



FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL

Proceedings from the meeting of January 21, 2005

The Hilton Airport Miami
5101 Blue Lagoon Drive
Miami, FL

Members Present

Don Bennett, Chief, Bureau of EMS
Linda Swisher, R.N., Ed.D., Chairperson
David V. Shatz, M.D., Vice-Chair
Chuck Kearns, M.B.A., Secretary
Joe Nelson, M.D., State EMS Medical Director
Jaime Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator, Non-Fire
Salvatore Silvestri, M.D., Physician
Ferne G. Moore, M.D., M.P.H., Lay Elderly
Phyllis L. Hendry, M.D., EMS-C Liaison
Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse
Judy Conlin, Department of Education
John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator
Pat Pieratte, Department of Transportation
Randy Pierce, Department of Management Services
Ruben Almaguer, Paramedic, Fire
Greg Rubin, EMT, Fire
Dave Casey, Department of Insurance
Sharon Roush, Hospital Administrator Capital Regional Medical
William Bingham, EMS Administrator Non-Fire
Chad Reed, Dixie County EMT Non-Fire Service

Members Absent

Keith Gaston, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Craig Fugate, Department of Community Affairs

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Linda Swisher called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Chairperson Swisher opened the meeting with a moment of silence to prepare themselves for the discussions and decisions that they needed to make during the meeting. Chairperson Swisher also asked that everyone remember the fact that there had been numerous medics who had lost their lives in the line of duty. Following the moment of silence, Mr. Greg Rubin directed the audience and council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Mr. Bennett began his report by announcing that Dr. Phyllis Hendry and Dr. Rick Slevinski would both be resigning from their positions on the council as well as with the Bureau. Mr. Bennett also shared his regrets of losing them as part of the staff, their influence and vision for the children of Florida. Following this announcement, Dr. Hendry and Dr. Slevinski were celebrated with applause and plagues. Mr. Bennett moved forward with discussing the options for the next chairperson in reference to how long the next term would be, who will be the chairperson, and voting on a nominee for the secretary to have the chairperson for the next year.

After much discussion, Mr. Shatz motioned that Dr. Swisher will continue her chairmanship throughout the April meeting.

NOMINATIONS/VOTING

Chairperson Swisher opened the floor for name submissions for the position of chair. Jaime Caldwell, Dr. Shatz and Chuck Kearns were the names submitted, however Chuck Kearns respectfully declined. Following these nominations, Chairperson Swisher mentioned proper procedures in carrying out these elections.

Mr. Bennett continued with his report, by covering current activity going on within the Bureau. Mr. Bennett stated that EMS employees, Karen White and Pamela Lesley, who have retired from the Bureau after such a long relationship. Kim Shaffer, a long-time employee, moved to OPPAGA. Mr. Bennett later talked about the 30-day rule, as well as announcing the National EMS week coming up in May and the theme is Ready, Responsive, and Reliable.

Chairperson Swisher welcomed the new Medical Director, Dr. Nelson, to give his report.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Nelson began his report by thanking Mr. Bennett and the Bureau Staff for making the transition as smooth as possible. Dr. Nelson discussed his approach to provide EMS leadership in medical direction. Dr. Nelson stated that in the Medical Directors Association meeting they discussed a strategic plan which addressed each of the ten major headings of the agenda for the future and current goals that they want to achieve that are relative to EMS. Lastly, he mentioned that there will be a collaborative effort made to clean up the language that had been voted on the previous day.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

Pat Pieratte, Department of Transportation

Ms. Pieratte reported about the Department of Health's bicycle helmet program. She stated that last year's grant was very successful despite the interruptions due to the hurricanes. They trained trainers in rural areas to conduct sessions on fitting helmets on the kids properly. Ms. Pieratte also reported that the



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numbers of traffic-related fatalities were up, and the numbers for motorcyclist's fatalities were up significantly. Ms. Pieratte continued to report that over the last ten years, bicycle and pedestrian fatalities were down. She also spoke on how successful the pedestrian related programs were in Liberty City and the Miami-Dade area.

Lastly, she announced the first Florida conference for bicycle-pedestrians called Pro-Bike Pro-Walk Florida. The conference will be covering all aspects of bicycling and walking from engineering, education, enforcement, etc. This conference will be held April 6-8 in Tampa, FL.

Judy Conlin, Department of Education

Ms. Conlin reported that she had made some minor changes in the EMT and Paramedic frameworks. She mentioned that during the rule making workshops the EMT hours be addressed in the statutes and that they're allowed to contend.

Phyllis L. Hendry, M.D., EMSC Liaison

Dr. Hendry began her report with words of personal thanks and farewells. Following Dr. Hendry's personal words, she began her report with stating that the EMSC webpage is being revised. She mentioned that the SIDS module may be placed on the website.

Dr. Hendry then reported that the Chemical Warfare involving kids' project is moving forward. She further reported that EMSC Staff are working on a project with school resource officers in reference to the school nurse and student ratio. She announced that EMSC day will be May 18th this year and it is the 25th anniversary of Emergency Medical Program for Children. Lastly, Dr. Hendry reported that pediatric issues relating to the recent hurricane season was also discussed.

Greg Rubin, EMT (Fire)

Mr. Rubin reported that there is a paramedic shortage, encouraging Fire Chiefs, EMS educators, the Association of Professional Firefighters and the Florida Association of EMS providers work together as a team to resolve this issue.

Ruben Almaguer, Chief Paramedic/Fire

Chief Almaguer began his report by welcoming the new State Medical Director as well as new council members. Secondly, he thanked the State Bureau of EMS office hosting the meeting in South Florida. Chairperson Swisher acknowledged the fact that Chief Almaguer was appointed by the Governor to the Metropolitan Planning Association for Miami-Dade.

Salvatore Silvestri, M.D., Physician

Dr. Silvestri opened his report with acknowledging Jeff Miller as co-author of the book called *Arrhythmia Recognition*, which was named book of the year in the American Medical Journal. He also reported that the EMS Medical Director Association will be working closely with the Quality Managers Peer Organization (QMPO).



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Chad Reed, Dixie County EMT Non-Fire Service

Mr. Reed reported that he is looking forward to representing the EMT non-fire position and bringing rural issues to the surface. He further stated although rural issues are somewhat minute to the larger jurisdictions, yet they face the same challenges.

Sharon Roush, Chief Executive Officer, Capital Regional Medical Center

Because this was Ms. Rouse's first meeting she gave her background experience. Ms. Roush stated that she is a hospital administrator of an acute-care hospital, relatively small area, housing 198 beds. She mentioned that she serves on the board of the Florida Hospital Association, and how she looks forward to collaborating with the council.

John Scott, Air Medical Provider

Mr. Scott reported that the air medical groups focused on three key issues from their retrospective look of what has happened in the last six months. (1) they will provide a summary of their findings during the hurricanes and how it affected the air- medical groups. (2) how they can better operate within the state to support the evacuations and moving patients around the state, and (3) how they would like to take a pro-active approach within the state as a result of the increase in air-medical transport accidental rates.

David V. Shatz, M.D., Vice-Chair

Dr. Shatz reported that they were able to get \$12 million last year for training for burn centers and trauma care and hoping for \$25 million for next year for the on-going burn and blast injury training. He also mentioned that the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ALS) course is given multiple times a year throughout the state of Florida and nationwide. He further mentioned that Florida has never had an Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) educator until now, and Dr. Swisher has accepted the invitation and challenge to become the educator from the Florida Committee and Trauma.

Chairperson Swisher stated that the chair doesn't normally give a report, but wanted to thank the Bureau and everyone who responded to the hurricanes.

Ferne G. Moore, M.D., Lay Elderly

Dr. Moore reported that the injury prevention for seniors committee has completed a power point presentation on fire safety tips for Florida's elderly. She further reported that the Department of Elder Affairs is presently waiting for the cd sets of the presentation and will be made available to all Florida's Fire departments.

Jamie S. Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator

Mr. Caldwell reported that the Florida Ambulance Association discussed two major issues that Amendment 7 may have on the EMS industry and how the pending Medicaid reform which could have a significant affect on them.

Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse



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Ms. Paratore reported that the Emergency Nurses Association met and many issues were discussed. She further mentioned that Randy Pierce met with their group to talk about the need for each emergency department to have their radios up and running. Ms. Paratore further reported on the HRSA grant and how they are using the money at the hospitals and the ICU surge capacity dollars to get more capability to accept incoming patients during disasters and daily ERs. She also mentioned how they discussed Amendment 7 and 8 and how it's affecting their ability to do quality assurance in emergency departments in hospitals and trauma centers. She then reported discussed the stroke act bill and how the hospitals are going to be working with the state to identify stroke centers, primary or comprehensive. Ms. Paratore further reported about ER overcrowding. Lastly, Ms. Paratore commented about their work with Tampa General and USF with the trauma assistance acceptance study.

Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator Non-Fire

Mr. Patterson stated his appreciation to Chairperson Swisher for her vision and leadership. He began his report with describing the problem with recruitment and retention and the desperate need for paramedics. He further mentioned the support of the chairperson, asking for her help with resolving this issue. Mr. Patterson further mentioned that they are totally open to any council members suggestion on resolving the issue of shortage of paramedics.

Bill Bingham, EMS Administrator, Fire

Mr. Bingham stated that he wanted to echo some of the sentiments with regards to the paramedic shortage position paper and to let the panel know that the Florida Fire Chief Association is ready to discuss and put closure to the current issues and any other important issues that were forth coming.

C.T. Chuck Kearns, Paramedic Non-Fire Service

Mr. Kearns pointed out the National Bureau of Labors Statistics that talks about a national shortage of paramedics, however; he mentioned that Florida's situation wasn't addressed in this national report. Lastly, Mr. Kearns thanked everyone for their contributions and help throughout the hurricane efforts and relief.

Dave Casey, Department of Insurance

Mr. Casey gave kudos to Don Bennett and the staff on a tremendous job with the turn around in the renewal process. He reported that the 2005 ODP funding request has been prepared and sent to the Department of Homeland Security, reflecting a considerable decrease in funding from last year. Mr. Casey further reported that the MCI training and equipment has been funded. He also brought forth that the 2004 Fire Service Contracts for HAZMAT for rescue teams are being processed and instructor and inspector were both extended for renewal as some of the EMT and paramedic certifications.

Randy Pierce, Department of Management Services

Mr. Pierce reported that the new MED channels are now implemented and in effect. Also he mentioned that AHCA was preparing to train on hospital inspections for the new MED channels, EMS will start early December. He further reported that the new grant cycle was starting and if anyone was considering any communication issues that he or Danette McBride would be happy to give any type of budgetary estimates that might assist in any communication projects. Mr. Pierce also mentioned that the updates for phone numbers needed to be reviewed. He mentioned that the State Law Enforcement radio system was moving along quite nicely and that this year Miami-Dade, Broward and Monroe counties Motorola system will be phasing out and will be replaced with MA/COM. Mr. Pierce further mentioned that there was an invitation to negotiate (ITN) for \$42 million for Motorola on interoperability in the state.



Chairperson Swisher made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting, she also mentioned that there is no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Swisher advised the council about a meeting held on November 18-19 in St. Petersburg, FL. It was hosted by the Florida Fire Chief Association. Members of the Florida Professional Firefighters, Fire Chiefs, and several employees of the Bureau of EMS attended the meeting. She mentioned that the purpose of the meeting was to facilitate the working relationship between large groups and to see if they could use the resources in a common direction. Chairperson Swisher further reported that one of the outcomes of the meeting was that there was a recommendation to form a committee at the council to review the bylaws, method of government, and term limitation on the council. Next Dr. Swisher requested from the council that they allow her to appoint a committee and for that committee to review how things are being done, and to make recommendations to the Bureau. Dr. Swisher opened the floor for discussion regarding the self-study/self-evaluation committee. Afterwards, Dr. Swisher made a motion for the committee and for someone to serve as chair of this committee, as a result of her request, Mr. Kearns volunteered his service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Freeman, President of Florida Association of County EMS, made comments about the position paper. He stated that the paper has been 18 months in development and at the beginning; they worked through a consensus process with all constituency members. Mr. Freeman stated that they felt that the situation in Florida as well as the rest of the country was too important to not issue the paper. He further described that the paper was a good catalyst to get people talking. Lastly, he stated that there has been a lot more discussion about the issue, since the paper has come into publication.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee, Salvatore Silvestri, M.D.

Dr. Silvestri reported that during the Education Committee meeting, they discussed possibly supplementing how groups are meeting. He suggested having meetings that are issued focused rather than several constituency meetings discussing the same topics.

Medical Care Committee, David Shatz, M.D.

Dr. Shatz reported that they have been working to revise the 64E, with significant changes on the tables and supply requirements. He reported that the issue with the medical care committee has a problem with the airway management portion of the rule. Airway mismanagement is a huge problem which could cause a high mortality. He stated that the issue lies with education due to lack of practice and with HIPPA and the inability to do live intervention. Dr. Shatz further mentioned that they do not have adequate monitoring.

Injury Prevention & Public Safety, Ferne G. Moore, M.D.



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Dr. Moore reported that the Public Information Education Relations (PIER) training course will be held in February at Fire Rescue East. She further reported that the grant will end in March 2005 and they are hoping that the Florida Emergency Medical Foundation (FEMF) will be able to sustain the program offering the course at least once a year in the state. Dr. Moore continues to report that the pier panel will consider future objectives, involvement of areas of the state not represented by PIER members. Lastly, she mentioned that on the Federal Highway Administration website there is a new pocket guide to improve traffic control and mobility for the older population.

Data Committee, Greg Rubin

Mr. Rubin reported that they discussed the possibility of reducing the amount of data elements and discussed what the state is currently doing with the data. He mentioned that they are also looking toward the national data set, and the benefits of moving toward the national data set will drive education, promote research, and provide funding.

EMS Futures Forum, C.T. Chuck Kearns

Mr. Kearns reported that there was no action taken. The first item of action that was brought up is that the EMS future forum wanted the Medical Director to do a quality improvement survey concerning workforce issues. He mentioned that Dr. Slevinski actually worked on developing the tool, however due to lack of funding in the Bureau it wasn't successful. Mr. Kearns also reported that Dr. Slevinski discussed the concept of using technology to do remote patient care for physicians through the eyes, ears, hands, and monitors and cameras given to paramedics for the potential of treat and release to not clog up the ERs and unnecessarily transporting. Mr. Kearns further reported about skill degradation and paramedics who no longer practice but continue to maintain their certification. He further mentioned the when the state sends out recertification, these individuals reply without identifying a licensed agency that they are working for.

VOTING AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairperson Swisher then explained how the process for which the next EMS Advisory Council Chairperson would be appointed. Ballots were given to each council member for their vote.

PRESENTATION

Drew Dawson was a guest from Washington, D.C who is chief of the Division of Emergency Medical Services for the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. Mr. Dawson's presentation was an overview of the National EMS scope of practice model. If you would like more information regarding Mr. Dawson's presentation, please call John Gosford at (850) 245-4440, ext. 2725.

Chairperson Swisher thanked Drew Dawson for his presentation, following that Mr. Bennett gave the results from the voting, naming Dr. Shatz as the nominee who will be presented to Secretary for his appointment as Council Chairman. Chairperson Swisher asked if there was any other business, or comments. Gary Rainey, Vice President of the Florida Professional Firefighters commented about the scope of practice document. His second comment was in reference to the circulating document concerning the shortage of paramedics.

After calling for any further business, and there being none, Chairperson Swisher called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and the meeting was adjourned



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tisa D. Dennard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tisa D. Dennard