

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
September 10, 2003

Members/Alternates Present: Mr. Richard Bailey, Mr. Jesus Cepero, Ms. Terry Clancy, Mr. Robert Dinetz, Ms. Karen Halupke, Mr. Robert Hansson, Dr. Ernest Leva, Mr. Al Lincks, Dr. Steven Marcus, Mr. Howie Meyer, Ms. Debbie Murante, Dr. James Pruden, Mr. Craig Reiner, Mr. Robert Resetar, Mr. Tom Starr, Ms. Deborah Timpson, Ms. Sue VanOrden, Dr. Jennifer Waxler, Mr. Phil Wien

Members/Alternates Absent: Senator Palaia, Mr. Ron Czajkowski, Mr. James Davidson, Dr. David Livingston, Mr. Donald Murray, Mr. Roberto Rodriguez

DHHS Staff Present: Ms. Traci Anderson, Mr. Steven Bors, Mr. William Duffy, Mr. Jeffrey Egnatovich, Ms. Candace Gardner, Mr. Charles McSweeney, Mr. Samuel Stewart, Mr. James Sweeney, Ms. Linda Taglairino

- Dr. James Pruden called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
- Minutes from the June 11, 2003 meeting were approved.
- There was a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) COMMITTEE

- No report.

BY-LAWS

- No report.

EMS COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- EMS Guidecard Committee met and made appropriate revisions.

- Recommendation to approve both sets of guidecards (State Guidecards and Medical Priority Dispatch Cards from Dr. Clawson) and send to the Commissioner.
- Met with representatives from NJ Domestic Security Preparedness Planning Group and EMS and advised of the need to establish a notification process.
- Recommend that the DHSS purchase emergency notification equipment (i.e., The Communicator) to facilitate email, fax, and telecommunications by electronic means instead of human means to eliminate error. Implementation through DHSS (Kevin Hayden).

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- The Communicator, a specific brand of electronic notification system, backs-up the data so that it can run from corporate headquarters (Tennessee) because of liability.
- The Department purchased a Communicator through HRSA money.

MOTION: To accept Dispatch Guidecards and pass on to the Commissioner's Office.

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Two sets of guidecards. Approve both state developed and out-of-state guidecards. Medical priorities developed by a panel of physicians from Utah.
- Few changes, such as name on front cover. No changes on content. Title not State Police.
- Accept amendment of correct titles after accepted by Commissioner.
- Medical priority dispatch cards not developed in NJ.
 - Different companies produce guidecards.
 - Rely on standards developed nationally.
 - Recommend cards be reviewed to conform to NJ MICU dispatch criteria.
- After component approved by Commissioner, Craig Reiner to make minor changes.
- Mr. Meyers asked that all alternates receive mailings.
- Dr. Marcus asked that minutes be sent several weeks before the meeting.
- Dr. Leva commented that the guidecards are very pediatric friendly. Asked if ALS should be sent out as a priority for all pediatric patients. Should there be an age criteria for seizure.
- Important to move quickly because of the changes to CPR.

All in favor.

No opposed.

Mr. Resetar recognized (on the record) John Strauss, Director of Hunterdon County Communications, for all the hard work he did.

All in favor.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) TRAINING FUND

- No quorum at last meeting because of traffic problems.
- Next meeting is September 26 at 4 p.m.
- The \$5-million was not taken from the fund.

Motion to accept. Seconded. All in favor

MICU ADVISORY COUNCIL

- LMA subcommittee to be formed with Dr. Gluckman chairing.
 - Universal run sheet for study of LMA to go forward with evaluation of this device.
- Discussion of adult and pediatric BLS patient care report requirements when EpiPen used.
- MICU Advisory Board to reestablish committee to standardize process of prehospital research
- Approved TMCASE and REDIVASE for as optional drugs for the medic units.
- Standing Orders – Discussion of narrow complex tachycardia arrhythmia.
- Approval of intraosseous access for adults.

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- LMA committee made up of BLS and ALS representatives.

All in favor.

NJPIES

- No report.

NJOEM

- Mr. Hansson followed up on the treatment of pediatric patients at courses.
 - Dr. Gluckman will discuss with Dr. Leva.
- Establishment of an exercise unit in Emergency Management.
 - National Guard, fire service and State Police to design drills and exercises on terrorism.
- CERTs course – Community Emergency Response Team.
 - Citizens to help until organized BLS takes over.
- Mr. Hansson is a State Police representative on the new Fire Safety Task Force.
 - Designed to assess and report to the Governor the needs of fire services.

- No EMS component.
- Training subcommittee to recommended the creation of an Interagency Training Standardization Committee.
 - Fire organizations.
 - EMS organizations.
 - Police organizations.
- Grant money. Need to develop training program to standardize training throughout the state. Revise training to combine best components.

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Discussed at MEDPREP meeting that there seems to be a lack of coordination for events.
- More agencies want to be in charge of a disaster.
- Need coordination and communications of events.
- Communication needed when planning activities.
- Need to meet with Dennis Quinn, Department of Law and Public Safety, to discuss EMS representation on new task force.
- Ms. Halupke announced the Department reorganized. OEMS is with the Division of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response.
 - Exercise Unit headed by Kevin Hayden.
 - Mechanism for standardizing training throughout Department.
- Discussion about the mechanism used to contact EMS services when an event is scheduled.
- Dr. Marcus stated NJPIES needs to be notified if event deals with chemicals.
- Dr. Pruden suggested it be brought to the Communications Committee.
- Emergency Management should coordinate all agencies at all levels.

All in favor.

NEW JERSEY STATE FIRST AID COUNCIL (NJSFAC)

- NJSFAC Convention is October 16-19. It is the 75th anniversary.
 - Education enriched.
- Blue Ribbon Panel comments as a Council will be held off until the final document is in place.
- Representative at the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee.
- Task Force on Homeland Preparedness
 - Fire and EMS gave testimony.
 - No better prepared than before 09/11/01.
 - Common link is lack of money not getting to local first responders.

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Mr. Hansson stated at the Fire Service Safety meeting the opinion is the same, money not benefiting fire services.
- Ms. VanOrden stated a problem with utilization of money on the local level, purchasing equipment not requested with grant money.
- Mr. Meyers stated too much money spent in all the wrong places.
- Discussion followed.

All in favor.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (EMSC)

- Dr. Leva stated there are five school nurse in-services on traumatic brain injury scheduled over the several months.
- EMSC conference will be May 23 and May 24, 2004 at the same location.
- Lack of standardization and evaluation of all BLS squads in the state.
 - Wrote letter to Commissioner that all squads should be standardized and certified by the state.
 - This should be a recommendation from the Blue Ribbon Panel.
- A list of minimum requirements for school preparedness is being put together for all schools.
- AAP EMSC will be contacting other organizations/educations to try to establish a task force to standardize preparedness in schools, should have school preparedness drill.

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Schools poorly prepared.
- Department of Education coordinates the activities of training and licensing credentials of school nurses.
- School nurse is the first responder/prehospital at a school event.
- EMSC annual conferences have promoted education for school nurses.

TRAUMA CENTER

- No report.

LEGISLATIVE

- Mr. Meyers reported the \$5-million was kept in the EMT Training Fund.
- Appears Legislature not going to meet or have voting sessions before the election.

Motion to accept. Seconded. All in favor.

OPERATIONS

- No report.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Mr. Dinetz reported the NJSFAC requested EMT Training Fund money to subsidize the education component at the convention will be implemented.
- Two recommendations from committee came to fruition
 - Awarded \$15,000 for accredited training site - implemented.
 - Enhance and upgrade various aspects related to improving education for EMT candidates.
 - Computer initiative.
 - Help foster education at the basic level.
 - 408 computers have been delivered.
- GEMS program, Geriatric EMS course has been running for several months and is doing well.
- As a result of HIPPA, liability issues, etc., there are few hospitals in the state refusing to accept EMT candidates for the ten-hour hospital training experience, may need to come up with alternatives to ten-hour training.

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- EMT Training in hospitals - New HIPPA guidelines makes it impossible to allow the individuals in areas such as the emergency department because of confidentiality to records and the required vaccinations.
 - Might have to consider alternatives.
 - Suggested to approach New Jersey Hospital Association.
- Internet access is to be treated as a continuing education program and give it a CEU program number.
 - Squads need to keep records in order to be reimbursed as a CEU program, submit a monthly bill.
- Regulation comments are being reviewed.
- Bob Hansson congratulated the EMT Training Fund Committee on the progress and getting funds to purchase the computers.

All in favor.

FIRE SERVICES

- No report.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (OEMS)

- Office of Emergency Medical Services is part of the new Division of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response.
 - OEMS is being included in planning.

- Dave Gruber is the *Assistant Commissioner (*Note: new information) and the new division will remain under Jim Blumenstock *Deputy Commissioner (*Note: new information).
- Regulation comment period ended July 18.
 - Received over 200 comments
 - Trying to move for adoption as soon as possible.
- New OEMS staff
 - Jessica Anepete – Support Staff (*Note: new information – Jessica has resigned to accept a position with the Department of Human Services)
 - Jeff Egnatovich - Training
 - Candace Gardner - Training
 - Erin Kasa – Support Staff
 - Jim Sweeney – Licensing and Monitoring
- EMS Awards dinner anticipated date is *Sunday – May 24 (*Note: new information)

Motion to accept. Seconded.

Discussion:

- Need to rethink the effectiveness of a Saturday night awards dinner.

All in favor.

BLUE RIBBON PANEL

- Blue Ribbon Panel given task of looking at EMS in the State of NJ.
 - Began January 2003
 - Members include, Stu Weiss, Bob Resetar, Tom Starr, Jen Waxler, Karen Halupke, Fred Steinkopf, Barbara Aras, Sol Nevins, Elliott Justin, John Brennan, Lou Sasso, Jim Davidson, Mickey McCabe and Jim Pruden.
- General Concerns.
 - Option for change.
 - Ideas of why a certain individual component might be problematic.
 - Options for remedy.
 - Additional comments on making designs better.
 - Introduction sheet contains consensus statement of the Committee.
 - All bullets are a consensus and unanimous by all committee members present except for the response times.
- Bob Resetar presented the EMS System Redesign Recommendations.
 - Discussion opened to all present at the meeting.
- Highlights discussed the overview of the September 8th draft.
 - Top ten bullets are the recommendations as part of the introduction of the process. Must be done to make any change in the system.
- EMS coverage be required 24/7.
 - State of NJ does not have a requirement to have EMS

- Injustice to the citizens
 - Need a requirement to have EMS available to residents 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year.
 - Become a municipal responsibility.
- Health Insurance Coverage pay for EMS 9-1-1 emergencies based on “Lay person’s” definition, with payment sent directly to provider.
 - Insurance companies paying patient and provider not being reimbursed.
 - Set amount of reimbursement.
- NJDHSS Commissioner support legislative initiative to supplement transportation cost for non-transport MICUs.
- EMS should remain multi-tiered (First Responder, BLS, ALS).
- EMS Dispatch Compliance Standards.
 - Appropriate resources to enforce established standards.
- ALS Dispatch must be centralized and the closest unit must be dispatched.
- ALS System change must be made easier to facilitate.
- Uniform prehospital data collection must occur statewide at all levels.
- EMS Medical Advisory Council should have both ALS & BLS sections.
- Recommended response times must be established in order to improve care.
- Recommended changes categorized into three levels.
 - Mild
 - Moderate
 - Intense

Discussion followed on the recommendations presented.

- First Responder program.
- Most rapid care in worse scenario.
- Catchment area of ALS (as defined by CN).
- Dr. Leva suggested a lead bullet point for the BLS system that all be certified and/or standardized.
- Dr. Leva asked if there was any in the room that doesn’t believe BLS should be certified and/or standardized?
- Dr. Pruden stated that was an open question to anyone in the room.
- Dr. Pruden again asked if there was anyone in this room that doesn’t believe BLS should be certified and/or standardized, without saying who does certification. This question was repeated to the following individuals.
 - Mr. Richard Bailey, Mr. Jesus Cepero, Ms. Terry Clancy, Mr. Robert Dinetz, Ms. Karen Halupke, Mr. Robert Hansson, Dr. Ernest Leva, Mr. Al Lincks, Dr. Steven Marcus, Mr. Howie Meyer, Ms. Debbie Murante, Mr. Craig Reiner, Mr. Robert Resetar, Mr. Tom Starr, Ms. Deborah Timpson, Ms. Sue VanOrden, Dr. Jennifer Waxler, Mr. Phil Wien, Dr. Stu Weiss, Ms. Julie Aberger, Mr. Jeff Egnatovich, Ms. Candace Gardner, Mr. Terry Hoben, Mr. Sam Stewart, Mr. Bill Rosen, Mr. Ian Malik, Mr. Frank Goodstein, Mr. Chuck McSweeney, Ms. Traci Anderson, Mr. Jim Sweeney, Mr. Bill Duffy, Mr. Steve Bors, Ms. Linda Taglairino

- No one present voiced an objection.
- Pension system.
- NJSFAC comments to the Blue Ribbon Panel.
- Leadership and patient oriented thinking.
- Incorporate EMS into police and fire.
- Create licensing board can take away from the Council.
- State Planning and Oversight Board (POB) would have more power to apply and implement mandates.
- Providing a government function.
- Problem with private employees wanting to have a public pension system.
- QA/QI person at the POB level would be responsible for overall QA of the EMS system.
- Issuance of IDs.
- Any further comments should be sent to Dr. Pruden.

A motion was made to accept the report of the Blue Ribbon Panel. Seconded. All in favor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Dr. Waxler to put together a nominating committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Goodstein reported in response to the black out on August 14, NJ supplied two task forces (about 30 ambulances) to New York City.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Dr. Pruden recognized the Allentown First Aid Squad for hosting our meetings.
- The next meeting is December 10, 2003. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

TENTATIVE 2004 MEETING DATES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004
 Wednesday, June 16, 2004
 Wednesday, September 15, 2004
 Wednesday, December 15, 2004