



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANNE H. JORDAN
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
MARCH 3, 2010
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members Present: Tim Beals (chair), Steve Diaz (ex-officio), Ken Albert, Joe Conley, Peter DiPietrantonio, Richard Doughty, Judy Gerrish, Paul Knowlton, Steve Leach, Jeff Rowe, Jim Ryan, Geneva Sides, Percy Thibeault, Wayne Werts, Roy Woods

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dawn Kinney, Alan Leo, Jon Powers, Drexell White

Regional Coordinators: Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun

Office of Attorney General: Dennis Smith, AAG

Guests: David Robie, Eric Wellman

1. Introductions made and guests welcomed.
2. Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the January 6, 2010, as presented (Albert; second by Leach) Unanimous

3. Old Business – none
4. New Business

- a. Legislative & Budget Updates – Jay reported that there continue to be ongoing work sessions regarding the biennial budget, but there have been no new proposals that would affect MEMS. The Legislature is supposed to complete its work by mid-April.
- b. Investigations Committee

MOTION: For the Investigations Committee to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2010, as presented (Doughty; second by Knowlton) Unanimous

Dawn then reviewed the cases included in the minutes.

MOTION: For the Board to ratify the Investigation Committee minutes from February 3, 2010 (Leach; second by Gerrish) Unanimous with one abstention (Ryan).

- c. Medical Director Report – Dr. Diaz reported that the MDPB retreat for January was cancelled because of inclement weather and has been rescheduled for April 21.

At the February meeting, the MDPB began working on updating the EMS treatment protocols, which is a process that will take considerable time. Such an update involves not only the MDPB, but also the Education Committee and the Ops Team. Work will continue on a steady path, but there is no established or target deadline at this point.

The MDPB also approved a standardized form for Special Circumstance Protocols that could be used, for example, when a patient had a special treatment need. The process includes training for local services and having the protocol approved by the patient's physician, the service's medical director, and then filed with the MDPB. Such a protocol would not change an EMS provider's scope of practice.

The HART Committee has been working to define and collect data regarding cardiac events from the PCI centers in light of recommendations from the American College of Cardiology regarding cardiac systems of care, which does not support diversion for cardiac patients if such a diversion would delay treatment. One goal is that the PCI centers would use data definitions developed by the Northern New England Quality Forum and be submitted to the National Cardiac Data Registry.

Other topics of discussion include therapeutic hypothermia and quality improvement efforts for 12 lead EKG.

d. Committee Reports

- i. Modeling Committee – Jay reported that the Modeling Committee met before the Board meeting to review and discuss the progress reports submitted by the regional EMS offices in December. The consensus of the committee was that these reports represent a good first step. Committee recommendations for future reports include having all regions:
 1. Use the report template developed by the committee and provided to the regions.
 2. Provide an index with page numbers
 3. Provide examples of community support provided (e.g. working with struggling services, and hospital issues/concerns)
 4. Expand the composition of council boards as described in the contract.

Members who are interested in receiving electronic copies of these reports should contact Jay.

MOTION: To accept the regional progress reports as presented. (Woods; second by Gerrish) Unanimous

- ii. Operations Team – Steve Corbin reported that the Ops Team met Tuesday and discussed a number of topics including the status of the dedicated funding bill, which is still floating around at the state house. Donnie met with some members of the Utilities & Energy Committee who seemed interested, but remained uncommitted.

Other items discussed was the reposting of the MEMS Training & Education Coordinator position; concerns about patient information (run reports) not being provided to hospital emergency departments. Some of the factors affecting this are: access to technology at hospitals, the time it takes to complete a run form, and apathy by both some EMS providers and some hospital staff. MEMS staff will work with MDPB and Ops to try and develop a pass along form and continue to inform providers about the importance of collecting good patient information and providing it in a timely manner.

The Ops Team also met with Kris Perkins, Director of Maine CDC's Division of Public Health Systems to discuss H1N1 experiences and lessons learned and coordination with the regional resource centers (RRCs) located at Maine Medical, Central Maine Medical, and Eastern Maine Medical Centers. The RRCs develop their annual work plan based upon the federal guidelines which are due out in the next couple of months. Ms. Perkins will plan to meet with the Ops Team at the May meeting to discuss these guidelines and then schedule a combined meeting with Ops, MEMS, and the RRCs.

- iii. Data – Jon reported that the Committee is continuing to work on changes to the MEMSRR data elements. He has been in contact with the software companies that export data to MEMSRR. Most companies have indicated the software change is included in the annual licensing fee, but some services have expressed concern about the cost of training providers about the changes. Work will continue in this area and on a redesign of the MEMSRR entry screens. These changes will be beta tested before a decision is made about deployment.

Jon is also conducting MEMSRR administrator training throughout the state, which has been very well received. There are about a dozen such sessions planned over the next 2 months.

- iv. Education Committee – Drexell reported that the committee is working on drafting an Assistant Instructor/Coordinator level pilot project that will be tested in a few regions. The committee set up a work group to draft an implementation plan for the new national education standards. There are a number of resources that are available, with many more on the way, and Maine needs to have a process for how the decision will be made regarding these changes and, if adopted, how to proceed with their implementation.

Other activities Drexell reported include a sub committee working on changes to the MEMS CEH categories, and that Butch Russell (North East Mobile Health) has developed a training program on Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST). POLST, and a variation known as MOLST are being used by some nursing homes. These forms can contain DNR/Comfort Care instructions, which can be accepted by EMS providers as long as the instructions are clearly understood, within the scope of practice, and the patient's physician has signed the order within the past year. The NEMH program is currently online for testing and feedback, but may be moved to another learning management web site once completed.

Aroostook EMS has submitted an application to be an approved Training Center. Drexell has completed the off-site review of their application and provided his report to AEMS. AEMS will be working on providing the additional information requested.

- v. EMD – Drexell reported that he has developed and distributed a QI reporting tool & survey to PSAPs and EMD centers. Initially, the goal is to collect baseline data on QI activities and then increase the performance measures. Jim Ryan said that at his center (Penobscot RCC), this requires a full time position to review EMS, Fire, and Law Enforcement calls. At first there was concern about the added burden, but as they have measured and steadily improved their performance markers, the center has experienced a better work atmosphere. Drexell indicated that most centers now have ProQA (computer based EMD protocols) and that several are installing AQUA (computer based QI software).

Drexell & Jim also attended reports to the Legislature from Kimball Associates regarding the Optimum PSAP Configuration/Next Generation 9-1-1 Study, and from the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) on the PSAPs and dispatching in Kennebec & Somerset Counties. These reports are available online at www.maine911.com and www.maine.gov/legis/opega/Reports.html

- vi. Exam Committee – Drexell reported that he is working on finishing up the appendices to the Exam Administrator Manual, that the NREMT is interested in scheduling a site visit in Maine this year, that the committee is interested in a joint meeting with the Education Committee, and that the committee has decided to meet on a bi-monthly basis. Drexell will be participating in an NREMT exam writing workshop in Columbus, OH, at the end of March. All expenses are paid by the NREMT.
 - e. Awards Committee – Jay reported that the deadline for award nominations is March 15. Steve Leach, Ken Albert, and Jim Ryan agreed to participate in the nomination reviews. The awards ceremony will be sometime the week of May 24. He is working with the Governor’s office to coordinate the date and time.
5. Staff Reports – Jay reported after conducting interviews and contacted references, it was decided to re-open the posting for the MEMS Training & Education Coordinator. Applications will be accepted until March 26. A cover letter will be drafted and sent with the posting to regional offices and e-mail distribution lists.

MEMS is working with the Bureau of Highway Safety on a mini-grant opportunity to help improve data collection activities. The plan is to send a notice to services and hospitals about this opportunity and provide details on what grant funds may be used to support. Interested agencies would then submit a proposal and budget to MEMS for review. The goal is to have the notices sent in the next couple of weeks and allow a couple months for replies.

6. Other –Chief Roy Woods asked about the intention of Ch 2 § 16.5. Jay explained that the history of this is to clarify that police, fire, or those responding as part of an EMS service who are not licensed by Maine EMS, but who have current training in CPR, oxygen during CPR, or hemorrhage control may perform those specific treatments at a scene to which the service has been called. He asked about the status of the guidance to services regarding unlicensed practice. Jay will send members a copy of the letter that was drafted by the sub-committee (Dr. Diaz, Tim Beals, and Jay).

Tim recognized Chief Wayne Werts on the event of his retirement after 33 years of service from Auburn Fire Dept. A celebration of his career was held last week in Auburn. Wayne will continue his term with the Board of EMS.

Adjourned at 11:55 – next meeting will be May 5, 2010.