

Minutes

EMS Advisory Council March 23, 2009

Members in Attendance

John Ashcraft
Scott Edwards
Connie Hall
Marcel Malfregeot
Stephen McIntire
Gordon Merry
Richard Rock
Glen Satterfield
Paul Seamann
Chip Sovick
Donna Steward

Members Absent

Joe Coburn
Roger Curry
Jim Kranz

Liaisons in Attendance

Gary Collis
James Hill

STECs Staff in Attendance

Vicki Hildreth
Jerry Kyle
Sharon Pearson
Dr. William Ramsey
Jonathan Sapp
Tom Stricklen
Deron Wilkes

Guests in Attendance

Roger Bryant
Laura Forren
Chris Hall
Toni Hall
Doug Pittinger
Joe Richards

Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call

The meeting of the EMS Advisory Council was called to order on March 23, 2009 at the Kanawha Emergency Ambulance Authority, Charleston, West Virginia by Chairman Paul Seamann. Roll call with introductions of all members, liaisons, and guests were made. Several squads were represented due to EMS at the Legislature which was earlier in the day.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Richard Rock and seconded by Glenn Satterfield to approve the minutes as presented for the EMS Advisory meeting held on December 16, 2008.

Old Business

Non-Transport Agency Equipment Requirements: Comments on the proposed list have not yet been solicited due to pending receipt of the EMSC equipment list. That list will be presented in final form on Thursday this week. The appropriate changes will be

made to both the proposed non-transport and ambulance equipment lists and they will be posted on the OEMS web page for a two-week comment period.

Electronic Data System

Deron Wilkes gave the report on the WVOEMS/EMS PIC regional rollouts being sponsored by the Office of Health Promotion's Cardio Vascular Health. Fifteen percent of the agencies are now reporting electronically. Deron advised those present to register in the Credentialing Information System, even if an electronic data entry method has not been chosen. New vendor information and progress reports are available at wvoems.org.

In response to questions regarding paper forms, Joe Richards informed the group that the current supply of three-part paper forms was nearly depleted. TSN is soliciting quotes for a temporary supply of paper forms and is considering single-page forms. Distribution and copy requirements to TSN field offices will be determined.

Systems Improvement

Certification and Testing

Many areas relating to these priorities will be discussed in new business. It was reported that new state certification cards are being issued within one day of pass notification. Problems continue with fingerprint results and will be discussed later.

Education and Training

There was a discussion regarding ALS training institute accreditation. Several Community & Technical Colleges intend to apply as BLS training institutes separate from RESA.

Recruitment and Retention

Jerry advised OEMS & TSN are repeating the survey of non-recertifying paramedics is to add to the data as to why ALS personnel leave.

New Business

OEMS Staff Changes

A new Office Assistant, Rachel Moses, will begin on April 1 Tom Stricklen; new investigator for OEMS was introduced. He gave a brief overview of his efforts.

HB 2916

Jerry explained the content and intent behind HB 2916. It gives OEMS the ability to manage the background check process and establishes a fee structure to support state BLS certification exam options. This bill did not originate in the Trauma and Emergency Care system; however both Jerry and Dr. Ramsey stated their unequivocal support for the bill.

Paul distributed a handout (copy attached) with his vision of how the components of the EMS system interrelate.

Patient Handoff

At a recent EMS Coalition meeting, the problem of patient handoff delays was discussed. As a result, OEMS offered a draft web-based collection system to determine exactly when, where, and how often delays occur. A handout of the proposed tool was distributed (copy attached). After discussion, Richard Rock moved to have OEMS post the web tool for statewide use, for a specified period of time, with a report on the results due at the next EMSAC meeting. Chip Sovick seconded. The motion passed.

Altmire-Miller federal Helicopter Medical Services Services Patient Safety, Protection, and Coordination Act

Chip briefed the council on the background and intent of this act. Essentially, under the airline deregulation act, states cannot regulate aviation activities. Some states have been sued when attempting to medically regulate Helicopter EMS agencies. This act would allow states to regulate medical personnel qualifications, medical equipment, healthcare planning and quality and service access, delivery and availability. Dr. Ramsey and Jerry both indicated that the Trauma and Emergency Care System support this legislation even though West Virginia has not experienced significant resistance to current state requirements in these areas. After a brief discussion, Chip Sovick moved that the WV EMSAC supports the Altmire-Miller bill and advised our congressional delegation of the same. Motion passed.

Reports

Medical Director

Dr. Ramsey elaborated on HB2916 as a method for our State to offer choices for those wanting to enter or remain within the EMS field.

The "patient handoff" problems as a national and local issue were discussed. Dr. Ramsey suggested that the problems be addressed individually and possibly link the issue with Trauma Designation guidelines.

OEMS Staff

Deron Wilkes advised the group that the CCT treatment guidelines were released last week and become effective April 1, 2009. Therefore, July 1, 2009, the C3-IFT protocols concerning inter facility transportation become effective.

WVEMS TSN

Joe Richards explained that they were working the 2010 budget. Regional board by-laws are being developed to address board insurance issues.

In conjunction with WVOEMS and the Office of Threat Preparedness, TSN is offering ICS for EMS and Ham Radio Licensing Courses at various locations around the state. They will also be offering a Wilderness Upgrade for Medical Professionals in late April in Pendleton County. Details on all offerings are or will be available on the WVOEMS web site.

The EMS conference will be held November 11-14 at Flatwoods.

CEMTAC director interviews have been held and a selection should be made within the week.

Regional Liaisons

Neither had a report.

Good of the Order

KCEAA was thanked for providing the meeting space.

Marcel Malfregot gave the group information on the USDA's Rush Grant for electronic medical records, training, etc. which will be distributed to the council in the near future.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at a meeting site TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.