

**Florida Fire Chiefs' Association
EMS Section**

October 11, 2007

Orlando, FL

Present: Colburn, Lindsey, Sheridan, Moreland, Locicero, Azzariti

Absent: Ferrara, Moeller, Bingham

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Colburn at 0905 hours. The new section member's leadership was introduced.

Chief Moreland gave a report on EMStars. Everything is on track and moving fast. Uploading on EMStars is much faster than previous systems. This is still a voluntary process. There are ten agencies coming on board on October 16. Additional information can be obtained at www.EMStars.com.

Chief Holler advised that a draft of the strategic plan need to be reviewed in reference to EMStars.

Bureau Chief Bixler advised that the intent of putting EMStars in rule is to establish a business rule. Data submitted in proper manner is the intent of the rule. Discussion on why it has to be in rule took place. Data quality could be impacted by not putting it in rule in a positive way. There was concern about being in rule and penalizing the provider versus working with provider to fix issues. A suggestion was made to develop a guidebook. Chief Bixler took the suggestion of the group and will develop a guidebook versus putting it into rule.

Chief Bixler gave the Bureau update. There was approval to rewrite statutory language to change fees. It was sent to the Surgeon General's office at which time the fee change was denied. There will be no fee changes this year. The Bureau is still bleeding as a result of this. The Bureau has an outstanding debt in test fees but is not currently paying it. He is anticipating bringing this issue up at the end of the next legislative session. He will discuss with the EMSAC Chair Dr Shatz of when to revisit this issue. There was discussion on this issue and the impact on grants and the trust fund.

Chief Azzariti advised the group he is keeping current with and assisting in the COPCN issue.

Chief Locicero gave an overview on the critical care paramedic course and will continue to keep the section updated as it progresses.

Chief Holburn gave an overview of the progress of the EMS Instructor guidelines. The language was made clear on the preceptor language. The guidelines mainly affect

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training institutes. The guidelines will be voted by the EMSAC in the near future. The section had no issues with the guidelines.

Chief Azzariti gave an update on legislative issues. PIP passed. There is hope that a set amount will be set aside for EMS. There are still a number of issues with tax reform. Chief Azzariti is looking for stories on fireworks. Please e-mail any stories to the EMS Section Chair on data on injuries or fires as a result of fireworks.

Gary Rainey gave an overview on tax reform. The homestead exemption is to increase to \$50,000, portability goes with the person in a proportional amount according to what they sell and what they buy. Education is currently exempt from any reform. There is proposed an elimination of taxes for eligible seniors. Some affordable housing owners are exempt. Waterfront property has some exclusions. Energy efficient homes have some exclusions. The Governor, House and Senate are supposedly all on the same page. There may be CRA funds available to fund fire and EMS services. There was a lengthy discussion on the issue.

Cory Richter presented a report on the State's updated strategic plan. He asked the section to take the lead on 3.4, 4.3 and 4.4.

Dr. Elias reported on the disaster committee actions. They are working on solidifying EMS liaisons and SERP. The Cyanokit is projected to rollout in December or January. They are acquiring funding to retrofit the MCI trailers in the state. They are exploring a new triage system called Sacco and will have a presentation at the January meetings. They are also looking at developing disaster protocols.

Terry Schenk noted that there is alternative treatment sites being tested in 3 counties.

The section agrees to take on the three strategic goals. The Chair appointed Vice Chair Lindsey to oversee the work. Goal 3.4 was assigned to Chief Coulter from Estero Fire Rescue as the lead and Goals 4.3 and 4.4 was assigned to Chief Sheridan from Tamarac Fire Rescue.

Chief Azzariti discussed the white paper on paramedic shortage that was developed by Chief Bingham and his committee.

Chief Colburn noted that the next meeting will be at Fire Rescue East in Jacksonville in January. This will be the last year in Jacksonville. He also noted there is work to develop an EMS program for FRE.

Chief Colburn closed the meeting at 1045 hours.

Chief Colburn appointed Chief Sheridan as the Secretary for the Section.

Respectfully submitted by:
Vice Chair Lindsey