



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
152 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0152



ANNE H. JORDAN  
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW  
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING  
MARCH 7, 2007  
9:30 AM  
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members: Wayne Werts, Chair-elect; Bob Ashby, Alan Azzara, Tim Beals, Jim McKenney, Oden Cassidy, Rebecca Chagrasulis, Roy Woods, Richard Doughty, Ron Jones, Penny Kneeland, Paul Knowlton, Bill Montejo, Joe Conley, Steve Diaz (ex officio)

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Drexell White, Dawn Kinney, Ben Woodard, Scott Smith, Alan Leo

Attorney General's Office: Laura Yustak Smith, AAG

Regional Coordinators: Donnie Carroll, Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie

Guests: Dan Batsie, Peter Bragdon, Steve Bunker

1. Introductions – None Required.
2. Approval of the February 7, 2007, Board meeting minutes. Jim McKenney stated that he was at the February 2007 meeting, but was not listed in the minutes.

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the February 7, 2007, Board meeting amended to include that Jim McKenney was present for the February 7, 2007 meeting (Montejo; second by Beals). Unanimous**

3. Public Comments – none
4. New Business
  - a. Board retreat

Wayne Werts stated that he had discussed the idea of a Board Retreat with Jay Bradshaw and Steve Leach. He expressed his belief that a retreat is needed to produce a strategic plan for the system and that efforts to secure funding in the Legislature would be futile until the board had such a plan.

He asked the Board to consider a two-day retreat dedicated to facilitated sessions designed to create a plan for Maine EMS' future. He also stated he felt strongly that board members and other participants be prepared to commit the entire two days to the process.

Wayne will work with Jay and Steve to look at the feasibility and funding sources for a retreat in June. Suggested dates proposed were Tuesday and Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Board consensus was to proceed with the retreat as funding allows.

**b. Legislative/Budget Update**

Jay reported on the following bills/information:

LD 627 has made it through public hearing with none opposed. It is scheduled for work session on March 8, 2007.

LR# 494 is the other Departmental bill; it has been “redlined” and is back at the Revisor’s office to receive an LD # and be printed.

LD 911 would add certain EMS providers to the (previously enacted) healthcare benefits for firefighters law.

LD 919 concerns sales tax exemptions for non-profit ambulance services and air ambulance services that are limited liability companies (LLCs).

LD 977 is a concept draft submitted by Representative Pingree to study funding for EMS services

Representative Rines will be submitting legislation for dedicated funding for fire and EMS legislation

Anne Jordan has been confirmed by the House as the new Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and will go before the Senate on March 8, 2007. He expects that she will have no problem being confirmed.

Donnie Carroll reported on LR 1800 (which will become LR 1802), the “regional funding bill”, which will be coming out for the “redline” process, shortly. He stated that he and Jay had met with legislators, regional coordinators, Dennis Brockway of Northeast ambulance Service and Tim Beals to talk about concepts. From that, the direction is to seek the \$180,000 bridge funding with the assistance of HRSA/CDC monies through Dora Mills’ office. The second part will be a legislative study to include 2 members appointed by the Board, a member of the Maine Ambulance Association and legislators to research and make a recommendation to the legislature concerning a regional funding mechanism for the Maine EMS system.

**c. Committee Reports**

**i. Operations Team – Rick Petrie reported on behalf of the Operations Team:**

- AED upgrades are in process to correct an issue with the battery systems;
- Consensus was to put together Instructor Coordinator (IC) training programs using \$10,000 available from Highway Safety to reinforce skills training;
- Reviewed and proposed changes to administrative issues surrounding the Integrated Practical Exam (IPE) concerning results-reporting to and from course sponsors/ICs;

- Reviewed the Continuing Education Process for Emergency Medical Dispatchers and identified idiosyncrasies;
- Discussed transport of service dogs in ambulances and identified a need to educate services on the laws and issues surrounding service dog transport;
- Discussed that CLIA waivers are still required for all services that provide blood glucose testing, that waivers must be renewed every two years and that a service's failure to maintain a CLIA waiver could result in Medicare reimbursement issues. Service education will reinforce requirement.

Education Committee – Dan Batsie reported that the Education Committee did not meet last month due to inclement weather. He stated that the Intermediate curriculum will be the topic for the next meeting and that the intent is to form a project management team to establish a “plan of attack”.

- ii. Exam – Drexell White reported that the Exam Committee established its priorities for 2007, with review/update of the current Intermediate written and practical exam as its first priority. Given that change to the Intermediate curriculum may take significant time, the committee felt that the exam needed to be updated to the extent that it reflected curriculum. The committee's second priority was to update the Exam Administration Manual and its third was review of the IPE process.

Drexell also reported that Maine EMS has selected three national Registry representatives for the upcoming transition to the National registry of EMT (NREMT) Paramedic Exam. Scott Smith, Maine EMS Education and Training Coordinator, Dan Batsie, Northeastern Maine EMD Education Coordinator and chair of the Maine EMS Education Committee and Gary Utgard Jr, EMS Educator and member of the Maine EMS Exam Committee were selected due to their familiarity and involvement with the Maine EMS system and the NREMT testing system.

Although the official start of NREMT Paramedic Testing in Maine is July 1, 2007, the Mid-Coast EMS Paramedic class has indicated its desire to be tested under NREMT in May/June 2007 and will become the first class tested by Maine EMS using the NREMT process.

- iii. EMD – Drexell reported that:

- There are 36 EMD certified PSAPs and 410 licensed EMD personnel;
- There are 14 new NECI instructors following a class held in southern Maine in January;
- The Emergency Services Communications Board (ESCB) has no plans to purchase electronic versions of EMD protocols given that Maine EMS has not yet made a final determination about which curriculum or protocol it will (ultimately) adopt;
- The committee is gathering information to serve as a basis for a recommendation to the Maine EMS Board about what curriculum and protocol should be used. Steve Diaz asked that whatever the protocol, there be MDPB involvement for things like the current recommendations for Aspirin administration in the treatment of chest pain.

- He met with the MEMS QI Committee for guidance with QI process and indicators. The Maine EMS QA committee will assist the EMD Committee as it develops the QA/QI process for EMD.
- Maine EMS has received two applications for dispatch certification from applicants who were able to complete the cognitive requirements of CPR certification, but were unable to complete the physical requirements due to disability. Laura Yustak Smith gave a legal overview of disability accommodations and is working with others in her office to come up with the appropriate method to handle the situation.
- The committee is seeking an interested EMS manager to serve on the EMD committee.

iv. QI – Dr. Diaz reported that the QI Committee is met last month and that:

- Alan Azzara brought forth questions about a PIFT service's medical director's involvement in PIFT Quality Improvement and the possibility of a tool for PIFT QI that would not require a medical director's direct involvement. The QI Committee's intent is to have medical director involvement and any tool that would not require medical director involvement would need to come back before the committee for review and Board approval.
- The committee continues its review of mental health transfers and the practice of transferring patients in the late night/early morning hours;
- Tetracaine has been used 19 times since July 1, 2005 for eye pain. This information will be reported to the Medical Direction and Practices Board;
- David White has been working with the Maine Quality Forum on honing the metrics and the 12-Lead form.
- Drexell met with the committee to discuss EMD QI. He will come back to the committee with information about current practices and what is attainable in the current EMD QI system so that short and long term goals for EMD QI may be established.
- The committee looked at benzodiazepines and will make a recommendation to the MDPB that a single benzodiazepine drug be in protocol vs. the two current drugs listed (i.e, Lorazepam and Midazolam).

Investigation Committee Action Items - Dawn Kinney reported that no Investigations Committee was held last month due to inclement weather. She passed out a list of investigations from 1988 to date and discussed the current investigation workload. Laura Yustak Smith indicated that the goal is to have investigations caught up within the next year.

5. Old Business – None.

6. Staff Reports

a. Maine EMS

i. MEMSRR – Ben distributed the ambulance run data and reported that:

- There are 6000 reports in the system.
- The total number of services using MEMSRR is 33;

- The difficulty in obtaining hospital support has been a factor in getting services signed-on to MEMSRR; many hospitals have adopted a “wait and see” attitude about MEMSRR;
- He will be conducting an informational Webinar with the regional coordinators;
- He continues to meet with services and attend service chief and regional meetings to promote MEMSRR;
- He is continuing to administer grant money to help support services by providing limited numbers of tablet PCs and software support.

Discussion continued about the data report and options for improving data gathering, data elements used and required service feedback.

ii. Inspection Update – Dawn Kinney reported that all inspections are completed for 2006 and that she will begin 2007 inspections next month. In 2007, Dawn will be focusing on safety issues such as unsecured equipment in the ambulances. She indicated that current Maine EMS rules require that equipment be securely mounted in an ambulance vehicle.

iii. MDPB – Steve Diaz reported:

- Before last month’s MDPB meeting, a small group met to discuss Maine disaster medicine. He stated he believed the direction for crafting Mass Casualty and Pandemic flu processes needs to come from the Maine EMS Board;
- About the EMS Bike Ride – a yearly event from New York to Virginia;
- Brown, gray, black and gold (12) protocol updates are done;
- Rick Petrie presented PHTLS updates, which were ratified by the MDPB;
- Dr. Busko did a presentation on tactical EMS teams. Following the presentation the decision of the MDPB was that regardless of merit, the tactical EMS issues needed to be handled by a small group to vet the program and then submit it to Ops, Education, MDPB, etc. Dr. Diaz expressed concern to Dr. Busko that Maine EMS does not have the resources to take on another project given the amount of work before the system. Dr. Busko reassured Dr. Diaz that he has done the work and that it wouldn’t place additional burdens placed on the Maine EMS system. Rick Petrie is working with Dr. Busko to make sure the organizational side of Dr. Busko’s project fits with the Maine EMS model.
- Dr. Busko distributed a test for online medical control and requested feedback;
- The MDPB distributed a survey to hospitals concerning blood products and whether hospitals would be supportive of EMS providers monitoring blood products.

7. Other – Dr. Chagrasulis asked about the annual awards nomination process. Dawn Kinney explained the process and indicated she would be distributing nominations received to the nominations committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m. The next meeting will be April 4, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at Maine EMS.