



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
October 12, 2007

Orlando County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida

Members Present

David Shatz, M.D., Physician, Chairperson
John Bixler, Paramedic, R.N., B.S.N., Chief, Bureau of EMS
Michael Patterson, EMS Administrator, Non-Fire Service
Chuck Kearns, Paramedic, Non-Fire Service
William Bingham, EMS Administrator, Fire
Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D. Paramedic (Fire Service)
Greg Rubin, EMT, Fire
John Scott, R.N., Air Ambulance Operator
Linda Swisher, Ed.D, EMS Educator
Bradley Elias, M.D., Physician
Javier Escobar, M.D., Hospital Administrator
Ruben Almaguer, Emergency Management
William Fisher, III, Lay Elderly
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation
Walter Liddell, Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles
Joe Nelson, D.O., EMS State Medical Director
Julie Bacon, R.N., EMS for Children

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 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. Dr. Shatz then made a motion to accept the minutes from the July meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT

Chief Bixler thanked the Bureau staff for their hard work on the Advisory Council meeting. He then reported that at the last meeting he received support to change the fee language in statute. Chief Bixler stated the Bureau was able to rewrite the language and submit it to the State Surgeon General before the deadline; unfortunately the Bureau was advised that it will not go forward this year. He stated the Bureau has met with the deputies from Medical Quality Assurance and DEMO to discuss plans of revisiting the problems with the fee language.

Chief Bixler reminded the medical directors of the new requirements in the "Shatz" Rule that will take effect on January 1. He stated that if they do not meet those requirements, they can send a Petition of Variance to Lisa Walker at the Bureau. He also mentioned that there are 15 medical directors who fall into this category. Chief Bixler also pointed out that under the new "Shatz" Rule that there is a requirement for capnography. He stated if you can show proof that you have capnography back-ordered then you will be in compliance with the rule.

Chief Bixler reported that the next rule workshop will be January 22 for the equipment training list and to clarify the language on neonate in rule. He finished by congratulating Tampa General Hospital on their new Emergency Department and the new EOC opening in Putnam County.

STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Dr. Nelson reported the medical directors have been focusing their efforts on the strategic plan. He stated that one of the areas they focused on was the issue of support of the emergency management community during a disaster and implementing disaster protocols. He then reported that a survey is being conducted on the subject of critical care/specialty care transport paramedic training requirements. He stated that the initial results indicate the need for training requirements for the critical care paramedic.

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS

Walter Liddell

Chief Liddell reported that they have begun a recruiting class.

Trenda McPherson

Ms. McPherson stated that the Department of Transportation is working towards funding the 2008 safety grants. One of the areas being addressed is the revision of reimplementation of the motorcycle safety subcommittee and the revision of the motorcycle safety strategic plans.

Jeffrey Lindsey

Dr. Lindsey reported a change in leadership with the Florida Fire Chief's Association- Chief Ray Colburn is now the chair and Dr. Jeff Lindsey is vice chair. Dr. Lindsey then reported that Cory Richter presented the strategic plan to the Association and they will be taking the lead on three of the goals within that plan.

John Scott

Mr. Scott reported that Air Medical Groups held an all day safety summit to discuss the weaknesses in the air medical process. He stated that by the January Council meeting they should have a polished report of what their goals and achievements will be for the next year to enhance safety in the air medical industry. Mr. Scott then reported that they hosted the National Air Medical Transport Conference in Tampa. He then stated that there are a number of aviation businesses practicing illegally and the State Attorney's office is looking into this problem.

Mr. Scott reported that his group has formed a subcommittee to revisit the current disaster plan and to polish the ambulance deployment plan. He then stated that CJ Systems has been purchased by Air Methods Corporation. Mr. Scott then reported that FAMA has looked at the strategic plan and has some changes to enhance the area of communication for Air Medical Transport. He concluded by stating the group had a chance to host a regional pilot group meeting to determine how and what they could do in a disaster to operate safely. He stated that they would like to also see a minimum of two medical attendants on each air ambulance.

Chuck Kearns

Mr. Kearns reported that they are very happy with the new PIP bill that recently passed. He then reported that a motion was passed in FACEMS to ask the Bureau to temper the pace of rule promulgation and schedule when rule revisions would happen on a routine basis. He concluded by commending the EMTs, paramedics and firefighters in his system for a record year and by announcing Leroy Funderburk at Sunstar has won the NAEMT EMT of the Year award.

Michael Patterson

Mr. Patterson started by thanking Ed Wilson for his dedication and hard work on the grant workshops. He also stated he appreciated the hard work that the Bureau has done on the EMSTARS project. Mr. Patterson then reported a good work product has been produced by the Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers to fund scholarships and to publish a Recruitment/Retention Manual. At the recent meeting they presented Jim Howard with a plaque for his dedication and service to the North Central Florida Trauma Agency. Mr. Patterson reported that the trauma agency meeting groups are actively working with the EMSTARS group for the purpose of improving pre-hospital trauma care. He concluded by reporting they are working with Dr. Elias on problems with disaster trailers and their supplies.

Linda Swisher

Dr. Swisher reported that the EMS educators are creating a list of minimum lab criteria to give to the Bureau by the first of the year. She then offered to everyone that input is needed and for them to contact Danny Griffin. Dr. Swisher then reported that the educators have been invited by Medical Quality Assurance to appoint three paramedic subject matter experts to review the current test. If anyone would like to sit on this panel please contact Danny Griffin.

Bradley Elias

Dr. Elias reiterated the importance of the point Chief Bixler made on the "Shatz" Rule regarding medical directors being board certified by the first of next year.

David Shatz

Dr. Shatz reported that the Red Light Running bill has generated \$7.5 million in the last 15 months. He then stated that three more trauma centers will be visited this year- Memorial Regional, Broward and Lakeland. He reported that Tallahassee Memorial has submitted a letter of application for trauma center status. Dr. Shatz then reported the State Trauma System Strategic Plan has been submitted to the Florida House and Senate. Dr. Shatz stated the Committee on Trauma will meet with the visiting professor, Dr. Basil Pruitt at the end of October. He stated the two priorities the trauma community is working on are the diversion or bypass for trauma centers and creating a Center of Excellence for hand surgery.

OLD BUSINESS

Danny Griffin reported that a Request For Information (RFI) has been issued and it has been decided to put the reevaluation of the Florida EMT test on hold due to costs and because National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will be creating a national certification test and testing agency.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Shatz asked that the constituency group presidents and chairs submit their agendas and minutes to the Bureau prior to the meeting so that they can be placed online for those who cannot attend overlapping meetings.

Michael Greif reported that the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee has offered the assistance of their staff to help write a rule that would be acceptable for Certificate Of Public Convenience and Necessity. He stated that once draft language has been created then a rule workshop will be announced.

Chief Bixler reported that the MED8 redesign project is continuing as discussed and that changes and/or expansion of the current EMS radio systems require approval from the Health and Medical Communications section of the Department of Management Services.

Lisa Walker from the Bureau of EMS reported that she will send out version three of the strategic plan for review. She then stated that they intend to have a conference call with the Strategic Visions Committee to draft guidelines. Mrs. Walker stated then they will present a final draft of the strategic plan to the council at the mid-quarter conference call and ask the council to vote on it at the January meeting. Cory Richter asked that if any group has not assigned a lead on their goals in the strategic plan to please email the lead to Lisa Walker. He also reported that the Strategic Visions Committee is working on a charter to provide a picture of where the committee is going. Lisa Walker stated that the new strategic plan will become effective July 1, 2008. Mr. Richter then read the State Surgeon General's response to the planning session held in Tampa and Mrs. Walker stated that the State Surgeon General issued a report to the Governor's office marking the planning session as noteworthy.

Levi Owens reported that EMSTARS will be adding ten additional agencies to their beta testing program. Dr. Shatz then read a letter from the State Surgeon General commending the EMSTARS program and its participants especially Jacksonville Fire Rescue.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Dr. Swisher reported that the educators have completed the task of their recommendations of minimum hours for EMS educators, lead instructors, coordinators, and program directors. She stated that she would like the council to review and vote on the changes at the next mid-quarter conference call.

Medical Care Committee

John Scott stated that the Medical Care Committee met and discussed two goals. The first goal 5.4 on STEMI cardiac care language is being reviewed by AHCA. The committee believes the language should be placed in statute instead of rule. The second goal 5.5 on MQA ensuring appropriate transport was discussed and decided a QA/QI process should be created and defined more clearly in 64E.

PIER Committee

Cory Richter reported that the committee worked on their parts of the new strategic plan. He also reported that the committee is partnering with EMS for Children on an injury prevention CD to have ready by EMS for Children Day in May of next year. Mr. Richter concluded by announcing the Pediatric Symposium that will be held in November by EMS for Children and the Emergency Medicine and Learning Resource Center.

Legislative Committee

Captain Rubin reported that Michael Grief attended their meeting to discuss COPCN. He then stated Cory Richter gave a briefing on the strategic plan. He concluded by stating that the committee discussed the upcoming rule workshop announced by Chief Bixler.

Strategic Vision Committee

Mr. Kearns reported that the draft plan for the strategic plan will be submitted to the council at the mid-quarter conference call and in January they hope to have a vote on it.

Data Committee

Levi Owens announced the third EMSTARS compliant vendor ZOLL Data Systems. He stated that there is a current list of software vendors online. Chief Bixler thanked all providers participating in the pilot programs for EMSTARS. Mr. Owens stated there are ten additional agencies being added in the next few weeks with an additional 25 in February. He then reported that the first two to three years of the project will be spent benchmarking and establishing best practices. Right now queries can be made on the system but there are only a few agencies reporting right now so Mr. Owens stressed the importance of participation from more agencies. Mr. Owens concluded by asking the leads in the strategic plan that need EMSTARS reports to get the requests to him.

Access to Care Committee

Michael Patterson reported the committee has decided to recommend dissolving the committee at the next council meeting in January. The committee believes they have done everything they can do in regards to divert times. Dr. Shatz noted that the council will revisit the bylaws and can carry out the committee's recommendation.

Disaster Response Committee

Dr. Brad Elias reported that the Florida Fire Chiefs gave a briefing on the State Emergency Response Plan. Dr. Elias stated that the committee is working on formalizing the EMS liaisons who will serve in the regions designated by the Fire Chiefs' plan. He also reported the committee has made an amendment to the Ambulance Deployment Plan setting in motion a mechanism to get replacement assets on scene within 12 to 24 hours. Dr. Elias stated the Bureau of Pharmaceutical Services is in the bidding process with vendors for the Cyanokits. He then reported that the committee is looking at standardizing the MCI trailers. Dr. Elias stated that a subcommittee is looking into a strike team leadership training on how to effectively manage during deployments. Dr. Elias reported that the Chempacks should be rolled out the first few weeks of November. He then stated the committee is looking into a triage method being looked into on a national level for mass casualty triage. Dr. Elias then reported that the committee is working with Dr. Nelson regarding disaster protocols. He stated the committee is also working with FAMA and John Scott to draft a paper on air asset utilization during a disaster.

Paramedic Shortage

William Bingham reported that the final draft of the paramedic shortage paper is being distributed to the constituency groups for review and endorsement.

Rob Holburn explained the changes in the proposal of EMS instructor requirements by the EMS Educators.

Chairperson Shatz then announced that the next meeting would be on January 25th at the Prime Osbourne Convention Center in Jacksonville.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 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