



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL

Proceedings from the meeting of
January 22, 2010

Ocean Center
Daytona Beach

Members Present

John Scott, Chairman
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator (Non-Fire)
Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse
Greg Rubin, EMT (Fire)
Daniel Griffin, EMS Educator
Brad Elias, M.D., Physician
Charles E. Moreland, Ed.D., Paramedic (Fire)
Tom Quillin, EMT (Non-Fire)
William Colburn, EMS Administrator (Fire)
Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator
Karen Chamberlain, Paramedic (Non-Fire)
Doris Ballard-Ferguson, Lay Elderly
Barry Baker, Department of Financial Services
Julie Bacon, EMS for Children Liaison
Joe Nelson, D.O., State EMS Medical Director
Patricia Byers, M.D., State Trauma Medical Director
Tracy Yacobelis, Department of Education
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services
Walter Liddell, Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
John Bixler, Bureau of EMS Chief

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 9:00 a.m. The pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Scott then conducted a roll call of the members.

Following the roll call a moment of silence was held in memory of Chief Robby Brown and Captain Chad Reed.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler began his report by congratulating Chief Quillin and Leon County EMS on receiving the American Heart Association, Heart Ready Award. This award was presented December 18, 2009. Mr. Bixler then welcomed Tracy Yacobelis with the Department of Education. He then reviewed the upcoming vacancy positions on the Advisory Council.

MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Byers began by announcing that the Trauma Strategic planning meeting will be held on February 25 and the Committee on Trauma meeting will be February 26 in Orlando at M.D. Anderson.

She then stated that December 1, 2009, a rule development workshop was held relating to tracking for pacemaker eligibility throughout trauma centers. During the workshop discussion was held regarding adding additional specialists in vascular surgery but JAPC (the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee) was not in favor of it due to increased expense.

Currently the Office of Trauma is working on the trauma registry project. Dr. Byers gave special thanks to Steve McCoy, Bureau of EMS as well as information technology for the completion of the planning phase of the project. They look forward to the integration of the database with EMS Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS), Brain and Spinal Cord as well as Injury Prevention.

Next Dr. Byers encouraged all EMS agencies to review the hand emergency CD developed by Dr. Richards. Dr. Richards conducted extensive study throughout the state on hand injury and she stated that results will be published in the Journal of Trauma.

Lastly, Dr. Byers stated that the Systems Planning Committee is trying to get EMS systems connected with trauma centers. The committee will be working with Todd Mechler regarding the radio communication issues.

Dr. Joe Nelson began his report by stating that the Emergency Medical Review Committee has requested to add four new representatives with four year term limits. He stated that this will add continuity to the committee by having the members rotate off rather than all at one time.

Next Dr. Nelson stated that the Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) reviewed the Strategic Plan and talked extensively about data linkage. He stated that the committee plans to support the old and the new primary objectives focusing on cardiac/stroke trauma, airway management and pediatrics.

Dr. Nelson then announced that the committee is beginning to look into creating a statewide cardiac arrest network. The idea was based upon a program developed in Arizona which has dramatically increased their return of spontaneous circulation rate. The committee plans to hold a one-day planning symposium later this year.

Dr. Nelson mentioned that the committee also discussed online educational programs, free standing emergency departments as well as the agenda for the future.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

William Colburn, EMS Administrator (fire)

Chief Colburn reported that his committee continues to work on their goals of the Strategic Plan. They're also in the process of updating the survey tool that will be included in the next EMS/Paramedic recertification paperwork.

Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse

Mrs. Paratore stated that the Emergency Nurses met with Chief Patterson in regards to Access to Care. They discussed moving the meeting time of Access to Care so that more nurses would be able to attend and be more involved.

Another issue that was discussed was the integration of EMS systems. They discussed the importance of making sure that all emergency rooms (ERs) in the state are fully prepared.

Other issues that were discussed were overcrowding of ERs, violence of psychiatric patients in the emergency room and nurse practitioners in the ERs.

Brad Elias, M.D., Physician

Dr. Elias stated that, Friday January 22, 2010, the SMART teams would be activated to support the mission at the Homestead air base. These teams consist of approximately 20 medical professional and support staff that will be providing assessment of people departing flights from Haiti down to Homestead.

Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator (non-fire)

Chief Patterson stated that he attended the Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers meeting. During the meeting he reported on the EMT/Paramedic scholarships from the federal grant. He added that funding has not been secured for future scholarships. A motion was made and passed during the meeting that the scholarship program be renamed to the "Chad A. Reed Memorial Scholarship" in memory of Captain Reed.

Chief Patterson noted that during the Florida Association of County EMS meeting (FACEMS), he challenged other groups to join together in an attempt to rebuild the EMS community.

Lastly, he stated that during the Lifeguards portion of the meeting, a presentation was held regarding red tide.

John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator

Chairman Scott reported that the "air" groups were able to consolidate four of their meetings to be able to participate in other group discussions. He encouraged other constituency groups to do the same.

Next Chairman Scott stated that the air groups are in the process of revising the disaster plan for air medical transport. They anticipate having the final version completed very soon. Funding through a grant has been awarded to hold a tabletop exercise to implement the final product. They anticipate the exercise being held during the June EMS Advisory Council meetings.

Then Chairman Scott announced that the Air Medical Transport Conference (AMTC) conference would be held in Ft. Lauderdale and that the Advanced Initiatives in Medical Simulation (AIMS) spring conference would be held in Washington, D.C.

Lastly, Chairman Scott will be working with Danny Griffin in developing standards for the transportation course for flight paramedics.

Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator

Mr. Skavroneck announced that the Medicare fee schedule was released and that it does reflect the 2% reduction in the urban area and the 3% for the rural areas.

He also reported that the Florida Ambulance Association (FAA) website is: www.the-faa.com.

Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation (DOT)

Mrs. McPherson stated that she was able to attend the EMS Strategic Planning session in August and is excited about being able to link both the Strategic Highway Safety Plan and the Motorcycle Safety Plan with the EMS plan. She stated that DOT is currently working with the Office of Trauma in developing a public education and information grant on motorcycle safety.

Walter Liddell, Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles

Mr. Liddell announced that the department is graduating sixty-one new troopers, most of which those will be stationed down south.

Lastly, Mr. Liddell announced that after 30 years with the Florida Highway Patrol, he will be retiring in April. He will continue the first responder, CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automated External Defibrillator) program with FHP and looks forward to continuing the work with the EMS Advisory Council.

Julie Bacon, EMS for Children Liaison

Mrs. Bacon stated that the EMSC program held a Pediatric Prehospital Education Symposium in Clermont last November. The symposium was a huge success with over 200 participants from all over the United States.

Mrs. Bacon then stated that the EMSC committee continues to work on the goals of the Strategic Plan.

Next, Mrs. Bacon announced that over 800 color coded syringes and Broselow tapes have been sent out to Haiti for use of treatment with pediatric patients. She then informed individuals of a website that Drs. Broselow and Lutten have created for times of disaster for pediatric resources. For more information regarding the website, please visit: www.ebroselow.com.

Lastly, Mrs. Bacon recognized that Battalion Chief Cory Richter was one of 28 names of the most respected members of the Indian River area.

Tracy Yacobellis, Department of Education (DOE)

Ms. Yacobellis introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her position with the DOE. She looks forward to working with the Advisory Council. She stated that one major project that the Department of Education is working on is updating the curriculum to reflect the new national standards.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Mr. Griffin reported that the group presented two certificates of appreciation to Layne Hendrickson and Felix Marquez for their support during the National EMS Educators conference last year. Mr. Griffin stated that Tracy Yacobellis was introduced to the committee and that they began work on the implementation of the EMS agenda for the future. He announced that the Florida Association of EMS Educators, (FAEMSE) will hold their spring meeting April 22 and 23 in Orlando.

Mr. Griffin then stated that new to their website is a calendar posting so that educators will be able to post upcoming certification/recertification classes being offered. The website is: www.faemse.org.

The Educators will be working on their bylaws and will hold elections this spring for the presidents, vice president and secretary. The new positions will begin their terms in July 2010.

Next, Mr. Griffin stated that a request was made and approved to leave a blank page in their minutes in memory of Chad Reed.

The Educators also reviewed the survey results for the implementation of the First Responder course. This course is part of the new education standards approved by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Advanced EMT is not currently being utilized in Florida; however survey results revealed that 61% of providers would support it. Mr. Griffin plans to disseminate the results of the survey as well as poll the lifeguards and the medical directors. He plans to discuss the final results at the mid quarter conference call of the EMSAC.

Medical Care Committee

Chairperson Scott announced the Dr. David Meurer and his wife are currently offering support in Haiti.

Chairperson Scott reported that during the Medical Care committee meeting, the group discussed issues relating to the strategic plan. The following goals were discussed:

5.1-the group recognized that dispatcher certification legislation will probably be passed in support of the Denise Amber Lee Foundation. Chairperson Scott reminded council members that a letter of endorsement was sent on behalf of the EMSAC.

5.2-EMSTARS and data link to Access to Care, the group would like to see these two linked more.

5.3-EMSTARS and Access to Care, the group would like to see the terms defined more.

He stated that there was a lot of discussion on EMSsystems. The Medical Care committee supports EMSsystems and will be requesting that they attend the committee meetings in the future.

5.6-Quality Improvement, the committee recognized that in the new plan that the Lifeguards Association was integrated with EMS.

Lastly, tourniquet protocol in Florida was discussed. The committee has requested an opinion from the medical directors regarding this issue. Dr. Nelson stated that the medical directors made modifications to the protocol taking out any reference to specific commercial devices. A sample protocol has been distributed to medical directors throughout the state and this may be incorporated into their current protocols if desired.

Chief Patterson then asks Mr. Griffin to clarify if there was going to be standards set for First Responder instructors. Mr. Griffin clarified that currently there are no requirements for recertification.

Dr. Moreland then requested that the medical care committee provide a list of concerns so that the Data committee could address.

PIER Committee

Chief Richter stated that the committee worked on their portion of the Strategic Plan and creating an article for the EMS Vitals newsletter.

Next Chief Richter stated that in Palm Beach, a program was established for new home buyers in that safety kits were distributed relating to injury prevention. They look forward to this program being incorporated statewide.

Lastly, the committee is in need of nominations for the Injury Prevention award to be presented at the June council meeting.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Rubin stated that the committee discussed current pending legislation. The comment period for the current rule package which contained language regarding Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN), pediatric rides times, ride times etc. closed on January 21, 2010.

Lastly, potential legislation for STEMI and stroke were also discussed.

Strategic Visions Committee

Chief Richter began by stating that he was very excited to see that the EMS constituency groups have the Strategic Plan listed as an agenda item for their meetings. He appreciates the support from the council as well as Chief John Bixler.

Chief Richter stated that the current plan will be finalized soon and routed through the proper channels for approval.

Also discussed was language to allow making the plan a three or four year plan instead of two-year. Due to the difficulty of the plan, this would allow enough time for groups to create a high level report for the legislature.

Data Committee

Dr. Moreland reported that the Data Committee met and discussed implementation of the EMS Strategic Plan.

Next, he stated that 109 agencies are currently participating in EMSTARS which is about 1.6 million records in the database. He encouraged everyone to participate in EMSTARS.

He then reported that the Data unit within the Bureau of EMS has been working with information technology for the Data Mart, implementation for this will be March 2010.

Lastly, Dr. Moreland stated that the deadline for the DOT grant applications is February 12, 2010.

Access to Care Committee

Chief Patterson reported that the Access to Care document is finalized and anticipates the council approving the report.

Next, Chief Patterson stated that the STEMI committee solicited the EMS community for representation on their committee. They plan to work with EMS in reviewing existing data and conducting assessments of the current systems in place.

Disaster Response Committee

Dr. Elias began by reporting that the committee reviewed the air medical plan with members of Florida Aeromedical Association (FAMA). They're working closely with FAMA to integrate both their plan along with other disaster response plans.

Dr. Elias stated the committee also discussed the goal seven of the Strategic Plan. He noted that there were several state initiatives currently underway that would address the objectives in goal seven.

Next he announced that the Diazepam auto-injectors should be available to EMS agencies in April.

Lastly, Dr. Elias reported that in regards to the CYANOKITS survey, it revealed that most agencies were using the kits and that protocols were developed. The survey also revealed that eight times these kits were given to patients.

EMS Communications Committee

Mr. Mechler reported that he intends to have a full voting committee by July 2010.

Next, the committee discussed the Air Medical Dispatch Plan and ways to improve overall communications. He then stated that if anyone is having issues with communications, to contact your state working group regional representatives.

Mr. Mechler then announced that the EMS Communication Plan will be completed by March and anticipates a vote at the July meeting.

Chairperson Scott offered support from the groups and is encouraged to work with the Communications Committee.

Mrs. Paratore offered to support Mr. Mechler by joining his committee representing the Emergency Nurses.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Corky Young addressed the council by requesting that the newly formed group, Florida Council of EMS Chiefs be formally recognized by the EMS Advisory Council and request meeting space during the EMS Advisory Council and Constituency Group meetings.

Chairperson Scott replied by stating that he is excited about goals and objectives of the group; however, he encouraged Mr. Young to align with another constituency group that also shares that same objectives.

Terry Suarez then presented to the council on behalf of Take Heart Florida. She stated to the council that the goal of Take Heart Florida was to improve cardiac arrest survival by 20 percent. The program has teamed up with Laerdal to develop CPR Anytime Kits. These kits are comprised of an inflatable mannequin and CD for in home training. Take Heart Florida works with local community leaders for ways to receive grant money to provide training for CPR as well as other medical initiatives in the State of Florida.

Chief Patterson and Dr. Nelson both agreed to support Mrs. Suarez with Take Heart Florida.

Captain Timothy Devin then spoke to the council in regards to EMSsystems. He stated that in Duval County, EMSsystems has been utilized for 11 years and feels that the system should be utilized overall in the state.

Discussion was held and it was agreed that there is a lack of EMS representation on the committee developing the system and that EMSsystems would be requested to participate in future council meetings as well as the next mid quarter conference call.

Dr. Moreland recognized that Jim Wilson with Plant City is a new member of the Data Committee. He is excited to begin working with Plant City and bringing them onboard with EMSTARS.

Next he congratulated Chief Patterson for graduating in December with a bachelor's degree in public administration.

VOTING AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

A motion was then made for the council to approve the EMS Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Next, a motion was made to accept the bylaws as written. Discussion was held regarding the 30 days rule, language regarding the appointees of chairperson, vice-chair and parliamentarian. Chairperson Scott acknowledged the work that Mr. Sofer presented on the bylaws and offered suggestions as how to move forward with the document.

The motion was then withdrawn regarding the bylaws. Discussion was held on solutions regarding the language.

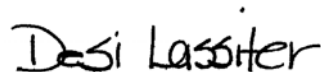
Another motion was made to accept the bylaws as written except for the three items discussed. These items would be modified and discussed during the next mid quarter conference call. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Rubin made a motion to accept the Florida Council on Emergency Medical Services Chiefs. Mr. Griffin then requested from the executive committee to waive the 30-day rule so that the council could approve/deny the motion. The request was accepted and approved unanimously.

Chief Patterson then made a motion to approve the Access to Care document. Mr. Griffin then requested from the executive committee to waive the 30-day rule so that the council could approve/deny the motion. The motion was accepted and approved unanimously.

A final motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was then adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Desi Lassiter

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Desi Lassiter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Administrative Assistant II, Bureau of
EMS