



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
16 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

ANGUS S. KING,
JR.

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
November 1, 2000

MINUTES

Members Present: Leo Bouchard (Chair-elect), Oden Cassidy, Debbie Dane, Richard Doughty, William Dunwoody, Paul Knowlton, Penelope Stevens, Steve Leach, Charles Little, Carol Pillsbury, Alan Azzara, Wayne Werts, John Burton (ex-officio)

Regional Coordinators: Joanne LeBrun, Jim Caron, Donnie Carroll, Bill Zito, Rick Petrie

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dwight Corning, Bill Montejo, Drexell White, Laura Yustak Smith, Esq. (AAG)

Guests: Mike Carroll (So. Portland Fire Dept), Eve Murray (Matinicus Island Rescue), Terri Vieira (Sebasticook Valley Hospital)

1. Introduction of Guests/new member

- a. Alan Azzara was welcomed as the newly appointed attorney representative to the Board. Guests were also welcomed by Chair-elect Bouchard.

2. Approval of September 6, 2000 minutes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the September 6, 2000 meeting as distributed. (Dunwoody; second by Stevens). Approved.

3. Old Business

a. Legislation

- i. AVOC – Jay reported that there was only one response to the AVOC RFP and that proposal had a different timeframe for the scope of work than that in the RFP. After reviewing the specifics with the Bureau of Purchases, it was agreed that it was necessary to reject the proposal and to work on getting an extension to the January 1, 2001, deadline referenced in the legislation. Jay is communicating the status of this project with the bill's sponsor and the Criminal Justice Committee co-chairs.
- ii. A Department sponsored bill will be introduced to take care of some housekeeping changes to the EMS law. Several of these make changes to the current reference to the Administrative Court which is being dissolved next year. At that time, administrative matters

will be handled by the District Court judges. Other changes are being proposed following a review of the EMS law by staff and the AAG.

- iii. It is anticipated that the American Heart Association will attempt to find a sponsor for a bill which will provide specific reference to Automatic External Defibrillators in Maine's Good Samaritan law. Similar legislation is in place in 49 other states; however, there are differing opinions on whether this is necessary given the current wording of Maine's statute. If legislation is presented MEMS will work with the AAG in preparing our position.

b. Budget

- i. Nothing new to report. One key issue is the matter of transferring the positions still funded by the PHHS Block Grant to state General Funds. Jay has met with DPS administration and this has the support of the Commissioner's office and is consistent with DHS's plan which has been discussed in the legislature on several occasions.

4. New Business

- a. Nomination Committee Report: The committee has not met. C. Little will work with this committee in the slot previously held by Steve Hayes. W. Werts to chair the committee which will report back at the December meeting.

b. Investigations Committee Report:

- i. S. Leach reported that there will be an Investigations Committee meeting following today's Board meeting. A. Azzara has expressed an interest in being on this committee which will be conveyed to the Chair for action.
- ii. Drexell provided information regarding an investigation into the submission of falsified documents by John Sawicki. Mr. Sawicki was previously found to have submitted false information on a license application and is under probation for that offense. The documents which have now come into question were submitted by him in support of his obtaining Instructor/Coordinator certification.

The Investigations Committee is recommending that the AG's office file papers in Administrative Court to revoke Mr. Sawicki's I/C certification and his MEMS license.

MOTION: To request that the Office of the Attorney General file the necessary papers in Administrative Court to revoke John Sawicki's Instructor/Coordinator certification and his Maine EMS license. (Dunwoody; second by Werts). Unanimously approved.

c. Operations Team Action Items

- i. The Operations Team met for an all day retreat in October. During that session, the Ops Team brainstormed a list of significant projects and broke the list down into three categories; short, medium, and long term. This list was supplied in the Board packets along with a brief description of the item and the deliverable. Board members are asked to independently prioritize these maintaining the category into which they were drafted. Once the results are received, the Operations Team will make a presentation to the Board for discussion and approval. It is the goal of the Ops Team to have at least the short term list prioritized and incorporated into the work plan for the first 6 months of 2001.

d. QA Committee Approval – Millinocket Fire Dept.

- i. Millinocket Fire Department has submitted a request for approval of their QA Committee in accordance with 32 MRSA § 92-A. Staff has reviewed the request and recommends approval.

MOTION: To approve the Quality Assurance committee of Millinocket Fire Dept. in accordance with 32 MRSA § 92-A. (Dunwoody; second by Leach). Unanimously approved.

e. Waiver requests – electronic run reporting

- i. Jay updated the Board on the electronic run reporting project. The first training sessions for the new program will take place at CMTC, Auburn, on November 7 & 8. Following this training, a number of services will begin submitting their run reports electronically instead of the current paper forms. Jay requested the Board confirm their acceptance of electronic run reports as satisfying Section 3.H of the Maine EMS Rules.

MOTION: To accept electronic run reports as satisfying Section 3.H of the Maine EMS Rules provided that the reporting format has been reviewed and approved by MEMS. (Doughty; second by Cassidy). Unanimously approved.

f. Investigations Task Force Report

- i. Wayne reported that after an extended hiatus, the Task Force will be meeting at 8:30 a.m. prior to upcoming Board meetings. The Task Force is working to develop a draft matrix for dealing with licensees and applicants who have a criminal conviction record. The goal is to have a draft ready by February and presented to the Board in March 2001.

g. Service sponsorship

- i. Terri Vieira facilitated an expanded discussion of the pros and cons of requiring service sponsorship as a condition of EMS licensure. Following the discussion, a straw poll was conducted to gauge the interest of the Board and continuing the work on this topic. It was the consensus of the group that a sub-group would be formed to take a look at alternative models to the current licensing requirements. This group will report back to the Board in January 2001. D. Dane agreed to chair the work group which includes; A. Azzara, R. Doughty, J. LeBrun, J. Burton, W. Werts, and C. Pillsbury

5. Staff Reports

a. Office

- i. Jay announced that Debbie MacMaster has started work at MEMS filling the Administrative Assistant position which has been vacant for several months. Debbie transferred here from DHS and is a welcome addition to the staff.
- ii. NASEMSD Annual Meeting was held October 17-22. Topics included; American Heart Assn changes, Negotiated Rule Making (HCFA) fee schedule, criminal convictions and background checks, intelligent transportations systems, communications, distance learning, and many others. Jay has considerable information which he will be incorporating into future meetings.
- iii. Web Page: effective immediately MEMS has a new web page address: www.state.me.us/dps/ems This is due to changes that are underway under a statewide contract with Information Services of Maine (InforME). InforME is working on a redesign of the MEMS web pages which will enable them to be more easily updated and which will

enable users to obtain CEH status and service information via the Internet. These latter features will be added in phases two and three of the updates which should take place in the next 4-6 months.

b. MDPB

- i. Dr. Burton reported that there was no October meeting due to his attending the meeting of state medical directors which took place at the NASEMSD annual meeting.
- ii. In November, the MDPB will be discussing; the AHA changes and certification/recertification, and decertification which have been ongoing issues for several years. Following the November meeting, which will include a discussion with the AAG, the MDPB may have a retreat in the upcoming months to develop a work plan to address this issue.
- iii. S. Leach asked about the MDPB's decision regarding the requirement that an EMT-I who has attended the upgrade program must obtain medical control from a physician when there may also be a paramedic on the scene. Jay reviewed the history of the Updated EMT-I program which was to provide advanced ALS care in primarily rural areas where there would not be a paramedic readily available. As a result of this need as presented to the office, an abbreviated program was approved for EMT-Is and the protocols which were approved by the MDPB for licensees who have attended the update training require *medical control* contact prior to administering medications.

c. Other - none at this time

6. Other: none at this time

- a. Jay reminded members that the annual Town Meeting with the Board will be held at the Samoset Conference on Friday, November 10, 2000, at 6:30 in the Pen Bay Room. This "Town Meeting" presents an opportunity for providers to meet Board members in an informal setting where they may ask questions and provide input on whatever topics are of interest to them.
- b. B. Dunwoody reminded members of the November 13, 2000, deadline for comment on the proposed HCFA fee schedule. Details of the proposal and a summary of concerns may be found on the Maine Ambulance Assn web page: www.themaa.org

7. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:00.