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JOHN E. MORRIS  
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW  
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING  
JUNE 4, 2014  
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members Present: Judy Gerrish (chair), Jeff Rowe (chair-elect), Matt Sholl MD (ex-officio), Roger Audette, Tim Beals, Joe Conley, Nate Contreras, Greg Coyne, Laura Downing, Paul Knowlton, Kalem Malcolm, John Martel MD, Julie Ontengco, Percy Thibeault

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

Office of Attorney General: Lauren LaRochelle, AAG

Regional Coordinators: Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun

Guests: Jessica Dorgai, Chris Paré

1. Introductions were made and all were welcomed.
2. Minutes – April 2, 2014
  - a. **MOTION: To approve the minutes of the April 2, 2014, meeting as presented. (Beals; second by Contreras). Unanimous**
3. Public Comments – Jeff Rowe thanked Board members for their well wishes on his new position as Chief of Kennebunk Fire Department.
4. Old Business
  - a. Community Paramedicine Pilot Projects – Jay Bradshaw reported that 11 of the 12 pilot sites are actively seeing patients, with North East Mobile Health expected to begin seeing patients soon. Efforts are now being focused on the evaluation phase, which will involve working with the University of Maine, Muskie School of Public Service.
  - b. 2014 Work Plan – Jay Bradshaw reported that the modeling work group will be meeting on June 19 @ Topsham Fire.
5. New Business
  - a. Investigations Committee
    - i. Committee minutes and recommendations

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**MOTION: For the Investigations Committee to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2014, meeting as distributed. (Beals; second by Contreras) Unanimous**

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

**MOTION: To ratify the Investigation Committee minutes of March 5 2014. (Thibeault; second by Ontengco) Unanimous.**

Tim Beals reported that the Investigations Committee discussed drafting a policy for using technology for participation in meetings. The consensus was to recommend that in developing a policy, the Board clarify that this alternative to personally appearing should only be for exceptional circumstances when each of the following conditions are met:

- Everyone present will be identified
- Must be able for all parties to hear
- For investigations, the Waiver of Participation by Committee Members must be signed in advance
- Must have all documents available
- Votes will be by roll call

A policy will be drafted for consideration/action at the August Board meeting.

- b. Legislative and budget updates – Jay Bradshaw reported that LD 1686 “An Act to Address Preventable Deaths from Drug Overdose” was amended and went into effect without the Governor’s signature. The final amendment removed the reference to EMS providers and directed that the MPDB approve the training program for law enforcement and firefighters.

MEMS developed the program, which was approved by the MDPB at their May meeting. The program will be available at the Maine EMS web site. From there it will be up to the municipality whether or not they implement a local policy and to decide whether to use the MEMS program as a standalone module or have an instructor present the material.

The budget for FY15 will have modest effects on MEMS and the regional contracts will be at the same level as FY14. Federal funding from Maine CDC for data, preparedness, and medical control will have a modest increase.

- c. Committee reports

- i. Education – Don Sheets presented a proposal for paramedics whose license has expired to work with an accredited paramedic training center and upon completion of a paramedic course, take the National Registry exam and be eligible for licensure in Maine. This proposal authorizes that the training center to assess the cognitive and psychomotor skills and consider those in determining the course requirements. The paramedic will need to meet all course requirements and will receive a course completion certificate attesting to same.

This proposal was reviewed and supported by the Education Committee and also received positive feedback from the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS.

**MOTION: To approve the Paramedic Re-entry Policy as presented (Thibeault; second by Contreras). Unanimous.**

Don then presented a draft of a revision to the Training Center requirements to

standardize the manner in which retention and pass rates are reported. These rates will be compiled on a calendar year basis and included in the Training Center's annual report.

**MOTION: To approve the changes to the Training Center requirements regarding reporting retention and pass rates. (Rowe; second by Malcolm) Unanimous.**

- ii. Data - Jon Powers reported that work is continuing on NEMSIS v.3, but we are not at the point of trying to estimate the effective date. Jon is also working on modifications to the licensing program to improve public access for e-licensing, and integrating MEMSRR and Licensure with MEMSEd. MEMSEd has been moved to a new host server to improve quality and reliability of service.

Exam – Drexell White reported that Exam has not had a recent meeting, but will have one in June.

- iii. EMD –Drexell White reviewed proposed changes to the EMD Priority Reference System. These are the first changes since 2011 and are housekeeping, updating in nature.

**MOTION: To approve the proposed revisions to the EMDPRS (Malcolm; second by Martell) Unanimous.**

- iv. Ops Team – Joanne reported that the Ops Team met with infection control specialists from Maine CDC and MaineGeneral for an updating about PPE, emerging pathogens, and decontamination. The information was both helpful and interesting, and Don Sheets will be working to include this in a future podcast. The Ops Team also discussed this year's EMS week insert and upcoming activities.
- d. EMS Awards – Jay Bradshaw reported that the Awards Ceremony was well attended and included the first annual wreath laying ceremony at the EMS Memorial & Education site.
  - e. Other – Drexell White discussed the draft new Rules regarding Quality Assurance & Improvement. The goal is to have this informal/informational draft available for input before the August meeting, at which time the formal language will be decided by the Board. The draft timeline is to commence the formal rules process with hearings in September/October, and utilizing technology as much as possible.

## 6. Staff Reports

- a. MEMS – Jay Bradshaw reported that a second round of interviews was conducted for the vacant licensing agent position, and the top candidates from that group will have a peer interview with MEMS staff.

Jay and Lauren LaRochelle will be attending a conference in Chicago on June 10, about an interstate compact for EMS licensure. This compact is a project of the National Assn of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) and is funded by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security.

Jay also reported that he will be the keynote speaker at the annual Maine Transportation Safety

Coalition meeting at which time he is being presented with an award for his work to integrate EMS into highway safety projects.

- b. Medical Director report – Dr. Sholl reported that as a request has come to formally accept an IV infusion pump as an equivalent substation for the IV microdrip administration sets.

MOTION: To accept an IV infusion pump as an acceptable substation for an IV Microdrip Administration Set. (Malcolm; second by Ontengco) Unanimous

Dr. Sholl then updated the Board about the QI Committee's study on out of hospital cardiac arrest project. A formal presentation on this project will be made at the August Board meeting.

The MDPB is conducting online webinars on proposed updates to the EMS protocols, with the lead physician for each section conducting the webinar a couple weeks before that section is formally presented to the MDPB. The first session was on the Respiratory section and had about 35-40 attendees.

Work is continuing on the PEGASUS project, which will impact the rollout timing for the EMS protocols. It is anticipated that the pediatric and cardiac protocols may be implemented before the other sections. Another change is with regard to the use of backboards. The MDPB and TAC discussed the recommendation of NAEMSP, NAEMT, and others to eliminate the routine use of putting patients on a back board. This change is well supported in the literature, but has been dogma for so long in EMS that getting providers to understand the reasons behind the change is a challenge.

Dialog is continuing with LifeFlight of Maine regarding the process through which LOM protocols are developed and approved by both LOM and the MDPB.

Work is also continuing, albeit slowly, on revisions to the Paramedic Interfacility Transfer program, with a goal of both PIFT specific protocols and guidelines for specialty care transports. When finished, the guidelines will be presented to the Maine Hospital Assn's Quality Forum. The target timeline is for this to happen within the next 6 months.

7. The next scheduled Board meeting will be on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 @ 9:30 AM
8. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 AM.