



Jeb Bush
Governor

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Secretary

FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL

Proceedings from the meeting of
July 13, 2006

Renaissance Orlando Sea World, Orlando, Florida

Members Present

David Shatz, M.D., Chairperson
Scott McDermid, Acting Chief of Bureau of EMS
Joe Nelson, DO, State EMS Medical Director
Chuck Kearns, MBA, Paramedic Non-Fire Service
Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D., Paramedic, Fire
Greg Rubin, EMT, Fire
Jaime Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator
John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator
Bradley Elias, MD, Physician
Chad Reed, EMT Non-Fire
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator Non Fire
Linda Swisher, EMS Educator
Julie Bacon, EMS Medical Services for Children Liaison
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation
Yvonne Bell, Lay Person
Bill Fisher, Lay Eldery, Lay Elderly
Javier Escobar, II, M.D., Physician

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dr. Shatz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Shatz opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Trenda McPherson. Following the reciting of the pledge of allegiance, Chairperson Shatz then made a motion to accept the minutes from the April meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. Chairperson Shatz conducted a roll call of all council members.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Mr. Scott McDermid stated that Michael Greif, Lisa Walker, Emily Glenn and Betsy Hines have worked very hard to promulgate rule so that the online renewal process could take place this recertification cycle. Mr. McDermid did state that this would be an addition to the paper recertification option.

He then reported that the Bureau recently published disciplinary actions in the quarterly newsletter.

Lastly, Mr. McDermid stated that he appreciates everyone's support in the EMS Data workshops.

Dr. Shatz then gave recognition to Mr. McDermid for stepping in and taking over the acting position as EMS Bureau Chief.

Dr. Shatz then recognized the previous EMS Bureau Chief, Don Bennett, for the idea of having the awards ceremony the previous night. Dr. Shatz stated that the ceremony had a great turnout and that we anticipate it being even better in the following years.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported that the medical directors formed a committee to develop disaster protocols to be used when a disaster strikes. This committee will develop protocols to be used when multiple EMS agencies respond to emergencies out of their normal district area.

He then reported that the medical directors also formed another committee to assist other newly appointed medical directors.

Dr. Nelson the stated that the medical directors discussed the report that was recently published by the Institute of Medicine regarding EMS. He stated that in the report there are ideas of strengthening the credentials of EMS medical directors. The medical directors feel that this will have a significant impact on EMS nationally as well as in Florida.

Next, he stated that the medical directors talked about the "Auto Pulse". They have offered to work the Bureau to develop a committee to research the effectiveness of the device.

Lastly, Dr. Nelson stated that he was honored to have been asked to present Dr. Gandia with the EMS Medical Director of the year award at the awards reception.

Dr. Shatz then introduced the new members of the Advisory Council and ask that they give a brief synopsis of background.

Mr. Javier Escobar, Physician; stated that he is a pediatric emergency physician as well as an emergency physician and has been practicing at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital for five years.

Mr. Bill Fisher, Lay Elderly; stated that he worked Metro Dade in 1959 and then went into aviation, flying worldwide for ten years. He then went back into government and became a special agent with Florida Department of Law Enforcement where he then retired in 1995. He is very humbled to have been chosen to sit on the Advisory Council and with his vast knowledge and experience he hopes to offer tremendous amount of support.

Ms. Yvonne Bell, Lay Person; currently works with the MayFlower Retirement Center in Orlando as the nursing home administrator. She also is a registered nurse and can fully understand and appreciate the work that EMS does.

Chairperson Shatz then recognized Mr. Jim Bomford for his years of service with the Advisory Council. Dr. Shatz then stated that an appreciation plaque will be sent to Mr. Bomford.

Mr. McDermid then announced that Dr. Shatz had also been re-appointed to serve another one year term as the chairperson to the council.

Dr. Jennifer Bencie, Division Director of Emergency Medical Operations then explained the process for which the EMS Bureau Chief position was chosen. She stated that the Division received 40 applications and six individuals were interviewed. The candidate that was chosen has a tremendous amount of medical and EMS experience and was the unanimous choice by the interview panel. She then announced that Mr. John Bixler has been chosen and is excited to have him as the Bureau's leader.

Mr. Bixler then introduced himself and stated that he is very excited to have this opportunity to lead EMS in the State of Florida. He then gave special thanks to his staff.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. McDermid reported that the rule package is currently awaiting approval from the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC).

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation

Ms. McPherson announced that DOT is currently reviewing concept papers for funding for the next fiscal year. She then stated that Marianne Trussell will be giving an update later in the agenda regarding the Department of Transportation.

Chad Reed, EMT (Non-Fire)

Mr. Reed gave thanks to the Bureau and Emergency Medical Resource & Learning Center (EMRLC) for the outstanding awards reception held on Wednesday night.

Mr. Reed then recognized the EMS Data Committee for their hard work over the last year. He stated that later in the agenda, Chief Moreland would address the council.

Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator Non Fire

Mr. Patterson stated that he would like to also give appreciation for the awards ceremony held on Wednesday night.

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

Mr. Kearns began by welcoming the new members of the council. He then mentioned that there are still some concerns regarding security of data for EMSTARS. Lastly, he welcomed Mr. John Bixler on board.

John Scott, Air Ambulance

Mr. Scott reported that the Neonatal Pediatric Transport Nurses discussed continuing education requirements. They feel that including two-hours of training within the mandatory requirements would be more suitable for paramedics.

Next Mr. Scott stated that the issue to nurse-to-paramedic transition is still being discussed.

Mr. Scott then stated that the air medical group would like to see two medical attendants per patient. They are currently working on this issue and would like to see that be changed in 64E.

Next Mr. Scott stated Karen Chamberlain was presented with the Beth Rogers award.

He then stated that the Florida Air Medical Association would like some follow up to their survey in regards to "helicopter shopping". He stated that a draft plan has been given to all council members and that he would like for each member to review and provide feedback to him.

Lastly, he announced that the national AIMS conference will be held in Arizona or Phoenix in 2007 and that he plans to attend.

Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D., Paramedic, Fire

Chief Lindsey wanted to congratulate all of the award winners and "thank" the Bureau for such a nice event. He then wanted to recognize the Bureau for allowing the constituencies to work on the data set and allowing for their input to move the process forward.

Linda Swisher, Ed.D., EMS Educator

Dr. Swisher announced that an Educator's workshop will be held Thursday, July 13 at 7:30. She stated that Twink Dalton is the guest speaker and she will be presenting on case studies.

Dr. Swisher then stated that the committee continues to develop minimum criteria for primary education.

Jaime Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator

Mr. Caldwell reported that during part of the Florida Ambulance Association meeting they discussed the legislative package. Also discussed was reimbursement from Medicare.

Lastly, Mr. Caldwell congratulated all members of the Legislative Committee for all of their hard work.

Julie Bacon, EMS for Children Liaison

Ms. Bacon stated that the committee has several work groups that are also discussing the same issues that other Advisory Council committees are working on. First, they have a committee that is looking into pediatric education for paramedics and nurses. They also have a committee to look at integrating family issues which would tie into what the PIER committee is doing regarding when to call 911.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee, Linda Swisher, Ed.D.

Dr. Swisher reported that the committee continues to work on the strategic plan. They are still awaiting the pass rate for the state exam. Dr. Swisher stated that she spoke with Betsy Hines with Medical Quality Assurance and she assures Dr. Swisher that the information should be available soon.

Medical Care Committee, John Scott

Mr. Scott stated that the medical care committee also discussed the strategic plan. They continue to discuss goals one and five. The committee feels that the goals are very broadly written and need to include patient outcomes and patient care.

Lastly, the committee feels that in regards to a pandemic flu outbreak, many agencies are confused as to the steps that need to be taken to ensure patient safety. The committee would like to develop a report to be given to all agencies informing them of the steps that should be taken this type of situation should arise.

PIER Committee, Cory Richter

Mr. Richter announced that the PIER committee is working with the Access to Care Committee and the EMSC committees too strategically develop a public service announcement on when to call 911. The committee does not have a timeline in place, but anticipates completing the task very soon.

In regards to the survey that the committee sent out to all EMS agencies, they received 76 responses back and will begin compiling the data in hopes to have a final draft available of the responses by October.

Legislative Committee, Dan Azzaritti, Vice Chair

Mr. Azzaritti stated that the committee hopes to have a final package ready for the 2007 session. The committee then expects to have another package ready that will contain more controversial issues for the 2008 session. The two issues that causing such concern are: medical director and Certificate of Public Certificate & Necessity (COPCN).

Dr. Shatz then reminded Dan that the EMS Advisory Council must have 30 days to review the final document prior to voting on it.

EMS Data Committee, James Moreland

Chief Moreland reported that the committee has been very busy over the last several months. He stated that the committee approved the data set based on NHTSA 2.21 standards. He also noted that the committee will meet again August 15-17 in Orlando to continue discussing the pick list and field values. Lastly, Chief Moreland reminded audience members and members of the council that the EMSTARS project is a voluntary project and that the aggregate data is still mandatory.

Next Ms. Marianne Trussell with the Department of Transportation gave a short presentation regarding data. Ms. Trussell stated that as part of the grants auditing process the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration periodically check reviews the process for which the department does business.

NHTSA determined that they needed more accurate data and more timely data. She then described the 408 grant in which the department applied for which will help fund EMS services

with field data collection. This grant will provide help to local EMS providers to purchase both software and hardware for computers to help bring them in compliance with the EMSTARS efforts. If you have further questions regarding the 408 grant or other Department of Transportations grants, please contact Marianne at (850) 414-5376.

EMS Strategic Planning Committee, Chuck Kearns

Mr. Kearns gave a presentation on the 2006/2008 EMS Strategic Plan. Mr. Kearns stated that this plan has been approved through the Legislature and the council and bureau are now obligated to follow through the goals. He also stated that the committee anticipates having a conference call in August with all of the objective owners to receive a commitment to work on their part. If you would like a copy of the presentation or need a copy of the plan, please contact Lisa Walker at the Bureau of EMS at (850) 245-4440.

Access to Care, Michael Patterson

Mr. Patterson stated that the Access to Care Committee continues to work towards minimizing emergency department wait times. Mr. Patterson then reiterated the issue of needing and collecting data. He stated that if you need a copy of the access to care report to contact either Matt Zavadsky or himself. Lastly, Mr. Patterson gave a special thanks to Matt Zavadsky, John Gardner, Wayne Hodges, Cory Richter, Captain's Tim and Kevin Deon and Chief Moreland.

Disaster Response, Bradley Elias, M.D.

Dr. Elias reported that the committee discussed the draft ambulance deployment plan. He explained that this plan is still being modified as needed but anticipates a final document ready for the council's approval in the near future.

Paramedic Shortage, Chuck Kearns, Vice-Chair

On behalf of Chief Bingham, Mr. Kearns stated that the committee plans to send out a survey to all EMS agencies and encourages everyone to participate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lisa Walker, Bureau of EMS

Ms. Walker gave a brief overview of the sterling process. She stated that the criterion is based upon the Malcolm Baldrige criterion which is nationally recognized as the world standard for organizational excellence. She then explained that the sterling criteria is comprised of seven categories which are: visionary leadership; customer driven excellence; organizational and personal learning; valuing employees and partners; agility; focus on the future; managing for innovation; management by fact; social responsibilities; focus on results and creating value; and system perspective. Ms. Walker then offered her assistance to the committees as they begin the deployment phase of the Strategic Plan.

VOTING

Dr. Shatz then talked about the EMS data points and the EMSTARS project. Chief Moreland then clarified for the council members that the committee has narrowed the data point's down to 149.

Mr. Caldwell then stated that he would prefer waiting until the October meeting to vote on this issue. He stated that he has not had time to review the data and feels that the new members also have not had a reasonable amount of time to review it.

Mr. Levi Owen with the Bureau of EMS reminded the council that the data set was distributed to the council within the 30-day notice. He stated that if the council decides to delay the vote, the entire project will be behind schedule. He then requested on behalf of the project team, for the council to vote and approve the data set.

Mr. Kearns stated that the new members have not had time to review the data sets and he feels that we should postpone the vote until the mid quarter conference call. Discussion was held on delaying the vote and it was agreed upon to delay the vote until the mid quarter conference call. It was also noted that Desi Lassiter will re-distribute the data set to all council members.

Mr. McDermid then publicly recognized Mr. John Bixler and the Bureau staff. He encouraged everyone to preview the newsletter and to also visit the EMS website at: www.fl-ems.com

On behalf of the Florida Fire Chiefs Association and Florida Association of EMS Providers, Mr. Dan Azzaritti recognized Mr. Scott McDermid for taking the role as acting Bureau Chief. He stated the Mr. McDermid had done an outstanding job in this role and they look forward to working with the new EMS Chief, Mr. John Bixler.

Dr. Shatz announced that the next meeting will be October 11 - 13 in Duck Key the meeting was then adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

DESI LASSITER

Desi Lassiter, Meeting Coordinator