



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 10, 2008

Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, FL

Members Present

Chuck Kearns, MBA, Chairman Elect
David Shatz, M.D., Physician, Outgoing Chairman
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator, 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
Regina Sofer, Lay Person
Joe Nelson, D.O., EMS State Medical Director
Julie Bacon, R.N., EMS for Children
Tom Quillin, EMT, Non-Fire
William Colburn, EMS Administrator, Fire
Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator
John Bixler, Paramedic, R.N., B.S.N., Chief, Bureau of EMS
Todd Mechler, Department of Management Services
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation
Jennifer Roberts, R.N., Department of Education

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman 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 April meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler reported that a representative from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) attended some of the constituency meetings to present information regarding the utilization of the Orlando International Airport as a quarantine station, similar to the one at Miami International Airport. He then reported the Bureau of Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program and the Office of Injury Prevention have joined the Division of Emergency Medical Operations (DEMO). Michael Greif, the attorney for DEMO, then gave the details of the rule workshop outcomes regarding 911 dispatchers, paramedic and EMT applications and testing, EMS instructors, and neonatal transports. Mr. Greif also reported that a rule hearing on Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) will be held on July 14th in Tallahassee.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported the medical directors will be teaming with the Disaster Committee to work on goal six of the strategic plan. He then reported the medical directors elected Dr. George Ralls as the president of the Medical Directors Association for next year. Dr. Nelson stated that Dr. Cathy Shrank, medical director for the City of Miami, gave a Continuing Medical Education lecture on complex medical devices. He also stated the medical directors heard the presentation from the CDC representative. Dr. Nelson reported he gave a state of the state presentation at the Broward County Fire Chief's EMS Conference in May and at a meeting in Hernando County. He then reported that he is challenging the medical directors to institute post-cardiac arrest cerebral hypothermia in the EMS systems. Dr. Nelson concluded his report by stating the Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) is continuing to work on bylaws.

STATE TRAUMA DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Byers reported the Florida Committee on Trauma discussed improving trauma registry data and coordinating with the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS). She reported the trauma agencies are reviewing 64E rules for rewrites and rule workshops will be announced in the future. Dr. Byers reported that Dr. Shatz held a discussion about utilizing tourniquets. She stated the research pillar will work with Department of Health (DOH) on making the trauma registry available for research inquiries. She reported the hand surgery study is ongoing. She then stated they would like to work with the Diversion Committee to reinstate the diversion log. Dr. Byers reported the Deployment Committee will look at the impact of the new trauma standards on the community hospitals. She stated the Prevention Committee would like to work with the Office of Injury Prevention to evaluate the impact of falls at trauma centers. She then reported the walk safe propagation is moving along and the trauma program managers would like to have better access to the PIER 101 Injury Prevention course.

She then reported the Disaster Committee has conducted eight Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness courses and will conduct more throughout the year. Dr. Byers reported that Dr. Mozingo's burn training video game will be available in a few months. She concluded her report noting the Rehab Committee implemented the ventilator dependent diaphragm pacing program at the Miami Jewish Home for the Aged.

Outgoing Chairman Dr. Shatz was then presented a plaque for service on the council.

Mr. Chuck Kearns accepted his new position as Chairman of the council and the outgoing members were presented plaques. The incoming members were then introduced: Tom Quillin, EMT (non-fire), Alan Skavronek, Commercial Ambulance Operator, William Colburn, EMS Administrator (fire), and Doris Ballard-Ferguson, Lay Elderly (not present at the council meeting). Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse, and Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator (non-fire), will continue in their current positions.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Julie Bacon

Ms. Bacon stated that the EMS for Children (EMSC) program has adopted work group formats to focus on national performance measures and the Florida strategic plan. Ms. Bacon reminded the council that on November 11th and 12th, EMSC and the Emergency Medicine and Learning Resource Center will sponsor the second pediatric prehospital education symposium at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando. She stated that the emergency pediatric course for providers and instructors will be offered at the symposium. Ms. Bacon reported 52,000 pediatric medication administration kits will be assembled sometime in August for distribution to special needs shelters.

Trenda McPherson

Ms. McPherson reported the state of Florida has achieved the highest seatbelt usage rate for the state with 81.7%. She reported the first meeting of the Motorcycle Safety Coalition will be held on July 29th in Tallahassee. She concluded her report by noting a new law stating that anyone who is seeking a new motorcycle license will be required to take training.

Jennifer Roberts

Ms. Roberts reported that the Department of Education is in the beginning stages of developing a three-year program to revise all workforce education program curriculum frameworks including EMS, fire, and public safety programs.

Todd Mechler

Mr. Mechler announced the completion of volume two of the EMS communications plan and stated it will be distributed soon.

John Scott

Mr. Scott reported the Association of Air Medical Services will conduct a safety summit on July 25th in Dallas, Texas. He then stated the air medical groups discussed updating their disaster plan, Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, the 911 dispatchers bill, and neonatal transports.

Michael Patterson

Chief Patterson reported the Florida Association of Rural Emergency Medical Services met and discussed neonatal transports and the 911 dispatchers bill. He related their concerns about the 911 dispatchers bill and how it relates to smaller services that have limited dispatch capabilities. He then stated the group discussed the idea of medical director co-ops in the event of an area losing a medical director. Chief Patterson announced that Jim Judge has been elected as president of the Florida Ambulance Association (FAA). He then announced that the direct-pay bill (Senate Bill 1012) for ambulance services passed.

Linda Swisher, Ed.D.

Dr. Swisher stated the educators gave out their annual awards at their meeting. She reported the educators worked on the state strategic plan.

Amy Paratore

Ms. Paratore reported the emergency nurses discussed the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) ruling changes, specifically relating to the community shared specialist call that may be going into effect around the state. She stated the nurses were made aware of the injury prevention award deadline. She also stated they discussed keeping emergency departments involved in disaster planning and drills. She then announced that Florida is the host for the Southeast Seaboard Symposium next April in Orlando. She also announced the Florida Emergency Nurses Association is sending 41 delegates to a national conference in September in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ms. Paratore concluded her report by stating the nurses are willing to assist the Access to Care Committee by providing the times and type of diversions in their database.

Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D.

Dr. Lindsey announced the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association EMS Section will hold a pre-conference session on July 25th prior to their annual conference. Details of the pre-conference and conference can be found on their website www.ffca.org. He reported the fire chiefs discussed the 911 dispatchers bill. He then reported he attended the National EMS Advisory Council meeting in April and the meeting focused mainly on identifying 84 issues facing EMS across the country. A committee to address those issues was formed by the National EMS Advisory Council. He announced he was selected chairperson of that committee.

EMS Advisory Council meeting logistics were then discussed. A motion was made to have the council meetings convene for 2009. The first to be held in January in conjunction with Fire Rescue East Conference, the second as a voluntary optional meeting in April in Tallahassee as determined by the constituency groups, the third in July in conjunction with ClinCon and the last meeting of the year to be determined and voted on by conference call as soon as the logistics are worked out. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Bobby Bailey from the Department of Health (DOH) gave a presentation on the successes of the Division of Emergency Medical Operations related to emergency preparedness in the EMS field.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medical Care Committee

John Scott reported the committee discussed goal five of the strategic plan. He then reported the committee heard a presentation from Dr. Shatz regarding tourniquets. He stated the committee discussed the current status of cardiac and stroke legislation. Mr. Scott reported the committee is in discussion on working with Dr. Nelson regarding medical error. He then stated the committee would also like to begin discussions on EMTALA.

PIER Committee

Cory Richter reported 800 of the injury prevention DVDs were distributed. He then reported the committee will continually submit articles to the Bureau of EMS newsletter. Mr. Richter stated the committee discussed their goals in the strategic plan. He concluded his report by stating the DOH Office of Injury Prevention held a prevention 101 course in Tampa last month.

Strategic Visions Committee

Cory Richter reported all of the goal owners were given flash drives containing the strategic plan. He then reviewed the goals of the plan. Next, Mr. Richter reported the committee is still gathering signatures for the charters of the plan. Mr. Richter stated that any updates on the goals should channel through the goal owners and then the goal owners will report at the council meetings and/or conference calls.

Legislative Committee

Greg Rubin reported the committee discussed COPCN and neonatal transfers. He stated the committee will discuss the definition of "driver" in rule 64E. He reported the committee will assist the Bureau of EMS in drafting language for the 911 dispatcher legislation. Mr. Rubin concluded by stating the committee discussed field internship on Advanced Life Support (ALS) non-transport vehicles and their goals in the strategic plan.

Data Committee

Charles Moreland reported the Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) went live on July 3 with over 70 agencies reporting and another 60 that will report to EMSTARS within the next six to nine months. He reported that Florida was nationally recognized as the tenth state to submit reports to the national database and that EMSTARS is being used as a model for other states. Chief Moreland stated the EMSTARS project team conducted workshops in May and June. He then stated version 1.4 of the data dictionary will be released in September. He concluded by stating the committee is working with the other committees on gathering data for the goals of the strategic plan.

Access to Care Committee

Michael Patterson stated he gave a presentation to the committee showing that the longest emergency department wait times have been triage to bed assignments. He reported the committee is actively seeking solutions to this problem and he would like to give the presentation to the emergency nurses at the next meeting.

Disaster Committee

Dr. Brad Elias reported on the new addition to Tampa General Hospital. He then reported on the MCI Trailer subcommittee's conference call. He stated Chief Lyon gave a report on the fire chiefs' State Emergency Response Team (SERT) plan. Dr. Elias stated the committee is making some minor revisions to the Ambulance Deployment Plan. He then reported that all the Cyanokits and Atropens have been distributed and the Bureau of EMS website has a link to a training video for those items. He then stated the committee is working with Terry Schenk on alternative medical treatment sites. Dr. Elias reported a Strike Team leadership training class has been developed and will be offered in August through the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. Dr. Elias also stated the committee worked on their goals in the strategic plan. He concluded his report by stating the committee is working on an EMS Pan Flu response plan.

Chief Bixler requested the Chairman appoint a Dispatch Committee in relation to the 911 dispatchers' bill. Chairman Kearns stated he would like it to be a subcommittee under the Legislative Committee. A discussion of the representation for the subcommittee was held. Chief Bixler stated the Bureau of EMS will draft a letter to request representation for the subcommittee.

Dennis Ward from the United States Lifesaving Association, southeast region, gave a report outlining the constituency's goals in working with the advisory council.

Chairman Kearns motioned for the appointment of Chief Patterson as secretary and Mr. Scott as vice-chairman. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Chairman Kearns then appointed Regina Sofer as council parliamentarian. Chairman Kearns then appointed Cory Richter as chair of the Strategic Visions Committee, Alan Skavroneck as co-chair of the Legislative Committee and Regina Sofer as co-chair of the Disaster Response Committee.

Greg Rubin motioned to amend the bylaws to change the committee title "Legislative Committee" to read "Legislative and Rules Committee". The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. A motion was made to exclude the word "quarterly" in the bylaws regarding the meetings of the committees. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:52 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