



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
October 3, 2008

The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club
Naples, FL

Members Present

Chuck Kearns, MBA, Chairman
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator, Non-Fire Service
Amy Paratore, R.N., Emergency Nurse
Greg Rubin, EMT (Fire)
John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator
Linda Swisher, Ed.D., EMS Educator
Bradley Elias, M.D., Physician
Tom Quillin, EMT (Non-Fire)
William Colburn, EMS Administrator (Fire)
Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services
Joe Nelson, D.O., M.S., State EMS Medical Director
Julie Bacon, R.N., EMS for Children Liaison

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kearns 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 April meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Mr. Scott then conducted a roll call of the members.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler reported the Bureau held a rule workshop on the subject of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) and he is ready to take the outcome from that workshop to the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) next month. Chief Bixler announced the Bureau will take nominations for the vacant physician position on the council until October 10, 2008. He then announced next year's council meeting in the fall will be held in conjunction with the Pediatric Symposium. Chief Bixler concluded his report by giving an update on the outcomes of the rule workshops for the 911 Emergency Dispatchers Bill.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported the Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) is in the process of completing the draft bylaws and will make the document available for comment once they are done. Dr. Nelson stated the medical directors met and discussed their goals within the strategic plan and submitted nominations for the vacant physician position on the council. He then reported the draft version of the Critical Care Transport Educational Standards will be posted on the medical directors' website as well as FLEMSCOMM for public comment. Dr. Nelson then stated the National Association of EMS Physicians will meet in January 2009. He also reported he brought to the attention of the medical directors the issue of education programs not allowing paramedic students time in the operating room to perform intubations, which can lead to standard violations of those programs. He concluded his report by stating the medical directors will develop position papers for next spring regarding the national scope of practice educational standards.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Julie Bacon

Ms. Bacon reported on the Pediatric Symposium in November. Ms. Bacon then stated the EMS for Children (EMSC) program and the Florida Neonatal Pediatric group developed a free on-site pediatric neonatal education program that will be offered first to interested rural counties.

Todd Mechler

Mr. Mechler requested the EMS community confer with field personnel on what they require for their communications to enhance performance and to provide him with the feedback.

Patricia Byers

Dr. Byers reported the Florida Committee on Trauma will hold their annual meeting on October 24, 2008, at the Orlando Regional Hospital. She then reported the trauma implementation committee met and she gave an overview of what they discussed which included: promulgation of the Walk Safe Program; promulgation of the Public Information, Education and Relations (PIER) committee course related to evidence-based methods for trauma centers; partnership with the Office of Injury Prevention on elderly falls; disaster courses being offered in the spring; a telemedicine program link to the trauma centers; outreach to rural areas; a diaphragm pacing program for vent-dependent patients; pediatric head trauma rehabilitation study; the trauma registry; quality assurance programs; and issues on diversions in regards to inter-facility transfers. Dr. Byers then stated the hand surgery education CD was released. She then reported on the two rule workshops regarding agency rule and trauma center distribution. Dr. Byers announced the trauma registry manual will soon be released for 2009. She concluded her report by stating the new American College of Surgeon Standards that raises level one trauma center standards is ready to be implemented.

John Scott

Mr. Scott reported the Association of Air Medical Services will conduct two-day safety summit meetings in the spring. He reported the group discussed COPCN. He concluded his report by stating the group wants to develop one website with the air medical transport community information to help with the strategic plan.

Dr. Milanick for Michael Patterson

Dr. Milanick reported the committee is working on several plans relating to EMS offload times at emergency departments. He then described the new models already in place across the state.

Amy Paratore

Ms. Paratore reported the state of Florida has the third highest contingency of emergency nurses belonging to the national level of the Emergency Nurses Association. She stated there were 41 delegates at the national meeting last week. Some of the topics discussed at the meeting were crowding and boarding in emergency departments, workplace violence, and psychiatric care in emergency departments. Ms. Paratore requested the advisory council look into the issue of psychiatric care in emergency departments in Florida. Ms. Paratore stated the American College of Emergency Physicians came out with a new brochure regarding the ten things that emergency physicians need to know from patients and she recommends the brochure become available on ambulances.

William Colburn

Chief Colburn stated the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association discussed the strategic plan, COPCN, and the 911 emergency dispatchers rule workshops. He then discussed the upcoming Fire Rescue East Conference in January.

Tom Quillin

Chief Quillin complimented the constituency groups and those who worked on the strategic plan. He then announced Leon County EMS is the recipient of a Gold Award by EMS Magazine.

Linda Swisher

Dr. Swisher reported the minimum curriculum standards for the critical care paramedic are completed and ready for review and comments by the advisory council.

Alan Skavroneck

Mr. Skavroneck stated the Florida Ambulance Association met and discussed COPCN, 911 emergency dispatcher certification, and neonatal transports. Mr. Skavroneck reported that most of the problems regarding the new Medicaid payment to services are resolved. He then stated Cory Richter gave a presentation about the strategic plan. He concluded his report by stating Senate Bill 1012, Direct Pay Bill, becomes effective November 1, 2008.

A motion was made to hold the 2009 fall advisory council meeting in conjunction with the Pediatric Symposium. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Meeting logistics were discussed focusing on the possibility of moving the meeting days in July to Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Further discussions and possibly a vote will take place at the January 2009 advisory council meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Dr. Swisher reported the committee is working on their objectives of the strategic plan with specific focus on objective 3.3, defining the paramedic scope of practice in the critical care specialty areas. She then announced John Todaro was named the Chair of the National EMS Educators' Conference to be held August 18th through the 23rd of 2009, in Orlando. Dr. Swisher reported the educators will form a committee to review the state board results and make recommendations for improvement of the curriculum.

Medical Care Committee

Mr. Scott reported the committee recommends the person chosen for the vacant physician position on the council be placed in their committee for support of their mission and for linkage to the other committees and constituency groups. He then reported the committee would like to develop protocols for the use of tourniquets in the pre-hospital setting. He then stated the committee is working with the American Heart Association on a legislative package focusing on the management of STEMI patients. Mr. Scott stated the committee reviewed the minimum curriculum standards for the critical care paramedic. He stated the committee is in support of the standards but is concerned as to whether or not they affect the actual scope of practice. The committee will have Dr. Nelson look into the issue. He then reported the committee will bring together a packet on best practices of patient safety from both the prehospital and hospital settings to utilize in the EMS community. Mr. Scott concluded his report by stating the committee is working on goal five of the strategic plan.

Dr. Nelson stated that he would like the council to review the proposed minimum curriculum standards for the critical care paramedic and be careful not to mix scope of practice with training recommendations. It was also recommended to take into consideration the impact on reimbursement for the transport agencies.

PIER Committee

Mr. Richter reported the committee discussed their goals in the strategic plan. He stated the committee is focusing on goal 2.1 and has decided to work on falls as the initiative for reaching that goal. He stated the committee will develop a free four-hour "falls" seminar that should be ready for the July 2009 meetings. Mr. Richter then stated the committee published an article in the Bureau's newsletter highlighting the falls prevention program in Satellite Beach. He then stated he is working with the Department of Transportation as a liaison for the EMS portion of a motorcycle assessment plan and he will have more to report about the plan at the January 2009 meeting.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Rubin reported on the rule workshops relating to COPCN and the 911 emergency dispatchers certification. He then stated they are working on assembling a committee for the 911 emergency dispatchers legislation. They still need more representation from all areas of the EMS community. Mr. Rubin then stated the committee is working on rule language for the EMS educators and for the STEMI legislative package being developed by the Medical Care Committee and the American Heart Association.

Strategic Visions Committee

Mr. Richter reported the committee will send email reminders to the strategic plan objectives leaders to compile their reports to send to the goal owners. He also stated that the templates and information regarding the strategic plan are on the Bureau's website. Mr. Richter also suggested the committees place their goals and objectives on their agendas. Mr. Richter stated a survey is attached to the EMT and paramedic renewals and asked the groups to urge those that renew to take the survey.

Data Committee (Mac Kemp for Chief Moreland)

Mr. Kemp reported on the status of the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS): 133 committed agencies, 56 currently submitting data, over 351,000 records in the database with a 93.6% data validation score, and three submissions with over 273,000 records were made to the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) with the fourth submission occurring within the next week. Mr. Kemp announced the new program manager for EMSTARS, Brenda Clotfelter. He then stated the committee will have a meeting in November to finalize the 1.4 data dictionary implementation upgrades and to begin work on version 2.0. He stated the committee and the Bureau will strive to work with the other 133 agencies not committed to EMSTARS to get what they need to come on board with the project. Mr. Kemp stated the committee will work with the vendors to get them EMSTARS compliant. Mr. Kemp reported the Department of Transportation (DOT) grant funds will be available within the next few weeks and the committee is working to find other funding opportunities for EMSTARS. Mr. Kemp concluded his report by stating the committee will be working closely with the Emergency Medical Review Committee to coordinate a seamless exchange of the data between the Bureau and the two committees.

Disaster Committee

Dr. Brad Elias reported the committee is continuing to standardize equipment on the mass casualty incident (MCI) trailers. He stated the committee is working on an "MCI Trailer Rodeo" at the state logistics center in Orlando to help with the standardization. Dr. Elias announced the first strike team leadership training class was successful and the next class will take place on October 29th and 30th in Tallahassee. He also stated a train-the-trainer course will be offered in 2009. Dr. Elias stated the committee is working on revisions to the Ambulance Deployment Plan to align the plan with the National Incident Management System. Dr. Elias reminded the groups that agencies and providers should not self-deploy during disasters. He also stated the committee recommends if an agency wishes to participate in a non-Emergency Management Assistance Compact, notification should be given to the regional State Emergency Response Team coordinator or some other contact at the state level. Dr. Elias reported Florida was awarded over \$37 million in Homeland Security program funding and EMS will receive over \$500,000 from that award to use for sustaining EMS projects, primarily for the Mark 1 and Diazepam projects. Dr. Elias also stated the committee is working on funding to sustain the Cyanokits®. Dr. Elias reported efforts are underway to transfer the alternative medical treatment site medical caches control and supervision to the state medical response teams across all seven regions. He then reported the University of Miami has developed a web-based triage education module that will be rolled out to the providers soon. He concluded his report by stating the committee worked on goal six of the strategic plan.

Chief Bixler announced Bobby Bailey will be taking on a new position with the Department of Health and is uncertain if he will continue to work with the Disaster Response Committee.

Mr. Dennis Ward from the Open Water Lifeguard Constituency Group reported to the council of the topics from their meeting. He stated that due to budgetary reasons he will not be coming to many advisory council meetings. He then stated the need for minimum standards for various areas in the lifeguard community. Chairman Kearns requested Mr. Ward meet with Mr. Rubin and Mr. Skavroneck to work on the possibility of administrative code language for the lifeguards.

Mr. Moyles from Manatee County Marine Rescue stated he is in agreement with Mr. Ward's concerns for certifying the lifeguards throughout the state. Chairman Kearns also asked Mr. Moyles to confer with Mr. Rubin and Mr. Skavroneck on the issue.

Dr. Patricia Byers announced the Injury Prevention Council is accepting new applications for members.

Dr. Swisher asked if an individual can sit in an advisory council member's capacity and act in their absence. Mr. Rubin suggested looking at the by-laws to discuss the issue, draft language, by-law proposals, and by-law revisions. Chairman Kearns asked that any proposals by Mr. Rubin be submitted to the council members and constituency groups for further review. Mr. Rubin made a motion to review and update the by-laws. The motion was seconded and was unanimously passed. Chairman Kearns requested Regina Sofer to work with Mr. Rubin on the by-laws.

Chief Quillin requested an appointment to the Disaster Response Committee. Chairman Kearns approved.

Ms. Paratore announced October 8th is National Emergency Nurses Day.

Chairman Kearns announced the next meeting will be held on January 28th through the 30th in Daytona Beach. Chief Bixler requested if any agency has EMS pictures for any publications by the Bureau to submit them. The meeting was then adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Alexander Macy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander J. Macy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Administrative Assistant I, Bureau of
EMS