

STATEWIDE EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Albuquerque, New Mexico
Wednesday, July 22, 2009

MINUTES

Attendees:

Charles Hosford, Emergency Services Council / SAR
Pete Bellows, EMT Association
Don McNutt, Region 2 EMS
Brent Hamilton, NMAMTAC
Chad Hamill, NM Fire Chiefs
Linda Warren, EMSC
Mike Jambrosic, NM Ambulance Association
James Williams, EMS Region 3
William Harris, NENA
Michael Richards, MD UNM
Mick Leo, MD ACEP
BJ Brunt-Palmer, NM Nurses Association
Ken Cochran, NM Hospital Association

Absent:

Becky Gutierrez, NM Firefighters Association
Virginia Sanchez, Consumer Advocate
Brian Caldwell, EMS Region 1

Audience:

Kyle Thornton, EMS Bureau Chief
Charles Schroeder, EMS Licensing Manager
George Kennedy, EMS Bureau
Ute Fennicks, EMS Bureau
Peggy Hesch, EMS Bureau
Scott Wilson, EMS Bureau
Marie Gutierrez, PRC
Mike Buldra, ENMU-R
John Smithson, AAS
John Bridges, Portales Fire
John Udell, EMS Region 1
Jerome Haaske, EMS Region 1
Tim Zagorski, EMS Region 2
Sandy Barley, EMS Region 2
Jan Elliott, EMS Region 3

Donnie Roberts, EMS Region 3
James Salas, Roswell Fire
Mary Hewitt, EMS Academy
Chris Archuleta, Superior Ambulance
Wayne Baker, Cimarron EMS
Ken Hoffman, McKinley Co Fire
Jim Stover, Lincoln Co. EMS
Rick Riddle, Carlsbad Fire
Lee King, Elite Medical Transport
Walter Kuykendahl, Elite Medical Transport

[Note: Since there is not a sign-up roster for audience members, the audience list may not be all inclusive and spelling may not accurate.]

Call to Order by Don McNutt at 3:07pm.

Introductions of all members and attendees were made.

Minutes of the April 9, 2009 meeting were reviewed, the following amendments were made:

- Page 11, paragraph 1, EMS for Children website is pediatricemergencytraining.com

Pete Bellows moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Charles Hosford seconded the motion and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Kyle Thornton noted some changes to the membership of the Statewide EMS Advisory Committee:

Bill Harris will be retiring from the State of NM as of February 1, 2010. The EMS Bureau is asking NENA for a new replacement.

Mike Jambrosic will be leaving the Statewide EMS Advisory Committee; a replacement will be named from the Ambulance Advisory Committee.

A call was made for proxies. There were none submitted.

Don McNutt recognized Dr. Kennedy who has recently returned from Afghanistan.

Committee Reports

In an attempt to hold a shorter meeting Kyle Thornton stated that he has mailed out electronic reports from the EMS Bureau programs. Discussions of these reports can be held during the meeting and recommendations are welcome.

NMAMTAC

Brent Hamilton stated that we had held our first Air Medical Track during the Statewide EMS Conference. He stated that the track was a success and that will look forward to more at future conferences.

Brent also stated that at the last TASC meeting, it was found that Dr. Richards has had a seat on the Committee that is attached to the State EMS Medical Director. Dr. Kennedy now holds this position.

Medical Direction Committee

Dr. Kennedy stated that the EMS Scopes of Practice is in a two year cycle. The MDC will call for any recommended changes to the EMS Scopes during the December 2009 meeting. There was a conversation about adding HAZMAT protocols to the Scopes, please contact the EMS Bureau for feedback.

Jan Elliott stated that southern NM rural services could benefit from Medical Direction at the Basic and Intermediate level being performed by Physician Assistants and Registered Nurses under the direction of an NM Medical Physician. She would like to see more discussion of this idea.

JOE Committee

Mike Buldra stated that the next JOE meeting is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. This will be the first JOE meeting since December 2008. They are looking forward to getting things back on track.

There are still some positions open on the JOE Committee. The Statewide EMS Advisory Committee would like a personal report from the JOE Chair at the next meeting in November 2009.

PRC Update

Dave Baca is currently the Acting Director of the Transportation Division, Paul Montoya is Acting Bureau Chief and Abe Tapia is current out on leave. Inspections are currently on track with a rotating schedule. The PRC has 7 pending investigations and 3 are with one company. They currently have 3 FTE, down from 7FTE. They will need to appoint a new PRC Advisory representative with the departure of Mike Jambrosic.

Staff Reports

Linda Warren stated that she likes the idea of electronic staff reports; it is nice to have the information ahead of time.

Pete Bellows stated that he also likes the idea, but he stated that the audience does not get to share the information. If we continue to do this type of reporting, he would like to see the reports put on the list serve or on the webpage.

Jan Elliott stated that she was concerned about how the audience would be able to ask questions regarding the reports. Jim Stover shared the concern stating that many EMS interested parties are unable to drive to the meetings.

Mick Leo moved to include the reports for review in sequence on the web and allow for questions, comments and discussion. Pete Bellows seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Regarding the report from EMS Administration; Jan Elliott stated that the Regional Contracts have been submitted for signature, but was told that it would be a week to 10 days for the contracts to be approved. Pete Bellows asked how they could help the contracts go through in a timelier manner. Kyle Thornton stated that he did not know what the Statewide EMS Advisory could do; he does hope that the trend will get better.

Scott Wilson stated that the contracts started in May there has been an issue that they needed to assign dollar amounts to deliverables, until they know what the contract amount will be. Ken Cochran asked if it would be possible to change the contract year, so that the Division will not sit on them until July 1st. Mike Richards stated that a Fiscal Year addendum may be put into a multi year contract and eliminate the RFP process.

John Udell stated that a contract that is retroactive means nothing; we must assume that we have no contract.

Jan Elliott asked when the Fund Act checks will be sent out. Scott stated that they will be ready for mailing out this next week. Scott encouraged the services to set-up ACH accounts so they can receive their distributions electronically.

Jan stated that even though the Fund Act Committee met in August to re-establish the Fund Act cap; many of her services were hurt. They were told that most services would not be affected by the change to the cap calculation. We need to look at a better formula to make sure that the smaller services are supported as much as the larger services.

The question was asked what happens to the approximately \$300,000. of undistributed funds; these funds will remain for emergency fund requests. Services will need to make the request for emergency funding in the form of a letter. The Region will need to send in a letter of support as well.

Mike Richards asked how many services were affected; in 19 counties minimal services were affected. The Bureau has only heard from 3 services and has not received any appeals.

John Udell stated that this is the first time they had heard that there was emergency funding available. Approximately 8% of the Fund Act money is still available for distribution. Jim Stover stated that this could be a red flag to Legislators. John Udell stated this plus the approximate \$900,000. of carry over could be a concern.

Peggy Hesch stated that it is possible that services may not know that the \$300,000. is available for emergency funding, many services may need these funds. John Smithson stated that the State is facing a possible epidemic and should hold onto the funds in case they are needed.

Pete Bellows stated that the Fund Act subcommittee should meet in the next few weeks to review the Fund Act cap.

Regarding the Licensing update, Jan Elliott stated that if the Bureau will have to make changes to the EMS Act to add background checks, we should consider making additional changes to the Act itself. The EMS Bureau has not heard back from the Office of General Counsel to see if we can add the background checks as an addendum. There is a concern that the Secretary of Health may not want to include the background checks in his agenda for the 30 day budgetary session. Joyce Bradley asked if students already had backgrounds completed, if they had to do it again; the DOH would need primary source verification.

Kyle Thornton stated that he would like to stop practical testing of EMT candidates; however the Bureau would need to get a better written exam in place first. The Bureau has requested test questions from each of the training institutions.

A discussion ensued regarding the renewal process. John Smithson asked if there could be some sort of electronic tracking of CE's rather than sending in so much paper. Rick Riddle suggested that a one page summary may work instead of sending proof of each CE certificate.

Don McNutt started a discussion regarding narrow banding of radio frequencies. Peggy Hesch stated that it was a federal mandate that by 2013, 50% of all radios must have narrow band capability, there is currently a drive for awareness of the mandate. So far there is little preparation of this change at any level of the state; Wynn Brannin has been the lone voice let people know that this change is coming. On January 1, 2011, the FCC will no longer permit the sale of acceptance of wide band equipment.

James Salas has been working on the Committee for Interoperability. James stated that they have been working on the statewide communications backbone for updating by January 1, 2013. They are adding repeaters at the 22 microwave sites. Jerry Keene has been asked to attend the meetings to represent EMS Communications. James stated that it was advisable to let services and hospitals know that wide band radios will not be able to work in 2013. Dr. Leo stated that the cost for hospitals to convert to narrow banding may be prohibitive; Brent Hamilton added that hospitals may have overlooked this requirement. James stated that the DoIT was heavily involved and that reports should be available from that Department.

Jerome Haaske stated that Jerry Keene was almost done with the radio inventory and that he needs to work with the Regions to share this information.

Peggy Hesch reported on the Block Grant, she has spent a lot of time revamping the program and has resubmitted changes to the Grant. An audit is pending in September 2009.

Jan Elliott stated that the DOH has received \$540,000. for EMS out of the PHHS Block Grant. The Regions will get a portion from the Block Grant. The Grant has 9 programs in total, and the CDC is looking for success stories. The Regional Contracts already encompass the Block Grant funding.

A discussion began regarding the HJM51, related to the expansion of the EMS Fund Act. The HM20 executive summary will be submitted along with 2 or 3 potential solutions for funding to address the HJM. Responses are due by November 1, 2009.

The NMEMSTARS report began with an update on Stuart castles' activities in Arizona. Stuart is doing well. Jan Elliott stated that the NMEMSTARS program will no longer be a regional responsibility, and if we do not have funds to keep the program going, it may need to be put out for bid.

The report from TSFA is that the Authority has spent all the available Trauma money.

Region 1 EMS has provided Don McNutt with a one page report.

- 1) On 7/15 the Region has completed all deliverables and they are ready to move ahead with next year's contract.
- 2) On July 26, 2009 they held a retreat with their Board of Directors.
- 3) They will hold 2 ReTrac mini conferences in the spring, in Gallup and in Santa Fe. These conferences will focus on tribal EMS and trauma issues.

Region 2 EMS reported that they have completed all of their fiscal obligations. They have completed the draft of the FY10 contract with DOH. Region 2 has had discussions with Kyle Thornton and Jan Elliott regarding potential changes in the EMS conferences.

The Region 2 EMS Conference will be held November 9-14 in Las Cruces at the Farm and Ranch Museum. The host hotel will be at the Ramada Palms de Las Cruces Hotel.

Next year's Statewide EMS Conference will be held at the Isleta Casino. Bill Harris stated that they had held a NENA conference at a casino north of Santa Fe. Several complaints were made regarding the number of state cars at the casino. They had to write letters to GSD that the state employees were indeed at a genuine conference.

EMS Region 3 reported that they have been approved as a PALS Training Center; they have been completing system reviews in their region. They do not plan on filling the trauma position at this time; that position is being handled by Donnie Roberts. Melinda has been working on training exercises with the BHEM office. They have met all of their deliverables in the contract.

Mary Hewitt gave the EMS Academy report; Dr. Munk has replaced Dr. Weiss as the Academy's Medical Director. They have 2 new EMS Instructors and are still looking for a Paramedic Program Director. They will start a class in Hillsboro in August 2009; interested persons should contact Sally Maeuex for dates and times.

Linda Warren with EMS for Children had asked to be moved up on the agenda. They will be having their meeting later today. EMSC is developing a study on car seat use in ambulances. It was found that car seats are not being appropriately attached in the units. Safer NM will not write a policy on the car seat use. EMSC will be finalizing their bylaws and their next meeting will be held on November 11 at the Region 2 EMS conference.

Pete Bellows stated that it was difficult to get people to attend the JOE and MDC meetings when they are held during the conference schedule. He would like the conference committee to rethink planning these meetings during the conferences.

John Smithson wanted to recognize the Bureau and Kyle Thornton's efforts regarding the H1N1 guidance and information being sent out on a daily basis.

Don McNutt reported to the Committee that the Gila bike race was very successful and gave his thanks to everyone for their support.

Kyle Thornton welcomed everyone to the conference and gave blankets to all Committee members as appreciation of their efforts.

Jan Elliott gave a final reminder that the EMS and Trauma Viability Group will be meeting on August 6, 2009 at 1pm at ENMU-Ruidoso.

The next meeting date will be held on November 11, 2009 in Las Cruces.

Linda Warren moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:37pm, Charles Hosford seconded the motion. All approved.