



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0152



JOHN E. MORRIS
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
MARCH 5, 2014
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES - FINAL

Members Present: Judy Gerrish (chair), Jeff Rowe (chair-elect), Roger Audette, Tim Beals, Joe Conley, Nate Contreras, Laura Downing, Nancy Jackson, Paul Knowlton, Kalem Malcolm, Lori Metayer, Julie Ontengco (@ 9:50), Mike Senecal, Brian Stockdale, Percy Thibeault

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Alan Leo, Jon Powers, Don Sheets, Drexell White

Office of Attorney General: Lauren LaRochelle, AAG

Regional Coordinators: Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie

Guests: Stephen Bennett, Butch Russell, Chris Paré, Larry Arbour, Dennis Simmons, James Ryan, William Briggs

1. Introductions were made and all were welcomed.
2. Minutes – December 4, 2013
 - a. **MOTION: To approve the minutes of the December 4, 2014, meeting as presented (Rowe; second by Thibeault). Unanimous**
3. Public Comments – None
4. Old Business
 - a. Community Paramedicine Pilot Projects – Jay Bradshaw reviewed the highlights of the annual report provided to the Legislature and previously distributed to members. A work group of CP administrators is meeting every 4-6 weeks to discuss challenges, changes, surprises, and results within their pilot projects. This group will play a role in the data collection and evaluation phases; and discussions are also taking place regarding reimbursement. It is understood that the latter will take some time to develop, but working on it now should help as the data are compiled.
5. New Business
 - a. Investigations Committee
 - i. Committee minutes and recommendations

MOTION: For the Investigations Committee to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2014, meeting as distributed. (Beals; second by Contreras) Unanimous

Alan Leo reviewed the cases and responded to questions from Board members.

MOTION: For the Board to ratify the Investigation Committee minutes of January 8, 2014, as presented. (Beals; second by Senecal) Unanimous.

- ii. Other – Jay Bradshaw requested guidance from the Board on the use of audio and video conferencing for both routine Board matters and Investigation proceedings. Board members expressed their concern that in cases where an individual has requested an agenda item, such as a waiver, that the individual appear in person. Members also acknowledged that the Investigations Committee should have the opportunity to discuss this issue and make recommendations for those meetings and agenda items.

MOTION: To request the Investigations Committee to recommend criteria for participation via audio/video conference calling and for staff and the AAG to work on a policy for other Board business. (Rowe; second by Jackson) Unanimous

- b. Legislative and budget updates – Jay Bradshaw reported that there are no new updates on the budget. Maine EMS testified in opposition to LD 1686 “An Act to Address Preventable Deaths from Drug Overdose” because part of the original bill was in conflict with the EMS law which requires that EMS protocols are developed by the MDPB. According to MEMS data, in 2013, 99.3% of all emergency calls in Maine had an ALS response, and all providers are trained and equipped to ventilate patients. This bill has received a lot of media attention and appears to be causing confusion about naloxone, including side effects and that it only works with opioid overdoses. It is anticipated that there will be a divided vote on an amended version coming from the Committee. Governor LePage has vetoed similar bills in the past, but his position on the current bill is to be determined.
- c. Committee reports
 - i. Education – Don Sheets reported that the Education Committee is continuing its work on education retention and pass rates, with a detailed report anticipated for the April Board meeting.
 - ii. Data - Jon Powers reported that the Committee has not met recently, but work is continuing to prepare for the rollout of NEMSIS 3.0, which continues to be a work in progress, both with NEMSIS and with the software vendors.
 - iii. Exam – On behalf of the Exam Committee and MEMS staff, Drexell White requested clarification on the time limit for a student to complete their examinations following completion of training. The information presented to the Board included a report from the National Registry on the pass rate of students based upon the length of time between education and examination.

MOTION: Candidates must successfully complete both the practical and written examination requirements within 3 years of initial course completion to be eligible for licensure. (Metayer; second by Rowe) Unanimous

Drexell also reported that he has been talking with the National Registry about establishing a mobile testing facility. Mobile testing is being done in other states and

while it has considerable equipment and procedural considerations, this may provide an option for areas like Aroostook County and Downeast Maine where there are no Pearson-Vue testing facilities for a considerable distance.

- iv. EMD – will be meeting in March. Training will be held at MEMS next week on major updates to both AQUA and ProQA. These trainings will include information for both Information Technology personnel and EMD Quality Managers.
 - v. Ops Team – Rick Petrie reported that at the March meeting, Jon Powers provided an overview on WebEOC and the Health Alert Network. Other topics discussed included the EMS Week newspaper insert, updating the regional preparedness manuals, and regional activities.
- d. Work Plan for 2014 – Jay Bradshaw reported that this is a continuing agenda item from previous meetings and intended to identify significant topics of interest and develop a work plan. Previously identified topics and timetable include:
- i. Role and function of regional EMS councils (prior to FY 16)
 - ii. Development of Rules for Quality Assurance and Equipment (to bring Rules and Protocols into alignment) (fall 2014).
 - iii. Investigations – requirement to use District Courts to pursue license revocation (consideration for statutory change during 1st Regular Session of 127th Legislature – 2015)

This will be an ongoing agenda items, with topics added as identified.

Members who volunteered to participate are: Brian Stockdale, Nate Contreras, Lori Metayer, Greg Coyne)

- e. Contract work group report – Jay Bradshaw summarized the work groups recommendation to modify how the regional contracts are developed and monitored. The process will begin by providing the scope of work for the contract period to every agency who expresses an interest in being identified as a regional council. Each agency will then be required to develop their work plan and submit it to Maine EMS no later than May 30, 2014. If there is more than one agency requesting to be identified as the regional office, that work plan will be used to make a decision on the designation.

After the work plans are approved, they will be included in the contracts. For FY14, regional offices will still be required to submit an annual report for the previous contract period prior to September 30; however, in future years, that annual report will be due before June 30. Regional offices will be required to provide a progress report using the template provided by Maine EMS no later than December 31 of each year, along with the independently prepared financial report for the previous fiscal year.

The work group also discussed that the Aroostook EMS work plan was received after the deadline, and the contract includes a 5% penalty for late reports. That penalty was withheld from a subsequent invoice payment pending Board discussion.

MOTION: To table further discussion/action on the contract penalty to Aroostook EMS until the April Board meeting in order to allow the regional coordinator to attend the meeting. (Thibeault; second by Malcolm) Unanimous.

- f. Other

- i. Functional Position Description – Drexell White reviewed changes to the Functional Position Description for EMS Providers that has been updated to reflect current license levels. This has also been reviewed and approved by the AAG.

MOTION: To approve the updated Functional Position Description as distributed. (Thibeault; second by Malcolm). Unanimous.

- ii. Awards Committee – Jay Bradshaw reported that nominations for award consideration are due by March 15. Members who volunteered to participate in reviewing the nominations are: Joe Conley, Mike Senecal, Julie Ontengco, Percy Thibeault, and Laura Downing.
- iii. Sterling Ambulance – Alan Leo reported that Sterling Ambulance has applied to add Camden to its primary response area. In response to the public notice regarding this request, Maine EMS received letters in opposition from the Town of Camden and North East Mobile Health. Jason Willey was notified that this would be on the Board's agenda; however, he is unable to attend today's meeting due to an unexpected issue.

Tim Beals disclosed that Delta Ambulance submitted a proposal for coverage in Camden that was not accepted; however, he has no outside information regarding Sterling's request, nor does he think his previous involvement with the Town of Camden will affect his ability to act objectively.

Joe Conley disclosed that he works for North East Mobile Health and recused himself from the discussion.

MOTION: To table action on Sterling Ambulance's application until the April 2, meeting to allow Mr. Willey to attend. (Rowe; second by Jackson). Carried 11/2/2.

6. Staff Reports

- a. MEMS – Jay Bradshaw reported that Dawn Kinney's last day was Feb 14. She accepted an offer to work for a clinic in Presque Isle that does workplace safety assessments. There has been a good response to the job posting and interviews will be scheduled as soon as possible.
- b. Medical Director report – Jay Bradshaw reported on behalf of Dr. Sholl that:
 - The MDPB held a retreat at the new MaineGeneral Hospital on February 19, to provide an overview of Maine EMS for new members, review contemporary papers and trends, and discuss the involvement of the MDPB in the LifeFlight of Maine Clinical Practice Committee and protocol development. The plan will be to have MDPB members commit to participate in the quarterly CPC meetings for one year and to identify an MDPB meeting, likely in the spring, when adequate time can be scheduled for a detailed discussion about LOM treatment issues and protocols.
 - During the retreat, the MDPB was joined by Jo Horn and conducted an IRB review on the request from the PEGASUS project for data that allows identification of confidential patient information. Dr. Sholl previously updated the Board about this project from Baylor College of Medicine, which is funded by an EMSC Targeted Issues Grant, and is developing evidence based pediatric protocols and measuring the effect on patient care. Protocols will first be tested in Houston and then in the 6 New England states.

MOTION: To approve providing data to Baylor College of Medicine for the PEGASUS project that may contain confidential patient information in accordance with the terms of the Maine EMS Data Release Memorandum of Understanding. (Thibeault; second by Conley). Unanimous.

- Regional offices are compiling data from each service on cardiac arrest outcomes. Preliminary review will take place at the next QI meeting on March 19.

c. Other - none

7. The next scheduled Board meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2, 2014 @ 9:30 AM
8. Meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM