



Rick Scott
Governor

FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL

Proceedings from the meeting of
January 20th, 2011

Ocean Center Convention Center
Daytona Beach, Florida

Members Present

John Scott, Chairman
John Bixler, Bureau of EMS Chief
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator (Non-Fire)
Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse
Daniel Griffin, EMS Educator
Brad Elias, M.D., Physician
Tom Quillin, EMT (Non-Fire)
Regina E. Sofer, Lay Person
Karen Chamberlain, Paramedic (Non-Fire)
Maria Fernandez, Hospital Administrator
Doris Ballard-Ferguson, Lay Elderly
Cory S. Richter, EMT (Fire)
Julie Bacon, EMS for Children Liaison
Joe Nelson, D.O., State EMS Medical Director
Patricia Byers, M.D., Physician
Tracy Yacobellis, Department of Education
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation
Carlton Wells, Department of Management Services

Note: A verbatim transcript of the entire meeting is available for review at the Bureau of EMS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scott called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Scott then conducted a roll call of the members.

A motion was then made to approve the minutes from the last meeting, October 8th in Fort Lauderdale. The motion was seconded and approved.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler began by announcing that Jeff Lindsey recently lost his wife, Candice to cancer. A moment of silence was given in her honor.

Chief Bixler reported that the Department of Health is going through transition with the new governor and that a bill has been filed to reorganize the department.

MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Joe Nelson, DO, MS, FACOEP, FACEP

Dr. Nelson reported the medical directors discussed contingency plans for EMS agencies. It is of the opinion of the medical directors that all agencies should have plans in place in the event that a medical director is unable to fulfill their obligations.

Next, proposed changes to Chapter 401 as it related to the EMS Agenda for the Future was discussed.

Dr. Nelson then talked about the three cardiovascular workgroups. In attendance at the Stoke meeting were neurologists, emergency physicians, neuro-interventionalists and hospital representatives. The group discussed outreach initiatives and ways to educate EMS personnel, emergency medicine physicians, and EMS medical directors.

Next, he stated that the STEMI group met and discussed best practices and how they handle acute STEMI in their respective regions.

Lastly, Cardiac Arrest workgroup had a representative from Take Heart America give a presentation. This program is an organized group of community leaders designed to increase the number of people who survive cardiac arrest. This program has been initiated in Texas, Minnesota and Arizona. This workgroup is launching a campaign, "Take Heart Florida" which hopes to improve cardiac arrest neurological outcomes throughout the state. Currently, using Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting Systems (EMSTARS) and Agency for Health Care Administration's (AHCA) data; Florida has a statewide average of only six percent. Through this initiative, they expect to see improved results.

Patricia Byers, M.D.

Dr. Byers reported that the Trauma Triage Work Group is not planning to adopt the CDC criteria as it is not applicable to Florida's system. However, much of the criteria is already incorporated into the state's system. A CD on various types of criteria will also be created for new providers for educational purposes.

Dr. Byers then announced that Susan McDevitt is retiring and that her position will become vacant. She also stated that a deputy director position in the Trauma section is also available.

In regards to the site survey process, an electronic pre-site survey is now being sent prior to the survey. Orthopedic has also been added to the survey process due to the massive amount of orthopedics cases and surgeries that go along with trauma.

Next, she stated that in 2009 the trauma mortality rate decreased to 4.8 percent and the run report standard for 2010 is currently at 77 percent.

Disaster courses will be held February 4th at Tampa General, March 18th at Jacksonville and April 30th at Tallahassee Memorial.

Lastly, she stated that a new trauma program manager guidebook is available.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse

Mrs. Paratore stated that the Emergency Nurses were meeting in Orlando and that she would have a report at the next meeting.

Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator (non-fire)

Chief Patterson stated that during the PIER meeting, open water lifeguards and minimum standards were discussed. He encouraged everyone to speak with Joe McManus or Dennis Ward with United States Lifesaving Association (USLA) about minimum standards as well as levels of certification.

Lastly, he welcomed Chief Byrd as the new EMS fire chief of Jacksonville Fire Rescue.

Cory Richter, EMT (fire)

Chief Richter announced that Jim Judge was elected as director for Region II with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT).

John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator

Chairman Scott reported that during the Air Medical Groups meetings, strategic plan, disaster planning and climate control of aircrafts were discussed.

Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation

Mrs. McPherson reported that in 2009, motorcycle crashes decreased by 24 ½ percent, which reflects \$386 million dollars in medical costs. In 2010, 49 percent were not covered by commercial insurance, which equates to \$188 million dollars in medical costs that the trauma system and state will have to cover.

Tracy Yacobellis, Department of Education

Mrs. Yacobellis reported that the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and the Emergency Medical Responder Frameworks have been updated on the website to reflect the new national standards curriculum. They anticipate updating the Paramedic framework this year with implementation in 2012/2013.

Carlton Wells, Department of Management Services

Mr. Wells stated that the Division of Telecommunications is preparing the first draft of the EMS communication Plan, Volume I.

New Business

Chairman Scott stated that in regards to the EMS Strategic Plan, action plans are imperative in making the plan work. He encouraged goal owners to continue to follow through with working on them.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Mr. Griffin reported that the group discussed the EMS education agenda legislation that is being proposed. HIV requirements would be dropped for both recertification and initial certification along with allowing a two-year time frame for initial testing.

Next, he stated that the group discussed an amendment to Chapter 64J-1 relating to instructor qualification. They have decided to make changes to the language and will have it approved by the full Florida Association of EMS Educators (FAEMSE) committee.

He then publicly thanked Mrs. Tracy Yacobellis for attending the meeting as well as answering questions for the group relating to the new curriculum.

Lastly, he stated that the National Association of EMS Educators will be hosting a mini symposium April 1st in Orlando.

Medical Care Committee

Dr. Byers stated that she plans to review an EMS report by Alan MacKenzie from the Mid-Atlantic States to see where Florida may be able to use it as a benchmark for data.

She then reported that a motion was made to support the new project manager responsible for EMS systems. She feels that this system will be efficient in day-to-day use, as well as during a mass casualty situation.

Lastly, Dr. Byers had discussions with two individuals that worked in Haiti in terms of scene amputations, crush injury and the use of telemedicine. She plans to submit their abstracts in hopes that they will be chosen for use during CLINCON.

PIER Committee

Chief Richter reported that Mrs. Tenda McPherson with the Department of Transportation received the Tampa Bay ITE Project Award and the 2010 National Press Event of the Year for Ride Straight, Save the State Award.

Next, the PIER committee plans to help distribute a Motorcycle Coalition safety CD to EMS agencies, health departments, trauma centers and hospitals.

He then reported that the Bike Helmet Grant of \$138,000 was awarded to the Injury Prevention Office for 2010/2011. He then offered support from the PIER Committee to do the fitting of the bike helmets.

Legislative Committee

Mrs. Maria Fernandez reported that a presentation was given by Ms. Rebecca Cash during the Legislative committee meeting on 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators. Ms. Cash stated that the curriculum is in draft form and will be submitted to the bureau by the end of January. She reminded everyone that applications are due before October 2012.

Next, the group discussed and approved the idea of the strategic plan being changed to a four or five year plan rather than biennial.

Strategic Visions Committee

Chief Richter stated that the committee worked on the reporting worksheet that Mrs. Julie Bacon created. He feels that this will help goal owners understand the process and how to properly report on their goals.

He then stated that the committee would like to see the plan changed to a four or five year plan.

Mrs. Bacon added that the actions plans are available on the website under: 2010/2012 Strategic Plan/Action Plans.

Access to Care Committee

Chief Patterson reported that EMSystems has made great progress and should roll-out this year. He encouraged all EMS agencies as well as hospitals to get on board with using the system.

Then he reported that he spoke with Julie Winoker at Talking Eyes Media regarding the Fire Storm video. He would like to use the video more often; however, the length of the video is too long. He is working with Captain Devin with Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department (JFRD) about editing it down to 15 minutes.

Next, he stated that the committee is working on an effort to engage in local wellness councils to initiate a campaign to train a "health care navigator". These "navigators" will work with individuals on the various options of care provided to them within the system.

Mrs. Paratore then commented that Tampa General is currently instituting this type of program and that the individuals will work within the emergency department (ED). This will allow contact with patients to educate them on when to use the ED or their primary care physician.

Disaster Response Committee

Dr. Elias stated that the committee is looking to develop language that would permit vehicles to go to designated Alternate Medical Treatment Site (AMTS) rather than hospitals during a disaster. This language would prevent ED overcrowding and would be staffed by the Medical Response Corps (MRC) or other types of medical staff.

He then reported that a survey would be going out polling agencies on how they are training new employees on disaster plans and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Lastly, he stated that the Cyano Kits project is being funded and orders are expected to arrive within the next six months.

EMS Communications Committee

Mr. Wells began his report by stating that the Communications Committee supports the move of the EMS Strategic Plan to a four or five year plan.

He then stated that the 700 Megahertz Public Safety Interoperability Channel Plan, region nine plan and the EMS Strategic Plan are on the department's website for review.

Lastly, he stated that revisions to the EMS Communications Plan were reviewed and discussed. Some items for revisions include: regional Med Com, electronic copies vs. hard copies in vehicles, duplications within the plan and references of other plans and guidelines.

EMS for Children

Mrs. Julie Bacon reported that on-site educational opportunities are still available for those in rural counties and to contact Melissa Keahey for more information.

Lastly, she stated that EMSC supports the lifeguards as they are first to respond on the beach.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. David Muerer – On behalf of the EMS Medical Directors, he requested support from the EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC) to support the current rule requiring EMS medical directors being board certified. He then asked for support on rule or statute changes to allow disclosure of the 911 calls for the specific delivery of AED devices. He stated that currently, the law discloses the public sites of 911 calls.

Chairman Scott then requested that the Medical Care Committee assist Dr. Muerer with this request.

Dr. Scott Youlin – Dr. Youlin addressed the EMSAC on the importance of Take Heart Florida. He stated that after implementation of guidelines from American Heart Association in 2005, EMS went from a five to six percent Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC) to 32%. Hospitals went from 20 percent to 28 percent ROSC. He encouraged everyone to go into their local communities and advocate for the Take Heart Florida campaign.

Chief Bixler commented that in regards to medical directors being board certified, he doesn't support it either. However at this time, the general counsel's office believes that there is no statutory authority for the rule.

Motion and Committee Assignments

Ms. Paratore made a motion for the EMSAC to support and endorse the work product from the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Work Group.

Chairman Scott suggested that the EMSAC support as well as send a letter to the Bureau stating the importance of the workgroup and their initiatives.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. Griffin then made a motion that the Bureau of EMS send a letter to the Florida Association of EMS Educators in support of the proposed changes to Chapter 401, specifically the addition of the National EMS Education Standards, the deletion of the HIV/AIDS update for recertification and initial training, the change from one year to two years and the allotted time that a paramedic or EMT graduate has for taking the initial exam.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Chief Patterson made a motion that the EMSAC write a letter of support on behalf of the lifeguard section in favor of requiring nationally recognized minimum standards, USLA or equivalent for all open water ocean lifeguards to reflect the minimum training standards of pool lifeguards.

The motion was seconded and approved.

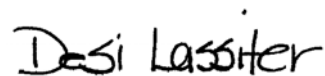
Chief Richter then made a motion that the Emergency Medical Services State Plan be changed from a biennial report to a four or five year report. Discussion was held regarding various other plans and the duration of them.

Chief Richter then revised his motion to replace the word "biennial" to "five" year plan.

The motion was seconded and approved.

A final motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was then adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Desi Lassiter



Administrative Assistant II, Bureau of EMS