



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

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
 JULY 2, 2008
 9:00 AM
 DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

JAY BRADSHAW
 DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Members Present: Wayne Werts, Chair; Tim Beals, Chair-elect, Steve Diaz, MD, Medical Director (ex officio), Ken Albert, Roy Woods, Judy Gerrish, Steve Leach, Peter DiPietrantonio, Jim McKenney, Paul Knowlton, Geneva Sides, Richard Doughty, Lori Metayer, Bob Hand

Staff: Drexell White, Jan Brinkman, Dawn Kinney, Alan Leo, Ben Woodard

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

Office of the Attorney General: Lara Nomani, Esq., AAG

Guests: Mike Mirisola, Patrick Underwood, Brian Dougher, Dan Batsie, Paul Froman, Greg Jennell, Eric Wellman, Bob Hawkes, Joe Dyar, Ben Guild

1. There were several guests present who introduced themselves. All were welcomed by Board Chair Werts.
2. Approval of May 7, 2008, minutes.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the May 7, 2008, meeting as presented. (Beals; second by McKenney). Unanimous.

3. Public Comments – none
4. Old Business - none

5. New Business

- a. Legislative & Budget Updates – Drexell reported that the Mental Health Transfer Work Group will be meeting in late July or early August. Committee membership includes:

Laura Yustak Smith and Kathy Grierson (Alt) -AG Office
 Dennis Pike, Franklin Cty - ME Sheriff's Assoc.
 Butch Asselin, Houlton - Maine PD Chiefs
 MAA – Tim Beals/Dennis Brockway

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PFFM – John Martell
ME Fire Chiefs – to be determined
DHHS - to be determined

In response to a question by Jim McKenney, Joanne LeBrun's reported that her group will continue to function with the intent to feed information to the newly established work group.

Drexell reported that Jay will be meeting with Commissioner Jordan on July 21st to discuss future budget needs. He will be meeting with Maine EMS staff prior to July 21st in order to identify current and anticipated resource requirements for the Maine EMS office.

b. Investigation Committee Action Items

The Board reviewed the June 26, 2008 investigation committee minutes.

MOTION: That the Investigations Committee ratify the minutes of the June 26, 2008, meeting. (Doughty; second by Leach). Unanimous.

MOTION: That the Board ratifies the June 26, 2008 Investigations Committee minutes (Leach; second by Woods). Unanimous

Alan Leo reported that the office had received Sterling Ambulance Service's quarterly quality assurance report and that the service is in compliance with its Consent Agreement.

Alan also reported that the Investigations Committee will be meeting on July 16th and requested that the Board convene a teleconference on August 6th in order to ratify the July 16th Investigation Committee minutes.

c. Medical Director Report (Dr. Diaz)
i. MDPB

The MDPB didn't meet in June.

In May, the MDPB discussed a concern that the PIFT QI requirement for a service medical director was not being followed in all cases.

There is a group called MEPARS that does anonymous reporting and that may be useful in assisting the PIFT QI process. The MDPB will receive a presentation concerning MEPARS this fall.

Another PIFT issue discussed concerned hospital to hospital protocols. Maine EMS can define PIFT requirements, but the hospital is responsible for the transfer; Maine EMS cannot dictate hospital practice.

Due to some possible confusion about how patients are transferred, Norm Dinerman drafted a letter concerning appropriate flight medical crew configuration, for LifeFlight. The MDPB will use Dr. Dinerman's letter as a basis for a letter concerning appropriate crew configuration for patient transfers.

The MDPB also noted that Maine EMS does not have a "no-fault" notification system that allows anonymous reporting of issues and that Maine EMS may want to consider such a system.

The MDPB will be working on goals for the coming year, at its July 2008 meeting. The main focus of the MDPB in 2007 was the Maine EMS pre-hospital treatment protocol revision.

Wayne Werts brought up a concern about an ambulance that was diverted three times on a single call. Werts stated that he informed the service chief that a notice of diversion was a request, not a demand and that if diverted a second time on a single call, the ambulance should return to the first (diverting) hospital.

Dr. Diaz stated that a diversion is a request; an ambulance should be diverted only once during a call in accordance with Maine EMS protocol. He described the three-time diversion as unconscionable and noted that he is available for opinion should such an instance arise in the future.

d. Operations Team Report (Steve Corbin) – The Operations Team met the previous day:

- Dan Batsie presented the group with an updated CPAP training plan.
- Rick Petrie gave an overview of new DEP biomedical waste rules being proposed. There will be a hearing at the Augusta Holiday Inn on Thursday July 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. regarding adoption of the new rules
- Donnie Carroll gave a presentation on regional funding legislation that he is working on.
- Rick Petrie gave a presentation on the State of Maine CONOPS plan.
- Regional offices received their laptop computers from Maine EMS.

Donnie Carroll gave an overview of the funding proposal to the Board. The funding mechanism involves the restoration of the 9-1-1 surcharge to \$.50 per line (up from the current \$.30 per line) with the funds used to support regions in their support of EMS and EMD Centers. The formula includes a base amount, an additional amount for call volume and an amount based upon the number of EMD centers in the region. In the model, general fund and service license fees that currently go to regions would be retained by Maine EMS.

The proposal also designates an amount to go to bolster ambulance reimbursement

Tim Beals requested that a copy of the proposal be sent to Maine EMS for distribution to Board members.

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e. Committee Reports

i. Education (Dan Batsie) Dan reported:

- A work group will meet on July 17th to develop the components of the Training Standards System
- The Education Committee will be working during the next year on:
 - Curriculum updates;
 - Learning objectives for capnography, for inclusion in curriculum;

Dan also reported that with the inclusion of CPAP in Maine EMS protocol, it had been identified that the Board should approve it as a scope of practice addition at the Intermediate Critical Care and Paramedic levels.

Motion: That Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) be included in the scope of practice at the EMT-Intermediate, Critical Care and Paramedic levels (Beals; second by Leach – unanimous)

- ii. EMD (Drexell White) – The EMD Committee’s proposal for continuing education will be forwarded to the Operations Team and Education Committee for comment prior to consideration by the Board.

The EMD RFP will close on July 9th. Maine EMS and the ESCB will review submissions in accordance with State of Maine requirements.

- iii. EMSC (Jan Brinkman) – Jay Bradshaw, Jan Brinkman and Kelly Roderick attended the EMSC Grantee meeting in Bethesda, MD, June 24 – 27. Jan reported that Kelly Roderick was recognized with a Heroes award at the meeting for her efforts on behalf of EMSC in Maine.

Jan also reported that the Grantee meeting dealt with performance measures. There was much discussion about mandating vs. encouraging pediatric education, and concerns that mandating specific specialty training would open the door to other specialty groups to insist that their training also be mandated.

Jan indicated that one of the benefits of the EMSC grant is that the funds offset the cost of PEPP training in the state.

Another issue discussed at the meeting concerned adding pediatric BLS and ALS equipment on ambulances.

Drexell reported that Jay indicated a level of grantee frustration concerning the recent EMS survey. Participants were informed at the grantee meeting that they would be required to attend training in order to learn how to extract the data from the survey, later this month. Jay stated that the timeline didn’t

allow for submission of an out of state travel request, but that he may try to attend one day of training “on his own”.

Drexell also reported that Jay has submitted for a \$10,000 to \$12,000 carryover of EMSC funds. The excess was mainly due to the Maine EMS Education and Training Position being vacant for part of the grant period.

Chairman Werts recognized Kelly Roderick’s contributions to EMSC in Maine and will write a letter of commendation to her on behalf of the Board.

- iv. Exam (Drexell White) – The Committee met by teleconference in June. The committee will not meet in July or August and will commence in September to update the Exam Administration Manual and perform an item analysis of the EMT-Intermediate written exam. The committee is trying to make more use of teleconferencing given the cost of fuel and committee member’s time commitments.

Data (Ben Woodard) – Ben reported that Ashland, Albion Turner, Wiscasset, Windham, Waterboro, Waldoboro, Belfast, Green and Alfred switched to electronic run reporting on July 1st. Ben and a representative from Image Trend provided MEMSRR training in southern, central and eastern Maine last week. Another training in Bangor is planned for the end of the month.

The data committee will meet by webinar on July 9th to develop additional run report templates.

Twenty more laptop computers have been received, six of which will go to the regional offices for training purposes.

Chairman Werts brought a concern that some hospitals in Maine are not supporting electronic run reporting. Ben reported that some hospitals in Maine have worked with Maine EMS to install the necessary infrastructure, but he is running into roadblocks with other hospitals. Ben will be meeting with hospital representatives to try and resolve issues.

Steve Diaz suggested that, at a point, Maine EMS should employ the assistance of the Maine Hospital Association to further hospitals’ support of MEMSRR.

- f. EMS Week Awards (Drexell White). The annual EMS Awards ceremony was held at the State House Hall of Flags on Tuesday, May 20. The awards went very well although press coverage was less than in previous years. Attendees were appreciate of the combined awards presented; Maine EMS/Department of Public Safety presented EMS awards with the Department of Health and Human Services recognizing newly designated Heart Safe communities and EMS services.

- g. EMS Rules Committee – Drexell reported that staff is working to pull together the rules committee later this summer. Members of the committee are: Tim Beals, Steve Leach, Ken Albert, Judy Gerrish, Wayne Werts and Roy Woods. Staff is also updating Maine EMS’ regulatory agenda and reviewing the Maine EMS rules for possible changes.
- h. Other - EMT Course – Southern Maine Community College

Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) appeared before the Board at its May 2008 meeting requesting a waiver of the Maine EMS Rules that requires that an EMS course leading to licensure be conducted in accordance “...with the requirements for conducting courses as approved and published by Maine EMS.”. Specifically, the waiver requested that SMCC be exempt from regional review and approval of its licensing courses. The Board denied the waiver and SMCC subsequently requested course approval from Southern Maine EMS Council (SMEMS) for two EMT-basic courses that were due to begin in May.

Southern Maine EMS considered SMCC’s requests for course approvals at its May 28, 2008 meeting. Following discussion, the SMEMS Council voted to not approve because SMCC did not follow the course approval process and did not provide required information.

Following SMEMS denial of the courses, discussions ensued that involved SMCC, SMEMS, Maine EMS and the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Public Safety. Following the discussions, SMCC was advised to begin the courses and that Maine EMS would support the review and request for equivalency before the Maine EMS Board. The enrollment for the courses totaled 30 – 35 students.

Jan Brinkman reported that Dan Batsie, education committee chair, had reviewed the courses in questions and found them to be equivalent to Maine EMS licensing courses.

Concerns were expressed that SMCC was circumventing the regional approval process and that (other) programs could request similar approvals in the future. It was recognized that the equivalency solution was not a perfect, but it provided an avenue to prevent penalizing the students enrolled in the SMCC courses.

It was noted that the training standards model for Maine EMS (that is currently under development by the education committee) will prevent similar situations from arising in the future.

Motion: That the Board approve the two SMCC EMT-Basic courses as being equivalent to a Maine EMS course leading to licensure (Beals; second by Leach – carries 7-5)

- 6. Staff Reports (Drexell White)
 - a. The EMS licensing program is progressing. Maine EMS staff met with representatives from Image Trend last week for initial training.

Tim Beals requested that the Board receive a presentation of the licensing program at the September to allow the Board an opportunity to see the program prior to it “going live”.

- b. EMS Management Program. The most recent installment of the EMS managers program was conducted on June 19th – at capacity with 50 participants - with the next module scheduled for September 19th. Funding for the first module was provided by the New England Rural Health Roundtable.

Steve Leach asked how notification about the EMS managers conference was sent out. He requested that Board members be included in such notifications.

7. Other

- a. Roy Woods asked if there was interest in finding out more about what other states are doing in regards to EMS funding.

Chairman Werts indicated that the Board has no control over the legislation being put forth by Donnie Carroll. In addition, he cautioned about staff involvement in such legislation.

Donnie Carroll stated that he and others will be revising the funding proposal and getting it back to Jay Bradshaw by July 18th. His intent is to have something more concrete to present to the Board in September.

Chairman Werts directed that a funding update be included on the September agenda.

Steve Leach also suggested that Lara Nomani provide a training session in September about how the Board, the Commissioner and the Legislature interact about legislation and individual Board members responsibilities in the process.

- b. Meeting Schedule. The Board will conduct a teleconference at 9:00 a.m. on August 6th to ratify any pending investigation minutes and to conduct any other business as may be required.

The next regular Board meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2008, @ 9:00.

8. Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.