



Charlie Crist  
Governor

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State Surgeon General

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## **FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Proceedings from the meeting of  
July 1, 2009

Rosen Centre Hotel  
Orlando, FL

### Members Present

Chuck Kearns, Outgoing Chairman  
John Scott, Chairman  
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator (Non-Fire)  
Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse  
Charles Moreland, Ed.D., Paramedic (Fire)  
Greg Rubin, EMT (Fire)  
Daniel Griffin, EMS Educator  
Brad Elias, M.D., Physician  
Tom Quillin, EMT (Non-Fire)  
William Colburn, EMS Administrator (Fire)  
R.E. Sofer, Lay Person  
David Muerer, M.D., Physician  
Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator  
Karen Chamberlain, R.N., Paramedic (Non-Fire)  
Ruben Almaguer, Department of Community Affairs  
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation  
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services  
Joe Nelson, D.O., State EMS Medical Director  
Patricia Byers, M.D., State Trauma Medical Director  
Julie Bacon, R.N., EMS for Children Liaison  
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**

Outgoing Chairman Kearns called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Karen Chamberlain.

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

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

### **STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT**

Chief Bixler thanked everyone involved with the state EMS awards. He then stated the EMS strategic planning session will be held August 17-18, 2009 in Clermont. Chief Bixler reported the bureau will conduct rule workshops regarding: paramedic student ride times on Advanced Life Support (ALS) non-transport vehicles; integration of the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) data system; disciplinary guidelines; reinstatement after revocation; Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) skills (i.e. use of glucometers); review of the declaratory statement from the Florida Hospital System involving Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN); and pediatric specific hours for recertification of paramedics. He then stated there are 674 emergency dispatchers now certified within the state. Chief Bixler reported inspections are up-to-date and EMS for Children is accepting applications for positions on their advisory board.

### **STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT**

Dr. Nelson reported the EMS Medical Directors Association met and discussed the following topics: expiration of funding for CyanoKits next year, which they hope to help find new funding sources; the state's draft pan-flu plan for EMS; the new statewide patient tracking and resource management program; the pediatric training requirement for recertification of paramedics, for which they will develop a position paper; the overall number of training hours for recertification of paramedics, for which they will also develop a position paper; the Centers for Disease Control guidelines for field triage; and the American Heart Association's effort to form a statewide STEMI network.

Chairman Kearns then turned the proceedings over to the incoming Chairman, John Scott.

Chief Bixler then recognized Chuck Kearns, Linda Swisher and Jeff Lindsey for their service to the EMS Advisory Council. Linda Swisher and Chuck Kearns gave a few words of thanks to the council for allowing them to serve. Chief Bixler then introduced the incoming members of the council: John Scott, Dr. Brad Elias, Dr. Charles Moreland, and Karen Chamberlain.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS**

### **Alan Skavroneck**

Mr. Skavroneck reported the Florida Ambulance Association meeting focused on current and pending changes on the federal level including implementation of the new local coverage termination procedures for non-emergency transports, which will require online emergency claims submitted to Medicare to include specific coding to identify whether the patient was bed-confined or qualifies for transport by ambulance. He then discussed a new pilot program in Miami to reduce hospital re-admissions, new HIPAA guidelines, the new federal Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act, the new federal Red Flag Rules Enforcement, and the Congressional bills known as the Medicare Ambulance Access Preservation Act.

### **Greg Rubin**

Captain Rubin discussed the topic of the recent Florida legislation regarding STEMI.

### **William Colburn**

Chief Colburn reported the Florida Fire Chiefs discussed the topics of the upcoming rule workshops.

### **Amy Paratore**

Ms. Paratore stated the Emergency Nurses Association discussed pan-flu epidemics and the effects on emergency departments, overcrowding in emergency departments due to psychiatric patient holds, STEMI patients' effect on emergency departments, transfers of patients between helicopter crews and emergency departments, and the delegation they will send to the national Emergency Nurses convention. She then stated an update was provided to the association on the roll out of the emergency management system to emergency departments by the end of the year.

### **Michael Patterson**

Chief Patterson reported the Florida Association of Rural EMS (FAREMS) providers met and discussed paramedics' clinical time on vehicles other than ALS ambulances. He then stated FAREMS awarded \$15,000 in scholarships to individuals to attend paramedic classes. Chief Patterson reported FAREMS completed production of a rural EMS recruitment retention video. He then stated he spoke to the Emergency Nurses Board of Directors regarding emergency department overcrowding. He concluded his report by stating the Florida Association of Counties EMS meeting discussed the topics of STEMI, Duodote replacements, and paramedic ride times.

#### Patricia Byers- State Trauma Medical Director Report

Dr. Byers reported a trauma registry task force has been formed to help integrate the trauma registry with other data systems, including EMSTARS. She then stated the American College of Surgeons have drafted legislation to overturn laws that allow insurance companies to refuse payments for medical care of patients related to alcohol or drugs; the trauma community is seeking bill sponsors for that legislation. Dr. Byers reported rule workshops will begin soon to discuss the need for vascular surgery requirements for trauma centers and alcohol screenings with brief interventions. She then stated the trauma community is supporting the University of Florida's grant for suicide prevention. Dr. Byers reported the trauma registry is now open for research. She stated the trauma disaster management course has been well received and they now have a rural trauma course available. She reported the annual trauma meeting will be held on November 13, 2009 at Tampa General Hospital. Dr. Byers stated the MCI plan for hospital standardization has been turned into the Department of Health with the next steps of including a toolkit and practice drills. She then reported Lawnwood Memorial Hospital has become a provisional trauma center and Tallahassee Memorial Hospital has officially become a level two trauma center. Dr. Byers stated the diaphragm pacer program has begun with three successful pacers placed in vent-dependent tetraplegic patients. She also reported the trauma community is seeking to improve access of rehab for children with head injuries.

#### Trenda McPherson

Ms. McPherson announced the primary seatbelt law in Florida is now enacted. She then reported the motorcycle strategic safety plan is now available from the Department of Transportation.

#### Julie Bacon

Ms. Bacon reported on the EMS for Children Awareness Day activity of reading the book, "A Day with the Paramedics" to 9,000 children in 484 classrooms across the state. She then stated EMS for Children (EMSC) worked on their goals within the EMS strategic plan as well as their federal performance measures. Ms. Bacon reported EMSC will work with Dr. Nelson on establishing minimum pediatric protocols and minimum standards for recertification of paramedics. She then stated EMSC has outreached to rural counties providing eight free pediatric neonatal programs. Ms. Bacon announced upcoming classes available to rural counties. She then announced the pre-hospital pediatric symposium will be held on November 17, 2009 in Clermont, for which they will offer a limited number of scholarships. She stated seating will be limited but there will also be the availability of webinar access.

#### Todd Mechler

Mr. Mechler reported EMS communications will begin to focus on air transport as well as continue with improving ground transport communications.

Cory Richter gave a brief presentation on the current EMS state strategic plan, the upcoming strategic planning session, and the new air medical safety goal within the plan.

Chairman Scott announced the appointment of Greg Rubin as Vice-Chair, Michael Patterson as Secretary/Treasurer, and R.E. Sofer as Parliamentarian to the advisory council.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Education Committee**

Mr. Griffin reported the committee worked on their goals within the strategic plan, met with representatives from the Department of Health's Division of Medical Quality Assurance, and discussed projects for the upcoming year including piloting the instructor curriculum and creating templates for smaller EMS departments for basic competency testing.

#### **Medical Care Committee**

Chairman Scott reported the committee discussed their goals within the strategic plan. He noted most of the objectives are being met with the exception of those that need more data; which can be resolved by more agencies utilizing EMSTARS. He concluded his report by stating the committee discussed the topic of tourniquet use.

#### **PIER Committee**

Mr. Richter reported the committee worked on their goals within the strategic plan. He also stated PIER conducted a falls prevention summit on the previous Monday.

#### **Legislative Committee**

Captain Rubin reported the committee worked on their goals within the strategic plan. He stated the committee is looking into removing legislation to statutorily require two hours of HIV and AIDS education. Captain Rubin reported the committee discussed economic sustainability of the EMS systems. Captain Rubin then discussed upcoming rule workshops as well as ongoing rule packages.

#### **Strategic Visions Committee**

Mr. Richter stated the strategic planning session will be held on August 17-18, 2009 in Clermont. He then gave an update of the current strategic plan. He also discussed the possibility of expanding the plan to include goals and objectives for lifeguards.

#### **Data Committee**

Dr. Chief Moreland reported the committee is looking to improve participation in EMSTARS by offering webcam possibilities and sending members to different agencies. He then stated 96 agencies are reporting to EMSTARS with over 700,000 records sent to the national database. He reported the committee will establish sub-committees to accomplish goals within the strategic plan. Dr. Chief Moreland reported the committee is looking into linking data with other agencies. He concluded his report by stating the EMSTARS website is being revised to be more "user friendly".

### Access to Care Committee

Chief Patterson stated he spoke to the emergency nurses board of directors on the issue of access to care and emergency department overcrowding. He reported a draft whitepaper is out for receipt of comments and discussion. Chief Patterson then reported the committee met with stakeholders to discuss the roll-out of the Emergency Management Systems. He concluded his report by stating access to care can be improved with more data, such as the data provided by EMSTARS.

### Disaster Committee

Dr. Brad Elias reported the committee is undergoing the annual review of the ambulance deployment plan. He then stated the regional train-the-trainer courses have been completed and the committee may seek funding for additional courses. He then stated the committee will soon have a database of the providers who have gone through the training required within the deployment plan. Dr. Elias stated the Duodotes for the Mark-1 kits will be delivered to EMS agencies within the next 30 days. He then stated the committee plans on seeking funding for more CyanoKits. Dr. Elias reported the State Medical Response Teams and the Department of Health are seeking sites and facilities within their regions to serve as alternate medical treatment sites. He then stated 22 out of the 23 MCI trailers' equipment have been standardized and the deployment strategy for the trailers has been formalized. He reported the committee discussed the EMS pan-flu plan which will provide guidance to local EMS agencies in developing their own plans. Dr. Elias stated the committee also discussed H1N1 vaccination plans. He concluded his report by stating the committee was briefed on the Emergency Management Systems and selection of a pilot agency for the new system.

Nathan Lee from the Denise Amber Lee foundation spoke to the council regarding 9-1-1 emergency dispatcher certification.

Joe McManus from the Lifesaving Constituency then presented the outgoing Chairman a t-shirt in appreciation of his service on the council.

Kenneth Devin asked the council to consider any ramification of upcoming rule promulgation regarding paramedic ride time requirements. He then thanked the Department of Health for the trauma registry and EMSTARS.

Gary Rainey, Vice President of the Florida Professional Firefighters, discussed recent enactment of an optional one-cent tax that counties can utilize to fund fire and EMS (except in Miami-Dade and Madison counties). He then discussed the outcomes of the International Association for Firefighters EMS symposium.

Elroy Ricardo, the 11<sup>th</sup> District Vice President for the Florida Professional Firefighters, discussed the opposing viewpoints between fire-rescue agencies within his district and those of the winner of the state EMS medical director award, Dr. Tober.

Mark Postma, Chief Operating Officer for Sunstar Paramedics, noted his agency will conduct a one-day session on the steps they took to win the Governor's Sterling Award. The date has not been set at this time, but it will be held in October of 2009 in Pinellas County.

Chairman Scott requested Greg Rubin and R.E. Sofer draft a revision of the bylaws to be voted on at the next meeting in order to close out a previously opened motion to revise them. Chairman Scott also asked the council to consider formalizing the chair elect process as well as aspects of the term limits for the chair position. Chairman Scott also expressed the idea of having the strategic plan reports as part of the committee reports and sending a summary paper on the goals of the strategic plan to the State Surgeon General. He then proposed the idea of adding an Executive Committee to keep everyone on task and determine participation rates of the other committees. Chairman Scott also stated he would like to review the committee assignments to ensure council participation.

Chairman Scott announced he appointed Dr. Meurer as chair of the Medical Care Committee and Daniel Griffin as chair of the Education Committee.

Chief Patterson suggested the council write a letter in support of the Denise Amber Lee Foundation and vote on it on the next council conference call. Chairman Scott agreed.

A motion was made to include goal seven, air medical safety, be incorporated into the current 2008-2010 State of Florida Strategic Plan. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was then adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Alexander Macy

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Alexander J. Macy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Administrative Assistant I, Bureau of  
EMS