

Minutes
**Emergency Medical Services
Council**

Date: **JANUARY 20, 2009**
150 North 18th Avenue, Suite 540-A
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ben Bobrow, Chairman
Rodney Reed
Janine Anderson
Mark Venuti
Robert Ramsey
David Ridings
Roy Ryals
Charlie Smith
Gene McDaniel
Joe Gibson
Coy Amerson
John Gallagher
Bobby Ruiz
Dale Woolridge
Stewart Hamilton
Taylor Payson

ADHS STAFF:

Terry Mullins, Bureau Chief
Ed Armijo
Joel Bunis
Vicki Conditt
Elizabeth Roig
Angie Cauthon
Peggy Lahren
Robin Gil
Noreen Adlin
Tom Bortell

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Scott Petersen
Misty Cisneros
Marcia Barry
Jeff Daniel
Jerry Stein

ATTENDANCE BY TELECONFERENCE:

Michael Ward
Ronalee Quarles
Paul Coe
Mike Evans

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Ben Bobrow, Chair called the meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Council to order at 10:31 a.m.

A quorum was present.

II. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

Dr. Bobrow asked for a motion to approve minutes of September 19, 2008. Janine Anderson requested the following changes:

- Page 6, Item V d i, replace “fighter grants” with “provider assistance”
- Page 6, Item V d ii, fourth sentence “will evaluate” is typed twice.

Dr. Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by Mark Venuti. The motion was approved.

III. REPORTS

a) Chairman's report

i) Membership Updates

Dr. Bobrow reported that the application for Marilyn Price was still at the Governor's office awaiting approval for the EMS Council Lay Member position.

b) Bureau Chief's report

i) **Work Group - Trauma Transport Strategy to accommodate Level II, III, IV Trauma Centers**

Terry Mullins, Bureau Chief for Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Service reported that at the last EMS Council meeting he indicated that he would be calling together a work group to assist in developing guidelines for triage and transport of trauma patients. This effort is important to assist the regions in accommodating additional trauma centers. He will ask the State Trauma Advisory Board to lead this activity with representation from the regions and anyone else who would like to attend. These guidelines will be a resource that can be used by the regions.

ii) **Survey of EMT-I perceived scope of practice, initial and continuing education and medical direction.**

Terry Mullins reported on a survey of current Arizona EMT-Intermediates distributed by BEMSTS to identify the scope of work, medical direction and initial and continuing education that is in practice in Arizona. The goal is to understand the actual and perceived activities of the EMT-I community so that the Bureau can best plan for the continuing role of this category of EMT in the future. The Bureau had received few responses to date. He emphasized the need to ensure that Medical Directors who are working with the EMT-Intermediates are responsible for ensuring that they are receiving adequate training and supervision.

iii) **Introduce new Senior Rules Analyst**

Terry introduced Elizabeth Roig, the new Senior Rules Analyst for the Bureau.

iv) **Update on Rules and Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee**

Terry Mullins reported that Kurt Krumperman had resigned his position with EMS Council and as Chair of the Disaster Preparedness Subcommittee, so he asked for a replacement. He suggested that Joe Gibson had significant background and was a well qualified individual. Mark Venuti made a motion to nominate Joe Gibson as Chair, seconded by Charlie Smith. The motion was approved.

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a) **Receive report from National Initiatives Standing Committee**

i) **EMT Nomenclature and Scope of Practice – Chair: John Gallagher**

John Gallagher discussed the preservation of the classification of EMTs that we have at the present time. He discussed that a lot of people on the committee felt that we should go

ahead and adopt for the future the new categories of EMTs that are proposed, and that some kind of combination of that is the best option. Ultimately the decision will be up to the Director.

ii) Educational Standards – Chair: Janine Anderson

Janine Anderson began by saying the National EMS Education Standards are not yet finalized and that a final recommendation is not possible until they have been finalized. The group has reviewed the draft standards and identified that there are some activities that are part of the DOT curricula that are not in the national educational standards. Janine proposed that once the Educational Standards are finalized that the Education Committee will review them and provide a report to EMS Council on options to implement them in Arizona.

iii) Paramedic Training Program Accreditation – Chair: Bobby Ruiz

After a series of meetings to discuss the accreditation requirement, the group developed a list of options with a pro/con analysis for each.

Option 1: Require all paramedic training programs in the State to obtain and maintain CoAEMSP Accreditation.

Option 2: Divorce from NREMT and train/test/certify EMTs using an Arizona system.

Option 3: Develop a two-track training program accreditation and paramedic testing process.

The attendees were essentially split on which method they preferred, though the third option provides the greatest flexibility for the provider agency and the EMT, allowing them to choose between an accredited program for National Registry certification and a non-accredited program for State certification.

b) Receive report from BEMSTS staff on potential implementation costs associated with national initiatives

Ed Armijo presented a basic cost estimate for developing a State-based paramedic exam process. This is not a formal assessment.

c) Discussion and recommendations for next steps concerning national initiatives

i) There was significant discussion that concluded with Terry Mullins asking the Council for a recommendation that the Bureau:

- 1 - Initiate an analysis of current statutes and rules to identify what changes will be required as a result of the national initiatives.
- 2 - Contact the NREMT, CoAEMSP, and National Education Association to identify solid timeframes for the proposed changes.
- 3 – Survey the State of Arizona paramedic training programs to determine whether or not they intend to apply for CoAEMSP accreditation.

Mark Venuti made the motion, seconded by Dr. Bobrow. The motion was approved.

d) Discussion and action on the establishment of an Air Medical Committee

- i) Terry Mullins queried the council on the value of establishing an air-medical council within the EMS Committee. He stated there was no single goal for the committee beyond opening a dialogue with that group. There was discussion on the value of the committee and membership (to include ground providers). In the end, there was no recommendation to establish the committee but Terry Mullins would explore holding an open meeting with the air-medical provider community.

V. REPORTS

- a. BEMSTS Rules Analyst
Elizabeth Roig, Senior Rules Analyst provided a progress report on all rule related activities associated with the Council.
- b. State Trauma Advisory Board
Vicki Conditt, Trauma Section Chief reported that since September 2008 we have three new level IV trauma centers (Summit Health Care Regional Center, Northern Cochise Hospital and Banner Page). The Trauma Office continues to field a number of requests and it appears that several additional hospitals are planning to request designation as level III and IV centers. The next STAB meeting is January 22, 2009. There is some interest in regionalization of trauma care that is being discussed and they will be reviewing trauma data to continue to get a better picture of the incidence of trauma in Arizona.
- c. Website Updates
Ed Armijo, Deputy Bureau Chief, reported on changes to the Website which makes it easier to obtain drug profiles, protocols, curricula and other documents.
- d. Data and Quality Assurance Program
Joel Bunis, Section Chief for the Data and Quality Assurance Section reported that the Data in Action presentation following the EMS Council meeting will feature Chief Eric Merrill of the Rio Verde Fire Department and Orlando Alcorido of P.M.T.

DQA has been working on the Golden Hour Report, reporting specifically on injury severity scores and mode of transport. He also reported that DQA has uploaded test data for the Premier EMS Database from several providers and that work continues towards completion of the database construction.
- e. Protocols, Medications, and Devices Subcommittee
John Gallagher, M.D. reported that the next PMD meeting is on February 05, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in which the committee will be reviewing the new, draft statewide treatment protocols.
- f. Education Subcommittee

Janine Anderson, R.N. reported that at the last meeting (November 13, 2008) the 2009 meeting schedule was approved, discussed the EMT- I scope of practice, ALS refresher course requirements and refresher course final practical skills examinations. The next Education meeting will be February 05, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

g. Regional Emergency Medical Services Councils

i. NAEMS

Janine Anderson reported that the last meeting was January 09, 2009. Provider assistance has gone very well; they have completed the first process and they are halfway through the second process. All of the AED grants have been disseminated except for two that need to go onto the reservation. Mark Venuti was re-elected vice-chair. Gitti Silven was re-elected treasurer. The next NAEMS meeting in March 06, 2009 in Flagstaff

ii. AEMS

Joe Gibson reported that they are continuing AED distribution to the rural areas. They have board elections coming up at the next meeting and recently completed their annual audits. The next AEMS meeting is February 18, 2009 at noon.

iii. WACEMS

Rod Reed reported continuing AED distribution for the rural areas. Next Executive committee meeting is February 12, 2009 and the general meeting is March 12, 2009.

iv. SAEMS

Taylor Payson reported that the AEDs have been received for distribution and the next SAEMS meeting will be February 02, 2009.

h. Legislative Initiatives

Terry Mullins reported that the Bureau has been asked to prepare an early analysis of the following House and Senate Bills:

- HB 2399 - Automatic External Defibrillator
- SB 1102 - amends A.R.S. § 36-2236 (a) dealing with the nature of a Certificate of Necessity
- SB 1097 - amends A.R.S. §§ 36-2220 and 36-2245 which deals with investigations
- SB 1013 - amends A.R.S. §§ 36-2907, 36-2939 and 36-2989 dealing with emergency and non emergency transportation.

V. **CALL TO PUBLIC**

Steve Powles, AZDPS asked Terry Mullins to provide an overview of recent initiatives with PSAP personnel. Terry Mullins provided an overview of work with the PSAP community to develop a PSAP annex to the Statewide Pandemic Influenza Operational Plan

VI. MEMBERS EDUCATIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ben Bobrow reminded attendees that the Data in Action presentation would follow the conclusion of this meeting.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is April 17, 2009

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Angie Cauthon

Minutes approved by EMS Council at April 17, 2009 meeting