



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 2, 2009

Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club
Naples, FL

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
Tom Quillin, EMT (Non-Fire)
William Colburn, EMS Administrator (Fire)
R.E. Sofer, Lay Person
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
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services
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 July meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

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

Chairman Scott recognized Dr. Jennifer Bencie for her work as Division Director of the Division of Emergency Medical Operations and with the council.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler requested a moment of silence for an air ambulance crew from South Carolina who lost their lives the Saturday before the meeting. Chief Bixler stated his new goal will be to work with the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration in an effort to gather data on ground ambulance crashes.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported the Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) met on September 29, 2009 and discussed goal 6 of the state strategic plan. Topics included benchmarking and performance targets of cardiovascular illness, trauma, pediatrics and airway management. He stated the committee will make a recommendation to the Strategic Visions Committee to incorporate standardizing and improving quality assurance into the next draft of the strategic plan. Dr. Nelson then reported the EMRC is producing data reports and is recommending adding four new positions to the committee: a trauma expert, a private ambulance service affiliated quality expert, a university-based research epidemiology expert, and an at-large position. Dr. Nelson then stated Danny Griffin spoke to the State Medical Directors Association about findings of a survey from the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) concerning the adoption of four new levels of EMS practice: Emergency Medical Responder, EMT, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic. He stated the majority of states are willing to adopt at least three levels and the timeline to adopt will be the first half of 2010. Dr. Nelson then reported the data from a nationwide survey conducted by the National Registry of EMTs, NASEMSO and the Committee on Accreditation of EMS Programs taken by paramedic training program directors concerning knowledge, attitudes and barriers to accreditation of paramedic programs. Dr. Nelson concluded his report by stating the medical directors are working on a draft position paper on brain hypothermia and cardiac arrest, discussed a position paper concerning paramedic recertification hours, and progressed with an online continuing educational program for EMTs and paramedics.

STATE TRAUMA MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Byers announced the Florida Committee on Trauma meeting will be held in Tampa on November 13, 2009. She stated Dr. Norman McSwain, one of the first trauma surgeons to emphasize prehospital care as an important focus, will travel around the state November 9-13 and she will have his schedule posted on FLEMSCOMM. Dr. Byers requested the audience to take the survey put out by the Office of Trauma on FLEMSCOMM. Dr. Byers stated the trauma registry is in the process of being upgraded including linking it to EMSTARS. She also stated a survey will go out to the trauma program managers to flag specific problem areas. Dr. Byers reported they will assist in a grant on suicide prevention and hoping they will receive a grant from the Department of Transportation to develop a motorcycle safety CD. She then stated they are receiving a rural trauma grant to conduct rural trauma courses in outlying clinics. She then reported the telemedicine project is proceeding into phase two. Dr. Byers reported the Office of Trauma has received six letters of intent through the trauma centers, as the trauma centers' volume of patients overall has increased ten percent in the last year. She concluded her report by stating the MCI Plan is completed with a toolkit being developed for exercises and the diaphragm pacer project is steadily continuing.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Barry Baker

Mr. Baker announced the Florida Fire Chiefs, the Fire Marshall's Office, the Florida Professional Firefighters, and others are hosting the Health and Safety Conference in Orlando during the second week of December. He then stated the annual firefighter memorial will be the Friday following the council meeting at the Fire College in Ocala. Mr. Baker reported the Florida Fire Marshal's Office is working on updating 633, Florida Statutes. He concluded his report by stating the Fire College is expanding by fifty acres.

Todd Mechler

Mr. Mechler reported the successful merger of the Technical Advisory Panel and the Emergency Dispatch Group into the Communications Committee. He then stated the committee has drafted a direction the committee will take in relation to goal ten of the state strategic plan.

Julie Bacon

Ms. Bacon announced the Pediatric Prehospital Education Symposium will be held on November 17, 2009 in Clermont. She then stated they are currently in the process of benchmarking the state's transportation of pediatric patients. She concluded her report by stating they are still offering pediatric education workshops to any requesting provider agencies.

John Scott

Chairman Scott reported the Air Medical Groups met and discussed consolidating meeting times, goal eight of the state strategic plan, National Traffic Safety Board recommendations, and holding a second Safety Summit in 2010.

Michael Patterson

Chief Patterson reported the constituency groups discussed STEMI issues. He then stated the Florida Association of Rural Emergency Medical Services have granted scholarships to EMTs in rural areas. He also reported they have produced and distributed a recruitment retention video. Chief Patterson stated FAEMSE has joined with the lifeguard constituency group and discussed Duodotes, Access to Care and disaster planning.

Amy Paratore

Ms. Paratore reported on the emergency departments' increased volume due to H1N1. She then discussed the issues related to emergency departments and psychiatric patient holds. She concluded by stating EMS providers should work with their local emergency departments in regards to post cardiac arrest cooling protocols.

William Colburn

Chief Colburn reported one of the members of the Florida Fire Chiefs' EMS section was assigned to goal ten of the state strategic plan. He then stated the group watched a training video on the Ambulance Deployment Plan. He concluded his report by announcing Fire Rescue East will be held in January in Daytona Beach. He stated they are looking for ALS and BLS judges for the team competitions.

Daniel Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported on the National EMS Educators meeting.

Alan Skavroneck

Mr. Skavroneck reported the Florida Ambulance Association discussed reimbursement updates on the federal level, and goal 5.2 of the state strategic plan.

Ms. Sofer discussed updates to the council's bylaws. Chairman Scott stated he would like a draft of the bylaws ready for the mid-quarter conference call and ready to vote on at the January meeting.

Chairman Scott discussed consolidation and accountability of constituency groups. He requested constituency groups turn in minutes, attendance lists, and agendas to post on FLEMSCOMM to begin at the January meeting. He also recommended combining the president's meeting with the Bureau of EMS report meeting. Chairman Scott then read which council member will head each Ad Hoc Committee and requested each committee report contain a segment related to the state strategic plan.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Mr. Griffin reported the committee worked on their goals within the strategic plan by strategizing how to increase the number of paramedic programs that are CoAEMSP accredited. He then stated he will be meeting with the legislative delegation of Alachua County to gain support and sponsorship to delete the HIV update requirement for recertification of EMTs and paramedics in the state. Mr. Griffin stated they are in the process of increasing the time EMTs have between completing courses and taking the certification tests from one to two years, which would align with National Registry. He then reported the committee will meet next spring to run a beta version of the instructor course. He then discussed a rule workshop he attended in regards to paramedic internships on ALS vehicles, increasing EMT treatment areas, and continuing pediatric education hours for EMTs and paramedics. He then stated the committee discussed the upcoming Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium, starting a subcommittee to devise standard basic competencies to utilize throughout the state. He then discussed his presentation Dr. Nelson mentioned in his report. Mr. Griffin reported the committee discussed the next draft of the strategic plan and timelines for the project of changing how the EMS educators teach courses. He then announced after January 1, 2013, paramedic students will not be allowed to take the national exam until they have graduated from an accredited program. He concluded his report by stating the committee will develop a survey for EMS providers to determine what level the providers think new hires should be at.

PIER Committee

Mr. Richter reported the committee worked on their drafts for the next strategic plan. He then stated the committee started working on more articles for the bureau's newsletter and developing public service announcements for movie theaters. Mr. Richter reported they are working on a project to create safety kits for kids and the elderly for when they either move into a new home or an assisted living facility. He then announced the Great Florida Fire School will be at the Indian River State College on November 4-8, 2009 to conduct fire-related classes.

Legislative Committee

Captain Rubin reported the committee discussed the topics of STEMI, building a STEMI network within the state; the strategic plan in relation to removing the statutory requirement for two hours of HIV updates for EMTs and paramedics; specialty care courses and specialty care provider courses, continuing education and the national scope of practice model; rule workshop items including instructor criteria, EMT skills, paramedic arrival times, neonatal transfers, EMSTARS and aggregate data, Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, dispatcher renewals and equivalency, and skills-based paramedic ride times, and discipline processes.

Strategic Visions Committee

Mr. Richter stated the committee will have version two of the next strategic plan out after October 18, 2009 for comments and version three will be drafted in time for the mid-quarter conference call. He stated the final version will be voted on at the January council meeting. He then discussed the changes in processes for the next plan. Mr. Richter stated templates are on the "Strategic Visions" page of the bureau's website.

Data Committee

Chief Mack Kemp (for Charles Moreland) reported the committee will be working with the EMRC on reports from EMSTARS and linking up databases on the local, state and national levels. He then stated the committee formed three subcommittees to work on definitions, education and training, and outreach. He then stated an EMSTARS key users workshop was held on the previous Tuesday. Chief Kemp reported the committee also worked on their goals within the strategic plan.

Access to Care Committee

Chief Patterson reported the committee heard Dr. Nelson speak on EM systems. He then stated they are working with Beth Brunner from the Emergency Learning & Resource Center, Amy Paratore, Dr. Silvestri and others on the Access to Care position paper and best practices. He requested the constituency groups to review the paper and send him comments so they can ask for a vote on the paper at the January meeting. He also stated the committee will provide input on the STEMI issues. Chief Patterson reported the committee will be utilizing EMSTARS to capture patient wait times from offload from the ambulance until they are placed in a hospital bed.

Disaster Response Committee

Dr. Elias reported on the ambulance deployment presentation, which after a vetting process through various stakeholders, the committee wants to place on the disaster response website. He then reported on the state-of-the-state presentation given by the Division of Disease Control for Florida's response to the flu pandemic. Dr. Elias reported the committee discusses PPE guidance and flu vaccinations. He reminded the attendees to work on COOP plans for reduced workforce due to the flu and to partner with county emergency managers and county health departments to ensure lines of supplies for PPEs and vaccinations of employees. He stated the Department of Health's flu website, <http://www.myflusafety.com> has valuable information for providers as well as the public.

Amy Paratore announced the three poison centers in the state have been set up as H1N1 call centers.

Dr. Nelson requested the Disaster Response Committee help in coordination of the EM Systems project. Dr. Elias agreed.

Mr. Baker requested being on the Disaster Response Committee. Chairman Scott agreed.

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



Administrative Assistant I, Bureau of
EMS