



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



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANNE H. JORDAN
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
MAY 2, 2007
9:30 AM
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members: Board Members: Wayne Werts (chair-elect), Bob Ashby, Alan Azzara, Tim Beals, Oden Cassidy, Joseph Conley, Peter DiPietrantonio, Richard Doughty, Paul Knowlton, Penelope Kneeland, Ron Jones, Jim McKenney, Bill Montejo, Carol Pillsbury, Steve Diaz (ex-officio)

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

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

Assistant Attorney General: Laura Yustak Smith, Esq.

Guests: Doug Patey, David Cluff, Dan Limmer, Steve Bunker, Marlee Baston, Brian Blanchard, Kevin Race, Andrew Higbie, Robert Sandy Jr, Tim Larrabee, Dan Batsie, Mike Carroll

1. Introductions were made, and guests welcomed.
2. Approval of the April 4, 2007, Board meeting minutes.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the April 4, 2007, as amended (Kneeland; second by Montejo). Unanimous

3. Public Comments – none
4. New Business
 - a. Legislative/Budget Update (Jay Bradshaw)
 - i. LD 1733 (Regional Funding bill) scheduled for hearing May 11. Donnie reported that Rep. Tuttle has agreed to withdraw the bill at the hearing.
 - ii. LD 1841 (EMS Department bill) also scheduled for hearing on May 11.
 - iii. Nothing new on the FY08-09 biennial budget has been approved by Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and by the Appropriations Committees. Awaiting action by the full Legislature.

b. Committee Reports

i. Operations Team (Rick Petrie)

- Topics discussed at the Ops Team meeting on May 1, 2007. Among the items discussed were concerns regarding EMT-Intermediate programs conducted by the Advanced Life Support Institute (ALSI), Conway, NH, primarily surrounding clinical components that are conducted at Maine hospitals. ALSI was invited to attend, but did not. As a result, MEMS has notified ALSI that future ALS programs will not be approved for Maine license.
- There are a number of Instructor/Coordinators who have completed the didactic portions of the program, but not the student teaching modules. It was suggested that students who have not completed the teaching modules be given until May 2008 to accomplish this and that future students be notified that they will have one year to complete their student teaching obligation.

MOTION: To give students who have not completed the student teaching modules until May 2008 to do so, and that future I/C students will be given one year to complete this portion of the program. (Doughty; second by Kneeland). Unanimous

- 12 Lead EKGs – it was agreed that the core components of a primary 12 lead EKG program would be posted on the MEMS web site and a letter sent to service chiefs letting them know about these components and encouraging them to review these components as they plan for future CEH training because this is likely to become a requirement at some point.

MOTION: To require that effective immediately, all Maine paramedic programs fulfill the Board approved core components for 12 lead education. (McKenney; second by Kneeland) Unanimous.

ii. Education Committee (Dan Batsie)

- Work will continue on the discussion about the components for an accreditation process for approved EMS programs.
- An issue that arose at the Ops Team was regarding the absence of a statewide attendance policy for EMS courses. Ops requested that the Board consider requesting the Education Committee to review this matter.

MOTION: To direct the Education Committee to review the concerns regarding a standardized attendance policy and draft a recommendation for Board consideration. (McKenney; second by DiPietrantonio) Unanimous.

iii. Exam Committee (Drexell White)

- Work continues with the NREMT regarding problems with access to computer based testing in Washington and Aroostook Counties. Drexell is working with NREMT.
- The committee will be updating the EMT-I written examination.

- There are numerous IPEs scheduled, which is having a major impact on MEMS staff for coverage.
- iv. EMD Committee (Drexell White)
- The committee is supportive of and recommending that there be a single EMD program and protocol, and will work with the Emergency Services Communication Bureau (E-911) on how to proceed toward this goal.
 - Steve Bunker, ESCB, expressed his support for a single training program and the bureau's interest in pursuing a common training program that would incorporate fire and police dispatchers.
 - There are currently 39 certified EMD Centers and 447 certified Emergency Medical Dispatchers.
 - A functional job description has been developed and will include a disability accommodation form provided by the Office of the Attorney General.

MOTION: To approve the Emergency Medical Dispatcher functional job description as presented. (Beals; second by Conley). Unanimous

- v. Quality Improvement Committee (Dr. Diaz)
- There was no meeting in April – next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 16. Agenda items include use of benzodiazapines, psychiatric transfers, and airway QI data.

C. Waiver requests

- i. Five regional offices did not notify MEMS of their interest in continuing as the regional office as required in the MEMS Rules. In order to contract with these office for FY08, a waiver of Chapter 5 §2.1 is required. In reviewing the factors for a waiver, it was the consensus of the Board that:
- The Regional Offices were aware of this requirement, which has been in place for over a decade.
 - There is no indication that the Regional Offices received inaccurate information from Maine EMS agents or employees.
 - Denial of the waiver would prevent the Department from contracting with 5 regional offices for FY 2008, which may cause regions to cease operation.
 - The sudden loss of regional EMS services with such short notice may potentially present a health or safety risk.
 - Given the unique role of the regional offices and that the contracts are done annually, it is unlikely that this would establish a precedent that would hinder the Board.

MOTION: To approve the waiver of Chapter 5 §2.1 for Tri-County EMS based upon facts presented to the Board by MEMS staff and the regional coordinator that the majority of requirements (#3, 4, and 5) support the waiver. (Beals; second by McKenney). Unanimous.

MOTION: To approve the waiver of Chapter 5 §2.1 for Kennebec Valley EMS based upon facts presented to the Board by MEMS staff and the regional coordinator that the majority of requirements (#3, 4, and 5) support the waiver. (Montejo; second by McKenney). Unanimous with one abstention (Beals).

MOTION: To approve the waiver of Chapter 5 §2.1 for Northeastern EMS based upon facts presented to the Board by MEMS staff and the regional coordinator that the majority of requirements (#3, 4, and 5) support the waiver. (Montejo; second by Beals). Unanimous with one abstention (Knowlton).

MOTION: To approve the waiver of Chapter 5 §2.1 for Aroostook EMS based upon facts presented to the Board by MEMS staff and the regional coordinator that the majority of requirements (#3, 4, and 5) support the waiver. (Montejo; second by Conley). Unanimous with one abstention (McKenney).

MOTION: To approve the waiver of Chapter 5 §2.1 for Mid Coast EMS based upon facts presented to the Board by MEMS staff and the regional coordinator that the majority of requirements (#3, 4, and 5) support the waiver. (Montejo; second by Beals). Unanimous.

- d. Review of courses taught by non-certified Instructor/Coordinators – it was recently learned by Maine EMS that there were 4 courses taught by non-certified I/Cs. In order to determine whether these programs were equivalent to a course taught by a certified I/C, the Board reviewed material provided to them about and received information from staff and regional coordinators about each program. Following these reviews the following motions were made:

MOTION: The EMT program taught in North Yarmouth by Mike Carroll who was not a certified instructor/coordinator at the time is found to be equivalent to a course taught by a certified instructor/coordinator and as such is acceptable for licensure. (Kneeland; second by Jones). Carried with one opposed (Pillsbury) and one abstention (Conley).

MOTION: The EMT program taught during the Summer of 2006, by Doug Patey who was not a certified instructor/coordinator at the time is found to be equivalent to a course taught by a certified instructor/coordinator and as such is acceptable for licensure. (Kneeland; second by McKenney). Carried with one opposed (Pillsbury) and one abstention (Conley).

MOTION: The EMT program taught during the Fall of 2006, by Doug Patey who was not a certified instructor/coordinator at the time is found to be equivalent to a course taught by a certified instructor/coordinator and as such is acceptable for licensure. (Kneeland; second by McKenney). Carried with one opposed (Pillsbury) and one abstention (Conley).

MOTION: The EMT program taught at York County Community College in January 2007, by Doug Patey who was not a certified instructor/coordinator at the time is found to be equivalent to a course taught by a certified instructor/coordinator and as such is acceptable for licensure. (Kneeland; second by McKenney). Carried with one opposed (Pillsbury) and one abstention (Conley).

MOTION: The First Responder program taught in Aroostook County in 2007, by Tim Larrabee who was not a certified instructor/coordinator at the time is found to be equivalent to a course taught by a certified instructor/coordinator and as such is acceptable for licensure. (Azzara; second by Jones). Carried with one opposed (Pillsbury) and two abstentions (Cassidy and McKenney).

- e. NREMT Paramedic Exam Exemption Request by SMEMS. Donnie Carroll requested approval to use the current MEMS paramedic written exam in the event that some students had not been able to complete their course requirements and take the exam before July 1, 2007. Upon questioning by the Board, Mr. Carroll acknowledged that he did not know if this would be necessary, but was making the request due to delays in clinical time caused by the Patriot's Day storm.

MOTION: In the absence of details on which students would be affected by this exemption and the causes for same, to deny the exemption request. Carried with 6 in support, 2 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

- f. Board of EMS Nominations Committee. Dr. Diaz, Paul Knowlton, and Wayne Werts volunteered to work on nominations for Board Chair-elect to be acted upon at the June meeting.
- g. Investigation Committee
- i. Andrew Higbie evaluation review – Attorney Sandy spoke for Mr. Higbie and told the Board that it is Mr. Higbie's intent to follow-up on the recommendations contained in the psychological evaluation before pursuing EMS licensure.

MOTION: To differ any further action on Andrew Higbie's license application until the terms of the Consent Agreement have been satisfied. (Cassidy; second by DiPietrantonio). Carried with one opposed (Montejo)

- h. Other – Commissioner Anne Jordan joined the meeting and was introduced to the Board.

5. Old Business

- a. Board Retreat – Jay reported that MEMS has applied for and will receive funding from the Office of Rural Health (DHHS) to support the retreat that will be held June 5 & 6. He is working on a location and contract with a facilitator for this meeting.

6. Staff Reports

- a. MEMSRR (Ben Woodard).
- MEMSRR Training and Grant Writing workshop will be held at MEMS on 5/3; training will be held at the Western Mountains Conference at Sugarloaf May 4 & 5.
 - Many services are participating in the Highway Safety/MEMS matching grant program to obtain TabletPC ToughBook computers and software at a significantly reduced price.
- b. Inspection Update (Alan Leo). Inspections are underway, primarily in southern Maine.
- c. Staff Update – Applications are being accepted for MEMS Training Coordinator until May 19; however, that may be extended depending on the applications that are received.
- d. The annual EMS Awards Ceremony will be on Tuesday, May 22, at 2:30 in the State House Hall of Flags.
- e. Medical Director Report (Dr. Diaz)
- Protocol updates are continuing.
 - No meeting in April – next meeting will be May 16.
 - Looking for topics of interest for articles Dr. Diaz will write for the Journal of Maine EMS

- Dr. Diaz has been in Washington, DC, working on a National Disaster Life Support program. The goal of NDLS is to develop a common disaster response plan. He suggests that Maine consider incorporating this program into the core curricula for all providers.

7. Other - none.

MOTION: To enter Executive Session to obtain legal advise pursuant to Title 1, Sections 405.6.E & F. (Pillsbury; second by Doughty) Unanimous.

Executive Session started at 1:00 PM.

MOTION: To exit Executive Session (Pillsbury; second by Ashby). Unanimous.

Executive Session ended at 1:14.

Chair-elect Werts reported that during Executive Session, the Board obtained legal advice for the process to follow during Board deliberations, disclosing potential conflicts of interest, and articulating findings.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.