



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
April 27, 2007

Doubletree Hotel, Cocoa Beach, Florida

Members Present

David Shatz, M.D., Physician, Chairperson
John Bixler, Paramedic, R.N., B.S.N., Chief, Bureau of EMS
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator, Non-Fire Service
Jeffrey Lindsey, PhD, Paramedic (Fire Service)
Greg Rubin, EMT, Fire
John Scott, RN, Air Ambulance Operator
Linda Swisher, Ed.D, EMS Educator
Bradley Elias, M.D., Physician
Jamie Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator
Javier Escobar, M.D., Hospital Administrator
William Fisher, III, Lay Elderly
Yvonne Bell, Lay Person
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation
Jennifer Roberts, R.N., Department of Education
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services
Walter Liddell, Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
Joe Nelson, MD, EMS State Medical Director
Julie Bacon, RN, EMS for Children

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Shatz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Shatz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the reciting of the pledge, Dr. Shatz conducted a roll call of all council members. Dr. Shatz then made a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler introduced the newly appointed Department of Health, Deputy Secretary, Jean Kline to the Advisory Council. Chief Bixler then introduced Todd Mechler, EMS Communications Engineer and Jennifer Roberts, Department of Education liaison.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported that the medical directors decided to use Department of Health's federal grant money to purchase Cyanokit for the cyanide antidote kits. He further stated that Dr. Elias and his group will be in charge of the distribution plan for the kits once they are purchased.

Dr. Nelson stated he is impressed with Dr. Broslow's new pediatric color coding system and feels it will go a long way towards the council's goals of patient safety and error reduction. He also reported that Angel Nater and the Quality Managers Association proposed new trauma performance indicators for Emergency Medical Systems Tracking and Reporting Systems (EMSTARS).

Dr. Nelson then reported that the Medical Directors discussed liaisons with other committees for the initiatives he brought forth at the January meeting. The first initiative, regarding the Institute of Medicine report and aligning it with the state plan will wait until Chuck Kearns and the Strategic Visions Committee gets that project underway. The second initiative on patient safety and error reduction was assigned to the Medical Care Committee. The third initiative on critical care transport paramedic education standards was assigned to the Education Committee. Dr. Nelson stated as soon as all the initiatives formally get underway, the medical directors would like to help guide those efforts.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Mr. Walter Liddell, Florida Highway Patrol

Mr. Liddell reported that the Florida Highway Patrol had fifty-five troopers graduated from the academy. He also reported that they are working with Dr. Nelson in getting AEDs for every marked trooper unit in the state.

Mr. Jaime Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Industry

Mr. Caldwell reported that they support the efforts of placing the AEDs in trooper units and if there is anything the Ambulance Association can do, let him know.

Mr. John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator

Mr. Scott reported that the 4 air medical groups met and identified more than 39 unlicensed air medical brokers in the state of Florida and it was decided further action will be taken including writing recommendations and a letter of complaint to the state. He also reported that Dr. Broslow's and Dr. Luten's presented at several air medical committee meetings and that they support the concept and would like to help initiate bringing those concepts to the community and other areas. The final issue Mr. Scott reported was the disaster plan outlining the Federal Aviation Administration implementation of operational control concepts for certificate holders. The air medical groups plans to create a plan that would outline how this affects them and the services they provide.

Dr. Linda Swisher

Dr. Swisher thanked Elsevier for hosting the dinner and continuing education program for the Educators held on Tuesday evening. Dr. Swisher reported that Dr. Rob Holborne will present to the council the dates and sites for the beta testing for the EMS instructor course that will serve as the minimum criteria for new instructors. Dr. Swisher announced that Dr. Lindsey is running for president-elect for the National EMS Educators and John Todaro is also running for a board position of the National EMS Educators. Dr. Swisher also encourages the committees and constituency groups to have Dr. Broslow come speak to them about his concepts.

Ms. Julie Bacon, EMSC Liaison

Ms. Bacon stated that she is happy that Dr. Broslow was well received. She then reported that EMS for Children will be partnering with Emergency Medical Learning and Resource Center (EMLRC) for the first annual prehospital pediatric educational symposium in the last week of November in Orlando.

Mr. Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services

Mr. Mechler reported that volume two of the EMS Communications Plan is being revised and they are attempting to release the new revision by the start of the hurricane season, therefore they request completion of the volume two survey by the EMS providers as soon as possible. Mr. Mechler stated that volume two will be carried in EMS vehicles and is a great source for radio frequencies, phone numbers, and it affects ESF8 ambulance dispatch, MED8 locations for the Florida Interoperability Network and it has information on MED82 efforts. Mr. Mechler also wanted to encourage the continued migration to narrow banding. He stated there is re-banding information for 800 megahertz systems at the DMS.myflorida.com website. Mr. Mechler concluded his report by stating that they will be consulting with Jacobs Technology about the problems with MED82.

CHAIRPERSON VOTE

Voting council members filled out the ballots for the chairperson. Desi Lassiter collected them. The top two choices will go to the Secretary of Health for approval and the top choice will take the role in July.

CERTIFICATION OF EMS INSTRUCTORS PRESENTATION

Dr. Rob Holborne, representing the Florida Association of EMS Educators, presented a power point presentation on the proposal defining some of the standards and requirements of how an emergency medical services instructor will be certified through the state. Dr. Holborne asked that the council members review the program, give feedback and at the July meeting the council consider supporting the proposal and placing it into rule; requiring that EMS educators have certain levels of training in order to teach EMTs and paramedics.

Dr. Holborne stated that there would be two beta tests of these programs, one on June 2nd at Seminole Community College and the other on June 30th at St. Pete Community College. He stated both will have a fee of twenty-five dollars that will go to the Florida Association of EMS Educators to help further develop the program.

Greg Rubin asked Dr. Holborne how this proposal compares to other states. Dr. Holborne answered by stating that the program is significantly less demanding than other states. Greg Rubin then asked if the potential instructors will have to demonstrate a level of competency. Dr. Holborne answered that the program will require a level of competency. He then asked how this compares to what the state already has for fire instructors. Discussion was held regarding Dr. Holborne's presentation. If you would like more details regarding the presentation, please contact Dr. Holborne at (407) 708-2406.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee, Linda Swisher

Dr. Swisher reported that Dr. Greg Margolis, Associate Director for the National Registry presented to the Education Committee and identified problem areas including the testing process itself for both instructors and students. Dr. Swisher thanked Chief Bixler and his employees from the Bureau of EMS for attending and showing support at the committee meeting.

Medical Care Committee, John Scott

Mr. Scott reported that three topics were discussed during their committee meeting. The first topic dealt with strategic goal 5.4 in relationship to cardiac care. He stated that the American Heart Association reported to the committee that the legislative package is moving through and once it is passed he will bring it to the council for recommendations on how to help prehospital services direct patients. The second topic was on strategic goal 5.1. The committee will tie the issue of EMS safety, medical errors and patient safety together to work on outcomes with constituency groups to improve these issues. The third topic was dealing with strategic goal 5.5 and the Medical Quality Assurance Plan. Mr. Scott stated that 64E identifies there has to be a QA/QI process but it is not well-defined. The committee had Angel Nater from the quality managers present to the committee and identified some performance indicators. Mr. Scott also noted that the committee recognizes that this should be linked to the EMSTARS data which would give a larger picture of what is happening in the state.

Chairperson Shatz then stated that he wants the council members and constituency groups and chairs to identify and address the strategic plan goals and objectives assigned to them in their meetings.

PIER Committee, Cory Richter

Mr. Richter thanked EMS for Children for having Dr. Broslow come and speak to their committee. Mr. Richter reported that their survey results are posted on FLEMSCOMM and they are working on using those results to get more educational and entry programs out to the state. Mr. Richter then stated that as part of the committee's strategic plan 2.1 goal they will be doing spot-like articles on FLEMSCOMM on their programs. Mr. Richter then invited anyone to come up to the capital for EMS Week on May 19th. He then reported that May 15th an Injury Prevention 101 class will be held in Tampa.

Legislative Committee, Greg Rubin

Mr. Rubin reported that the committee had a very productive discussion about discipline and reporting. He thanked Reggie Dickson from the Auditor General (AGs) office, MQA and the Bureau of EMS' investigative staff. He reported at the next meeting they will discuss 401 and how to improve the system on discipline and reporting.

Mr. Scott asked if there was any discussion regarding the impaired practitioner issue. Mr. Rubin answered that there was not any specific discussion regarding that issue, though it may be in the future.

Strategic Visions Committee, Lisa Walker (on behalf of Chuck Kearns)

Ms. Walker reported that there were a lot of discussion on future needs and ideas of more networking in order to not duplicate efforts. Ms. Walker stated that there will be a strategic planning session for which the dates will be posted on FLEMSCOMM. She then congratulated Chuck Kearns and SunStar for winning the Region Team Showcase for Sterling and they will be going to the national state championship. If they win, they will go on to the National American Society for Quality Conference. Florida has had the winning team for the last two out of three years.

Dr. Nelson then commented on the Strategic Plan and Institute of Medicine Report (IOM). He reported that the strategic plan is addressing about 85 percent of the issues in the IOM report. The three issues not addressed in the strategic plan from the IOM Report are medical direction, safety and error reduction, and disaster preparation.

Ms. Walker then stated that they are opening up the strategic planning session to more groups for input and information can currently be found on the bureau of EMS website. Dr. Shatz then asked if the website has the status of the strategic goals. Ms. Walker stated that they have some of the status of the goals but the committees need to do a better job of filtering in their information relating to the strategic plan and their assigned goals. She stated the website has the updated list of which goals and objectives that are assigned to each committee.

Data Committee, Robert Moreland

Chief Moreland had three items to report. The first is that 29 grant applications were received for Section 408 DOT Grant Funds and the proposal has been forwarded to the Florida DOT for final approval; it should be about two to three weeks after that approval to start distributing the funds to those organizations. The second item Chief Moreland reported on was the Spring Data Workshops. There are eight locations beginning in May that the EMSTARS project team will be traveling to discuss the EMSTARS project and how that process will work. Chief Moreland encourages everyone to attend a workshop near their city. The third item Chief Moreland reported on was about the Florida EMSTARS Website and if anyone has questions about the EMSTARS project, the website is up and running to answer them.

Chief Moreland then deferred to Levi Owens, Bureau of EMS. Mr. Owens then gave Chief Moreland an award for recognition of his hard work with the EMSTARS project.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Access to Care, Michael Patterson

Mr. Patterson reported that number two issue on the Governor's priority list is access to care. He also stated that he and Dr. Nelson presented access to care information to the new Secretary of Health.

Mr. Patterson reported that in March a town hall meeting was held in Tallahassee addressing the emergency department crisis in Florida and thanked all those from the EMS Community that attended. Mr. Patterson stated that Chief Moreland and Captain Tim Devin have agreed to help create a standard template in gathering data from participating agencies to help hospitals compare where they stand in emergency department park times and diverts. He stressed that this is only a concept that they are moving forward on and if an agency is interested in participating to speak with either him, Chief Moreland or Captain Devin. Chief Moreland said they are looking for around fifteen agencies to participate. Chief Moreland asked the council for two agencies submission of data relating to patient offload times. He then deferred to Captain Devin.

Captain Devin stated that they are looking to gather this data to see what the benchmark in the state is and what the average wait time is. He then deferred to Chief Moreland.

Chief Moreland stated he supports this effort and again reiterated the fact that this is an effort to be better informed when going into the EMS community to discuss these important matters.

Disaster Committee, Dr. Elias

Dr. Elias reported that the Ambulance Deployment Plan is approved and ready for use if needed. He stated they are working on a training document for EMS liaisons describing their responsibilities and expectations. Dr. Elias stated that they are also looking into potential training for the Strike Team and Ambulance Task Force leaders. Dr. Elias then welcomed Todd Mechler, the EMS Communications Engineer to their group. Dr. Elias reported that there are some issues regarding standardization of the MCI trailers. He recommends that agencies that have received the trailers to road test them. Dr. Elias then thanked Art Cooper from the Department of Health for his presentation on Pan-Flu. Dr. Elias stated the next project for the committee is regarding cyanide antidote distribution. He stated they have appealed to medical directors as well as the Florida Fire Chiefs Association for input on the distribution.

Paramedic Shortage, Chief Bingham

Dr. Shatz stated Chief Bingham was unable to attend the meeting but reported that he will have the final report by the time of the mid-quarter conference call.

Chairperson Shatz then motioned changing the Disaster Response and Access to Care Committees from Ad Hoc committees to standing committees. Greg Rubin seconded the motion. Dr. Elias and Greg Rubin stated their support on the motion. Dr. Shatz then brought the motion to a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Michael Patterson then motioned to accept the EMSTARS data dictionary and endorse it by the council. Dr. Elias seconded the motion. Dr. Shatz then brought the motion to a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairperson Shatz then stated he is appointing a work group under the council to address the issues with the testing application process and how to receive new applicants to EMS credentialing in the state. Dr. Shatz stated he has asked Danny Griffin to chair the group. Dr. Shatz feels there should be representation from the Bureau of EMS, Educators, Medical Quality Assurance (MQA), and possibly Information Technology (IT). Dr. Shatz hopes there will be a report come July with some progress.

Greg Rubin then asked about whether the Emergency Medical Review Committee is in draft or if it is established. Chief Bixler from the Bureau of EMS answered that it is a draft and the Bureau welcomes any input from the council. Greg Rubin then asked if there will be discussion on it at the July meeting. Chief Bixler answered yes.

Chairperson Shatz then announced that the next meeting would be on July 19th in Orlando in coordination with CLINCON.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 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 underline.

Administrative Assistant I, Bureau of EMS