

STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
March 1, 2002

MEMBERS: Jon Jui, Suzann Schmele, Erin Burnham, William Ferguson, Denise Giard, Terry Griffith, Pat Hart, T.R. Hilton, Ken Parsons, Pete Kingsley, William Porter, Richard Straw, Jim Thomas, Charles McCart

Absent: James Giesen, Eric Brunswick, Linda Quackenbush

Staff: Jonathan Chin, Catherine J. Schmitz, Shelley Shute, Jerry Andrews, Elizabeth Morgan, Zan Chandler

Guests: Ken McGinnis, Will Bauscher, Kyle Gorman, Dave Fuller, Mark Stevens, Scott Cooper

1. Call to Order

Dr. Jui called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. All were reminded of the no smoking policy. December 7, 2001 minutes were not accepted. Corrections may be submitted by March 15, 2002. A corrected version will be distributed for approval at the next meeting.

2. Subcommittee & Liaison Section - Reports/Committee Discussion

A) Board of Medical Examiners EMT Advisory Board Liaison

Suzann Schmele reported the Board of Medical Examiner (BME) met 2 weeks ago. EMT Advisory Committee membership was discussed. Currently term appointments are staggered to provide smooth transition and insure stability of representation. Under consideration are; extending length of term to 3 or 4 years with a term limit of 2, one of the 3 required EMT positions would be EMT-Paramedic, and increase rural and frontier representation. Two (2) of the fifteen (15) changes of the EMT-I scope of practice were approved. There was discussion but no firm agreement concerning changes in medication. The committee will be conducting a survey of Medical Directors. Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue requested consideration for the use of an auto-injector in the case of bio-terrorism. The committee request they return with more details for further consideration.

B) Subcommittee on EMT Certification and Discipline

Suzann Schmele reported the committee met in executive session on February 28, 2002. Four (4) individuals came before the committee. Three (3) were released from probation after successful completion of the requirements of their agreement. Professional Standards reports included; Professional Standards Unit 4th quarter 2001 activity summary and files opened, closed or placed

on probation since October 1, 2001. Approximately seventy-percent of probationary files are alcohol related. The newly revised Professional Handbook will be available for distribution soon. The committee thanked Charles McCart, MD for extending his term with the committee.

C) EMT Education

Ms. Schmele reported in general session on Friday March 1, 2002 the committee discussed issues including; additions to the EMT-Basic scope of practice approved by the BME – Pharyngeal Esophageal Airway Device (PEAD), draft language was left by Russ Harper, status of those not yet approved – Laryngeal Mask Airway (LMA), and general confidentiality issues. The committee thanked Donna Wilson, MTU Coordinator for the success of the Moulage class for core instructors. The Instructor Development Course (IDC) is scheduled for April 6-9, 2002. The IDC will rollout at The National Association of EMS Instructors conference to be held in Oregon September 2002. The EMT consortium, which is under the Board of Education, met on February 22, 2002. A representative needs to be appointed after recent death of a past director. A consistent transition is the goal. Actions require support of the full board.

D) EMS for Children

Jonathan Chin reported on behalf of Fred Neis that the committee met March 1, 2002. The committee approved their bylaws. The EMS for Children (EMSC) conference site has been relocated to the campus of Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis on October 18-19, 2002. The keynote speaker will be Dr. James Broselow. Suzan “Zan” Chandler, RN joined the EMSC unit of the EMS & Trauma System section on an internship with the BSN program at Linnfield College. Family Center Pre-hospital care guidelines are being drafted.

Dr. Jui requests a needs assessment summary of the EMSC committee for the Family Center Pre-Hospital care project by the next meeting.

E) Oregon State Ambulance Association Liaison

Ken Parsons reported the effective date for the initial Medicare reimbursement reduction of 20% in medical expenses and an increase of \$13.00 to the base rate is April 1, 2002. Current members in the association have a Medicare mix of 22-73% of their business. Massive changes are expected and will be phased in over the next five (5) years. Specific changes are not completely known. A collaborative petition effort is anticipated by professional associations after experience with the new schedule. There was discussion among the committee and its guests. Jon Jui wants to be pro-active. Jonathan Chin stated the EMS office would monitor and reevaluate in one year. Mr. Chin asked everyone to work with the initial CMS (Medicare) changes as best they can while exploring alternative funding.

F) **Oregon ACEP Liaison**

No report available.

3. OLD BUSINESS

A) **Membership Update** – moved to new business

4 NEW BUSINESS

A) **Database Development: Short And Long Term Goals**

Jon Jui opened dialogue with the committee and its guests. A database has been in the works for five (5) to ten (10) years. Jonathan Chin stated SB-911 money has placed 70 computers in agencies currently. Software for those computers is to be distributed shortly. A test group of agencies is currently under way. Dr Jui welcomed the larger agencies to work together by first approaching separately in house and bringing data to the subcommittee to work jointly. Goals include; have agencies bring standardized data to the State to develop a standardized data dictionary, incorporate large and small systems, hit the ground with a deliberate process. The State is working with smaller rural agencies on the development and implementation of a Pre-hospital Documentation Program and Data Warehouse System. Denise Giard and Ken Parsons offered their agencies for consideration.

B) **Bioterrorism Preparation**

A summary was provided to the committee from a roundtable discussion at the last meeting. Participants included committee members, guests, staff – EMS and OPHS as well. The purpose was to increase communications between EMS providers and DHS-EMS's in regards to Bioterrorism. Mel Kohn, State Epidemiologist, and Michael McGuire, Coordinator, Health Alert Network (HAN)-, provided extensive history from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) where there has been increased activity for the past several years. A program was created which provided funding to Oregon with three (3) components; implementation of HAN, enhance Public Health Laboratories capacity, and recruit a Bioterrorism Coordinator - Maria Sstrom, Coordinator. Oregon's Bioterrorism program has two (2) parts; professional education and planning.

Jonathan Chin reported application of grants from HRSA to insure hospital readiness in the event of attack. The program will be modeled after the Trauma System. Phase one (1) will bring \$300,000 for set-up and reimbursement for September 11, 2001 expenditures. Additional staff will be needed. Phase two (2) is estimated at \$1.2M funneled through the State with eighty – percent (80%) to local communities to insure abilities. There are short timelines attached.

Increased involvement with the Federal Government is essential.

Dr. Jui requested a one (1) page needs assessment for the following scenario - with no preclusions;

- catastrophe of 500 patients
- 50 - 100 critical
- Chemical attack
- Bioterrorism attack
- Nuclear attack

How would your agency respond? Where would the problems be?

Tom Johnson, Grant Higginson & Barry Kast will be invited to attend presentation.

C) **Director's Vision**

Jonathan Chin stated his charge was to provide stability and healing to the foundation and infrastructure of Oregon's EMS community. Mr. Chin is looking forward to getting out in the community once the office has addressed some outstanding issues and "the house" is in order. His vision will be the subject of many meet and greets with EMS stakeholders. The State EMS Committee (SEMSC) is only one piece of the pie. Monthly meeting of the chairpersons from the STAB, and SEMSC is planned.

Thomas R. "Russ" Harper, Training Manager and Teresa Hosler, Office Manager have left the office. These positions will remain vacant while recruitment proceeds. Existing staff will cover as needed during this transition. Internal reorganization has been revisited due to opportunities of recent vacancies. The goal is to create a cultural shift through the process of personal integrity, professionalism and customer service.

D) **EMS Committee Items;**

a) Membership Update

There was discussion regarding term appointment dates. Members who term expired December 2001 agreed to continue at this time. Several new members joined during 2001 however, the appointment date is unclear.

The section will verify appointment dates with the BME and report back to the committee.

b) Committee's Role and Purpose

There was candid discussion of each committee member's role and responsibility. Included were; general frustration in not completing tasks once started, lack of commitment from committee members – AWOL, inconsistent language in OAR and ORS 2001 version vs. committee recommendations, certification vs. licensure, decrease funding, increased cost of service. The committee would like to provide broad base of support to the State office. Attending a meeting via conference call is greatly desired.

Jonathan Chin displayed a teleconferencing model on loan from the Board of Nursing. Approximate cost is \$900.00. A member may be allowed to attend via telephone one (1) time per year, stressing the importance of face – face communication. A draft policy will be presented to the committee prior to adoption.

c) Open Forum: Vision and Direction

The committee re-established and or re-affirmed the following subcommittees;

- **EMS DATABASE**; Jon Jui (coordinator), Ken Parsons, Denise Girard, Kyle Gorman, Mark Stevens, and Dave Fuller.
- **EMT CERTIFICATION**; Suzann Schmele (coordinator), Linda Quackenbush, Charles McCart, Erin Burnham, T.R. Hilton, Pat Hart, and Jim Thomas
- **HEALTH SERVICES**; Ken Parsons (coordinator), Denise Girard, William Ferguson, Richard Straw, William Porter, Ken McGinnis,
- **DISASTER PLANNING**; Terry Griffith (coordinator), Pete Kingsley, Helen Miller, and Jon Jui.

Subcommittees will meet from 9:00 - 12:00 noon on the days of full SEMSC meetings. The State office will arrange conference rooms. Support staff will be provided for the EMT Certification committee.

Dr. Jui requests a point person be appointed and report back at the June 7, 2002 meeting.

The committee requests coordination of space prior to the 2002 EMS Conference for both the sub-committees @9:00 am & full committee @ 1:30 pm on Thursday September 12, 2002.

Jerry Andrews will facilitate on behalf of all parties.

5) **STAFF REPORTS**

Jonathan Chin referred to Program Quarterly Reports provided to committee members. Additional copies were available for guests. There were no questions of the group.

- A) **Director Report**
- B) **Trauma System Report**
- C) **EMS for Children**
- D) **EMS Operations**
- E) **EMS Outreach Programs - MTU**
- F) **State EMT Training & Certification**
- G) **Professional Standards**
- H) **Medical Preparedness**
- I) **Oregon DMAT Team**

6. **PUBLIC FORUM & COMMENT**

Kyle Gorman reported the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has an EMS Technical Committee with ten (10) workgroups; regulation/policy, analysis, medical direction, public education, human resources, operations, communication, facility equipment, and finance. A rough draft of the group's outcomes is in circulation. Their next meeting is April 6, 2002.

7. **ADJOURN**

Motion; Pat Hart
Second; Charles McCart

Meeting adjourned;

Respectfully submitted

Catherine J Schmitz
Professional Standards Assistant
Emergency Medical Services