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ANNE H. JORDAN
COMMISSIONER

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EMD Advisory Committee Meeting
June 21, 2007
Muskie Conference Room, Maine EMS, Augusta
Minutes

Members Present: Peter Bragdon, Tim Beals, Linda Dunno, Brian Gregoire,
Fran Hudson, Stephanie Gibbs, Chuck McMahan, Kathy Blagdon

Staff: Drexell White, Steve Bunker

Guests: Laura Downing

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

The Committee members introduced themselves to guest Laura Downing. Laura is with the Sagadahoc County EMD Center.

a. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

New Hires to EMD Centers (Drexell)

b. Review/Accept April 19, 2007 minutes

The committee reviewed the April 19 2007, minutes. There was no meeting held in May 2007.

Motion: To accept the April 19, 2007 meeting minutes (Dunno; second by Blagdon – motion carries – unanimous)

2. Old Business

A. Curriculum development/Maine EMS protocol development

Drexell White reported that the Maine EMS Board, at its June 2007 meeting, approved the committee's recommendation to pursue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a single EMD curriculum, program and protocol for use statewide. Steve Bunker will prepare the RFP that, in addition to an EMD component, will include solicitation for a vendor to provide a basic dispatcher curriculum. He estimates an RFP to be developed within the next 30 days.

Drexell asked all committee members to forward any EMD RFP "deliverables" they could think of to Steve or him.

B. Staff Report

Drexell reported that in addition to the previous passage of the EMD bill (LD 627), the Maine EMS departmental bill (LD 1841) was approved and will go into effect in September. LD 1841 will add references to emergency medical dispatch in the mission and licensing section of the statute.

C. ESCB Report

Steve Bunker reported that requests for training has slowed; turnover is down. He stated that he is scheduling a Medical Priority Dispatch class in the near future.

He stated that the direct billing to the ESCB for classes is working.

Steve reported a current concern with Powerphone courses being delivered in Maine. Pursuant to an agreement with Powerphone a set amount for a Powerphone class was established at \$5,200, based upon 30 students. Although classes that fill with 30 students are cost effective, small classes result in a huge cost per student. Steve stated that this was not an issue when there were many courses being conducted, however now with less training required and slower turnover, the cost of the Powerphone courses has become an issue. He stated that this is an example where a single program and protocol would benefit course delivery.

Steve also indicated that he'll be working on establishing a basic training curriculum for dispatchers and urged that the committee consider future integration of police and fire protocols with whatever curriculum and protocol it chooses for EMD.

The Dispatch Manager's meeting in Vassalboro on June 19th was well attended. Among information provided to the managers was the Board's intent to pursue a single EMD protocol through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process

D. Legislative Update – See Staff Report

E. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) – Update – See I, below

F. EMD CEH (Continuing Education Hour) Procedures

Stephanie Gibbs reported that EMD Centers in the Mid-Coast region have been sent bills by the Mid Coast EMS regional council for support services. The centers are concerned that the bills were received without prior consultation with the centers, and the effect the fees will have on current EMD center budgets.

G. EMD Managers Meeting – Nothing to Report

H. CPR Accommodation

Drexell reported that he had met with Laura Yustak Smith and Susan Herman of the Attorney General's office, who recommended that an accommodation process be used for persons who are unable to complete the psychomotor requirements of CPR certification. He asked the committee's position on whether the issue should be handled through the accommodation process or if the CPR certification requirement should be revisited?

Several members believed that the CPR certification requirement should be maintained and that exceptions due to disability should be handled on a case-by-case basis through the accommodation process.

Motion: The Committee endorses the use of the accommodation process for person's unable to fulfill the psychomotor requirements of CPR certification due to a disability (Gregoire; Gibbs – motion carries – unanimous)

I. EMD QA/QI Criteria - Revision

Committee members reviewed the draft EMD QA/QI criteria and discussed the 50 calls per month review minimum in the document. Consensus was to bring the matter back before the committee for a vote at its September meeting to allow members time to gather additional information about the EMD QA process.

3. New Business - Additional Item – New Hires in EMD Centers

Drexell White requested that the committee consider a situation concerning a dispatch center that hires a person who is trained in an approved EMD program that is not the program/curriculum used by the (hiring) center. Delays can result in being able to fully use the new hire because of the time between EMD training programs.

Committee members suggested that multiple protocols would work provided that the quality assurance requirements for the additional protocol was consistent with the center's primary protocol and that the center provides a current version of the (additional) Maine EMS-approved protocol for use by the dispatcher.

Motion: That a Maine licensed Emergency Medical Dispatch Center be allowed to use other Maine EMS-approved EMD protocols in addition to its primary protocol provided that the quality assurance requirements for the additional protocol are consistent with the center's primary protocol QA requirements and that the center provide a current version of the (additional) Maine EMS-approved protocol for use by the dispatcher (McMahan; Beals – carries unanimous)

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled as needed.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Drexell White