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GOVERNOR

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

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

EMD Committee Meeting
September 18, 2008 1:00 p.m.
Teleconference, and at Maine EMS, Augusta
Minutes

Members Present (via teleconference): Peter Bragdon, Brian Gregoire, Fran Hudson, Kathy Blagdon,
Members Present at Maine EMS: Stephanie Gibbs – Chair, Linda Dunno
Staff: Drexell White, Steve Bunker (at Maine EMS),
Guests (at Maine EMS): Davene Luce, Raleigh Means
Guests (via teleconference): Laura Downing, Randi Lemieux, Brodie Hinckley, Sid Doyle, Anthony Favreau

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.
 - A. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda –
 - o Consolidation of Dispatcher Training & Licensing
 - B. Review/Accept June 26, 2008 minutes

The committee reviewed the June 26, 2008, minutes.

Motion: To accept the June 26, 2008 meeting minutes (Dunno; second by Gregoire – motion carries – unanimous)

2. Old Business

- A. Staff Report

Drexell reported that there are eight sight visits to complete, with six (of the remaining) scheduled.

An EMD renewal application has been created and will be added to the Maine EMS website. EMD Centers will receive information from Maine EMS in the next couple of weeks about options for early submission of renewal applications.

In response to a question about CEH submission with applications, Drexell advised that (at this point) copies of CEH certificates would be required as part of the renewal process. Discussion ensued about the possibility of using the Maine Criminal Justice Academy model for CEH submission at renewal.

Concern was also expressed about continuing education programs completed at the annual Mid Coast EMS conference and the timeliness of certificate distribution to students who attend and who must use the training for renewal in January 2009. Drexell will forward the committee's concerns to the seminar committee.

Stephanie informed group that some of the classes listed in the Samoset brochure as category 2 may be reclassified as either being worth credit in category 2 or category's 9 or 10. This will provide more opportunities to get category 9 and 10 CEH. Drexell will send out the conversion chart to EMD Centers once the classes have been identified.

B. ESCB Report – Steve Bunker

Steve Bunker reported:

- Applications have been received and interviews conducted to find a replacement for outgoing Emergency Services Communications Bureau (ESCB) Director Al Gervenack. The application process will continue until a successor is chosen.
- Drexell and he are sharing notes on how to best streamline continuing education requirements to meet basic dispatch and EMD requirements.
- ESCB continues to work on the basic dispatcher RFP. He indicated that the ESCB would consider waiving the requirements in cases where the lack of a basic training program is the issue.
- Continuing Education classes continue to be posted on the ESCB website.

C. RFP Update

Drexell reported:

- Priority Dispatch received the highest score from the EMD Review Committee and will be the chosen statewide training program and protocol, pending a fifteen-day bidder-appeal period and execution of a contract.
- Maine EMS is advising EMD Centers to continue with "business as usual" as far as protocol use, continuing education and initial EMD training is concerned. Transition training cannot begin until after a contract is signed; EMD Centers should continue to train in accordance with existing models.
- An EMD Transition Information Page will be posted on the Maine EMS website with information and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to help inform and update the EMD community about the transition.
- There are still many questions to be answered. Affected centers will be contacted and surveyed as part of the transition process.

Steve indicated that he will commence with training as soon as a contract is signed and expects to have a Priority Dispatch course in place for the Mid Coast EMS seminar in November.

D. Continuing Education Categories and Requirements - Update

Drexell reported that he has refrained from forwarding the EMD committee's draft document pending the outcome of the RFP process. The committee document discussed modification of the existing Maine EMS system for EMD continuing education, but did not consider the possibility of EMD vendor EMD recertification as a basis for EMD renewal. A possible scenario is that EMD continuing education review and recertification would use the existing Priority Dispatch process: proof of current Priority Dispatch Training would be the requirement for Maine EMS EMD license renewal. Several members welcomed the model as a way to eliminate the redundancy in EMD continuing education, recertification and licensing.

3. New Business - Addition - Consolidation of Dispatcher Training & Licensing

Drexell reported that Maine EMS in cooperation with the ESCB is seeking to bring the training, certification and licensing of Public Safety Dispatchers wholly into the Maine Department of Public Safety (DPS). Currently, training, certification and licensing are split in various ways between Maine EMS and the ESCB, causing redundancy and confusion in requirements for dispatcher and EMD training, certification and licensing. Bringing public safety dispatchers into the Maine Department of Public Safety will be part of DPS Commissioner's Anne Jordan's recommendations to Governor Baldacci. Under the proposal, the ESCB would remain under the Public Utilities Commission and with its mission of providing and maintaining the E-9-1-1 infrastructure.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2008 at Maine EMS in Augusta.

5. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White