

Governor's Advisory Council
February 14, 2007
Minutes

Member's Present

Dr. Tim Calicott
Michelle Staggs
David Stoppel
CC McAllister
Jamin Snarr
Deloris Sykes
Dr. Monte Gagliardi
Rod Barrett
Garry Odom
Doug Deurr
Richard Taft
Dr. David Schmidt
Dr. Len Kemp
Kenneth Starnes
Tony Hickerson

Member's Absent

Billy Artis
Todd Freeman
Dr. Marvin Leibovich

ADH Staff

David Taylor
Sonya Sampson
Norajeane Miles
Addie Grigsby-Roshell
Larry New
Detrich Smith
Brian Nation
Markann Young
Dawn Dutcher

Visitors

Deborah Haile
Darrel Flank
Tim Pikerling
Sidney Ward
Brian Moore
Kelly McCarter

Don Johnson
Danny Bercher
Karen Konarski-Hart
Sedley Tomlinson
Matt Young
Anne Roberts

David Seng
Cathee Davin
Laura Guthrie
Darren Flamik
Doug Duer

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Timothy Calicott called the Governor's Advisory Council to order on February 14, 2007 at 1:35 p.m.

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Members and guest introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The floor was open for approval of the November 15, 2006 minutes. A motion was made by David Stoppel and seconded by Doug Duerr to approve the November 15, 2006 minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Director's Update** – David Taylor gave the Director's update. The following were handed out for review and discussed:

National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)

March 18 - 21, 2007 a representative from the NASEMSO will visit the state to determine a location for the 2009 annual conference. As time grows near, I will need assistance from board members, associations and EMTs across the state to help with the conference. This is a great opportunity for Arkansas to take a leading role in the EMS profession.

Paramedic Scholarship/Equipment Program:

The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care & the Section of EMS & Trauma Systems have been working diligently to initiate this year's paramedic scholarship/equipment contracts with Arkansas advanced training sites. Fourteen training sites have submitted letters of intent to participate this year. Once a contract is in place, training sites will receive \$2,857 for paramedic scholarships and \$1,428 for non-disposable training equipment.

EMS Week- Scheduled for May 20-26, 2007

Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." This year the theme is **"Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service"** The Section would like to work with all associations to help with events scheduled during this week. Let us know what we can do to help you.

A-1 Certification Update – Norajean Miles gave the following certification report:

Classes Approved by the Section of EMS and Trauma Systems:

Basic classes:	42 approved and in process
Basic refresher classes:	82 approved (53 already complete and/or in progress now)
Advanced classes:	19 Paramedic and 3 Intermediate in progress for completion in 2007
Advanced Refresher classes:	18 approved and ongoing since Jan. 1, 2007 3 scheduled for later in 2007

Reciprocity

Advanced Reciprocity candidates

Certified 2006 (P=43, I=3)	46
Certified since January 1, 2007 (3-P, 2-I)	5
Active files waiting on required documents -	5

Basic Reciprocity candidates

Certified 2006:	38
Certified since January 1, 2007	11
Active files waiting on required documents-	31

Continuing Education

CEU total approved for 2005	2186
CEU total approved for 2006	3224
CEU scheduled so far in 2007 Feb 12, 2007	621

March 31, 2006 recertification in process

Recertifications packets sent	1358
Received and in process	(11%) 150

Initial Certification/ Testing January through December 31, 2007

Basic classes approved	92
# Students tested	759

Advanced Classes approved (P=23, I/85= 6) 29
10 Paramedic Training Sites participated in the NREMT Computer Based Beta test.

Total	73 students
#Successful 1 st attempt	32 students

During December 2006 in addition to the monthly written examination, 6 additional basic examinations were offered by the Section of EMS and Trauma System. In these 117 students participated for a total of 235 basic students taking the written test at the Section in December 2006. The final

Approved May 23, 2007

NREMT written examination in Arkansas was completed at 2:30 PM on December 29, 2006. Computer Based testing began on January 1, 2007. Additionally, four (4) advanced written test opportunities were provided in December 2006.

Training Site Report

A new Intermediate Training Site was approved in November in Mena, AR at Rich Mountain Community College. The first class of 10 approved students is underway.

UACC-Hope was awarded conditional approval for their first Paramedic class. Initial site application and self-study has been made to CoAEMSP for National Accreditation. The first class in progress.

Computer Based Testing

Changeover for National Registry was January 1, 2007. The office will no longer administer written EMT examinations. We will continue to coordinate the Basic practical examination with the local training sites and then approve the students on the NREMT site for their practical results. Advanced practical examinations will still be scheduled and administered by the Arkansas/National Registry Representative. At present, 67 candidates at all levels have taken the Computer Based examination.

Data for this report reflects information current through February 12, 2007.

A-2 Regulatory Report – Larry New gave the following Regulatory Report

Ambulance services inspected since the December 2006 G.A.C. Meeting:

- 14 Services
- 51 Ambulances

Current services scheduled to be inspected in February 2007:

- 26 Services
- 68 Ambulances

Total number of services utilizing Optional Skills:	44
Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)	6
Central Venous Device Access (CVAP)	1
Huber Needle	8
Adult Intraosseous	24
Cardiac Thrombolytic	5

A-3 Trauma Systems Report – Brian Nation gave Trauma Systems Report.

The Trauma Advisory Council continues to meet on a regular basis. Council members are actively pursuing funding initiatives to activate the system in Arkansas. Membership in the council is very active and meetings are being held on a monthly basis to push the system forward.

The Arkansas Hospital Association is in the process of preparing legislation to fund the trauma system in Arkansas. Everyone involved with the council has done a great deal of work to get to this point and their efforts to gain support from numerous organizations and agencies should be applauded. If efforts to fund the system are successful, the program could benefit health care agencies across the state.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B-1 EMSC – Addie Grigsby gave the EMSC Report. The program is currently working with Children’s Hospital concerning the growing numbers of all terrain vehicle (ATV) injuries. An ATV survey was conducted and results will follow. Several EMT Trainers were surveyed to see if they prefer PEPP or PALS courses. The survey revealed that most trainers preferred PEPP. The goal is to conduct at least four PEPP courses in four regions around the state. Med-Tech Ambulance Services of Conway County – Morrilton has scheduled a course for August 2007.

B-2 Training Committee – Jamin Snarr gave the Training Committee Report. The Training Committee met on February 14, 2007. Training site visits were conducted at University of Arkansas Community College at Hope and Rich Mountain Community College, Mena. The University of Arkansas Community College at Hope has applied to start a paramedic program as soon as possible. During the site visit, the school met all requirements for Arkansas Accreditation. They were approved on a provisional status in order to start a paramedic class. The college will need to obtain data to complete the National accreditation process.

A site visit was also conducted at Rich Mountain Community College at Mena. The site applied for State Accreditation at the Intermediate level. The site met all state requirements and they were approved as an Intermediate training site.

The Training Committee recommended to the Council that epinephrine auto injectors be required on all basic and intermediate level ambulances. Michelle Staggs made a motion to send out a letter of intent that the EMS Advisory Council is considering mandatory placement of epinephrine auto injectors as a required piece of equipment on all basic and intermediate licensed ambulance services. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Starnes with one recommended revision: Do not make it mandatory but, make it optional. The motion was withdrawn by Ms. Staggs and restated, that epinephrine auto injectors be optional

skills at the basic and intermediate level. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Starnes. Motion passed by Council with two Council members opposing.

The subject regarding Medical First Responders is tabled and the committee will report on progress when needed. Funding issues for the program is a major issue. It would take up to \$200,000 annually to help support the program. Research shows that there are only two or three states that currently certify Medical First Responders.

Ida Esh't – Arkansas Governors Commission of People with Disabilities

Ms Esh't visited with the Council regarding the transportation of wheel chairs for people with disabilities. She is concerned that some ambulance services will not transport wheelchairs for patients during a time of an emergency. It was explained to Ms. Esh't that it would be a hazard to the EMTs and patient if the wheel chair was transported within the patient compartment of the ambulances unsecured. Sedley Tomlinson pointed out there are several devices available to secure wheelchairs in vehicles. No further action was taken by Council. Ms. Esh't provided informational pamphlets regarding preparedness issues for citizens of Arkansas.

B-3 EMS Rules & Regulations Committee – Michelle Staggs gave the report.

The following individuals will lead the EMS R&R Committee Workgroup: Ken Kelly will lead group Registration/Licensure, Monte Gagliardi– Clinical Practice, Danny Bercher– Certification and Training, and Rod Barrett– Disciplinary process. Workgroup facilitators will help in process regarding the revision for the current Rules & Regulations for EMS. It was stressed that the group seek guidance from representation from different groups. Group facilitators will pull groups together and schedule times of meetings. They will work directly with the Section of EMS & Trauma Systems regarding scheduling and notification of meetings to all interested parties. A group facilitator will provide Michelle Staggs with an update. The goal of the work groups is to elevate clinical practices. Ms. Staggs informed the group that anyone can assist with the process and participation is voluntary.

B-4 Air Ambulance Regulations Sub-committee – Michelle Staggs gave the report.

The Air Ambulance Task Force met last week and submitted a draft version of the training requirements for air ambulance crew members to the Air Ambulance Sub-committee. It was requested that the Task Force review training requirement and resubmit. The Task Force is working on a definition of service area and other definition changes within current regulations.

The Air Ambulance Sub-committee would like to be recognized and organized in the fashion of a training committee. They would like to elect officers and continue to have an EMS Advisory Council liaison serve on the committee. The elected office would be held for a two year period. A motion was made by

Michelle Staggs to permit organization structure, seconded by Garry Odom, motion passed.

B-5 EMS Data Committee – Garry Odom gave the EMS Data Committee Report. The EMS Data Committee met on Monday February 12, 2007. Members of the Subcommittee reviewed the data dictionary elements obtained from the National Emergency Medical Services Information Systems. Members recommended a simplification of the data elements and asked Brian Nation to revise the dictionary and supply a new version to members within two weeks of the meeting date. Brian Nation with the Section of EMS and Trauma Systems provided an update on the upgrade of the state's data collection system. Members were informed of data element changes and they were informed of a change that will allow third party software downloads by the spring of 2007. Members discussed some of the elements of data collection in Arkansas. Some individuals mentioned that the subcommittee might want to change the way vital pieces of information like intubation attempts are collected in the future. The next meeting of the Data Subcommittee was set for May 22, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **AHA Update** – Deborah Haile gave the American Heart Association update on the ECC Restructure.
- B. **Impairment** – David Taylor gave the report. The Council was informed that a working group had been established by the Department to seek assistance/develop a program to assist EMTs regarding impairment issues. Mr. Taylor will keep the Council informed of progress. Rod Barrett volunteered to participate in meetings if needed.
- C. **RSI Revisited** – Dr. Calicott informed the Council that he wanted to move forward with the RSI proposal discussed in previous meetings. He would like to go ahead and start the process and seek provisional status as an optional skill for paramedic services. If needed, he would add a limitation regarding infants/pediatrics. With the Councils approval he will submit the proposal to the Board of Health at their next quarterly meeting. The Council gave full support for proposal and requested Dr. Calicott to move forward on request. .
- D. **Training Site Rules & Regulations Revision** – David Taylor gave the report. The Board of Health is aware that a provisional approval for the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope has been granted. In order for training sites to achieve National Accreditation, they must achieve Arkansas Accreditation first. The Board of Health is aware that a rules and regulation change must be made and a provisional status was granted to U of A Community College at Hope.

Approved May 23, 2007

VI. NEXT MEETING DATES

The 2007 EMS Advisory Council Schedule was handed out. The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council will be held at the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems on May 23, 2007 at 1:30 pm

VII. ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn by Michelle Staggs and seconded by David Schmidt. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.