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## FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL

Proceedings from the meeting of July 8, 2004

The Rosen Centre Hotel  
9840 International Drive  
Orlando, 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  
Richard S. Slevinski, M.D., State EMS Medical Director  
Jaime Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator  
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator, Non-Fire  
Salvatore Silvestri, M.D., Physician  
Nestor Berrios-Torres, EMT, Non-Fire  
Ferne G. Moore, M.D., M.P.H., Lay Elderly  
Phyllis L. Hendry, M.D., EMS-C Liaison  
Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse  
John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator  
Matthew Douglass, EMS Administrator, Non-Fire  
Pat Pieratte, Department of Transportation  
Randy Pierce, Department of Management Services  
Craig Fugate, Department of Community Affairs  
Ruben Almaguer, Paramedic, Fire  
Greg Rubin, EMT, Fire  
Karl Mahaffey for Dave Casey, Department of Insurance  
Jim Bomford, Lay Person

### Members Absent

Keith Gaston, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
Judy Conlin, Department of Education

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, both mentally and emotionally, for the decisions they needed to make at the meeting. Following the moment of silence, Mr. John Scott directed the audience and council members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Swisher asked for approval of the transcripts from the April meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the transcripts. Mr. Kearns noted a correction in the transcripts on page 30 that should have said 252 licensed providers instead of 222 providers.

## STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Mr. Bennett began his report by giving a brief background on his experience and his vision for the Bureau. He then reported that the Bureau has recently undergone reorganization and that we were in the process of revising Chapter 64E-2.

The State EMS Bureau report is attached to, and made a part of, these minutes.

## STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Slevinski began his report by thanking Dave Freeman. Mr. Freeman and Dr. Slevinski have been working on the Mass Casualty Plan that will be sent to all of the regions and ultimately be merged into the state plan. Lastly, he gave an update on the burn and blast program and the cardiac arrest survival project.

## RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chairperson Swisher thanked the three outgoing members of the council for their service. Mr. Bennett then presented the members with an appreciation plaque.

Outgoing members were: Mr. Matthew Douglass, EMS Administrator (non-fire); Mr. Nestor Berrios-Torres, EMT (non-fire); and Mr. Daniel Azzariti, EMS Administrator (fire). He then recognized that Mr. Jaime Caldwell, Dr. Ferne Moore, and Ms. Amy Paratore were re-appointed to the council for another four year term.

Chairperson Swisher then asked new council members to introduce themselves and to identify the constituency group that they represent.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

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

Dr. Hendry reported that EMSC staff is moving forward with the Chemical Warfare involving Kids (CWIK) response project. She stated that EMSC distributed posters and color coded antidote cards to the domestic security regions. EMSC is asking for feedback on the materials before they go to national for printing. Dr. Hendry announced that EMSC has an Emergency Department Preparedness for Pediatrics Project (EDPPP) visit scheduled for September 9-10.

Next, Dr. Hendry reported that National EMSC day was a success. The Pensacola area came up with the "Blue Band-Aid Campaign." This campaign was designed for various healthcare providers to wear blue band-aids around their pinky finger to show their support for emergency medical services systems and children.

Lastly, Dr. Hendry announced that Dr. Lou Romig was presented with a national EMSC leadership award for her work with the JumpSTART Triage Systems and other EMSC educational efforts.

Pat Pieratte, Department of Transportation

Ms. Pieratte reported that the strategic highway safety plan is currently being implemented. The participants that worked on the plan selected five areas that needed improvement. They are: keeping vehicles in their lanes, intersection safety, data, bicycle/pedestrian safety, and access management.

Ms. Pieratte also stated that she attended the PIER Pilot Course in Tallahassee in June.

Greg Rubin, EMT (Fire)

Mr. Rubin reported on the Joint Position paper on Paramedic Shortage. He stated that the document lacks evidence and that no data is linked to the report to support it.

Chairperson Swisher then congratulated Chief Almaguer for receiving a National Association award. This award was presented to Chief Almaguer during a three week training course held at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator

Mr. Scott reported that during the Air and Surface Transport Network meeting, Ms. Julie Bacon was presented an award of excellence and Ms. Cathleen Cook was presented an award for Flight Nurse of the year.

Mr. Scott then stated that the stroke act, new FAA regulations for 135 and critical incident stress management, were also discussed during the meeting.

David Shatz, M.D., Physician

Dr. Shatz reported that the inter-facility transfer guidelines posters have been printed and are scheduled to be sent to all acute care hospitals in the state. Hillsborough and Palm Beach County are the only two counties that will not be receiving the posters due to those counties having existing plans.

He then reported that the 2003 Annual Trauma Report has been published and that the registry report will be published in October.

Next, Dr. Shatz reported that the Clinical Guidance Task Force met in Tampa in June, and continues its work on the Trauma Registry. He acknowledged that Jessica Swanson, who was leading the registry, has changed careers and is now working in the Office of Community Health Recourses.

Lastly, Dr. Shatz mentioned that as part of the burn and blast program a compact disc was published and mailed a compact disc to all EMS providers and hospitals in the state. He reported that \$130,000 was released to each trauma center and that an extra \$130,000 was given to each of the burn centers for equipment purchases and training.

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

Dr. Moore reported that the Public Information Education and Relations (PIER) panel has been established and that three members of the Florida Injury Prevention for Seniors (FLIPS) committee are also serving on the PIER panel.

Jamie S. Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator

Mr. Caldwell notified Dr. Hendry that in regards to the CWK project, many providers have not received the information that was mailed out. He suggested that she check with the local domestic security regions to find out where they were mailed.

Mr. Caldwell then reported that during the Florida Ambulance Association meeting, representatives from First Coast and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services gave a training session on Medicare reimbursement. This meeting was well attended and they have pledged to continue offering training sessions during each quarterly meeting.

Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse

Ms. Paratore reported that during the Emergency Nurses Association meeting they discussed the Trauma Nurse Core Course (TNCC) and the Emergency Nurse Pediatric Course (ENPC). She stated that several courses are being held throughout Florida.

Next, Ms. Paratore stated that ENA is sending 25 delegates to the National Emergency Nurses Association meeting in San Diego in September. She acknowledged that Florida is the third highest state represented during these meetings.

Lastly, ENA discussed E.R. overcrowding and E.R. diversion.

Craig Fugate, Department of Community Affairs

Mr. Fugate reported on the unified incident command system under National Incident Management System (NIMS). This system has been in place since March 1st and is the first training program that has been made available to responders on line. It is anticipated that in order to receive funding from Homeland Security and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), documentation of the adoption of NIMS will be required.

Mr. Fugate also reported on Homeland Security issues. He stated that the United States would not be activated to a higher level of alert; however; each state at a local level would be responsible for dealing with additional levels of scrutiny and vulnerabilities.

Next, Mr. Fugate stated that for the 2005 budget cycle, they anticipate funding from Homeland Security to drop from \$92 million to \$65 million. He advised local providers to start evaluating spending needs and priorities for the upcoming fiscal year and to get that information back to their local representatives on the Regional Domestic Security Task Force.

Lastly, he announced that Homeland Security Oversight Board had proposed adding representation to the board from the EMS Advisory Council. This position is being proposed as a two-year term and would be appointed by the Advisory Council. By adding this position to the oversight board, it would allow EMS to have a voting membership in making strategic decisions for the State's Defense and Homeland Security.

#### Jim Bomford, Lay Person

Mr. Bomford stated that during a recent trip to Washington, D.C., he discovered that the Judiciary Committee approved House Bill 3266, the "*Faster and Smarter First Responder's Act*". This bill will allow the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize grant applications. Congressman Tom Feeny and Congressman Ric Keller represented Central Florida on the judiciary committee.

Randy Pierce, Department of Management Services

Mr. Pierce stated Volume II of the Communication Plan has been published and is ready for distribution. He recommended members of the council and members of the audience contact Danette McBride to receive their agencies' plan.

Mr. Pierce also noted that the 2004 National Association of State Telecommunication Directors (NASTD) report is available for review. If you would like a copy of this report, please contact Mr. Pierce at (850) 922-7424 or via e-mail at:

[randy.pierce@myflorida.com](mailto:randy.pierce@myflorida.com).

Next, Mr. Pierce reported that he has been working with Mr. Jim Martin, state 911 coordinator on producing a PowerPoint presentation on 911 calls that are taken in the state. In gathering the information for the presentation, he discovered that there are 247 call stations in the state and that last year, Florida received 45,000,000 calls. He then stated that more of the statistical data would be presented during the next EMS Advisory Council meeting.

He then reported that during the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) meeting Med One was discussed. The TAP committee anticipated migrating over to narrow banding by the end of 2004. Med 8, 9, and 10 will be postponed until December 2005.

OLD BUSINESS

David Shatz, 64E Equipment Revision

Dr. Shatz stated the committee's original focus was to change the tables and equipment list in rule.

At the request of the Bureau, the committee has withdrawn changing the tables and will address them at a later date. Dr. Shatz then cited the changes. For a copy of the changes, please contact Dr. Shatz at (305) 585-1178.

### NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Swisher then read aloud a resignation letter from Davy Crockett.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Frank Kirk began by welcoming Mr. Bennett to the EMS community. He then announced to the council and audience members that the EMS Alliance is now active again and looks forward to a cooperative working relationship with the Bureau and the EMS Advisory Council.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Education Committee, Salvatore Silvestri, M.D.

Dr. Silvestri reported that during the Education Committee meeting, Don Bennett reviewed the current testing process for EMTs and Paramedics. He explained that by January 2005, a new exam will be given. Also discussed were failure rates, legislative issues, and the national scope of practice.

#### Medical Care Committee, David Shatz, M.D.

Dr. Shatz reported that the committee discussed airway management issues. The committee feels that each provider should use CO<sub>2</sub> detection to confirm airway placement. Another issue that was discussed was triage tags. He reported that the state of Florida will be purchasing tags for each licensed vehicle in the state as well as a training CD.

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

Dr. Moore stated that the PIER panel had an eight hour PIER panel course in Tallahassee in April. During the committee meeting the panel evaluated the course and ways to improve it. The course was developed based on the PIER guidelines. During the evaluation of the course, they discovered that some modules of the course needed improvement; however; due to the Florida diversity, some areas are more developed than others.

### EMS Futures Forum, Jim Bomford

Mr. Bomford stated that the EMS forum recommends the following:

- The creation of guidelines for primary EMT and Paramedic instructors.
- Medical Directorship of the state performs a quality improvement survey concerning workforce issues, developed by Dr. Rick Slevinski.
- Co-sponsor a tele-medical equipment presentation (two hour duration).

Discussion was held on who would proceed with arranging for the presentation. It was decided that Dr. Rick Slevinski would bring this to the Bureau with additional help from Mr. Jim Bomford.

Mr. Chuck Kearns then made a verbal recommendation that the forum was in support of developing credentials for EMS Educators.

### COUNCIL DISCUSSION

## VOTING AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Dr. Shatz made a motion for the EMS Advisory Council to approve the revisions of 64E as written and presented and to move forward with rule promulgation. Mr. Chuck Kearns commented in regards to page 10 of the draft version distributed by Dr. Shatz, the sentence regarding compliance with the state EMS communication plan, Pinellas County is challenging some aspects of that plan. Mr. Kearns voted against that particular sentence. The motion was moved and seconded with one person opposing. The motion passed.

Mr. Greg Rubin made a motion that effective September 1, 2004, the Bureau suspends the collection of Form 1304 or its equivalent in EMS aggregate prehospital reporting. Dr. Shatz seconded the motion. Discussion was held regarding the “*use*” of the data and whether the Bureau should continue to collect it. Mr. Rubin withdrew the motion with the agreement that the Bureau would present during the next EMS Advisory Council meeting a presentation on “*what’s being done with the data and how it’s beneficial to the providers that are collecting it*”. Mr. Bennett agreed.

Mr. Bennett then commented on the Stroke Act. Dr. Slevinski, Dr. Shatz, and Dr. Swisher volunteered to form a team to study the Stroke Act. Dr. Swisher noted that she turned this study over to Dr. Shatz for coordination. Mr. Caldwell suggested that the team designate a liaison with AHCA.

Next, Dr. Swisher suggested that for the next meeting, the EMS Advisory Council meet prior to the regularly scheduled constituency group meetings to discuss long and short-term goals of the council. This would allow council members to meet and discuss their concerns with their constituents prior to the EMS Advisory Council meeting.

Dr. Swisher then noted that the Data Committee was to sunset on July 10th. She then asked for a motion to re-establish the Data Ad Hoc Committee. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dr. Silvestri commented on national scope of practice. He suggested that a presentation be given on the draft version of the scope of practice. Dr. Swisher suggested the council add this to the long-term goals and that Dr. Silvestri bring this matter up during the mid quarter conference call. Mr. Scott made note that John Gosford participates on the technical advisory panel and that he could possibly give some insight on a presentation. Dr. Swisher ask Chief Bennett to task John Gosford with presenting during the next council meeting.

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 at 10:30 a.m.

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DESI LASSITER

Attachment

State Bureau Report