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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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ANNE H. JORDAN
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

EMD Committee Meeting
January 15, 2009 9:30 a.m.
Teleconference
Minutes

Members: Stephanie Gibbs Chair. Kathy Blagdon, Peter Bragdon, Jim Ryan

Staff: Drexell White, Steve Bunker

Guests: Randi Lemieux, Bill Holmes, Joanne Fisk, Owen Smith, Chris Read

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

A. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

1. Continuing Education – Priority Dispatch CPR Recognition for CEH
2. Protocol – Review for Obvious Death Card

B. Review/Accept October 16, 2008 minutes

The committee reviewed the October 16, 2008, minutes.

Steve Bunker indicate that the October minutes should have reflected that the contract will include Continuing Education through the Priority Dispatch Continuing Dispatcher Education Advancement Series

Motion: To accept the October 16, 2008 meeting minutes as amended to include “Priority Dispatch Continuing Dispatcher Education Advancement Series” as part of the contract deliverables in the ESCB report (Ryan; second by Gibbs – motion carries – unanimous)

2. Old Business

A. Maine EMS Update

EMD provider’s renewals are being received and processed with only minor glitches. Some applications have been received that do not have the required Healthcare Provider CPR card included.

Maine EMS staff continues to work with Image Trend, the software company contracted to develop new EMS licensing software. When operational, the new software will include EMD provider and EMD Center licensees.

The regional funding proposal to use 9-1-1 surcharge fees to fund the EMS system is still being worked on by the regional EMS councils. No new information has been made public. The committee was reminded that any proposed legislation would be submitted (through a sponsor) by the regional councils, which are independent not-for-profit corporations.

B. ESCB Report – Steve Bunker

Steve Bunker reported:

- The Priority Dispatch Inc (PDI) has been finalized and EMD transition courses have scheduled in:
 - Lewiston
 - Westbrook
 - York
 - Vassalboro
 - Mid Coast Maine
- He is engaged in early discussions with Priority Dispatch about the other contract deliverables including:
 - Card sets
 - Software
 - Continuing Education
- He is working on a contract amendment in order to develop a cadre for delivery of the basic telecommunicators course. He will send out more information as it becomes available. He indicated that an advantage of using the Priority Dispatch basic course is that it would cut the number of days for the Advanced EMD course from three days to two (for those students who complete the basic course).

There was discussion about the possibility of having a single training program for new dispatchers that would include the basic program, EMD, equipment certification and Access Integrity Unit modules.

C. Continuing Education Categories and Requirements – Update

Drexell reported that the proposed changes to the EMD continuing education rules is part of the preliminary rules draft distributed by the Maine EMS Board, prior to the formal rulemaking process. He urged committee members to comment on the preliminary language as it will affect the Board's decision on including the language in the formal rulemaking process.

3. New Business

A. Maine EMS Rules Changes (see 2.C, above)

B. Teleconference Options

Drexell queried the committee members as to whether a toll free phone number was necessary for members to dial in to meetings. The members present stated that it wouldn't be an issue since they were calling in from the dispatch centers.

C. Committee Vacancies

Drexell reported that he has received resignations from Linda Dunno and Fran Hudson, leaving the PSAP Manager and Non-PSAP Provider of EMD positions vacant. Linda has returned home to the Midwest and Fran has left her position with Delta Ambulance Service.

Notices of the aforementioned vacancies, as well as the EMS Physician vacancy (that has remained unfilled for some time) were sent out on January 14, 2009. Responses to the vacancy announcements will be forwarded to EMS Board Chair Wayne Werts, who will make the appointments.

D. Addition to Agenda - Priority Dispatch Recognition of CPR

Stephanie Gibbs reported an issue with the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch (NAED) where a CPR certification was not accepted as fulfilling part of a dispatcher's continuing education requirements for recertification, as had been the case in the past. Others indicated that they had been able to use CPR training towards NAED recertification. Drexell will follow-up with NAED.

E. Addition to Agenda – Obvious Deaths

Stephanie Gibbs asked about the local medical control options for the use of the obvious death descriptors in the Medical Priority Dispatch Protocol (MPDS). She indicated that her Center had experienced calls where a person was calling requesting assistance for an obviously dead person and that dispatchers were unsure as to whether the obvious death descriptors could be used.

Peter Bragdon also questioned the use of the MPDS aspirin protocol.

Drexell indicated that the State EMS Medical Director had reviewed the NAED protocols in 2007 and had made decisions about protocols requiring local medical control input. but he was unsure as to which ones had been addressed. He indicated that the "aspirin protocol" had been reviewed and was approved for use in 2007.

Steve Diaz M.D., EMS State Medical Director will be reviewing the latest version of the MPDS (version 12).

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2009 at Maine EMS in Augusta.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White