



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
January 25, 2008

Prime Osborne Convention Center
Jacksonville, FL

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
Chuck Kearns, MBA, Paramedic, Non-Fire Service
William Bingham, EMS Administrator, Fire
Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D. Paramedic (Fire Service)
Greg Rubin, EMT, Fire
John Scott, R.N., Air Ambulance Operator
Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse
Bradley Elias, M.D., Physician
Jamie Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator
Regina Sofer, Lay Person
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation
Walter Liddell, Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
Joe Nelson, D.O., EMS State Medical Director
Julie Bacon, R.N., EMS for Children
Dave Casey, Department of Financial Services
Jennifer Roberts, Department of Education
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services

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.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler introduced Regina Sofer as the new lay person for the council. He then stated that Dr. Jeff Lindsey has been appointed to the National EMS Advisory Council. Chief Bixler reminded the council that nominations are now being accepted for EMS Administrator (non-fire), EMS Administrator (fire), Lay Elderly, Emergency Nurse, EMT (non-fire), and Commercial Ambulance Operator for the council. He also stated that the deadline for the state EMS awards is March 14, 2008. He then reported that Florida has volunteered to join a pilot program with the National Association of State EMS Officials and he will send a draft of the details to the council members soon. Chief Bixler reported that the Bureau is not sponsoring any bills for legislature this spring but will monitor any bills that affect the community. Chief Bixler then stated the COPCN rule workshop and data training workshops were held earlier in the week. The language developed from the COPCN workshop will be taken to a hearing for which he will give notice to the community and council.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported the medical directors discussed their involvement in the strategic plan. Dr. Nelson stated Dr. Greg Myers gave a presentation on hypothermia. A presentation on cardiopulmonary resuscitation was also given at the meeting. Dr. Nelson stated the last topic discussed was the first draft of the critical care paramedic training guidelines. He stated the draft of that document is available from the Educators Association for comment.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Jeffrey Lindsey

Dr. Lindsey reported that Chief Moreland and Chief Howard gave updates on EMSTARS and they encouraged the providers to complete the survey available on the EMSTARS website. He then stated the Florida Fire Chiefs Association discussed paramedic shortage, COPCN, instructor proposal and the Strategic Plan. Dr. Lindsey concluded by asking the council and community to make note of the issues DMAT teams may encounter transitioning their recordings from VHS to HHS.

Ruben Almaguer (for Craig Fugate)

Mr. Almaguer reported that the State Division of Emergency Management held the first wildfire summit. He wanted to remind the community and council to make sure plans for emergency wildfires are up-to-date.

Greg Rubin

Mr. Rubin reported that COPCN was discussed as well as any legislative actions that may affect EMS in the future.

Amy Paratore

Ms. Paratore stated that the Florida Emergency Nurses Association is working with Access to Care on emergency room diversions. She then stated the Legislative Committee will send out a survey to the emergency departments to gather data on how paramedics are being utilized in emergency departments across the state. Ms. Paratore reported that she will be working with the trauma centers to ensure the emergency departments are working with the trauma services on disaster planning. She concluded with stating that the association is happy to work with the community on the hypothermia topic.

John Scott

Mr. Scott reported that COPCN was discussed and how it applies to the air medical transport environment. Mr. Scott stated Bob Howard from the Department of Emergency Management gave a presentation on how air medical transport can work with his department. Mr. Scott reported that they discussed changes to the disaster plan. He also stated that the safety summit went well and they are looking into holding another one. Mr. Scott reported they discussed the Strategic Plan.

Chuck Kearns

Mr. Kearns reported that there are concerns over some legislative bills. The first concern is the bill regarding paramedics working in emergency departments. Mr. Kearns stated he will bring those concerns to the Senator sponsoring the bill. He then reported that he is negotiating with EMS Magazine to present Pinellas County's program to eliminate bed delays. He then stated that Pinellas County will sponsor a national conference for EMS geared toward supervisory and management candidates in EMS. He concluded that COPCN was discussed and another rule workshop was requested on the issue.

Michael Patterson

Mr. Patterson reported the Association of Rural EMS Providers continues to award scholarships to EMTs and paramedics in rural counties. Mr. Patterson then stated that George Danz of the Association of Florida Trauma Agencies is retiring.

William Bingham

Chief Bingham reported that the fire chiefs are monitoring legislation and preparing for upcoming rule workshops.

Jennifer Roberts

Ms. Roberts reported that the state supervisor for fire and public safety has resigned and they are currently looking for a replacement.

Todd Mechler

Mr. Mechler reported that the technical advisory panel has identified a critical need for communications training. He then stated that the panel will establish a subcommittee to address the issue.

Julie Bacon

Ms. Bacon announced the first pediatric symposium was held and because of its success they hope to hold another one this fall. She then stated that some topics that the EMSC advisory committee are discussing includes pediatric on and off line medical direction protocols, education at all levels and integration of pediatric issues into the disaster plans.

Dave Casey

Mr. Casey reported that the state fire marshal has a new online training portal at www.florida-elearning.com. He stated that the first offering of training is for the continuing education of fire inspectors and this training could also be used by medical directors. He also stated that the website references the ambulance response plan, a code of ethics adopted in the Florida Fire Chiefs emergency response plan, and a printable go-kit. He concluded by reporting they are offering around the state, the type two technical team leadership, the strike team and task force leaders course. More classes will be coming. Chairman Shatz requested a motion to approve the minutes from the previous advisory council. Michael Patterson moved the motion. William Bingham seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Bixler requested version eleven of the Emergency Medical Review Committee document be voted on for approval. Michael Patterson motioned for the approval. Motion passed nine to two.

Julie Bacon and Cory Richter gave a presentation on version five of the Strategic Plan 2008-2010. Chuck Kearns made a motion to approve the strategic plan. Greg Rubin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to accept the final draft of the Florida certified emergency medical services instructor document. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was held on the paramedic shortage document. Several constituent groups had withdrawn support for the most current draft of the document. Greg Rubin motioned to table the document until the next meeting. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. David Owens from NEMSIS gave a presentation.

Cory Richter gave a presentation on the CD being produced by PIER and EMS for Children.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medical Care Committee

John Scott reported that the committee discussed the strategic plan. He stated the committee's focus is to determine which indicators they would like to discuss as a group.

PIER Committee

Cory Richter reported that the committee worked on the CD and the strategic plan.

Data Committee

Charles Moreland thanked David Owens and Wendy Webber from NEMSIS for coming and giving input related to EMSTARS. Chief Moreland reported that there are eleven stage one pilot groups, four of which are reporting data monthly. He then stated eighteen stage two pilot groups will begin in February. He also reported that there will be fifty-four charter agencies in July. Chief Moreland reported that key user training was held on January 22, 2008. He then stated that draft reports from the EMSTARS data are in the beginning stages of development. Chief Moreland reported the committee is continuing to move forward with the strategic plan. He then stated that EMSTARS will begin to upload to NEMSIS beginning in February, with April as the start up goal for submitting 100 percent.

Access to Care Committee

Michael Patterson introduced Chief David James who will be assisting the committee on new projects. Chief James stated that a new focus of the committee will be health and wellness and reducing the number of medical emergency calls to fire-rescue agencies. He stated that the committee will focus on reaching out to the public through fire station open house events and health fairs.

Disaster Response Committee

Dr. Brad Elias reported that Bob Howard from the Division of Emergency Management, Air Operations Committee, gave a presentation. He also reported that the committee had a discussion on the SACCO triage method. Dr. Elias will present a more formal assessment on SACCO triage versus START triage to the council at a later time. He then reported the committee addressed the ambulance deployment plan and that SERT has been revised in relation to the plan. Dr. Elias reported that a letter has been drafted by the committee to send to the medical directors regarding the CYANO kits. The selection of the vendor for distribution of the kits is in its final stages and will be announced soon. He also stated that a training video for the kits will be accessible on the Bureau of EMS website. Dr. Elias then reported that the strike team leadership training program will model California's version. He then stated that the vendor of the NCI triage tags will replace the defective tags sent out earlier. Dr. Elias reported that Lloyd Parker presented to the committee on the federal government's plan to regionalize DMAT medical caches. He concluded by stating that Corky Young gave a presentation to the committee on Lake Sumter's response to a tornado event. Chairperson Shatz requested that Dr. Elias put on the committee's agenda to look into the future of a statewide structure for nonprofessional, nationally recognized responders.

It was recommended by Secretary, Chuck Kearns to amend the bylaws for the following changes: replace the terms "Secretary" and "Secretary of Health" with "State Surgeon General", to delete the EMS Plan Review Committee, rename "EMS Future Committee" to "EMS Strategic Visions Committee", and add the Access to Care Committee. The changes were unanimously voted in favor by the council.

Chairperson Shatz then announced that the next meeting would be on April 18, 2008, at the Hilton Cocoa Beach in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Alexander Macy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander J. Macy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'A'.

Administrative Assistant I, Bureau of
EMS