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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
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JOHN E. MORRIS
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2014
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members Present: Judy Gerrish (chair), Jeff Rowe (chair-elect), Matt Sholl MD (ex-officio), Tim Beals, Joe Conley, Nate Contreras, Greg Coyne, Laura Downing, Nancy Jackson, Paul Knowlton, John Martel MD, Lori Metayer, Julie Ontengco, Brian Stockdale

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

Office of Attorney General: Lauren LaRochelle, AAG

Regional Coordinators: Rick Petrie

Guests: Chris Dobson, Jim MacDonnell, Chris Paré, Pat Tardif, Boyd Walsh, Bill Yates

1. Jay Bradshaw introduced Heather McKenney, who was recently hired as an EMS Licensing Agent. Heather is a Nationally Registered Paramedic with considerable EMS experience in Maine and other states. Heather is actively engaged in the annual inspections and sharing responsibilities for investigations. Other introductions were made and all were welcomed.
2. Minutes – June 4, 2014
 - a. **MOTION: To approve the minutes of the June 4, 2014, meeting as presented. (Beals; second by Knowlton). Unanimous**
3. Public Comments – none.
4. Maine EMS Update
 - a. Budget – Jay Bradshaw reported that there were no last minute changes to the FY15 budget, which went into effect July 1. The FY16/17 biennial budget must be submitted by September 1. For the next budget, MEMS will be requesting General Funding for two positions (Data & Preparedness Coordinator and State EMS Medical Director), which are currently being paid with federal funds that have an uncertain future.
 - b. Legislation – Maine EMS has requested Department bills regarding Community Paramedicine and making other routine and technical changes to the EMS statute, including aligning equipment requirements with EMS Treatment Protocols. If these requests are approved by the Governor's Office, work will begin on drafting the changes and obtaining sponsors.

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- c. Community Paramedicine – Maine EMS released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for evaluation of the impact of the Community Paramedicine Pilot Projects. The deadline for proposals is August 25. The goal is to have a contract in place by early October, with a hope of having at least preliminary data for the 1st Regular Session of the Legislature. Jay also reported that the several fire departments in the greater Portland area received funding for CP from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Upon learning about the grant award, Jay corresponded with the Metro Chiefs to be sure they were aware that there are no more pilot slots available and that expanding the pilot project will require Legislative action. Jay and Dr. Sholl will be meeting with the chiefs in the coming weeks to better understand their plans.
- d. Other – Jay and Lauren LaRochelle will be meeting with the Board of Funeral Directors in September to discuss situations where EMS terminates resuscitation and the manner in which the body is then transported. Current DHHS Rules require that only a licensed funeral director may transport a deceased body.

Jay and Lauren also attended a workshop in Chicago regarding interstate compacts for EMS providers. This is a project of the National Association of EMS Officials, funded by the Department of Homeland Security, that is working to determine if there is enough interest among states (minimum of 10) to develop an EMS compact. Maine EMS will continue to follow this closely and evaluate whether it is an initiative worth pursuing.

- e. Ops – Ops did not meet in July or August. Next meeting is scheduled for September 2.

5. Medical Director Report

- a. MDPB – Dr. Sholl updated the Board on the protocol revision progress. For this round, the MDPB is also holding webinars on each section prior to that section being discussed at an MDPB meeting. The webinars provide an opportunity for the lead physician(s) to review proposed changes and for participants to ask questions. These webinars are being recorded and will be available from MEMSEd.

The MDPB also reviewed a request from Capital Ambulance for a pilot project to have greater Bangor/Brewer EMS services administer Ondansetron Oral Dissolving Tablets (ODT). The goal of the project is to assess the impact of providing Ondansetron ODT prior to the arrival of a paramedic service, and the ability for BLS providers to administer this medication on interfacility transfers.

There was considerable discussion about the net benefit of the pilot project and about the cost to the EMS system in terms of training and quality improvement. There was also concern about providers being aware of patient medications that may cause a prolonged Q-T interval.

MOTION: To approve the Capital Ambulance Ondansetron ODT pilot project for a period of one year, and report monthly on level of the provider administering the medication, the number of non-emergency transfers that were recategorized to BLS. Capital will provide monthly reports to the MDPB. Prior to implementation, the training program must be approved by Dr. Sholl and Don Sheets. (Beals; second by Rowe) Approved with one opposed (Ontengco).

- b. QI – work is continuing to work on developing presentations information collected during the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Study. There will no QI or MDPB meeting in August.

- c. TAC - In April, Drs. Sholl and Pieh made an initial presentation to the TAC regarding the changes being made to standards of care and the upcoming Maine EMS protocol changes, which may eliminate the use of longboards as a treatment device. The TAC requested additional information, which will be presented at the October TAC meeting.
6. Old Business – Jay Bradshaw reported that the modeling work group met in Topsham to discuss options for collecting input regarding the Maine EMS system structure. The consensus was to try and do a scaled down version of the EMSSTAR review conducted in 2004. Jay will work on options.
7. New Business
 - a. Investigations Committee
 - i. Committee minutes and recommendations

MOTION: For the Investigations Committee to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2014, meeting as distributed. (Contreras; second by Senecal) Unanimous

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

MOTION: To enter executive session pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. §92 and 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) & (F), to receive legal advice and review of confidential material concerning case number 14-02. (Beals; second by Metayer) Unanimous.

Mike Senecal and Joe Conley recused themselves from this discussion.

Executive session started at 10:37

MOTION: To exit Executive Session (Metayer; second by Beals). Unanimous

Executive session ended at 10:49.

MOTION: To ratify the Investigation Committee minutes of the July 16, 2014, meeting as amended. (Rowe; second by Coyne) Unanimous with two abstentions (Conley & Senecal) regarding case # 14-02.

- b. Committee reports
 - i. Education – Don Sheets reported that the Education Committee did not meet in July and that he has been working on developing online resources for Instructor/Coordinators that will be added to MEMSEd.
 - ii. Data - Jon Powers reported that the online licensing system should be fully functional within the next 2 months. This has been a long time coming, and parts of it have been available for some time. The upcoming changes will include online CEH requests and roster submission.

Work is ongoing to prepare for the transition in NEMSIS 3.0, which will include a significant update to the MEMSRR. These changes will bring enhanced security and enable use on multiple platforms, including tablets and smartphones. The goal is to draft the data dictionary and have feedback from the Data Committee before the October Board meeting. The transition date is to be determined, but anticipated in the first half of 2015.

Jon also reported on a project with the Fire Marshal's Office and the Maine Forest Service for a RescueBridge application that would provide a single reporting point for fire departments to report both fire and EMS calls. RescueBridge is an ImageTrend companion product to the software used for MEMSRR.

- iii. Exam - Drexell White reported that the Committee did not meet in July, but will be meeting to review Practical Skills Exam (PSE) evaluations and pass rates. Also to be discussed with the Committee and Ops is the cost of the exams. MEMS is currently subsidizing the cost of these exams to provide an opportunity to collect trend data. Following the discussion with the Committee and Ops, MEMS staff will be making a recommendation at the October meeting about adjustments to the PSE rates for 2015.
- iv. EMD –Drexell White reported that Augusta Fire Dept. is the second department to have its Response Plan approved. Drexell continues to work with other services also interested in developing response plans.

Drexell also reported that United Ambulance has been recognized as an Accredited Center of Excellence by the National/International Academies of Emergency Dispatch. United is the first dispatch center in Maine to receive accreditation and is also the only EMS service in Maine to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services.

- c. QA/I Rules – Drexell White summarized the comments received to the initial draft on the QA/I Rules. Following discussion on the draft and comments, the following action was taken:

MOTION: To approved the revised proposed Quality Assurance and Improvement Rules and proceed to begin the rules change process. (Beals; second by Stockdale). Unanimous

Drexell explained that the next steps will be to get the approval from the Commissioner, then Governor's Office, and schedule the hearings. The plan is to coordinate with the regional offices to utilize technology (e.g. audio conferencing, video conferencing, and webinars) for these hearings, which will originate from MEMS. The hearings will require two Board members to be present, although not at every site.

- d. Aroostook EMS Medical Director – Jay Bradshaw and Dr. Sholl reported that John Beaulieu, D.O. has been selected by Aroostook EMS to fill the Regional EMS Medical Director position previously held by Dr. Peter Goth. A copy of Dr. Beaulieu's curriculum vitae was distributed and discussed.

MOTION: To approve the appointment of John A. Beaulieu, D.O., as the Aroostook EMS Regional Medical Director. (Rowe; second by Ontengco). Unanimous.

- e. Other - Drexell White noted that the Bureau of Labor Standards will be conducting a rulemaking hearing regarding junior EMS providers on August 21. MEMS worked closely with BoLS on these rules, which align with similar rules created for junior firefighters.

- 8. The next scheduled Board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 @ 9:30 AM
- 9. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM.