



Jeb Bush  
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.  
Secretary

---

## FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL

Proceedings from the meeting of January 27, 2006

The Prime Osbourne Convention Center  
Jacksonville, Florida

### Members Present

David Shatz, M.D., Chairperson  
Don Bennett, Chief of Bureau of EMS  
Joe Nelson, DO, State EMS Medical Director  
Bradley Elias, MD, Physician  
Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D., Paramedic (Fire)  
Linda W. Swisher, Ed.D, EMS Educator  
William Bingham, EMS Administrator (Fire)  
John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator  
Amy Paratore, R.N., Emergency Nurse  
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator (Non Fire)  
Jim Bomford, Lay Person  
Dave Casey, Department of Financial Services  
Randy Pierce, Department of Management Services  
Walter Liddell, FHP Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles  
Julie Bacon, EMS Medical Services for Children Liaison  
Jaime Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator

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

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Shatz called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Chairperson Shatz then made a motion for the approval of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Michael Patterson and approved. A roll call was then taken of all council members. Next, Mr. Greg Rubin directed the council members and audience with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT**

Mr. Don Bennett began his report by giving thanks to all council members and constituency groups for such a successful meeting. He then gave thanks to the Bureau Staff for all of their hard work and dedication. Next, he announced that February 16th, the Department of Health would be sponsoring the Pan Flu Summit at the Leon County Civic Center.

Mr. Bennett then reminded council members and members of the audience of the vacancies on the Advisory Council. He then encouraged everyone to sign up for the EMS mailing list serve. He stated that the Bureau would be sending out weekly notices regarding activities that the Bureau is currently involved in.

Next, Mr. Bennett informed everyone that the Bureau will be holding a final workshop on Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) on February 28th, at the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and Department of Public Safety.

Mr. Bennett then encouraged audience members and members of the council to continue to submit Chapter 401 changes. He requested that all changes be submitted to Greg Rubin, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee.

### **STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT**

Dr. Nelson began his report by stating that the medical directors finalized their position paper on minimum qualification. He then stated that the medical directors are also working on language recommendations for Chapter 401.

Lastly, Dr. Nelson stated that he attended the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) meeting in Arizona, January 16-20. He reported that during this meeting, patient safety and rescuer safety were two areas of interests that need more increased attention.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT**

#### **Randy Pierce, Department of Management Services**

Mr. Pierce began his report by stating that he has accepted a position with the Department of Transportation. He gave thanks to all council members and constituency groups for their support over the last 16 years.

Mr. Pierce reported that the state is pushing for phase one and two for wireless. He stated that 97% of the population is covered by phase one. He then reported that other than California, Florida is the second largest state exceeding the number of cell phones. He then stated that currently the State of Florida is at 20 million 911 calls. He did report that 100% funding has been made available to the wireless 911 board to implement phase two in all counties in Florida.

Next, Mr. Pierce announced that the wireless board has approved two mobile public safety answering points. These two semi-trailers will be able to go into an affected area that the 911 system has been affected and bring them back fully operational.

Next, he stated that Danette McBride is accepting revisions to Volume two of the EMS Communications Plan.

He then reported that as of January 1, the state is completely narrow band. Fourteen of those med channels have been assigned to the acute care centers and emergency rooms.

Lastly, Mr. Pierce stated that the statewide law-enforcement radio system, Region one is now a Motorola system. Testing for phase one will begin in March and phase two will begin in July in the Orlando area.

#### Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse

Ms. Paratore stated that the group met and discussed ideas on how to get more trauma and pediatric courses throughout the state. They also discussed ER overcrowding and Access to Care.

#### Dave Casey, Department of Insurance

Mr. Casey stated that the mutual aid radio communication trailers have been upgraded. He stated that each unit has two interoperability packages per unit. He then announced that First Responder training is being taken out of the fire standard training. This is due to students already having the certification prior to entering fire training.

#### John Scott, Air Medical Provider

Mr. Scott stated that the final changes to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have been submitted to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). Overall, the air industry is pleased with the changes and feels that the changes will enhance safety for all. Currently, the air group is working on how to inform the consumers.

Lastly, Mr. Scott mentioned that the Aeromedical group is finalizing a disaster plan and anticipates submitting the plan to the council at the April meeting.

#### Bradley Elias, M.D., Physician

Dr. Elias stated that the EMS Medical Directors discussed Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST). POLST is a proposed bill that is intended to improve the current Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO) form. The new form will allow for the patients wishes to be taken even further by stating specific comfort measures and types of treatments that he or she wishes.

Next, Dr. Elias talked about the C.M.S. letter from Region four. This letter defines who is responsible for the patient when in the emergency department.

Lastly, he stated that the medical directors appreciated the efforts of the Florida Hospital Association for their work on the E.D. Crisis Task Force report.

#### Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D., Paramedic (Fire)

Chief Lindsey announced that the Florida Fire Chiefs will be hosting their second annual EMS Leadership conference in Daytona Beach, May 23-25.

Next, Chief Lindsey stated that several constituency groups have voiced concerns over the remediation rule that recently went into effect. These constituency groups feel that the Bureau should either reduce the hours to 32 or delineate what those additional 16 hours should be used for.

Linda W. Swisher, Ed.D, EMS Educator

Dr. Swisher first stated that the executive committee mailed a letter out to all educational institutions encouraging them to attend the quarterly EMS state meetings.

Next, the Educators feel that when various changes go into effect, the changes are not properly communicated between the Department and the EMS Educators.

Dr. Swisher then announced that the Educators list serve has changed. To be added to it, please contact Danny Griffith or Shawn Treloar.

Then, Dr. Swisher reported that the Emergency Learning and Resource Center will be presenting an EMS Educator course. This course was designed and developed by the same individuals who produced the 2002 national guidelines for educating EMS Educators. The course will be held on May 18-20 in Orlando. For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.emlrc.org/>.

Dr. Swisher then announced that the EMS Educators are in the process of writing two grants. One grant will provide funds to develop a remedial course for those individuals who fail the certification course three times and the other will be to provide funds to develop an EMS beginning teacher course.

Jaime Caldwell, Commercial Ambulance Operator

Mr. Caldwell stated that the Florida Ambulance Association has received letters from the state informing them that they are not eligible for FEMA reimbursement for hurricane evacuations. He asked for the Bureau to become involved to try and see if they can assist with the reimbursement.

Julie Bacon, EMSC Liaison

Ms. Bacon stated that the committee met and educated their new members on the EMSC standards and the strategic plan. She then stated that within the next year, EMSC will be sponsoring several Pediatric Education for Prehospital Providers (PEPP) courses.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Levi Owens, Bureau of EMS

Mr. Owens gave a brief synopsis of the EMSTARS data project that the Bureau is working on. Within his presentation he strongly encouraged all members of the EMS community to become involved with this project and also stressed the importance of collecting real time data. If you would like more information regarding the EMSTARS project, please contact any of the EMS Data unit staff at (850) 245-4440 or visit the Bureau's website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com/>.

Nadine Levick, Maimonides, M.D., Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York

Ms. Levick gave a presentation on EMS vehicle transport safety. She stated that nationwide, EMS has a safety crisis. Within her presentation she presented both the crisis and reflected the opportunities that EMS has to gain.

Her presentation covered safety guidelines, transport safety management, protective devices, future goals, and new practices and policies. For more information on Ambulance Safety or to view Dr. Levick's presentation, please visit her website at: <http://www.objectivesafety.net/>.

Mr. Bennett then stated that the Bureau will hold one final workshop in Sanford on February 28th. He also stated that comments on the Strategic Plan need to be submitted by March 1st.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Bennett then mentioned to the advisory council the idea of posting EMT & Paramedic offenses in the newsletter. Mr. Bennett stated that he does not support or oppose the idea, however; he would like for the community to come to a consensus on the idea.

Dr. Shatz made the comment that all boards under Medical Quality Assurance (MOA) post this type of information for the professions that they regulate.

Discussion was held whether or not to publish this type of information and/or publish only the offense and remedy.

Chairperson Shatz recommended that we discuss the issue at a later meeting.

Ms. Bennett then asks the council to consider the idea of the council chairperson having a term up to two years, rather than one year. **Mr. Bomford then made a motion to recommend to the Department of Health Secretary, M. Rony François that the Advisory Council Chairperson is once again permitted to serve two consecutive terms. The motion was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

A break was then taken and the meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.

### **Education Committee, Dr. Linda Swisher**

Dr. Swisher reported that the educators discussed strategic planning. The first topic of discussion was the pass rates of EMTs and Paramedics. The educators feel that they do not want to focus on the score, however; they would like to increase the number of first time pass rates. She then requested data for the first time pass rates since taking the national registry and then the same data prior to taking national registry exam. She also requested the same data for Paramedics.

The second objective of the group will be to integrate pediatric issues into education programs by 2008.

The last objective will be to review the requirements for paramedic recertification. She stated that various presentations were given over the week to constituency groups and the feedback from those presentations will help the committee work on the above objectives. Discussion took place over the number of HIV hours required. Dr. Swisher then requested that the statutes and/or rules be made available to the committee for the April meeting.

#### Medical Care Committee, John Scott

Mr. Scott reported that the Medical Care committee discussed 1.2, 1.3, 3.3, 5.4, and 5.5 of the strategic plan. The committee feels that further education is needed regarding auto-injectors and the triage tag system. Another area of concern for the committee is stroke centers. They feel that some agencies are not fully knowledgeable as to what an “approved stroke center” is and where those centers are in their community. The committee would also like to look at the process for how a stroke center becomes approved.

Lastly, Mr. Scott stated that the group discussed “treat and release” of patients. They would like to gather more information on this due to the liability concern and also due to funding issues.

#### PIER Committee, Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D.

Chief Lindsey stated that committee discussed the survey that they plan to distribute to all EMS providers in the state asking for feedback relating to the types of injuries that they have received in their county. The committee anticipates the survey to be sent out prior to the April Advisory Council meeting.

Lastly, they discussed the roles and responsibilities of the chair and vice-chair for the PIER Committee.

Dr. Shatz then ask Jeffrey Lindsey to temporarily chair the committee until a replacement has been chosen.

#### EMS Futures Forum, Jim Bomford

Mr. Bomford reported that the committee reviewed some of the projects that they have been working on over the last several months. He stated that discussion was held on the Paramedic Shortage committee joining with the Futures Forum and renaming the committee to the “Strategic Vision Committee”.

#### Legislative Committee, Greg Rubin

Mr. Rubin stated that the committee discussed the package that the department sent forward last year and the changes that were not successful. He then suggested to those whom would like to become a member of the committee to sign up with Lisa Walker or visit the Bureau’s website. Dr. Shatz also urged individuals to join the committee. He then expressed that each person will have input and that it will be considered.

#### AD HOC Committee

##### Regulatory Review Committee

Chairperson Shatz reported that the committee was due to sunset in January and that it did meet the goals and objectives. He stated that at the sunset of each ad hoc committee, he would like for a brief report be given on the committees accomplishments.

##### Access to Care, Michael Patterson

Mr. Patterson wanted to publicly recognize Matt Zavadsky, Volusia County EMS; Captain Timothy Devin and Captain Kenneth Devin of Jacksonville Fire Rescue for all of their hard work. He also wanted to recognize Mr. Zadvasky for receiving the Mark Fingeret, EMS Administrator award.

Mr. Patterson then stated that the committee produced a report and that there is still more work to be done. He then requested to Chairperson Shatz that the committee continue and not sunset. Dr. Shatz agreed that the committee needs to continue working, and that much more work needs to be done.

Paramedic Shortage, William Bingham

Chief Bingham stated that a survey was developed and will be sent to all providers and constituency groups. This survey will help the committee identify whether or not there is a true shortage in the State of Florida. He encouraged everyone to participate in the survey.

Disaster Response, Bradley Elias, M.D.

Dr. Elias reported that during their meeting, Dr. Jennifer Bencie-Fairburn and Dave Freeman gave a presentation on the state preparedness plan. Dr. Elias then stated that the committee will be working on the development of treatment sites, creation of state medical response teams and communication.

Dr. Shatz then ask Susan McDevitt with the Office of Trauma to give a report. For an overview of Ms. McDevitt's report, please view the January EMS Highlights report.

Mr. Bennett then ask for suggestions and comments in regards to hosting an evening reception for the annual EMS State Awards presentation in July.

Dr. Swisher then made the comment that she would like see the EMS Advisory Council produce an "annual report" each year. This report would show the progress that the council had made on various goals and objectives. Dr. Swisher also suggested that each association or committee also produce a similar document showing their progression.

Ms. Paratore stated that a report was produced by the American College of Emergency Physicians to motivate state and national officials for improving emergency care. The report is broken down into four categories. They are: access to care, quality of care and patient safety, public health and injury prevention, and medical liability. To view a copy of this report, please visit: [www.acep.org](http://www.acep.org)

Dr. Shatz then announced that the next advisory council meeting would be April 12-14 at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Orlando. The meeting was then adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

DESI LASSITER

---

Desi Lassiter  
Administrative Assistant II