



STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 5, 2008

Meeting Minutes



Members: J.D. Fuiten, Erin Burnham, Denise Giard, John Mack, Greg Marlar, Charles McCart, Jennifer Mitchke, Ameen Ramzy, Suzanne Schmidt

Staff: Philip Engle, Duenna Ignacio-Kawanishi, Ritu Sahni, Bob Leopold, Maria Campbell, Susan Werner, Justin Hardwick, Joanna Faunce

Guests: Louisa Partarin, Kelly Kapri, David Spiro, Leah Avery, Will Bauscher

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A) Denise Giard called the meeting to order sitting in as Chair due to Jon Jui absence. A reminder, to all in attendance, of the no smoking policy set by the committee. A voting quorum was present.
- B) Minutes: There were no minutes to be approved. The meeting on March 7 had problem with recording device so no minutes could be transcribed. June meeting was canceled due to lack of business to present to committee.

2. NEW BUSINESS

A) Variance Request for Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue (TVFR)

The variance request for TVFR was approved to allow them to not have the 4" letters on front of ambulance stating in reverse "AMBULANCE". The committee also made note that a request for a rule change in statute be considered due to the change in vehicle structure the signage is not useful because the vehicles are too high for this to be of any use.

B) Report from the Emergency Medical Services for Children Committee (EMSC)

David Spiro gave a brief report of committee activities and to remind the committee that a symposium, as part of the State EMS Conference, in October will be taking place. There will also be an EMSC Conference will also be taking place in March at the coast.

A simulation occurred in Heppner using the new wireless child simulation units. The simulation was an hour long and the scenario was centered around a child ATV accident that started in the field and went straight through to the hospital with an after action report occurring that was of great use with communication issues at the local level. The simulation was a great success and more are to occur within all of the ATABs around the state.

NEDARD Representatives gave a presentation around the findings from the survey that occurred during the spring. The findings and interpretations of the data made for a lot

of questions that has stimulated the need for a revamp of the next survey to ensure that a more accurate picture can be formed from future data.

3) **OLD BUSINESS**

A) Update on First Responder Certification

Ritu Sahni and Bob Leopold reported the new rule was signed at the end of June that caused a problem with the current recertification process. A temporary rule was put into place to enable First Responders to have until the end of September to get recertified. First Responder is proceeding slowly.

B) Update on EMT-Intermediate Certification

Ritu Sahni and Bob Leopold reported that a temporary rule has been put into place to enable those needing more time to get recertified. 114 EMT-Is were notified that their certification has been taken away at the EMT-I level and they have reverted back to the EMT-B level because they did not meet the new EMT-I standards. The program believes that we have lost 10% at the EMT-I level.

C) EMT Recertification Hours

The new required hours for continued education will be used for the next cycle of recertification of EMTs.

C) Update on EMS Data Project

We have received data from the majority of the Oregon EMS agencies. There is the expected problem with data definitions when exported from one software to the software being used for this project; however it is being worked on. 19 agencies are currently using the software to create electronic patient records and we have collect 12K+ paper copies of patient records from the month of May to be hand entered by staff. We have collected 100% from 6 counties and a sample report has been put together for review as part of the pilot project. A group has been assembled to identify benefits to take to legislature. The next steps include completing the data collection, attempting to link to the trauma data registry, attempting to link to crash data and to study the use of unique patient identifiers.

D) Oregon Medical Board Update

A recommendation for a scope-of-practice change, for some providers certified as EMTs but also work in hospitals. This item is one of the items that are being addressed by the Vision of the Future workgroup for 2011 that has already begun to meet. We currently hope to have recommendations by spring of 2009 and to have them ready for review by stakeholders by fall of 2009. We have to prepare concepts for the 2011 legislature by spring of 2010.

A second reading on the scope-of-practice on clotting agents was also completed to get interpretation.

E) Introduction of new Compliance Specialists

Joanna Faunce and Justin Hardwick were introduced to the committee as the new compliance specialists in the Prehospital Standards Unit. Joanna will be focusing on the First Responder certification and Paramedic provisional applicants, while Justin will be taking the lead on of Transporting Agency inspections.

F) Committee Membership Expirations

Bob Leopold stated that at least have of the committee member's terms will expire on December 31, 2008. The program will be contacting those members to see if they would like to continue as a member of the committee. It was recommended by JD Fuiten that there be a limit of the number of terms that each member can participate. Suzann recommended that terms be staggered to ensure an easier transition and institutional history not be lost. An announcement will be placed in the newsletter to find out if there are any people out in the EMS community that will be interested in becoming a member of the committee in the future.

A subcommittee including Suzann Schmidt, JD Fuiten, Will Bauscher, and Chuck McCart was recommended to be convened to work on the issue of committee membership and the Bylaws that need to be updated.

G) Update on issue of Aeronautical Communications

Bob Leopold stated that there is currently no statewide dedicated EMS radio frequencies, as proposed in the Emergency Response Plan for EMS. The state currently has 12 licenses but none are dedicated solely for EMS.

H) Update from Discipline and Certification Subcommittee

Suzann Schmidt reported that there was a quorum at the meeting and that Bob Leopold introduced ideas for change that would mean that the subcommittee be more involved than has been in the past. Recently the subcommittee has only been tasked with the discipline side of the duties and the committee will welcome the chance to help the program more.

The group reviewed the Paramedic Provisional Certification, the suggested changes to the E-4: Reportable Actions Form. The group also reviewed three cases for certification that were unusual and made recommendations.

The committee stated they will bring any process changes to the full committee.

I) Oregon State Ambulance Association Update

JD Fuiten reported that the association has opened its membership up to air service providers within the state.

J) Oregon ACEP Update

Erin Burnham reported that the ACEP conference will be held at Sunriver January 25-28, 2009, the National meeting will occur October 27-30, 2008, and the Supervising Physician meeting will be held on October 10 in Bend.

4) PUBLIC FORUM AND COMMENT

A) Inter-facility transport on backboards

Ameen Ramzy spoke concerning the transporting of patients and the long hours some patients are on backboards. He has seen an increase in complications and pain due to the length of a patient's stay on the backboards. He would like to suggest that if a patient is required to stay on a backboard for a long period of time that a cushion of some sort be under the patient to alleviate these issues. The group discussion included suggestions of using of vacuum-inflated mattress as an option. Currently there is no EMS guideline concerning the use of backboards but it is part of the trauma system. It was suggested that the Oregon ACEP spread word to the ER doctors to encourage the concept of using padded backboards whenever possible. A motion by Dr. Ramzy for the committee to encourage the concept of padded backboards whenever possible and the motion passed.

B) EMSC Survey

JD stated that he found the information shared by the NEDARC representatives to be perplexing. The information gathered from the survey was dependent on the person on the person answering the survey and not necessarily the information that accurately represented the agency involved. Susan Werner reminded the group that a new group has been formed to look at the performance measure find a way of finding out how things actually are at an agency, to work on how the questions are stated to ensure accurate information is collected, to set appropriate goals to gather that information, and to set goals that would more accurately represent rural versus urban issues and show what those differences are.

6) ADJOURN

The meeting did adjourn at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Campbell