



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



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JOHN E. MORRIS
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2011
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES (APPROVED)

Members Present: Tim Beals (chair), Ken Albert, Joe Conley, Laura Downing, Paul Knowlton, Nancy Jackson, Kalem Malcolm, Lori Metayer, Jeff Rowe, Mike Schmitz, Mike Senecal, Percy Thibeault, Roy Woods, Matt Sholl (ex-officio)

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dawn Kinney, Kerry Sousa Pomelow, Jon Powers, Drexell White

Regional Coordinators: Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun

Office of Attorney General: William Stokes, Deputy Attorney General, William Olver (intern)

Guests: John Duross, Clifton Whitten, Chris Paré, John Kooistra, Tim Nangle, Dan Moore

NOTE: The order of the meeting was changed from the agenda, as indicated below, to accommodate other scheduling obligations.

1. Members and guests introduced themselves.
2. Approval of June 1, 2011, minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the June 1, 2011, meeting as corrected. (Woods, second by Conley). Unanimous

3. New Business
 - a. Investigations Committee

MOTION: For the Investigations Committee to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2011, meetings as submitted. (Senecal; second by Knowlton) Unanimous

Dawn reviewed the cases presented to the Board.

MOTION: To ratify the Investigation Committee minutes of July 6, 2011, as presented. (Thibeault; second by Albert). Unanimous

- b. Southern Maine EMS update. Jay reported that in June he met with the SMEMS Board of Directors to follow up the issues raised in an earlier letter. Since that time, he has been in regular contact with the new SMEMS president, Brent Libby and has received a report detailing how the region intends to address the previous performance issues.

PHONE: (207) 626-3860

FAX: (207) 287-6251

TDD: (207) 287-3659

With offices located at: Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Drive – Suite 1, Augusta, ME 04330

Jeff Rowe, who also serves as the SMEMS vice-president, added that following their annual meeting and subsequent meetings, Donnie Carroll resigned and both the Education and QI Coordinators were laid off. Support staff previously submitted their notice as well. The Board is currently staffing the office on a rotating basis and is working to finalize a job description for a new executive director.

Following additional discussion about the Board's plans, the following motion was made:

MOTION: To accept the documents provided to Maine EMS as demonstrating an acceptable regional performance improvement plan and to enter into a contract with SMEMS for FY12; and to make it clearly understood that Maine EMS may terminate the contract at any time if future reports are unsatisfactory at the sole discretion of Maine EMS. (Woods; second by Schmitz). Carried with one abstention (Rowe).

- c. Waiver Request – Wells Fire Department Rescue
Chief Dan Moore presented a request on behalf of Wells Fire Dept. Rescue for a waiver of Maine EMS Rule Section 17§5(1) (A) (1) that requires a 12 lead EKG for services licensed or permitted to the EMT-Intermediate level. On January 2, 2010, the Board of EMS granted a waiver of this requirement for services until July 1, 2011; however, due to a staff error, Wells was not included in the list of services given a waiver until July 7, 2010. Chief Moore explained that as a result of this delay, he had not been able to include this equipment in his budget planning for FY11.

The Board reviewed the criteria for granting a waiver in accordance with Section 13 of the Maine EMS Rules and made the following findings:

- Wells Fire did make adequate steps to understand and comply with the Rules, which supports the waiver request.
- Wells Fire was not given inaccurate information by an agent or employee of Maine EMS, which does not support the waiver request.
- Wells Fire may be significantly harmed if the waiver was not granted because they would be unable to provide any of the EMT-Intermediate level of treatment, which supports the waiver request.
- Waiving the rule would not present a health or safety because Wells Fire will be able to provide AED and other advanced EMS treatments, which supports the waiver request.
- Granting the waiver will not establish a precedent that would unduly hinder the Board or MEMS as each waiver is considered on its own merits.

Chief Moore also assured the Board that this will be the only time his department makes such a request, that he is requesting funding for a 12 lead EKG in his upcoming budget request and is also pursuing grant funding to purchase a unit as soon as possible.

MOTION: To grant a waiver of Section 17§5(1)(A) and allow Wells Fire to continue to permit to the EMT-Intermediate license without having a 12 lead EKG until June 31, 2012, and that no future waivers of this requirement for Wells Fire will be considered. (Senecal; second by Rowe), Carried with one opposed (Albert)

4. Public Comments – none
5. Old Business
- a. Unlicensed Practice Committee – no report and no new cases.
 - b. Personnel Committee – Tabled.

6. Portland Pilot Study - Drexell was joined by Tim Nangle and John Kooistra from Portland Fire and summarized the results to date of their pilot project that allows for an altered level of response in limited and specific circumstances. A detailed discussion also took place at the July MDPB meeting. The amount of training required was more than originally anticipated and the number of calls where an alternative response has been used has been fewer than anticipated. The Department still believes that the project has merit. The MDPB agreed and made its recommendation that the project continue with another report due in 6 months.

MOTION: To support the MDPB's recommendation and allow Portland Fire Department to continue its pilot project with the next report due in 6 months. (Woods; second by Thibeault) Unanimous.

7. Committee Action Items

- i. EMD – Drexell reviewed the draft guidelines for implementation of EMD determinant codes. This provides the core elements necessary and will be an option for EMD centers and services to consider.

MOTION: To approve staff recommendations regarding EMD priority dispatch implementation. (Senecal; second by Downing) Carried with one opposed (Woods)

- ii. Education – Kerry reviewed the recommendation from the Education Committee to adopt the new national education standards for Advanced EMTs with added Maine required supplements as the educational requirement for EMT-Intermediate.

MOTION: To accept the Education Committee's recommendation and accept the national education standards for Advanced EMT with Maine added supplements as satisfying the educational requirement for EMT-Intermediate. Prior to January 1, 2012, courses may continue to use the existing Maine EMT-Intermediate curriculum; however after that date, only programs using the A-EMT education standards with supplemental material will be accepted. (Malcolm; second by Schmitz). Unanimous.

- iii. Exam

Drexell reviewed the recommendation from the Exam Committee to use the NREMT Advanced EMT exam as the state examination for EMT-Intermediate applicants. There was discussion about how to evaluate students for the supplemental objectives, and both the Exam and Education Committees agree that this can and should be the responsibility of the instructor to evaluate during the course of the program.

MOTION: To accept the Exam Committee recommendation to adopt the NREMT Advanced EMT exam as the state exam for EMT-Intermediate students. The current Maine EMS EMT-Intermediate exam will continue to be available until May 31, 2012, after which time only the NREMT exam will be used. (Rowe; second by Senecal). Carried with no opposition and one abstention (Malcolm)

- b. Other – none

8. Staff Report - tabled
9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 5, 2011, at 9:30 at Maine EMS
10. Adjourn – meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM