

**FAEMSE
October 2007
Meeting**



**10/10/2007
10:30 AM
Orlando, Fl.**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 10:40 AM with an opening welcome from President Danny Griffin. He then opened with a discussion regarding the previously agreed to project to replace the National Registry EMT test currently in use by the state. He stated that the current estimate for developing this exam was approximately \$100,000. He also noted that NHTSA is in the process of implementing the "Agenda for the Future" for EMS which will require all states to nationally certify EMTs and Paramedics. This means that if we were to develop a new EMT test, we would have to revert to the national exam shortly after the project was completed. Based on this, and with the ascent of the attending members, the project was halted.

Next the discussion moved to other old business. President Griffin informed the group that subsequent to our discussion with Jennifer Weinhold of MQA at the last meeting about the credentials of test writers that she had sent a copy of those credentials to the association. He stated that a review of these credentials revealed a comprehensive list of providers that included PhD's, NFA instructors, ACLS and PALS instructors. She invited the association to suggest three paramedics to be considered for the next test item writers for the project.

Jane Bedford then gave a report on the Critical Care Paramedic project. She stated that with the help of Lisa Walker she had received surveys from 36 providers. She is in the process of developing a minimum curriculum for Florida critical care providers.

Louis Mallory then spoke about the recent changes in the FAEMSE web site. He said the web site has been moved to an new internet service provider at a savings of \$200/ year. He added that a database of member information would be on the web site soon, and that it would be available to members only. He then entertained a motion to change the bylaws. He moved that the current membership levels be changed from Full, Honorary and Institutional to Primary, Associate, Honorary and Corporate Memberships. Under the current scheme institutional memberships cost \$120 and includes up to five members. This plan means that all five "members" are under the same account, and this makes tracking members under this scheme very difficult. Under the new plan there would be a primary member for the institution, and associate members under the primary member. Primary membership would cost \$35 and associate membership would cost \$25. This would save institutions with fewer than five members some money, and would again make tracking members exponentially easier. The motion to propose the changes in the bylaws was approved, and the proposal will be posted for 30 days on the FAEMSE web site before a final vote is called.

Next Ricky Stone of the Florida Bureau of EMS (BEMS) spoke. He noted that the current pass-fail data was not available for the meeting due to some bad data that was discovered late in the process. They will be sent to the program directors as soon as the error is corrected, he added.

He said BEMS is planning to release yearly pass/fail statistics in January. Louis Mallory asked if it was possible for program directors to query the data themselves. Betsy Hines of MQA said that this possible. She then added that there are new EMT and Paramedic applications that go into effect October 16th, 2007. At that time they will take either the new or the old application. She explained that the new application did not need to be notarized, and the student will not be required to send copies of CPR cards. She said the CPR cards will be audited randomly to assure compliance.

Todd Soard asked if the applications could be completed online, and Ms. Hines replied that their current plan was that they be submittable online by May 2008. Marge Bowers asked if there was going to be a problem with National Registry because the state no longer verifies CPR certification for all applicants. Danny Griffin asked that we check with NREMT on that.

An unidentified participant asked how long it would be before it was possible he was audited. Ms. Hines and Mr. Stone both replied that applicants needed to maintain old cards, because they could be audited at any time. They added that should it be discovered that the proper documentation is not available; the provider's license will be revoked for fraudulently obtaining a license.

Rod McGinnes asked Ricky Stone if the Department of Education's Curriculum Frameworks requirements applied to private training centers as well as college based programs. Mr. Stone replied that those requirements apply to all training centers.

Rob Holburn then spoke on the EMS instructor certification project. He stated that the plan put together by the EMS educators had been submitted to the EMS advisory board, and that they had asked that more hours be included. He has since revised the hours and reduced the number of levels from four to three. He noted that there was a meeting later the same day to discuss final revisions on the project.

Danny Griffin asked that a committee be formed to review the equipment list, and asked Rod McGinnes and Mike Flannigan to serve on that committee. He then turned his attention to the strategic plan.

President Griffin began a powerpoint presentation about the state strategic plan and what changes are under way to. They are as follows...

- 3.1: The state will use a certification exam that meets NHTSA requirements.
- 3.3: There will be a definition of the paramedic scope of practice.
- 3.5 will remove the current two hour HIV requirement.
- 3.6 will adopt the NHTSA recertification requirements.
- 3.7 will establish minimum Emergency Medical Dispatcher requirements.
- 3.9 will require that all Florida training centers become nationally accredited.

Julie Bacon then spoke about the "Kid Kit" that had been distributed to EMS providers and training centers. She explained that the kit contained a CD with powerpoints related to dealing with pediatric patients in disasters, as well as a DVD with a video on the same subject. She asked that members provide her with input on how to implement the programs. She added that there will be a Prehospital Pediatrics Education Symposium November 27th and 28th, 2007 in Orlando. John Todaro added that there is scholarship money for up to 60 students attend the conference.

Danny Griffin then began a discussion on NHTSA's ongoing project to revise our industry. He pointed out that there are several phases to this change and the educational standards and instructional guidelines are currently being developed. He pointed out that drafts of these documents were being posted at www.nemses.org or (http://www.nemsed.org/draft_standards/pdf/education_standards_document.pdf) > He pointed out that these changes include national EMS certification of providers and national EMS program accreditation. Under the proposed plan these changes, all levels of emergency responder will be standardized into one of four national EMS certifications by 2010-11. He stated that classes will have to be conducted to update provider's certifications to one of the new levels. The group discussed the problems associated with practical testing by the NREMT for paramedics, and some audience members (unidentified) suggested that there might not be a practical exam at that point. Mr. Griffin added that the plan calls for new text books to be developed by 2009 and NREMT has plans to update their exams to include the new material by 2009. He then asked the audience what they thought Florida will do in response to these proposed changes. There was some discussion about whether federal funds would be tied to compliance.

Dr. Joseph Nelson stated that the federal experience during their response to Hurricane Katrina taught them that non-standard training among EMS personnel was a problem. Jamie Greene added that similar efforts are underway in Law Enforcement and Fire for the same reasons.

The subject then turned to CoAEMSP accreditation. An audience member asked if it was possible for a private training center to become CoAEMSP accredited. Dr. Nelson replied that they could. Jamie Greene put forth a motion that the Association investigates the possibility of bringing someone from CoAEMSP to Florida to conduct a workshop on how to become accredited. The motion was seconded, and when put to a vote, carried. Someone pointed out that the National Association of EMS Educator's conference will be in Orlando in 2009. John Todaro stated that EMLRC could host a workshop.

BEMS Director John Bixler then addressed the group, asking if anyone had questions. An audience member asked if we could add a requirement that all training centers be CoAEMSP accredited. He replied that they could and that the topic could be added to the next open slot in the rule work shop schedule. He added that he supports the proposed change.

Mr. Griffin then stated that we've been given an opportunity to select three people to review the exam. He made a motion that we send a request out via the list server for reviewers and ask for a one page resume from those interested. The motion was seconded, and when put to a vote, passed.

Marge Bowers then put forth a motion that we promulgate a rule to require that all EMS training centers be required to be CoAEMSP accredited by 2010. The motion was seconded and, when put to a vote, passed.

Mr. Griffin then announced that the next meeting would be at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Jacksonville January 23rd through the 25th. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 AM.

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