



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 30, 2009

Ocean Walk Resort
Daytona Beach, FL

Members Present

Chuck Kearns, Paramedic (Non Fire), Advisory Council Chairman
John Bixler, Bureau of EMS Chief
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator (Non Fire)
Amy Paratore, R.N., Emergency Nurse
Doris Ballard-Ferguson, Lay Elderly
John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator
Linda Swisher, Ph.D., EMS Educator
Brad Elias, M.D., Physician
Tom Quillin, EMT (Non Fire)
Javier Escobar, M.D., Hospital Administrator
William Colburn, EMS Administrator (Fire)
R.E. Sofer, Lay Person
David Meurer, M.D., Physician
Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator
Julie Bacon, R.N., EMS for Children Liaison
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation
Walter Liddell, Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
Joe Nelson, D.O., State EMS Medical Director

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. Kearns then conducted a roll call of the members.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler introduced Dr. David Meurer who is filling the vacant physician position. Chief Bixler reported the rule for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) was adopted on January 12, 2009. Chief Bixler then stated the Bureau will accept comments on the instructor criteria rule package until February 3, 2009 and the rule package for neonatal interfacility transfers is ongoing. Chief Bixler announced the Bureau is accepting nominations for the EMS state awards. He completed his report by stating the Bureau will begin accepting applications for 911 emergency dispatcher certification starting February 1, 2009.

Chairman Kearns requested Chief Bixler to give an overview of the new COPCN rule. A discussion was held about COPCN.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported the EMS Medical Directors Association met and discussed the topics of hypothermia post-cardiac arrest treatment, stroke care, acute myocardial infarction care and airway management. He stated they will utilize an information repository furnished by the Emergency Medicine and Learning Resource Center to share information such as best practices and protocols. Dr. Nelson reported they will work with the State Emergency Response Committee to develop and promote common medical treatment programs among the state's hazardous materials team. He then stated the medical directors will work with the Committee on Trauma and the Office of Trauma to develop tourniquet use protocols in the prehospital setting. Dr. Nelson requested the next topic after the instructor criteria to review is critical care transport curriculum.

STATE TRAUMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Susan McDevitt reported for Dr. Byers. Ms. McDevitt reported the Office of Trauma submitted the 2007 annual report noting the accomplishment of Florida's mortality rate dropping from 10.8 percent in 1998 to five percent currently. She then announced Tallahassee Memorial Hospital is a provisional level two trauma center. She also stated that the Office of Trauma has created a list serve titled TRAUMACOMM. Ms. McDevitt reported the Office of Trauma will place injury prevention programs and research projects from the trauma centers on their website. She then discussed Senate Bill 1210, pediatric rehabilitation. She reported Dr. Hotz received a grant for the Walk Safe Program. She also reported there are five major bills in the House, four in the Senate and a legislative budget request to institute the vent-dependent project. Ms. McDevitt stated the Office of Trauma will conduct a survey to find which hospitals in the state can take hand surgery patients. She stated the office will promulgate rule to revise the trauma center standards. She also stated the "Do Not Resuscitate" forms have been translated into Spanish and Creole. She concluded her report by stating the office received a grant to implement telemedicine at Ryder Trauma Center and the University of Florida/Shands Gainesville.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Trenda McPherson

Ms. McPherson reported the Department of Transportation has a new concept paper form on their website. She then stated the motorcycle strategic highway safety plan is completed and the motorcycle safety coalition has been implemented.

Walter Liddell

Mr. Liddell reported the Department of Highway and Safety Motor Vehicles graduated a new class of patrol recruits in December with the majority going to south Florida.

Julie Bacon

Ms. Bacon discussed the Pediatric Symposium held last November. She then discussed the Emergency Pediatric Instructor Course that was held after the symposium. She then stated the next symposium will be held in November. Ms. Bacon reported the EMSC Advisory Committee will have liaisons in the Medical Care Committee and Data Committee. She then stated the committee will send out a survey soon regarding how providers restrain children and babies. She concluded her report discussing the partnership with the Florida Neonatal Pediatric Transport to provide education to rural areas.

John Scott

Mr. Scott announced the Air Medical Safety Summit will be held on May 1, 2009.

Michael Patterson

Chief Patterson reported the Florida Association of Rural EMS awarded six scholarships to rural providers, EMTs and paramedics. He then announced he is the interim president of the Florida Association of County EMS.

Amy Paratore

Ms. Paratore reported the Florida Emergency Nurses Association met and discussed the access to care document from Michael Patterson. She stated they discussed the topics of hypothermia in post-cardiac arrest patients; House Bill 241, staffing of healthcare facilities; hand surgery DVDs supplied by the Office of Trauma; and issues concerning psychiatric patients in the emergency departments. She concluded her report by stating the Nurses Association will meet in April.

Linda Swisher

Dr. Swisher reported the legislative committee of the EMS Educators reviewed Senate Bill 948. She also stated the Medical Quality Assurance division from the Department of Health discussed the new online application process for EMTs and paramedics. She concluded her report by discussing the traumatic brain, train-the-trainer course held on January 28, 2009.

Alan Skavroneck

Mr. Skavroneck stated the Medicaid vendor responsible for processing payments has resolved their issues. He then stated the next EMS Ambulance Open Door Forum will be held February 11, 2009.

Ruben Almaguer (Reporting for Craig Fugate)

Mr. Almaguer reported on the upcoming governor's hurricane exercise. He then discussed the new program "Kids Weather Survival Week". He concluded by stating Florida is in a drought and tornado season.

A discussion was held regarding selection of the next chairperson and how to conduct future votes for the position.

Mr. Scott held a discussion on the topic of air medical transport safety in Florida and on the Air Medical Safety Summit on May 1, 2009.

Chief Bixler reported the Bureau was not affected by the special legislative session.

Chairperson Kearns stated he would like three conference calls between this meeting and the next advisory council meeting.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Dr. Swisher reported the committee worked on the strategic plan. Dr. Swisher stated she will take the critical care standards draft to the committee for review.

Medical Care Committee

Mr. Scott reported the committee discussed STEMI and stroke issues, the critical care paramedic course, clinical competencies for paramedics, use of tourniquets in the field, hypothermia for cardiac arrest patients, and medical crew/patient safety issues.

PIER Committee

Julie Bacon gave the report for Cory Richter. Ms. Bacon reported the committee is submitting articles routinely to the Bureau of EMS quarterly newsletter. She also stated the committee is hosting a Falls Seminar on June 29, 2009. She concluded her report by stating the committee will produce injury prevention public service announcements.

Legislative Committee

Alan Skavroneck gave the report for Greg Rubin. Mr. Skavroneck stated the committee was updated by Chief Bixler on current rule promulgations. He also reported the committee discussed Senate Bill 948.

Strategic Visions Committee

Ms. Bacon reminded the council and constituency members to update their reports by utilizing the Strategic Visions website. She then stated the committee is planning for the work group session later in the year to develop the new state strategic plan. She then reported on the committee's survey results.

Data Committee

Brenda Clotfelter gave the report for Chief Moreland. Ms. Clotfelter reported the committee worked on version 2.0 of the data dictionary. She also discussed the new outreach program the committee developed to help providers become familiar and interested in utilizing the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS). She then stated the committee will conduct EMSTARS workshops beginning in May.

Access to Care Committee

Chief Patterson gave a report on the committee's published materials "Best Practices" and "Strategies". He then reported a draft paper concerning emergency room wait times/overcrowding is being circulated for review to the community.

Disaster Committee

Dr. Brad Elias reported the committee discussed the state medical response teams, ambulance strike team leadership training, CyanoKits distribution strategies and minimum equipment lists for the MCI trailers.

Mr. Dennis Ward from the Open Water Lifeguard Constituency Group reported they are working on standardizing open water lifesaving in Florida.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was then adjourned at 11:04 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 initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

Administrative Assistant I, Bureau of
EMS