

**STATE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & SYSTEMS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 12, 1999**

MEMBERS: Brian Bay; Pat Hart; T.R. Hilton, EMT-P; Jon Jui, MD; Charles McCart, MD; Helen Miller, MD; Ken Parsons, EMT-P; Pete Kingsley, EMT-P; Suzann Schmele, EMT-P; Jack Stump, MD.

STAFF: Roger Fox; Juanita Moore, Edward Opitz, EMT-P; Luke Terrell, EMT-P; Donna Wilson, EMT-P.

ABSENT: Terry Griffith; Richard Straw; Jim Thomas.

GUESTS: Lori Albert, Polk County Fire District #1; Markley Drake, EMS Consultant; Kevin Johnson, WEST Ambulance; Gary McLean, Sandy Fire Department; John Praggastis; James Roddy, Department of Geology; Jerry Shorey, Transit Union.

Chair, Mr. Jui opened the meeting. The "No-Smoking" policy was announced. Committee members and guests were introduced.

M/S/C (Jui/Committee)

Accept the December 11, 1998 meeting minutes.

Mr. Jui requested to reorder the agenda to accommodate Mr. James Roddy, Community Education Coordinator with the Department of Geology.

Mr. Roddy, Department of Geology, made a presentation to the Committee on Earthquake preparedness. He shared the many processes already being implemented to prepare the State of Oregon for a major earthquake, and the massive destruction that will follow. Mr. Roddy expressed there is much more to be done in the area of EMS, and public awareness of emergency plans.

He explained the Department of Geology has mapped the State of Oregon in an effort to identify major faults. Mapping these areas help identify unconsolidated soil (*liquefied soil*) giving insight to areas that may produce: landslides; flooding; collapsed buildings, highways, bridges; and fires during a major quake, paralyzing the EMS Community response.

Mr. Jui, MD requested Committee members share this information with their community, public and private agencies, and come up with a strategic earthquake plan for their areas. Many suggested starting with emergency preparedness product kits, and establishing earthquake drills.

REPORTS

B.M.E./EMT Advisory Board Liaison

No information to report at this time.

Subcommittee on Discipline

The subcommittee met on March 11, 1999. During executive session the committee reviewed two of four probationary EMT's. #97-036 and #97-103 were both excused from the discipline process. #97-030 & #98-037 went before the committee for review. Both probationers are abiding by the set probation, and after sub-committee review, expect both will do well.

EMT Education

Tim Hennigan is attending the South Western Regional Trainer Coordinator Meeting in Las Vegas, NV today. With information obtained during this meeting he will give much insight to the EMT-I/P curriculum roll-out and assist the committee in a comparison of Oregon EMT's to the national curriculum.

Suzann Schmele reported the EMT-P exam results thus far. To date, three hundred thirty one (331) paramedics completed the exam with an 80% pass rate which indicates a fairly valid examination. So far the results seem good and reveal higher test scores along the I-5 corridor. Indicating further education in the rural areas is needed.

System Development and Finance Subcommittee

Mark Drake submitted his report and updated the committee on several bills currently in Legislation and highlighted two bills immediately in progress:

1. **SB-308** which restores subpoena power to the Health Division to assist in investigative complaints against EMTs; and
2. **SB-313** which allows for automatic defibrillator use in certain situation by lay persons.

Mr. Drake retabled a discussion from December's meeting requesting redraft language to update ASA Plans for compliance with current Statutory by adding rule language to OAR 333-260-0020 such as the following:

- (3) The County ASA plans shall be amended as needed to comply with current language and definitions under ORS 682 and associated rules.
- (a) The State Health Division shall send changes in either Statutes or Administrative Rules to each county, and that each county shall amend their plans according to the current language definitions contained in ORS 682 and associated Administrative Rules.
- (b) The Health Division will review all ASA plans no less than once every five years to ensure compliance with current statutes and rules.
- (4) After May 7, 1990 the county(ies) shall submit an ambulance service plan or amendment(s) to the Division using a standardized format.

Discussion revealed that of the 36 counties, only 11 have a language problem so the impact is very small. It was brought up that having 36 counties, each with some level of compliance with state laws is not in the best interest of EMS in Oregon. Mr. Jui poised a question and remarks centered on a "grand scheme" of laws and/or rules that would cover most of the issues; as opposed to presenting several laws and/or rules that cover sections of the laws, but not

really addressing central issues.

With committee agreement, Mr. Jui charged the subcommittee, and requested Mr. Drake look at the emergency service delivery, and ATAB areas in Oregon. Develop a cohesive plan to integrate, and recognize services within the state using the current county plan guidelines.

EMSC

Mr. Pete Kingsley, reported the sub-committee, through grant funds, will develop and present a state-wide pediatric course. This course, in part, was developed by the NE Area Health Education Center, and previously presented over Ed Net.

Ms. Schmele suggested another course containing more hands-on, field level experience. She suggested utilizing a combination of the two curriculums. Mr. Kingsley and Ms. Schmele will compare content and expect to have a Peds course curriculum available to all the agencies within the year.

Department of Education Liaison

Mr. Brian Bay reported three community colleges completed self-studies for State Department of Education Accreditation for EMT Programs. Each college will have a site visit between now and July 1, 1999. Chemeketa Community College has completed the self-study for Joint Commission for EMS Education, and will host the national accreditation site visit in April. In order to enhance the state EMS accreditation process the State Health Division and the Department of Education are invited to participate in the national review.

The EMT Education Consortium reported the recent completion of the EMS rural education partnership to EMTs. Over 250 EMT Basic students received education at 37 different sites such as Blue Mountain, Mid-Central, and Lakeview, via Oregon Ed Net. All course and testing will complete the first of May. This will conclude the EMT Instructor, EMT Intermediate, and EMT Basic education supported by grant funds. Last year the EMT-Intermediate level completed with a success rate of 95% for those who took this course. This year the EMT-Basic will complete. All colleges and partners will meet in May at the Columbia Gorge Community College, The Dalles, Oregon to discuss the next step. The curriculum and research on this project will be presented at the National AHEC Convention in August 1999.

ACEP

No official report submitted. Mr. Jui reported Oregon ACEP is opposed to the helmet law, will advocate the gun dealer/ADE Bill, and stands neutral on SB 911.

Oregon State Ambulance Association

Mr. Ken Parsons reported OSAA is tracking current legislation. He reviewed SB-633 which establishes dispute resolution processes between ambulance service provider and payor as to amount payable for services rendered under city franchise or county plan.

Most recent emphasis is watching the HCFA rule which went into effect February 24, 1999. Agencies received notice one week prior to the effective date with regard to physician certification of medical necessity for non-emergency transports. For all non-emergency transports the ambulance provider must have certification of medical necessity signed by the physician stating it was a necessary transport prior to any scheduled transports, and within 48 hours of

any unscheduled, medical necessary transports. It is now the providers position to clarify with a physician what qualifies as medically necessary. Necessary qualification were reviewed with the committee.

OLD BUSINESS

- # **FEE INCREASES:** Ed Opitz reported public hearings were held in December 98 to increase recertification fees for EMTs. EMS agencies submitting group certification fees were allowed a thirty day extension past the deadline so agencies could make payment out of their next fiscal year budget. So far, five agencies requested extensions.

- # **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** William Porter, RN, EMT-P accepted his nomination as a replacement for Julie Molin, RN on the State EMS Committee. No one has been nominated, or confirmed as a replacement for John Whitney or Cynthia Cristofani. Mr. Jui recommended Jon Chin for Mr. Whitney's replacement. Ed Opitz will be working with Ted Farr to resolve this issue. Suzann Schmele suggested Don McNeill, MD as a possible replacement for Cynthia Cristofani.

- # **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Most of the legislative issues were covered in by the System Development, Legislation, and Finance report. Mr. Opitz testified in Salem for SB-308.

- # **BME RELATIONS:** Ed Opitz will draft a letter to BME and request they work with the Health Division to seek a replacement for John Whitney.

- # **OTHER BUSINESS: *State EMT Beta Examination Results*;** Mr. Opitz reported concerns from individuals and agencies regarding the release of exam results (*individual vs. group*). Mr. Opitz introduced Gary McLean, EMS Coordinator, Sandy Fire District No. 72, and Jerry Shorey, EMT-P, Transit Union to testimony before the committee regarding the following issues:
 1. **Clarification of CPR Certification:** OAR 333-265-0120 (1) (a) states for EMT-B/I recertification you must have American Heart Association "Level C" or American Red Cross "Basic Life Support for the Professional Rescuer" CPR certification. Recently the State EMS Update Newsletter stated AHA or equivalent. Mr. McLean requested the committee change the OAR or clarify the CPR requirements for EMT-B/I recertification.

Committee members expressed this was a valid point, and also expressed their concerns regarding the delivery of BLS/ACLS. It was suggested this was addressed in the rewriting of the rules, and agreed on the use of JAMA guidelines. Mr. Opitz reported the State Health Division is currently in agreement with OAR changing the language away from AHA or ARC BLS certification only.

M/S/P (Jui, Parson, Universal Recommendation Accepted)

The Committee support the interpretation of qualifications for basic life support to meet current JAMA recommendations.

2. **Oregon EMT-Paramedic Recertification Written Assessment Exam OAR 333-265-0130 (3) (a):** Mr. McLean reviewed all issues defined in a six page handout (*see attachment*) which had been distributed to each committee member. Mr. McLean expressed extreme concern among the EMS community regarding this test and the

fact that agencies were using this punitively against paramedics employment. He questioned, if the test is flawed, how can it be used as a guide to gage remediation of skills.

After discussion with the committee on the creation and validity of the test, Mr. Jui clarified the test has gone through the same testing regime as the FAA testing. The process to develop this 1,000 question test bank was fair, and highly critiqued. The two-year process utilized people from all aspects of EMS and specialized test writers.

Mr. McLean, and Mr. Shorey's main concern were not so much with the validity of the test, but with the Oregon Health Division releasing raw beta test scores to area agencies who may respond punitively against paramedics.

M/S/C (Jui, McCart)

The State Health Division notifies all EMS Agencies the first test results should not be used for hiring, advancement, discipline, or punitive reasons toward any paramedic.

Second M/S/C (Jui, Stump)

The Health Division will withhold remaining beta test scores until Ed Opitz develops a mechanism to adjust raw scores. After the mechanism has been developed and raw scores are changed to adjusted scores, publish only adjusted scores to individual paramedics.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business reported.

STAFF REPORTS

- a. Chief's Report: Ed Opitz reported Tom Johnson is expected to announce the new EMS Chief within the week.
- b. Trauma System Report: No report submitted
- c. EMS Operations: A written report submitted
- d. EMS Outreach Programs: A written report submitted
- e. Training: No report submitted

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Juanita Moore and Ed Opitz