



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 18, 2008

Hilton Cocoa Beach Grand Ballroom
Cocoa Beach, FL

Members Present

David Shatz, M.D., Physician, Chairperson
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator, Non-Fire Service
Chuck Kearns, MBA, Paramedic, Non-Fire Service
Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D. Paramedic, Fire Service
Greg Rubin, EMT, Fire
Linda Swisher, Ed.D., EMS Educator
John Scott, R.N., Air Ambulance Operator
Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse
Bradley Elias, M.D., Physician
William Fisher, Lay Elderly
Jamie Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator
Regina Sofer, Lay Person
Joe Nelson, D.O., EMS State Medical Director
Julie Bacon, R.N., EMS for Children
John Bixler, Paramedic, R.N., B.S.N., Chief, Bureau of EMS
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation

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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Following the reciting of the pledge, Dr. Shatz conducted a roll call of all council members.

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

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler reported that the State Surgeon General has appointed the Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) members and stated their names. Chief Bixler concluded by announcing the EMS State award winners.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported the medical directors worked on data elements for the state strategic plan including the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) and patient turnover. Dr. Nelson also stated the medical directors discussed position papers concerning the interface of the freestanding emergency departments. He also reported that the medical directors had an educational session with Dr. Caro from Shands Jacksonville regarding airway management. He concluded his report by stating the medical directors discussed the proposed legislation regarding emergency dispatchers and how they are in agreement in supporting the legislation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Julie Bacon

Ms. Bacon stated that the EMS for Children (EMSC) program has received federal funding for the next fiscal year. She then reported that liaisons from EMSC are now on the Medical Care Committee, Disaster Committee, Educators Committee, and the Public Information, Education and Relations (PIER) Committee. She concluded her report by stating they are continuing to work on the state strategic plan.

Trenda McPherson

Ms. McPherson reported that she has a draft report of the motorcycle program assessment and will give a copy to those who participated. She stated that they are revising the motorcycle safety strategic plan and anyone who wishes to participate in the roundtable discussions should visit the University of North Florida website to sign up.

Linda Swisher, Ed.D.

Dr. Swisher stated the Florida EMS Educators award deadline has been extended to May 1, 2008. She then reported the minimum criteria requirements for educators are now being reviewed by the Legislative Committee. Dr. Swisher then reported the educators are working on a minimum equipment list for training centers. She concluded her report by stating the critical care standards project is continuing forward with the competencies now being reviewed.

Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D.

Dr. Lindsey reported the fire chiefs worked on the state strategic plan. He also stated that in the next week he will be attending the first national EMS Advisory Council meeting in Washington, D.C.

Chuck Kearns

Mr. Kearns reported that the bill relating to the privacy of EMTs and Paramedics has stalled in the Florida Senate and encourages everyone to contact their senators to inquire as to why. Mr. Kearns announced the EMS system in Pinellas had a record patient transport month in March; the record was 429 patients in a twenty-four hour period. He concluded by reporting that they discussed the topic of diversions and that the topic was noted in the April issue of EMS Magazine with Sunstar EMS featured on the cover.

John Scott

Mr. Scott reported that the various air groups met and discussed several topics. The first topic was on Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) and how it would relate to the rotary wing industry. The second topic discussed was EMSTARS. The next topic discussed was the language developed in the neonatal pediatric workshop on minimum standards for transporting neonatal pediatric patients. Another topic discussed, along with Julie Bacon, was the state strategic plan. They also talked about the 911 dispatcher bill and how it would affect their dispatch centers. They also discussed creating language on standardizing approach and departure procedures to ensure safety across the state. Mr. Scott concluded his report by stating a letter was submitted to the Bureau of EMS in regards to the issue of climate control in helicopters and placing that in rule 64E.

Michael Patterson

Chief Patterson stated there are several house bills (HB) and senate bills (SB) to watch for that will affect the community. The first one is HB405 and SB1012 relating to direct payment bills for ambulance services. Another is HB891 which would add a one cent tax to raise funds for local EMS systems. Mr. Patterson stated the rural EMS community is concerned over the 911 dispatch bill because it would require 200 hours of training and the small rural communities who utilize sheriff offices for dispatching may not concern themselves with the training. Mr. Patterson concluded his report by stating the community should keep an eye on bills that may affect ad valorem or revenue from other sources.

Amy Paratore

Ms. Paratore reported that the Florida Emergency Nurses Association met to finalize the agenda for the Southeastern Seaboard Emergency Nurses Symposium that will take place in the upcoming weekend. She also stated the association hosted the Hillsborough County Mass Casualty Disaster Drill in Tampa and she hopes to present findings from that drill to the Disaster Committee at the July meetings. She then reported that a survey regarding how paramedics are being used in emergency departments will be sent to hospitals next week. She stated the association also discussed prehospital cooling and hypothermia devices currently being used in the state. She concluded by stating if there was a way to place RNs and physicians onto the bill relating to privacy of EMTs and Paramedics, then the association would like to see that happen.

Todd Mechler

Mr. Mechler reported that federal funds were granted to proceed with phases one and two of the annual interoperability project. He also stated that a website is being developed to make training and education more accessible to the constituents in the area of responders and communication. He concluded his report by stating that volume two of the EMS Communications Plan will be finished and printed by the time of the next council meeting.

Dennis Ward from Palm Beach County Ocean Rescue introduced Joe McManus, president of the United States Lifesaving Association, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on concerns with EMTs in the field of ocean rescue and how ocean lifeguards are under utilized. At the end of the presentation David Thorne, a full-time lifeguard and EMT from Palm Beach County, lent his support to the presentation.

Michael Greif reported that COPCN was moving into the rule hearing phase.

Chairperson Shatz then had the ballots distributed for the Chair position that will become vacant in July and instructed the council members to mark their top two choices to be considered by the State Surgeon General. The ballots were then collected.

The EMS Advisory Council meeting logistics were then discussed and it was decided the Bureau of EMS will gather more information before the council votes on the issue of meeting costs.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Linda Swisher reported the committee reviewed their goals and successes from the 2006-2008 state strategic plan. She concluded her report by stating the committee discussed critical care standards.

Medical Care Committee

John Scott reported the committee discussed the development of the critical care paramedic, medical director oversight in the case of deployment of paramedics during a disaster, the QA/QI process and how it relates to the EMRC, the use of tourniquets for hemorrhage control, and lastly the committee discussed patients who are involved in law enforcement.

Legislative Committee

Greg Rubin reported the committee discussed the 911 dispatcher bill. Mr. Rubin stated there will be a rule workshop in July on the topic of EMS instructors. He then stated the committee discussed a 401 statute rewrite and the committee also discussed specialty care transport.

Strategic Visions Committee

Julie Bacon reported version 5.2 of the 2008-2010 state strategic plan has been completed. She then tasked chairs of sub-committees to put together a charter for the plan to be signed by the July meeting. She then stated that every sub-committee and constituency group who has an objective lead will be asked to submit action plans to Lisa Walker from the Bureau of EMS. Ms. Bacon reported that these action plans will be posted online so that groups can see what the other committees are doing so not to duplicate efforts. Ms. Bacon then requested that any accomplishments from the 2006-2008 plan be forwarded to Lisa Walker.

Data Committee

Chief Charles Moreland reported that they were able to send to the National EMS Database 110,000 records. He then stated the names of the pilot provider agencies that helped in the accomplishment. Chief Moreland reported the committee is working on the trauma scorecard integration with EMSTARS and with the Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) and how to accomplish their needs.

Access to Care

Michael Patterson reported that on April 29th, negotiations are scheduled for the communications and patient tracking solutions with vendors. He stated this system will be able to track the patient from the time of incident all the way through the continuum of care. Chief Patterson then stated the committee is working on outreach to the community.

Disaster Committee

Dr. Brad Elias started his report by stating the committee has a positive position on the Sacco Triage Method and recommends further study into the method. He then reported that the committee is working on the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) trailers and the deadline for retrofit repairs is approaching. He also stated the committee is working on establishing minimum equipment lists for the MCI trailers. Dr. Elias reported the distribution of the Cyanokits® and AtroPen® kits will be within the next couple of months. He then stated Terry Shank provided the committee with an update on triage in the Alternate Medical Treatment Sites (ATMS). Dr. Elias said the beta sites for the ATMS will have exercises soon. Dr. Elias concluded by stating a vendor was selected for training of the Strike Team and the training will occur in the next couple of months.

Chuck Kearns then stated the Florida Association of County Emergency Medical Services (FACEMS) took a vote and supported unanimously on adding a data set to EMSTARS so, when a patient is a stemi alert, the hospital can direct them to the proper PCI facility.

Chuck Kearns made a motion to recognize the United States Lifesaving Association Southeast Region as a new constituency group. The motion was seconded and voted on. Motion was carried forward.

Chairperson Shatz then announced that the next meeting would be on July 10, 2008, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:31 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 distinct "J" before the last name.

Administrative Assistant I, Bureau of
EMS