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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
May 2, 2001

MINUTES

Members Present: Leo Bouchard (Chair), Carol Pillsbury (Chair-elect), Robert Ashby, Oden Cassidy, Debbie Dane, Richard Doughty, William Dunwoody, Paul Knowlton, Penelope Stevens, Charles Little, Carol Pillsbury, Alan Azzara, Wayne Werts, Steve Leach, Peter DiPietrantonio

Regional Coordinators: Joanne LeBrun, Donnie Carroll, Jim Caron, Rick Petrie

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dwight Corning, Drexell White, Laura Yustak Smith, Esq. (AAG)

1. Introductions

Jay introduced Dawn Kinney, who was recently hired as an EMS Licensing Agent. Most recently Dawn has been working as a paramedic for Crown Ambulance in Presque Isle, but is also a previous regional coordinator and an active instructor and exam coordinator. She began full-time on April 30. Board members introduced themselves and welcomed her to the office.

2. Approval of April 4, 2001, meeting minutes.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the April 4, 2001, meeting as distributed. (Stevens; second by Cassidy). Unanimous.

3. Old Business

a. Legislation

Jay reviewed the status of the bills with which the office has been involved. The Department-sponsored EMS bill received a unanimous ought to pass vote with an amendment that deletes the proposed change with regard to care of patient (§86.2-A). The AED bill received a majority ought not to pass because of concerns about the way this bill affects the current "Good Samaritan" law (14 MRSA § 164).

Over the next several months, MEMS will begin working on the material necessary for the legislative review as required by statute. Although EMS has been part of Public Safety since 1991, the "sunset review" law was not amended to remove reference to this review being conducted by the Health and Human Services Committee. HHS was asked to consider either letting Criminal Justice handle the review, or having a joint review session; however, the Committee denied those requests. As a result, there will be two separate review sessions conducted.

Although this will mean considerably more work for MEMS, there may be some advantages to having an opportunity to work with two committees. Jay and the DPS administration will be working to assemble the report as required by law in advance of scheduling the public hearings, which will take place in 2002.

b. Budget

The Part 1 (current and existing programs) has not yet been passed. There have been a number of work sessions on the Part 2 request that is essential to replace the federal funds that are being cut from EMS. There have been many questions asked by the Appropriations Committee about this request; however, there has been no vote taken.

Jay encouraged Board members to contact their legislators, and especially those legislators who are on either the Appropriations or Criminal Justice Committees.

4. New Business

a. Investigations Task Force Report

Wayne reported that the Task Force met this morning and is looking at specific Rules which may need to be changed with regard to violations and disciplinary action. The Task Force is also working on developing a draft policy for considering mitigating circumstances in making disciplinary decisions.

b. Investigations Committee Report

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the April 4, 2001, Investigations Committee as distributed. (Dunwoody; second by Leach). Unanimous.

MOTION: To ratify the April 4, 2001, Investigation Committee action regarding the voluntary license surrender by John Sawicki. (DiPietrantonio; second by Stevens). Unanimous.

MOTION: To ratify the consent agreement with Michael Drake. (Leach; second by Doughty). Unanimous.

MOTION: To ratify the consent agreement with Luke Smith. (Werts; second by Dunwoody). Unanimous.

MOTION: To ratify the consent agreement with Daniel Blums. (Werts; second by Dane). Unanimous.

MOTION: To ratify the consent agreement with Rita Lundin. (Doughty; second by McKenney). Unanimous.

MOTION: To ratify the consent agreement with Aurora EMS. (Dunwoody; second by Leach). Unanimous.

c. Operations Team Action Items

Jay reported that there were no items that required Board action, but the Operations Team did meet on May 1 and completed its review to the Continuing Education Guidelines. As a result, these Guidelines were approved by staff and take effect immediately. Due to scheduling conflicts with the normal meeting date in June, the next meeting will be on Monday, June 11.

d. Service Sponsorship Work Group

Debbie reported that the Work Group had not met since the previous update, but that they will try to meet during the coming month to continue their work.

e. Waiver request – Washington County EMS Authority

Drexell explained the waiver request from the Washington County EMS Authority that would enable them to obtain a service license and pursue obtaining a HCFA provider number. Prior to the service actually beginning to respond and provide patient care, staff would assure that all the necessary personnel and equipment were in place.

MOTION: That the Board waives §3.D.1(c)(i) of the Maine EMS Rules to the extent that the written notice is not required for the immediate approval of the license applications for the Eastern Washington County EMS Authority, but that services will still advertise and invite comment in accordance with this section within 10 days of the granting of any license issued under this waiver; that the Board waives §3.D.1(c)(ii) provided that the service certify to Maine EMS that it fulfills the requirements for personnel, vehicles and equipment prior to commencement of operations; that the Board waives §3.D.1(c)(iii) provided that the service certify to Maine EMS that it fulfills the requirements for dispatch and communications prior to commencement of operations; that the Board waives §3.D.1(c)(x) provided that the service certifies to Maine EMS that it has pharmacy agreements in place prior to commencement of operations; and that the Board waive §3.D.1(xi) regarding the 45 day notification period to regional councils. (Little; second by McKenney) Unanimous.

f. EMS Awards Ceremony

Jay reminded members that the annual awards ceremony will be on Monday, May 21 at 2:00 in the State House Hall of Flags. Governor King and Commissioner Kelly are still scheduled to attend – and Rep Randy Bumps has agreed to help distribute a notice in both chambers alerting legislators to the ceremony. The MEMS office will be closed for a brief time to allow the staff to be present.

g. Other

Leo Bouchard requested that the Rules Review subcommittee be added to the agenda for future meetings under New Business. Bill Dunwoody reported that the Committee has not yet met, but is planning a meeting for May 16 @ 1:00 in the Maine EMS Conference Room.

5. Staff Reports

a. Office

Jay announced that Dr. Michael Dean, Principal Investigator for the National EMSC Data Analysis and Resource Center (University of Utah) will be conducting a data workshop at MEMS on June 12 from 10:00 – 3:00. Dr. Dean's focus will be on collecting, analyzing, reporting, and public

access to Maine data (run report, trauma registry, CODES, etc.). Expenses for this workshop are being funded by the national EMSC project. Board members are welcome to attend, but advance registration is required since available space may be limited.

b. MDPB

Jay reported that the MDPB has nearly finalized its work on the protocol revisions. Among those still being considered are: transfer of special needs patients, helicopter landing zones, and modifications to the helmet removal protocol to help clarify when removal of a helmet should be considered.

At the May MDPB meeting, the group will work on proposed changes to the Paramedic Interfacility Transfer Module.

6. Other

a. June meeting schedule.

Jay reported that as a condition of the EMS-C grant that Maine has received for the past 5 years, he is required to attend an EMSC Grantee meeting in Washington, DC, from June 2-6. As a result, he will be out of state for the regular June meeting date. It was the consensus of the Board to postpone the June meeting until Friday, June 8; however, this is a tentative schedule that may change depending on the budget status in the legislature. Jay will work with Leo and Carol in determining whether or not to call the meeting at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50.