



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Bill J. Crouch
Cabinet Secretary

Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH
Commissioner & State Health Officer

Minutes
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
March 12, 2019

Members Present

Edward Hicks
Trish Watson
Glen Satterfield
David J. Weller
Paul Seamann
Donna Steward
Connie Hall
Jim Kranz

Members Absent

Nancy Cartmill
Jeff Kady
Brenden Brown
Dr. Lisa Hrutkay

OEMS Staff

Dr. Michael Mills
March Tucker
Vicki Hildreth
Danny Anderson
Terri O'Connor
Sherry Rockwell

Guest

Dr. Mike Peterson
Marsha Knight
Michael Thomas
James Higginbotham
Ed Bays
Edna Williamson

Guest

Kurt Gainer
James Taylor
Joe Spray II
Cliff Fordyce
Rita White
Chris Hall
Debi Beveridge
Kevin Duckwall
Shirley Morrison
Pat Cornell
Ben Tacy
Chris Hall
Kevin Duckwall

I. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

Chairman Weller called the quarterly meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) to order on March 12, 2019 at 1:03 PM at the Medical Coordination Center, Sutton, WV. Chairman Weller welcomed members and guests. Roll call followed.

II. Approval of December 11, 2018 Minutes

Motion made by Jim Kranz to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 regular statutory meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Paul Seamann. Motion carried.

III. Chairman Report

Chairman Weller stated that due to the subject matter of today's agenda, the chairman report would be covered in both old and new business. Chairman Weller praised the EMS community and this board for their active participation in EMSAC.

IV. EMSAC Committee Reports

Special Interest – Paul Seamann

Community Paramedic Program Update

The Community Paramedic program continues to move forward. There is no specific update at this time.

Critical Care Transport (CCT) Update

The CCT rollout did take place in September 2018. The program continues to move forward without any major issues.

C2IFT (Class 2 Interfacility Transport) Update

The protocols have been finalized and submitted for review. They will be addressed during this meeting under new business.

C3IFT (Class 3 Interfacility Transport) Update

Currently awaiting updates from Dr. Newman, Dr. Mills, Rita White and Tracy Corbin.

Active Threat Update

The FEMA TECC Course training was held on January 21, 22 and 23, 2019 at the RETI facility in Flatwoods, WV with positive reviews. Attendees were representative of EMS, medical, fire department and law enforcement.

Chairman Weller stated that we have formally requested the education material for the FEMA TECC course from Arlington County.

EMSC

It was previously reported by Vicki Hildreth that every EMS agency in WV now has a designated Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC).

Recovery Coach Academy – Vicki Hildreth

Recovery Coaches promote recovery by removing barriers and obstacles to recovery and serving as personal guides and mentors for people who are seeking or already in recovery. Recovery coach training consist of two modules. One is the core basic training module in which everyone has to have and the other is an advanced level training module specifically for medical professionals. EMSC is going to sponsor 26 scholarships for prehospital attendees. There are currently 15 slots filled. This is a 4-day commitment. Applications are available from Vicki Hildreth.

Administration

Legislative Activity Update – Chris Hall

Chris Hall made a brief presentation of the current session legislative updates. For further clarity I have used the original text from the Senate and House bills.

SB 1 - BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2E-11; to amend and reenact §18-9A-2 of said code; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §18C-9-1, §18C-9-2, §18C-9-3, §18C-9-4, §18C-9-5, and §18C-9-6, all relating generally to increasing access to career education and workforce training; establishing Advanced Career Education (ACE) programs and pathways; providing that certain individuals who have completed a secondary education program in a public, private, or home school shall be considered adults enrolled in regular secondary programs for funding purposes; requiring community and technical colleges establish partnerships with career technical education centers, county boards of education, or both that provide for ACE programs; providing requirements for ACE programs and pathways; requiring the Board of Education and the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education promulgate joint guidelines; requiring the Division of Vocational Education and the council maintain and annually report certain information; providing that community and technical colleges and career technical education centers shall participate in one or more ACE partnerships in order to receive certain funding; establishing the WV Invests Grant Program; defining terms; authorizing the council to award WV Invests Grants under certain terms and conditions; requiring the council to report certain information on the WV Invests Grant Program; requiring the council to propose legislative

rules; providing eligibility and renewal requirements for a WV Invests Grant; requiring applicants enter into certain agreements; and establishing the WV Invests Fund.

Summary: Increasing access to career education and workforce training

SB 255 - AN ACT to amend and reenact [§16-4C-5](#) of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council; reconfiguring and increasing the membership of the council by adding three voting citizen-members; and requiring three members to be representative of professional groups. Passed February 1, 2019

Summary: Relating to Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

SB 291 - A BILL to amend and reenact [§5H-1-1](#), [§5H-1-2](#), and [§5H-1-3](#) of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating generally to survivor benefits for emergency response providers; changing the name of the West Virginia Fire and EMS Survivor Benefit Act to the West Virginia Emergency Responders Survivor Benefit Act; making Division of Forestry personnel who die as a proximate result of their participation in wildland fire fighting, emergency response, or disaster response operations eligible for survivor benefits; defining terms; making technical changes; and reorganizing language in the act for clarity. Effective July 1, 2019

Summary: Relating generally to survivor benefits for emergency response providers

SB 318 - A BILL to amend and reenact [§9-7-1](#), [§9-7-3](#), [§9-7-6](#), and [§9-7-6a](#) of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to transferring the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to the Office of the Attorney General; establishing an effective date the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit will transfer to the Office of the Attorney General; establishing the Legislative Auditor to deliver a report on the performance of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit; establishing investigation powers with the Attorney General; establishing the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources may share documents with the Attorney General; establishing persons able to maintain a civil action; and establishing liability limits for employees acting in good faith. Passed March 7, 2019. Effective October 1, 2019.

Summary: Transferring Medicaid Fraud Control Unit to Attorney General's office

SB 519 - BILL to amend and reenact [§24-6-5](#) of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring persons employed to dispatch emergency calls in county emergency dispatch centers to complete a training course in emergency cardiovascular care for telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation; requiring training to be completed by a certain date; and requiring calls to be transferred to call center in certain circumstances. Passed March 5, 2019

Summary: Requiring county emergency dispatchers' complete course for telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation

SB 520 - AN ACT to amend and reenact [§16-5T-3](#) and [§16-5T-4](#) of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to drug overdoses; requiring entities report drug overdoses; requiring details for drug overdose reports; eliminating mandatory reporters; and making grammatical corrections. Passed March 5, 2019; Effective June 3, 2019.

Summary: Requiring entities report drug overdoses

HB 2321 - A BILL to amend and reenact §23-4-1f of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing workers' compensation benefits for first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from an event that occurred during their employment. Referred.
Summary: Allowing workers' compensation benefits for first responders diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder

HB 2720 - BILL to amend and reenact §5-3-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §6-3-1a of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §7-15-19; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §8-15-28; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-4C-24, all relating to authorizing certain investigators and first responders to carry firearms; authorizing supervising entities to authorize investigators employed by the attorney general, reserve deputy sheriffs, ambulance crew members, firefighters, rescue squad members and emergency service personnel to carry firearms; specifying the training required for such persons to be eligible to carry a firearm; and, for first responders, allowing for reimbursement for the cost of the training. Referred.
Summary: Authorizing certain investigators and first responders to carry firearms

HB 2626 - A BILL to amend and reenact §16-4C-3, §16-4C-4, §16-4C-5, and §16-4C-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto three new sections, designated §16-4C-4a, §16-4C-4b and §16-4C-5a, all relating to emergency medical services; continuing the Office of Emergency Medical Services as an independent office within the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety; updating definitions; creating the positions of Executive Director, Medical Director and Administrative Director for the office; establishing and clarifying the powers and duties of the directors; reconstituting the Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council with nine members; and requirements for the state medical protocols. Referred.
Summary: Relating to emergency medical services

SB 280 - A BILL to amend and reenact §11-21-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to creating a modification for Social Security income with respect to the West Virginia personal income tax; effectively eliminating the tax on Social Security for certain taxpayers; and providing for the nullification of the provisions under certain circumstances.
*Summary: To finance January 11, 2019
(OEMS Concern - exemption from WV state taxation for EMS Pension Benefits – other first responders that have state pensions allegedly do not have to pay income tax on these benefits.)*

EMS Recognition Awards – Connie Hall

Notification and nomination forms will be distributed ASAP by OEMS to all EMS Agency Official Representatives. Nominations must be received by OEMS Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Incomplete nomination forms will not be considered. Categories and criteria will remain the same as last year.

EPCR Submission – Connie Hall

The administrative subcommittee discussed the frequent issue of dealing with agencies and field providers that do not submit their run sheets within the 72-hour time frame. Code states that ambulance agencies and or field providers can be fined up to \$5,000.00 per occurrence for not submitting run sheets within 72 hours. There is no set procedure or recourse established to address this issue. The

subcommittee asked for permission to notify OEMS for possible intervention, however, Dr. Mills believes the legality of the situation must be thoroughly reviewed and consulted by the legal department prior to making any decision. The run sheet is written for the agency, not for the EMS provider. General discussion followed, no action taken.

National Registry Update – Chairman Weller

The WV module is scheduled to be release by the end of this month. The Advanced EMT (AEMT) program continues to move forward. There is a specific WV module for AEMT, and a specific test developed for this module. Applicants will be required to successfully pass the WV AEMT test in addition to the National Registry AEMT test. The AEMT program cannot through OEMS or through National Registry be used as a backup plan in the event an individual has failed their Paramedic exam.

Red Light Permits – Chairman Weller

Topic to remain on committee agenda until sufficient staff is available.

Safety – Connie Hall

EMS Fatigue

The dangers of fatigue among EMS providers are well known, but not well understood. The Fatigue in EMS initiative kicked off in February 2016. The project aims to address the potential dangers of drowsiness and fatigue among EMS workers, including the risk of traffic crashes, injuries to providers and patients, and medical errors. Visit emsfatigue.org to read the evidence-based guidelines and take steps in your organization to mitigate the impact of fatigue on safety.

Lights and Siren Use

The committee states that this issue must be addressed by each agency as it applies to their individual circumstances.

Tremco Emergency Vehicle Anti-Theft Device – Information Only

Tremco Emergency Vehicle Anti-Theft System is a patented anti-theft system that will prevent thieves from stealing your emergency vehicle.

National EMS Safety Conference April 17, 2019

Subcommittee members will be contacted by Connie Hall for additional information.

Policy/Procedure & Protocol – Chairman Weller

Protocol Updates/Proposals

Chairman Weller stated that an email was sent on March 11, 2019 discussing some issues with the current 2019 Protocols. Most were very minor issues; however, some changes were necessary.

The Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)

This protocol submitted and approved by the PPP subcommittee, EMSAC and MPCC unfortunately did not work as well as it should have. This protocol was changed to match the guidelines for Amiodarone administration.

Bronchospasm

Questions regarding how you can continue to use DuoNeb and stay within the protocol limits. A specific dosage of Albuterol with the DuoNeb was recommended. The equipment list was changed to reflect this update.

OEMS Education Policy

The new OEMS Education Policy has been submitted twice for a 30-day public comment period. Dr. Michael has compiled the comments and redrafted the document to accommodate the needs of the providers. This revised document will be submitted for public comment within the next few days once it has been signed by Dr. Slemp.

This document includes two recertification options, so you are not locked into using the WV modules if you are in another state or simply do not select to do so. The appendix includes all skill sheets. The skill sheets have been through National Registry and are not modifiable. They meet all guidelines for EMR and EMT. Summary sheets are also included.

OEMS has redefined the pre-approved education list to match that of the Nation Registry. Once this revised education policy is released the current list will no longer be valid. Per legislative rule, courses that are not on the pre-approved list must be submitted to OEMS for consideration and approval. Training agencies must issue certificates that state the trainee name, the instructor name, the WVOEMS pre-approved course number and date.

EMS Instructor Policy/Training Agencies

Report will be included under New Business

RN to Paramedic Policy

There have been questions regarding the RN to Paramedic Policy and how they would test for their EMT. There is a mechanism built into National Registry that allows them to go in and take an assessment test and get a grade for it. **This is not** a change of policy. It is additional information that will be included in the policy.

Training – Chairman Weller

New Training Facility

There has been a group effort to make the RETI Training Center located at 89 Richard D. Minnich Road, Sutton, WV a testing site for Pearson Vue.

V. Special Reports

OEMS Report – Dr. Michael Mills

Dr. Mills reported several changes in OEMS. Melissa Raynes resigned January 1, 2019 and OEMS Legal Counsel Brian Skinner resigned January 4, 2019. Bob Dozier retired in October 2018 and his retirement has made it difficult to collect necessary data for reporting purposes. At the same time, OEMS had Nemsis V3 rolled out which has limited the ability of cross talking between software and billing companies to resolve issues with medications and protocols. John Thomas, the OEMS Workforce Development Manager retired in November 2018 and OEMS Agency Licensing Coordinator, Jimmy Sadler resigned March 15, 2019. Vicki Hildreth will be assuming John Thomas's position which creates yet another vacancy in EMSC. All OEMS employees are working diligently to overcome these obstacles and appreciate your patience during this period of adjustment.

The National Registry transition is moving forward with excellent results. OEMS is the pilot project for the rest of the nation. The Mark King initiative may become a national endeavor.

Medical Command

Tabled

Air Medical

ECHO Critical Care Conference will be held April 3 - 5, 2019 at Pipestem Resort State Park, in Pipestem, West Virginia. Hosted in partnership with HealthNet Aeromedical.

VI. Old Business

1. OEMS Education Policy

Previously addressed with EMSAC/Chairman reports.

VII. New Business

1. Swift Water Rescue – Chairman Weller

Chairman Weller stated that there is going to be a greater demand for an ambulance and crew to be on scene during any specialized rescue class. This will be mandated by the WV State Fire Commission in response to an incident that occurred in Harpers Ferry following a series of events and classified as a “close call” by the fire commission. The WV State Fire Commission did a full investigation of the incident and they have mandated a redevelopment of safety policy for swift water and rescue classes in general.

Ed Hicks made recommendation that a representative of EMS be present at the next WV State Fire Commission meeting April 24 - 25, 2019 at the Pullman Plaza Hotel, Huntington, WV to present ideas on what EMS should and should not be involved with during these training sessions.

General discussion followed regarding agency short staffing, excessive down time and the problems associated with unpaid governmental mandates. Chairman Weller suggested drafting a letter on behalf of EMSAC to the WV State Fire Commission expressing the issues with acquiring an ambulance for multiple days for however many instances over a year. Motion made by Paul Seamann for Chairman Weller to draft a letter to the WV Fire Commissioner to open the dialog regarding EMS challenges and concerns with this mandate. Motion seconded by Connie Hall. Motion carried.

2. Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency (JCESA) Protocol Submission - Chairman Weller

JCESA has submitted a protocol change request. The request is properly completed and signed by Dr. Marney B. Treese, Agency Medical Director complete with medical documentation and sample protocol. JCESA is asking to use ketamine as a preferred and or optional sedative agent for RSI. Ketamine was instructed for use as a temporary item but not as a permanent option. Motion made by Paul Seamann to submit to MPCC for final approval. Motion seconded by Glen Satterfield. Motion carried. If approved by MPCC it will go into effect next year.

3. Patient Hand Off Process – Glen Satterfield

Glen Satterfield stated that he was approached by an individual EMS provider that is interested in developing an across the board – across the state duplicate patient handoff sheet for submittal to EMSAC for review and comment. This form would look the same for all providers. Various examples were presented. General discussion followed regarding such concerns as duplication of efforts, EPCR vs. paper form, legal considerations, time expense, protocol procedures and agency responsibility etc. The EMSAC board agreed this should be a squad level decision. Motion made by Paul Seamann to not consider this request and or option at this time. Motion seconded by Connie Hall. Motion carried.

4. 16-year old and 17-year-old EMR and EMT Candidates/ Nation Registry Certification – Chairman Weller

Chairman Weller stated that If the provider is an EMT candidate, he or she can complete the program and test if they desire. If they pass the test, Nation Registry will issue a certification card only after they have reached their 18th birthday. OEMS will issue a certificate that states they can assist as a second person on the ambulance but cannot operate as a primary care provider. There is no age limit for EMR certification by National

Registry. The policies have been rewritten and placed on the OEMS website to indicate those changes.

5. Instructor and Education Institute Policy Revision – Chairman Weller

The instructor and educational institute policies are being revised to address and resolve issues that are not reflective of legislative rule and contain incomplete processes. Chairman Weller briefly described examples of these concerns. New processes are now being added for instructor and training agency renewal. OEMS has developed for consideration new instructor applications for initial certification and recertification that will assist in this process. General discussion regarding the new forms followed. Motion made by Glen Satterfield to adopt the instructor applications for initial certification and recertification as submitted. Motion seconded by Connie Hall. Motion carried. These documents will be included in the Educational Institute and Instructor Endorsement Policy.

6. Critical Care Transport DKA Guidelines (clarification)

Motion made by Paul Seamann to move forward to MPCC. Motion seconded by Donna Steward. Motion carried. Paul Seamann noted this has already been approved by committee, EMSAC and MPCC. This is only a clarification on an existing protocol.

7. C2IFT Protocols

Motion made by Paul Seamann to forward the C2IFT Protocols to MPCC for review and comment. Motion seconded by Glen Satterfield. Motion carried. MPCC to review prior to next EMSAC meeting.

8. Legislative Rule 64CSR48

Chairman Weller stated that Legislative Rule 64CSR48 will be opened this year to remove certification level ACT and add certification level AEMT. Once this is opened up it has to be brought to EMSAC 30 days beforehand and be submitted by June 30, 2019. This will either require a special session in May or a onetime change moving the regularly scheduled meeting up to accommodate the deadline. General discussion followed. Motion made by Donna Steward to move the regularly scheduled EMSAC meeting from June 11, 2019 to May 14, 2019. Motions seconded by Glen Satterfield. Motion carried.

9. Anticipation of Homeland Security Bill

Following an in-depth discussion of prior legislative sessions relating to the reorganization of Emergency Management to the Division of Homeland Security a motion was made by Glen Satterfield for Chairman Weller to draft a letter of invitation to the sponsors of this potential bill to open the dialog regarding EMS challenges and concerns regarding this potential bill. Motion seconded by Paul Seamann. Motion carried.

10. Medical Command Issue and Concern – Chairman Weller – Dr. P.S. Martin

Chairman Weller stated that there is a medical command issue with varying concerns of how significant this issue is and how it applies across the state of WV. Chairman Weller also stated that although we have multiple medical command centers; not one of them functions the same.

Dr. P.S. Martin stated that over the last three years he noticed the training of the WVU Medical Command physicians and the focus on the protocols had fallen away. Dr. Martin started a process of training the medical command physicians and keeping them up to date on all policy, procedure and protocol changes. In doing this he noticed another problem that necessitated supervision of the communicators adding that the communicators required guidance to be more uniform across the state. This also applies to the command physicians.

Dr. Martin proposed that EMSAC have a statewide medical command policy, procedure and protocol subcommittee. Dr. Martin stated that he would volunteer his time in whatever

roll the subcommittee deems necessary. Dr. Martin also suggested the following steps to move forward with this proposal:

- Hire a new Medical Director at WVU
- Rewrite the policy and procedures

It is also noted and understood that each medical command center will have unique policies and procedures that only apply to their facility and region. Policies and procedures that require uniformity and or immediate action are as follows:

- Determining how medical command handles the interface with prehospital care providers.
- Dispatch of air medical resources.
- Review of the current OEMS requirements.
- Review the current OEMS protocols to determine if the command centers are fitting the prehospital protocols.
- Review the individual policies and procedures of the medical command centers.

Jeremy Higginbotham, Manager, Pre-Hospital Services, Cabell Huntington Hospital and a member of the Medical Command Committee suggested that a new committee is not necessary as the Medical Command Committee is already in place and willing to tackle this issue. In depth discussion followed. The establishment of a medical command subcommittee is on hold for now and EMSAC recommends that the following appointees attend the quarterly medical command meetings:

- Paul Seamann
- Connie Hall
- Rita White
- Kevin Duckwall
- Janie Ward
- Dr. Michael Peterson
- Dillon Oliveto

No further action taken at this time.

VIII. Good of the Order

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made at 3:17 PM. Motion seconded. Motion carried.