



STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 8, 2006

Meeting Minutes



Members: Shawn Baird; Erin Burnham; Denise Giard; Pat Hart; Jon Jui; John Mack; Greg Marlar; Charles McCart; Helen Miller; Jennifer Mitchke; Pete Kingsley; William Porter; Ameen Ramzy; Suzanne Schmidt

Staff: Grant Higginson; Susan Werner; Elizabeth Morgan; Karen Baker

Guests: Paul Rostykus, Mike Harryman, John Wish, Jerry Andrews, John Stouffer, Doug Stewart, William Collins, Mary Orr, Mark Stevens, Ken Parsons

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A) Jon Jui called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. All were reminded of the no smoking policy. A voting quorum was present.
- B) Minutes: There was a motion to accept the minutes as distributed by Denise Giard; the motion was seconded by Pat Hart. The vote was unanimous to approve the June 2, 2006 meeting minutes as distributed.

2. SUBCOMMITTEE, LIAISON, & SECTION REPORTS

A) BME – EMT Advisory Board Liaison

Paul Rostykus, MD gave an update on the Medical Director's Meeting held during the EMS Conference, September 23, 2006. He also reported the Medical Director's listserv is live, and approximately 10% percent of the 140 Medical Directors currently are signed into the listserv. Dr. Rostykus gave an update on the Board of Medical Examiner's meeting earlier today. Surgical Cricothyrotomy was added to the scope of practice for EMT-Ps. There was also discussion during the meeting regarding the ability of EMT-I and EMT-Ps to administer immunizations under the direction of the supervising Medical Director during a disease outbreak. **Action: Informational only**

B) EMS & Trauma Systems Section Report

Grant Higginson, Acting EMS Director, reported that there have been Oregon Administrative Rule meetings during the last several meetings. Administrative Rule revisions for Division 333-250 and 333-255 are finished and will be submitted to the Secretary of State for public hearing. Meetings to finalize the revisions for Division 333-265 will continue through January 2007, as substantial changes are being proposed. The next committee meeting for the changes to 333-265 is scheduled for September 15. Jon Jui asked that the Section distribute the rule revisions to the members of the SEMSC for comment before they are filed with the Secretary of State.

Dr. Higginson reported that Jeanne Arana and Tim Hennigan resigned on July 7, 2006. The Prehospital Systems Manager job position has been posted with the Human Resources office and applications will close on September 12. The Director position is being delayed so that the job description can better reflect the recommendations of the NHTSA Advisory Team report and the Advisory Committee. **Action: The Prehospital Systems Manager position will be posted in late December or January 2007.**

Dr. Higginson reported that a letter of clarification regarding the EMT-I Bridge Course and necessary Continuing education was sent to all EMT-Is.

There are two advisory committees currently under creation by Public Health Preparedness (PHP). The IHOC will assist in managing the dispersion of funds to hospitals and emergency systems, and the Medical Advisory Group is working on the pandemic flu epidemic exercise. Mike Harryman, manager in the PHP Office, discussed PHP links with EMS/Trauma Systems. He noted that there are gaps in communication between PHP and EMS, and EMS does not currently have an EMS surge plan that could move patients during medical emergencies or natural disasters. There is also a lack of regional and state-wide integrated mutual aid plans. The Public Health Preparedness section has been successful in developing plans for radiologic emergencies, toxicologic emergencies and pandemic flu emergencies, and needs the assistance from the EMS community to create an EMS surge capacity plan. **Action: Dr. Higginson will provide updates on the progress of the creation of an EMS Surge Capacity Plan.**

Liz Morgan provided statistics for National Registry Computer Aided Testing (CAT). The Oregon EMT-P pass rate for the pilot test was 90%. Beginning January 1, 2007 all EMT testing will be CAT. Current testing locations are in Beaverton, Medford, Salem, Bend, and Burns. **Action: The company securing the testing sites will secure a testing site in Eugene.**

Liz Morgan reported that the computer program that tracks EMS Certification, License 2000, went live on July 8, 2006. We are still working through operational system problems. Beginning January 1, 2007, the system will be transitioned into a web based system. **Action: Informational only.**

Susie Werner noted that the EMS for Children Program position still open. EMS/TS staff will submit the EMS for Children grant due in November. EMSC and PHP provided \$160,000 grant to First Responder agencies to purchase training equipment. The Trauma Program is piloting a new web based Trauma Registry that will go live in November. **Action: Informational only**

C) Subcommittee on EMT Certification & Discipline Report

Erin Burnham provided an EMT Certification and Discipline report. A quorum was not present and formal recommendations could not be forwarded to the EMS and Trauma Systems Section. There was discussion that, under current rule, members of the EMT Certification & Discipline subcommittee must be a voting member of the SEMSC. Jon Jui requested that the EMS and

Action: Trauma Systems Section to develop a listserv for the SEMSC and the EMT Certification and Discipline subcommittee.

D) EMT Education

Gregg Landers reported the need to revitalize the EMT Education subcommittee by including members not usually associated with the subcommittee.

E) Oregon State Ambulance Association Liaison

Shawn Baird reported that he will be in Washington D.C. next week lobbying for ambulance finance reform. Congressman Walden will be introducing a Rural Health Finance Bill.

F) Oregon ACEP Liaison

Erin Burnham reported that the state ACEP convention will be in Sunriver in late January 2007. A medical director's meeting will be held in conjunction with this convention.

G) Oregon DMAT

Helen Miller reported the DMAT participated in a joint exercise in Hawaii in August. DMAT has received permission to use the Oregon Department of Forestry repeaters for communication in disaster events in Oregon. Oregon Disaster Medical Assistance Team, Equipment has been inventoried. Team still unsure where it will fall under the Federal system.

H) AAMRO

Ameen Ramsey, MD reported that the group continues to meet quarterly. Senator Wyden gave a health care forum on general health care and finance. The association is discussing the possibility of securing a single frequency for state wide communication between ground and air ambulances.

3) OLD BUSINESS

A) 2006 NHTSA Advisory Team Report

Dr. Higginson discussed the NHTSA visit that occurred in March 2006 and the resulting Advisory Team (AT) assessment of the NHTSA recommendations of the NHTSA reassessment. The reassessment disclosed a serious deterioration of the State EMS System. The Advisory Team affirmed 57 were accepted, with 37 as written, and 18 with modifications. A number of recommendations require statute or rule changes, and several required additional State staff. The AT suggested that there were numerous recommendations that we could start working on immediately, but would be a five year process. The five main points that the AT thought we could work on would be: 1) Vision for the EMS/TS System; 2) Governance of State-Level Activities; 3) Medical Direction; 4) Evaluation; and 5) Preparedness and Response.

The SEMSC members need to review the report and respond to Karen Baker with a written vote to whether to accept or decline the evaluation of the AT on the recommendations. A small

group will meet in one month to create action items and lay out a plan to move forward with the recommendations.

4) NEW BUSINESS

A) AAMRO Response Map Resource

Ken Parsons, President of AAMRO, presented helicopter scene response maps as a visually depiction of the first available helicopter response locations. There is a need to provide the closest helicopter to respond to a scene when needed. There were three maps presented to the SEMSC, only as a depiction not what actually happens. 1) Oregon's Helicopter Bases for Emergency Scene Response by Closest Responder (not response areas); 2) Helicopter Bases for Emergency Scene Transport (using highway mileposts); 3) Helicopter Bases for Emergency Scene Transport (using highway mileposts, but in closer detail). Discussion held on variable of responding, proposed regulations, response time, range capabilities, auto-launch procedures, and patient needs.

B) Posting Notice of Disciplinary Actions

As of January 1, 2007, the State EMS Office will start posting of Final Disciplinary Actions (abstract) against EMTs on the State EMS Website. The display will be consistent with other State agencies. The State EMS/TS will notify EMTs that disciplinary actions will be posted.

5) PUBLIC FORUM AND COMMENT

Jerry Andrews asked if a written exam will be required for paramedic recertification. Following discussion, a motion was made that to advise the State EMS/TS Section to eliminate the written test requirement for paramedic recertification in 2007. There was a second to the motion and unanimous agreement. Action: State EMS/TS Section will take the request under advisement and will either draft an emergency rule or propose an amendment to the current rules.

4TH QUARTER SEMSC MEETING SCHEDULE

The EMT Training subcommittee will meet Thursday, December 7 in the morning; the EMT Certification and Discipline subcommittee will meet Thursday, December 7 in the afternoon; the SEMSC will meet Friday, December 8 in the afternoon. The Board of Medical Examiners EMT Subcommittee meets Friday, December 8 in the morning.

6) ADJOURN

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen E. Baker