



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
July 19, 2007

Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, 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
Chad Reed, EMT Non-Fire
Ruben Almaguer, Emergency Management
Dave Casey, Fire Marshall
William Fisher, III, Lay Elderly
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation
Jennifer Roberts, R.N., Department of Education
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services
Joe Nelson, M.D., EMS State Medical Director
Julie Bacon, R.N., EMS for Children
Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse

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

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CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Shatz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Mr. John Scott 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 April meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler thanked everyone who participated in the State EMS awards banquet the previous night.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported that the medical directors discussed providing support in clinical expertise to the Division of Emergency Management in the event that the State Emergency Operation Center is activated. He also reported that the directors discussed the critical care education standards project and they are looking forward to reviewing the first draft of the project. Dr. Nelson stated that the national scope of practice curriculum is under way and should finish in the next year. He then stated there will be representation at the strategic planning session for the state's EMS plan in September. Dr. Nelson concluded by discussing the resolution that passed by the medical directors to create an Office of Cardiovascular Health at the Department of Health.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services

Mr. Mechler stated the EMS Communications Plan Volume II revision is almost complete. He concluded his report by stating his intent to develop a radio education program to provide information from a layman's point of view.

Bradley Elias, M.D., Physician

Dr. Elias commented on his recent visit to a disaster preparedness conference for disabled persons in Jacksonville and encouraged members of the council and constituent groups to keep disabled persons in mind when preparing their disaster plans. Dr. Elias concluded by suggesting that council members and constituents invite disabled persons to their disaster drills.

Linda Swisher, Educators

Dr. Swisher made a motion to the council to accept the final draft of criteria for the Florida certified EMS instructors. Chairperson Shatz said the council will address the motion when the meeting comes to the voting section.

John Scott, Air Ambulance

Mr. Scott first acknowledged Julie Bacon for receiving the Transport Member of the Year by the Florida Neonatal and Pediatric Association. He then stated the national Air Medical Transport conference is in Tampa this year. Mr. Scott reported that his group will meet with Maria Fernandez and FEMA to discuss safety in the air transport industry. He concluded by reporting that they would like to have an Air Medical representative to sit on the FEMA board for any future disaster planning.

Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurses

Ms. Paratore first stated that the Florida Emergency Nurses Association decided to send 35 delegates to the national association meeting. She reported one of the main initiatives at the national meeting is standardizing triage levels. Ms. Paratore then stated that the association will participate in a national study focusing on flexible staffing to help shortages at overcrowded ERs. She concluded her report stating that the association will look at their TNCC programs undergoing changes and how to make a smooth transition to those changes.

Chad Reed, EMT, Non-Fire

Mr. Reed announced he is now with the Dixie County Sheriff's Office and is focusing on putting AEDs in patrol vehicles, continuing education for the patrol officers, conducting programs for youths to lower teenage automobile crashes and decreasing prescription drug abuse.

Jaime Caldwell, Florida Ambulance Association

Mr. Caldwell asked Chief Bixler which version of the QA Committee plan the association needs to review; Chief Bixler confirmed version 8. Mr. Caldwell then reported that the association is discussing COPCN guidelines and has decided a position on application fees that will be discussed later in the Advisory Council meeting.

Chairperson Shatz then discussed two topics involving the trauma centers: diversions and hand surgeons.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief Bixler stated that the Bureau would like to see the statute governing fee schedules moved into rule. He proposes that the language in rule simply states that fees charges will equal the cost of service.

Dr. Shatz announced he will again be Chairperson, John Scott as vice-chair and Chuck Kearns as Secretary for the Advisory Council.

Julie Bacon then presented to the council information packets with items to help the EMS for Children program further improve prehospital care. She then announced the pediatric symposium on November 27th in Orlando. Dr. Romig distributed the Kids In Disasters kits to the council that will be given to every EMS provider in the state. Dr. Romig then showed the council the triage video that EMS for Children made. Dr. Romig concluded by asking the council to get with their groups to support refunding the EMS for Children grants.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Dr. Swisher reported that the educators have chosen a coordinator, Jane Bedford, for the Critical Care Paramedic Standards committee. She also mentioned that Steve McCoy and Rickey Stone from the Bureau of EMS have presented data on pass/fail rates for review to the educators.

Medical Care Committee

John Scott stated that the Medical Care Committee is not certain if they can complete three objectives from the strategic plan by the end of the year: quality assurance, cardiac legislation, and reducing medical errors.

PIER Committee

Cory Richter reported that the Injury Prevention 101 course was successful. He then stated that PIER's first injury prevention article was placed in the last issue of the Bureau of EMS' newsletter. Mr. Richter reported that the committee will hold a two day workshop to work out ideas on how to distribute information about PIER to different agencies. He concluded by stating that PIER is interested in adding an injury prevention award category to the State EMS awards.

Legislative Committee

Mr. Rubin reported that the committee met and discussed issues on medical directors, fees, federal issues such as the Medicare Ambulance Payment Extension Act and documentation required for transporting patients.

Strategic Vision Committee

Lisa Walker reminded the council of the upcoming strategic planning session on September 5th and 6th in Tampa.

Data Committee

Chief Charles Moreland reported that the committee had eight productive workshops. The committee then met to answer all the questions that came from the workshops. He then reported that the alpha testing for the EMSTARS project will begin in August at Jacksonville Fire Rescue. He encouraged the council and constituents to visit the EMSTARS website for updates on the project. Chief Moreland concluded by stating the committee is on target with their objectives in the strategic plan.

Access to Care Committee

Michael Patterson reported that the program in Miami/Dade has proven successful with an average time of 13 minutes from when the EMS provider arrives at the hospital to taking the patient off the EMS gurney. He then reported that the Committee on Trauma will be joining the Access to Care Committee to help resolve diversion issues in the state.

Disaster Response Committee

Dr. Bradley Elias stated that the cyanide antidote distribution plan the committee made is voluntary and each agency will have autonomy in regards to those kits. He also mentioned that each agency will be given a minimum of two kits. Dr. Elias reported that the committee will revisit their ambulance deployment plan in "no notice deployment" situations and to increase training for the leadership roles. Dr. Elias concluded with a brief description of the presentations made at the previous committee meeting.

The Bureau of EMS then presented a video of the EMS Week Kick-Off Celebration held in Tallahassee.

Danny Griffen from the Florida Association of US Educators gave an update on the EMT and paramedic testing issues in Florida and will report to the council more on the issues at the October Council meeting.

Dr. Byers from the Florida Committee on Trauma gave a presentation on the Walk Safe Program. She also mentioned the Committee on Trauma is working with the Office of Injury Prevention and PIER to create a course for nurses who run injury prevention programs at the trauma centers. Dr. Byers reported that a new ATLS center opened in Hollywood, the committee is working on hand surgery issues in Florida, the trauma registry will interface with EMSTARS in the future, and the committee is working on raising trauma center standards.

MOTIONS

Dr. Swisher motioned to accept criteria for the Florida certified EMS instructors. Mr. Scott seconded it. Greg Rubin brought it up for discussion. A discussion was held. Dr. Swisher then withdrew the motion.

Mr. John Scott motioned to move forward in taking the fee schedule out of statute and placed into rule. Mr. Fisher seconded the motion. A discussion was held. Mr. Scott then withdrew his motion.

Mr. Scott motioned to change the statutory language to reflect a capped fee for the recovery of fee costs to the Bureau of EMS. Mr. Rubin seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Chairperson Shatz then announced that the next meeting would be on October 12th in Orlando in coordination with EMS EXPO.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 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, stylized initial "A".

Administrative Assistant I, Bureau of EMS