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GOVERNOR

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  
DECEMBER 7, 2011  
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

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

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Kerry Sousa Pomelow, Drexell White

Regional Coordinators: Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun, Marc Minkler, Rick Petrie

Office of Attorney General: Laura Yustak Smith, (AAG), Lauren LaRochelle, (AAG)

Guests: Daphne Russell, David Robie, Julie Allen, Jesse Thompson, Jonnathan Busko, Whitney Randolph, Daryl Boucher, Shaun St. Germain, Chris Paré, Joe Carroll

1. Introductions – Nate Contreras, RN, EMT-P, was welcomed to the Board as the representative of municipal services.
2. Approval of October 5, 2011, minutes

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the October 5, 2011, meeting as presented. (Woods; second by Gerrish) Unanimous.**

3. Public Comments – none
4. Pilot Project – Combative Agitated Patient

Drs. Jonnathan Busko and Whitney Randolph presented a pilot project to increase the dose of midazolam for combative and agitated patients. The need for this is based upon the significant number of patients who need treatment after ingesting bath salts. This request is for four services (Bangor Fire, Capital Ambulance, Rockland Fire, Camden First Aid) to participate in the project described in the handout. The goal of the pilot study is to evaluate 25 patients within a year.

**MOTION: To approve the Combative Agitated Patient Pilot Project as described, and to allow other services to participate if they meet the same criteria and are approved by the Medical Directions and Practice Board. Project reports will be made monthly to the MDPB and bi-monthly at Board meetings. Leach; second by Schmitz. Unanimous.**

5. Old Business

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- a. Community Paramedicine – Daryl Boucher made a presentation on the development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> version of the national Community Paramedic program and the plans for Northern Maine Community College to offer this program. The program is still a work in progress. Cognitive lessons will be held online with practical and clinical sessions scheduled in various locations around the state.

Jay reviewed the opinion from the Office of the Attorney General regarding the authority of the Board of EMS regarding Community Paramedicine, a copy of which was included in the Board packet. In summary, the research conducted by the AAG Larochelle and others concluded that the origin of EMS at the federal and state levels is based upon trauma, emergency treatment, and transportation. As such, Community Paramedicine does not fit within those original categories. Clarifying that such a pilot project has the appropriate statutory authority will require legislative approval. Because cloture has passed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> regular session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the Governor's Office will need to submit such a request. A meeting is scheduled to discuss this with the Governor's Legal Counsel later in December.

**MOTION: To support Legislation that will clarify the Board's ability to approve Community Paramedicine Pilot Projects. (Senecal; second by Leach) Carried with 2 abstentions (Rowe, Woods).**

- b. Unlicensed Practice – no report
- c. Personnel – no report

6. New Business

- a. Investigations

**MOTION: For the Investigations Committee to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2011, meeting as presented. (Metayer; second by Knowlton). Unanimous.**

**MOTION: To ratify the minutes of the October 5, 2011, Investigations Committee as presented. (Conley; second by Albert). Carried with one abstention (Contreras).**

Steve Leach disclosed he has had a professional relationship with the subject of case # 11-001, but that he has not received any information outside of the Board meeting and that his relationship will not affect his ability to objectively participate and act on the case.

Drexell presented case #11-047 to the Board. Roy Woods recused himself from discussion and voting on this case.

The Investigations Committee met to discuss this meeting prior to the Board meeting and recommended that a Letter of Guidance be placed in the service's file for one year.

The Committee found the following mitigating circumstances:

- Licensee was cooperative and accepted responsibility;
- The (unlicensed) ambulance vehicle was a "spare" vehicle, stationed at a remote site and had not been used during the period of time that it was unlicensed.

- The ambulance met other applicable licensing requirements;
- The ambulance vehicle was licensable by Maine EMS during the period of time that it did not hold a license;
- Licensee took immediate steps to license the ambulance vehicle upon notification of its unlicensed status

The Committee found no aggravating factors.

**MOTION: To approve the Investigation Committee's recommendation regarding case #11-047. (Albert; second by Leach) Unanimous.**

- b. Legislation and Budget updates – Jay reported that there have been no recent discussions regarding the EMS budget. There will be a bill in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Session (January 2012) sponsored by Sen, Sullivan (York) that provides and exemption to the seat belt law for emergency providers when they are caring for a patient in the rear of an ambulance. Jay has contacted Sen. Sullivan to get background information.
- c. Southern Maine EMS update –Jeff Rowe introduced Marc Minkler, who was hired as the SMEMS Executive Director effective November 1, 2011.
- d. Committee action (as needed)
  - i. Education – Kerry reported that there have been over 1,000 certificates issued for protocol update training taken through the MEMSEd.org web site.
  - ii. Data – no report
  - iii. Exam – Drexell reported that there will be a joint meeting with Education Cmte, Exam Cmte, and the Operations Team on January 11. The agenda is to discuss the Practical Skills Examination process.
  - iv. EMD – Drexell reported that the first EMD – EMS Awareness training program will be held on December 15. This will also be offered again on February 21. The goal is to provide an understanding about EMD for EMS providers who may not be aware of how the EMD protocols were developed and how EM dispatchers collect and disseminate pertinent information.
- e. Waiver request –

Kerry presented a waiver request that was submitted to Maine EMS by Jaymie St. Peter, RN, EMT-B. Ms. St. Peter is an instructor at NMCC who teaches a pharmacology class. That class is a requirement of the Paramedic program, but is also open to other students. Maine EMS Rules require that courses leading to licensure be taught by a certified instructor/coordinator, which Ms. St. Peter is not.

Maine EMS Rules and Training Center Application require that instructors in courses leading to licensure be certified I/C. There is a provision in the TC Application for use of non I/Cs under the supervision of an I/C, but the language isn't clear in how it applies to the NMCC class. In reviewing this request, MEMS staff suggested revising the Training Center Application Process book as follows:

***Didactic Instructor/Content Expert:*** *An instructor or interim instructor (who may or may not hold a Maine EMS Instructor License), under the supervision of the coordinator or a lead instructor may be utilized for certain portions of the course, providing that the approval agency is aware of their use. These individuals are subject matter experts whose ability to present material has been evaluated by the Lead Instructor or Coordinator and approved by the medical director. Content Experts may teach for college credit classes which fulfill a portion of the licensure curriculum when taught at an accredited post-secondary institution and approved by a MEMS TC. This instruction must be evaluated and approved by the Lead Instructor and Program Coordinator.*

**MOTION: To approve the staff recommendation for changes to the Training Center requirements and ask the Education Committee to propose language to clarify "supervision" and the per cent of a course that could be taught by a non-certified instructor. (Leach; second by Gerrish) Unanimous.**

**MOTION: To table the waiver request from Ms. St. Peter. (Leach; second by Senecal) Unanimous.**

Kerry also brought to the Board's attention a discrepancy in training requirements between the Rules and the Exam Administrator's Guide. The Guide only refers to a refresher course, where the Rules allow for training equivalent to a refresher. Staff recommendation is to change the Guide to be consistent with the Rules.

**MOTION: To approve changes in the Exam Administrator's Guide to allow EMS refresher "or equivalent" for training requirements. (Albert; second by Leach) Unanimous.**

- f. Other – Staff requested approval to update the Out of Drug Box medications to reflect the removal of furosemide and levalbuterol from the Maine EMS Protocols effective 12/1/11.

**MOTION: To approve the removal of furosemide and levalbuterol from the Maine EMS Out of Drug Box medications. (Leach; second by Albert). Unanimous**

7. Staff Reports

a. MEMS Report

- i. Jay requested a few Board members to assist with the Zero Based Budget initiative that is required for all agencies. This may require a few meetings over the next several months. Dr. Sholl, Roy Woods, and Tim Beals volunteered.

b. Medical Director Report

- i. MDPB – Dr. Sholl reported that the MDPB has responded to a number of medication shortages and developed interim protocols that may be used in the event, and for the duration, of the inability to obtain medications listed in the Protocols.

Work is continuing with MDPB work groups working on Interfacility Transfers.

- ii. QI - Dr. Sholl reported that the Committee has been working on revising a state QI guide. He also reviewed the recommendations developed by the QI Committee regarding membership and responsibilities.

**MOTION: To approve the QI goals and membership as described in the letter from Dr. Sholl, with individual appointments to be made by the Board chair. (Albert' second by Schmitz). Unanimous**

- iii. Other

8. Other

- a. Next Meeting – February 1, 2012 @ 9:30 AM, Maine EMS

9. Adjourn @ 12:20 PM

