

EMS Advisory Council

August 24, 2006

Minutes

Member's Present

Dr. Timothy Calicott
Rod Barrett
Todd Freeman
Dr. Marvin Leibovich
Kenneth Starnes
Michelle Staggs
Garry Odom
Dr. David Schmidt
Tony Hickerson
Jamin Snarr
Doug Deurr
CC McAllister
Monte Gagliardi
David Stoppel

Member's Absent

Delois Sykes
Richard Taft
Billy Artis
Fran Hickman
Dr Len Kemp

ADH Staff

David Taylor
Sonya Sampson
Norajean Miles
Larry New
Brian Nation
Stella Nelson
Addie Grigsby-Roshell

Visitors

Eileen Kelley
Kyle Roach
Terry Bracy
Billy Jones
Matt Brumley
Anne Roberts
Sandy Pryor
Robby Hines
Dail Sanders

DJ Satterfield
Jason Gartner
Denise Carson
Mark Warford
Joe Hennington
Don Johnson
Kenny Tosh
Connie Eastlee

Jerry Cohen
Mark McFarland
Sidney Ward
Greg Bartlett
Ed Roberts
Cathee Serrell
Scott Larson
Pam Rolens

I. CALL TO ORDER

The EMS Advisory Council was called to order on August 24, 2006, 1:30 pm at the Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs, AR.

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Dr. Calicott welcomed everyone to the EMS Advisory Council meeting. Members and guests introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The floor was opened for approval of May 17, 2006 minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Gagliardi and seconded by Garry Odom to approve the May 17, 2006 minutes. The motion passed by Council with one abstained.

A motion was made by Jamin Snarr and seconded by Dr. Schmidt to change the order of agenda and allow a presentation from Dr. Stacy Jones first. The motion was passed by council and the order of agenda was changed.

Stacy Jones, Arkansas Children's Hospital gave a presentation on Epinephrine accessible to Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) Basics/Ambulance level in Arkansas. Dr. Jones discussed the importance of pre-hospital administration of epinephrine by Arkansas certified EMTs. Dr. Jones is requesting that epinephrine auto injectors be carried/administered by all licensed basic and intermediate level ambulances. A training program would be needed to be developed and sample protocols. This may take a possible rules and regulations modification and medical oversight. Dr. Jones pointed out that Arkansas is one of seven states that do not permit EMTs at all levels to administer epinephrine. She stated she is working with industry groups to help offset the cost that would be associated with mandatory placement. Dr. Leibovich made a motion to refer Dr. Jones request/presentation to the EMS Training Committee for a review and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Schmidt and passed by Council.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Section Update – David Taylor, Section Chief gave the following Section Chief Update:

Paramedic Scholarship/Equipment Program:

The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care & the Section of EMS & Trauma Systems has been working closely with Arkansas Accredited Paramedic Training Sites to close out the paramedic scholarship and equipment grant for FFY 06. The Section was notified on August 22, 2006 that funding for this project will continue for FFY 07 in the amount of \$60,000. Funding will be distributed as follows: \$20,000 for equipment and \$40,000 for scholarships. A field survey of paramedics was also approved to help determine why paramedics are leaving the pre-hospital emergency field and \$6,000 was approved to

assist with educational opportunities for the EMS community. He said that he wanted to thank the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care for their time and effort regarding the grant application and support to the EMS Community.

AED Distribution/Survey:

The AED distribution will occur on September 14th & 15th, 2006 at the office. This is the fourth year the Section has applied for and received federal funding for the program. During these four years, the Section has distributed over 1,000 AEDs to rural communities in Arkansas. Arkansas will not receive additional funding to continue this program during the next federal year. Funding was realigned and only three small grant awards will be distributed for FFY 07.

National Association of State EMS Officials:

The Association has organized a working group regarding Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This group will review current guidelines and make suggested recommendations at the federal level. I have been asked to serve on this working group due to our utilization of EMAC agreements during the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

During the October 2006 annual meeting, David Taylor will make a short presentation to the State Officials. He will invite them to conduct their annual meeting for 2009 in Arkansas. Representatives from each state and territory attend the annual meeting. This is a great opportunity for Arkansas to take a leading role in the EMS profession. Mr. Taylor will keep the council updated on the progress with the working group and the invitation.

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

September 31, 2006 recertification ongoing:

Recertification packets sent-on June 6, 2006	1458
Received and completed	243
Received incomplete and awaiting some information	11

Classes Approved by the Section of EMS and Trauma Systems:

Basic classes	32 scheduled and approved for Fall. 6 in process, 24 starting end of August or first September.
Basic refresher classes:	16 approved to begin (113 total approved since January 1, 2006)
Advanced classes:	5 paramedic – 2 intermediate approved to begin end of August 6 in progress completing in December 2006 9 paramedic classes participated in the NREMT Beta test June 5 to July 28
Advanced Refresher classes:	1 ongoing, 3 approved to begin (42 total classes approved since 1/1/06)

Initial Certification/ Testing April 27- August 19, 2006

Basic Written regional exams administered:	16
# students tested -first attempt	282
# students successful	188
# students unsuccessful	94

Also administered 4 practical and 4 written end-of-month exams at the Section of EMS.

Advanced exams administered

Written June through August 18 (1 st attempt)	
One class did written and practical (not Beta) (5 students) in August.	
Advanced students (88) participated in NREMT written Computer Beta Test –	
33 of 73 were successful on the first attempt (through July 26 report)	
1 training site tested the last days-(results for 15 students were not available in report)	
Administered advanced practical exams at 8 locations for Beta - 1 class has not yet tested.	
Also administered 5 in-house written exams at the Section of EMS & Trauma Systems	
# Advanced students tested	43

Reciprocity

Advance Reciprocity candidates	
Certified May to August:	14
Add to 11 from January to May (total for 2006)	25
Active files waiting on required documents-	7
Basic Reciprocity candidates	
Certified May to August:	13
Add the 8 from January to May: (total for 2006)	21
Active – in some stage of process	31

Continuing Education

CEU total approved for 2004	2322
CEU total approved for 2005	2186
CEU scheduled so far in 2006 (August 21)	2484

Rich Mountain Community College in Mena completed their first class in May with 11 students. They tested their practical exam on May 25, 2006 and did the written with the regional exam in Texarkana.

Ten Paramedic Training Sites are participating in a \$60,000 **scholarship/equipment sub-grant** provided in cooperation with the Section of Rural Health and Primary Care of DHHS. Final paperwork is due in the Section of EMS and Trauma Systems by September 1, 2006 so all awards can be finalized by September 30, 2006.

Data for this report reflects information current through August 21, 2006.

A1a - Test Results - Stella Nelson, EMS Specialist gave report on National Registry Downloads Results. (Attachment I).

A.2 Regulatory – Larry New, Regulatory Administrator gave the following regulatory report:

Since the May 17, 2006 meeting, the 100 and 300 series of inspections were completed. The inspections comprised of 54 different services and 191 ambulances.

Renewal packets were mailed to the 400 series ambulance services that are due in September. This inspection series will consist of 21 different services and 58 ambulances (southeast area).

New Skill Set Update: Arkansas licensed ambulance services currently approved to utilize following skills: CPAP – 3 Adult Tibial – 13. All services have responded to our request for DNR Protocols.

Since the last meeting the Section of EMS & Trauma Systems has initiated a numbering system for all AIR MEDICAL SERVICES. The aircraft are in the 9000 numbering range. This allows the Air Services to better manage the required reports that must be submitted to the Section of EMS & Trauma Systems.

A.3 - Trauma Systems – Brian Nation gave the Trauma Report (Attachment II). There was a motion made by Michelle Staggs to create a NEMSIS Data subcommittee. Motion seconded by Garry Odom and passed by Council.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

B-1 EMSC – Addie Grigsby-Roshell gave the following EMSC report:

In response to the Government Performance and Results Act (*GPRA*), the Emergency Medical Services for Children (*EMSC*) Program is focusing on meeting the performance measures set forth at the federal level. These standards were developed to measure the progress at both state and national levels of the EMSC program in key pediatric emergency care. (*Performance Measures are attached*) Activities and accomplishments of the Program will be documented for the purpose of improving the delivery of emergency services to children.

Dr. Tonya Thompson, *Project Director*, along with Dr. James Graham, Dr. Rhonda Dick, Brian Nation, *EMS Trauma System Administrator*, and Addie Grigsby-Roshell, *EMSC Coordinator* has been conducting a series of meetings working on the implementation of the performance measures. Currently, the group is in the process of developing a hospital emergency department survey for the purpose of assessing the hospital's capacity to respond to a mass casualty event involving large numbers of children. Identifying and recruiting pediatricians from various areas of the state who will serve as pediatric consultants to area EMS medical directors. Re-establishing the EMSC Advisory Committee as outlined in Performance Measure 66a

B-2 Training Committee – Jamin Snarr gave Training Committee report. The Training Committee met at 10 am, August 24, 2006. The committee discussed the Medical First Responder certification and feel they are not ready to move forward with the project. The goal was to submit a legislative packet this upcoming session; however the project has been tabled. Mr. Snarr discussed computer based testing and the pass/fail test results for the resent paramedic beta. Mr. Snarr feels that the overall state EMT candidate test results are on track with national statistics. A working group was set up to work on a paramedic survey. This survey will target lapsed and current Arkansas certified paramedics to identify why they are electing to leave the profession. North Arkansas Community College presented a hybrid paramedic course to the EMS Training Committee for review and recommendation to implement. The committee felt no recommendation was needed, courses are already in progress utilizing the same features.

B-3 Rules & Regulations Committee – No report, committee has not met.

B-4 Air Ambulance Subcommittee – Michelle Staggs gave the report. The Air Ambulance Subcommittee met on the morning before the GAC meeting. The Air Ambulance Task Force will meet a couple more times and will provide recommendations to Air Ambulance Sub-committee. Once the information is obtained and reviewed, it will be presented to the council. The Task Force is reviewing current Rules & Regulations, definitions, training requirements, aviation, and service areas. FAA sent out letter requesting volunteer review of Helicopter Shopping. Michelle Staggs made a motion to have the Section of EMS & Trauma send the letter to all certified ambulance service and hospitals. Second by Dr. Leibovich, motion was passed by Council.

B-5 Board of Health – David Taylor, Section Chief gave the report. All items submitted to Board of Health were successful. AEDs for all basic and intermediate level ambulance and End-tidal CO₂ Detectors will be mandatory by January 1, 2007. Activated Charcoal was removed from the mandatory list. Ambulance service medical directors can continue to have services utilize if needed. Calcium channel blocker was removed from mandatory and moved to the optional list.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. **Stroke Task Force** – Linda Faulker was unable to attend. Cardiovascular/Stoke task force has provided up to \$20,000 in funding to help maintain current ambulance service data collection program and provide stoke scale update.

B. **Data Review – Federal Partners** – Brian Nation is working with NEMSIS (National EMS Information Systems) to obtain silver level compliance for the state. The Cardiovascular Health Office asked the Section of EMS and Trauma Systems to add the LA Stroke Scale to the data collection system, and the Section chose to work toward NEMSIS compliance at the same time. EMS Data Systems will work on the program and supply updates to all the services in the Fall of 2006. As data is collected under the new system, the Section is anticipating

being one of the first 15 states to supply data to the federal office. Mr. Nation will keep the council informed.

- C. **EMT Career Survey Results** – Ilene Kelly, Senior Project Leader, Division of Health Center for Health Statistics was present to provide results of the EMS Needs Assessment “The Employer’s Perspective” and EMS Career Survey “The Employee’s Perspective”. She encouraged the council to review the reports and the importance and try to assist in the implementation of projects that will assist the EMS profession. Copies of the reports were distributed to all licensed ambulance service and council members.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

VII. NEXT MEETING DATES

The next EMS Advisory Council is scheduled for November 15, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. at the Section of EMS & Trauma Systems, 5800 West 10th Street, Suite 800 in Little Rock.

VIII. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Jamin Snarr and seconded by Dr. Schmidt to adjourn. Council passed the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.