was discussion about tweaking legislation to eliminate their seats on the board, and that if the EMS Hospital Coordinators might be able to be added at that time.

D. Strang spoke with Dr. D’Aprix regarding the vacant MCB seat, and they are in discussion about a candidate at this time.

[short break]

Best Practices update – R. O’Brien - deferred

EMS Survey update – C. Cooper

C. Cooper handed out a survey that was done with Non-Transport Units showing both the Highest Level of Service Provided (FR – 5%, EMT-Basic – 25%, EMT-Intermediate – 51%, and EMT-Paramedic – 19%), and Equipment Reported on Hand by Non-Transporting Services. This was done in anticipation of creating rules for minimum equipment requirements of Non-Transporting services. C. Cooper also reported that V. Blanchard is keeping an updated list of equipment needs when protocols are being developed.

Benchmark Committee update – C. Cooper - deferred

EMT-Intermediate to Advanced EMT (AEMT) update – C. Odell

C. Odell reported the following:

- RTP / Transitions are ongoing
- The Bureau has completed 6 AEMT Exam Prep sessions with good feedback
- Testing Vouchers – each licensed NH EMT-Intermediate '85 will have one test-voucher courtesy of the Bureau of EMS. Governor & Council approval was received on 11/14/2012 for the first-year voucher amounts (\$22,000 X 4 years), and vouchers should be available within about 10 days.
- Mobile testing labs are not yet up and running. This portion of the project is being funded by Federal dollars. \$10,000 worth of computers have been purchased, test proctors are trained and ready to mobilize, NREMT has granted their permissions, and now the contract is between Pearson Vue (test administrators) and our Attorney General's office. There were some wording changes that NH Legislation wanted having to do with indemnity, and the contract has been sent back to Pearson Vue for further action.

EMS Legislation update – C. Odell

No new report, and D. Strang has asked that this item be moved off “Old Business” and be added to “New Business” as needed.

New Business:

How to Improve EMS Annual Award Nominations – D. Strang

D. Strang briefly talked about this year's awards and is concerned that we are missing opportunities to publicly recognize deserving EMS providers. D. Strang opened the floor to discussion and some of the suggestions are:

- Add a box on TEMSIS reports that would allow the Bureau to do a periodic search for review of calls that might be deserving of recognition
- Put a “tickler” message on the TEMSIS website approximately every three months to remind folks to nominate deserving individuals / units
- Rework the Award Requirement letters to reflect that the incident / act doesn't have to have been in just the past year, and others years could be considered
- Continue to remind both hospitals and EMS Hospital Coordinators to submit nominations
- If previously nominated candidates have been passed over and new info comes to light, then there could be reconsideration
- Make sure to notify newspapers in both Concord and in the recipients home towns to ensure better coverage and publicity
- Put it on the Bureau's Facebook Account page

D. Johnson asked about the construct of the nominations committee and the selection process. V. Blanchard explained that membership included representation from Boundtree, Newington Fire, 1 member each from the CB & MCB, a member of the NH Association of

EMTs along with 2 members of the Bureau of EMS.

Recent EMAC request for EMS coverage to New Jersey – C. Odell

C. Odell reported that every year EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact) puts out a National Ambulance Contract (NAC) request to head up any activation and this year the contract was awarded to AMR. This allows opportunity for predetermination of issues of re-imburement, medical supplies, etc. to be worked out in advance. EMAC works hand-in-hand with state and federal resources, e.g., National Guard, State Police, Ambulances, FEMA, etc.

Prior to being needed EMAC sends notifications to Units / Services / Compacts as to whether or not they call pull together “Strike” Forces / Teams. When asked, NH was able to pull up 5 Strike Teams. Each Strike Team is comprised of 4 BLS and 1 Paramedic Service.

Because of the damages caused by hurricane Sandy, New Jersey went to EMAC for activation of Strike Teams. When Strike Teams are activated, they are expected to respond in a “mission-ready” status, i.e., equipment, supplies, medications, narcotics, etc.

There were problems in NH because EMAC has previously not been well known, and issues came up surrounding the “mission ready” status. C. Odell was able to reach out to some of his national counterparts to learn more about the process and he assured the group that he will bring it to the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officers (NASEMSO) for further discussion / education, etc.

There was continued discussion regarding EMAC and it was suggested that the Bureau also talk with the NH Emergency Management personnel so there can be better understanding / coordination in the event that there is ever another EMAC activation request.

Items of Interest:

A schedule of next years meeting dates is available in the back of the room.

Motion to adjourn was made by R. O’Brien and seconded by J. Grey.

Approved unanimously - **Adjournment:** 4:20 PM

Next Meeting

Thursday – January 17, 2013

Location: Fire/EMS Academy - Concord