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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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COL. CRAIG A. POULIN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2007
9:30 AM
DECHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Members: Steve Leach, Chair; Wayne Werts, Chair-elect; Bob Ashby, Alan Azzara, Tim Beals, Oden Cassidy, Rebecca Chagrasulis, Peter DiPietrantonio, Richard Doughty, Ron Jones, Penny Kneeland, Paul Knowlton, Bill Montejo, Steve Diaz (ex officio)

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Drexell White, Scott Smith, Ben Woodard, Alan Leo

Attorney General's Office: Laura Yustak Smith, AAG

Regional Coordinators: Donnie Carroll, Steve Corbin, Joanne LeBrun

Guests: Dan Batsie, Peter Bragdon, Chris Moretto

1. Introductions – Board members and guests identified themselves and were welcomed by the chair.
2. Approval of the January 3, 2007, Board meeting minutes.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the January 3, 2007, Board meeting as distributed (Chagrasulis; second by McKenney). Unanimous

3. Public Comments – none
4. New Business
 - a. Committee Reports
 - Operations Team – Donnie Carroll reported on the topics discussed at the previous days' meeting; however, there were no items that require Board action.
 - Education – Dan Batsie reported that the Education Committee is continuing its work on Accreditation and will review the core components of a 12 lead program at its next meeting. With regard to the 12 lead program, the Committee is focusing on core content as there are many 12 lead books and teaching resources already available. PIFT – A question has come up regarding whether it is necessary for a Critical Care RN to complete a PIFT program in order to utilize the PIFT expanded scope. This

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will be discussed with the Committee and forwarded to the other involved groups (Ops and MDPB) before coming back to the Board with a recommendation. EMT-I curriculum update – the current MEMS EMT-I program is in need of updating, and the Committee would like to develop a recommendation for the Board on how to proceed. Options include: transforming to the 1999 NHTSA curriculum, waiting to see what happens with the upcoming EMT-Advanced recommendations, or developing a new Maine version of EMT-I.

MOTION: To direct the Education Committee to review options regarding an EMT-I update. (Beals; second by Azzara) Unanimous.

- Exam – Drexell White reported that there was no Exam Committee meeting in January, due to the presentation by the National Registry on Paramedic testing, with an update on Computer Based Testing. MEMS needs to appoint 2 NREMT exam administrators that will be trained by the Registry in the coming months.
 - EMD – Peter Bragdon reported that there are 35 EMD certified PSAPs and ~ 390 licensed EMD personnel. The EMD Committee is interested in an electronic version of the EMD protocols and looking to the Communications Bureau for guidance. Drexell will be meeting with the MEMS QI Committee for guidance with QI process and indicators. The Committee will also be continuing its discussion on curriculum development with a goal of reporting back to the Board in April or May. Tim Beals reported that there is an opening for an EMS Manager on the Committee. He also reported that the Communications Policy Board is working on Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) standards in light of the impact consolidation is having. There are currently several different CAD and Records Management Systems (RMS) in use, each with proprietary data collection. Ben Woodard will participate in these meetings representing MEMS, and there is an opening for an EMS Service representative.
 - QI – Dr. Diaz reported that the QI Committee is continuing to look at the data on Mental Health transfers – and in particular the time of day that the majority of these transfers are happening, which is between 10:00 PM and 6:00AM. MEMS will be inviting mental health representatives to come to a future QI meeting to discuss the current situation and look for possible solutions. Other ongoing projects include: 12 lead QI, PIFT, and helping the MDPB with data used in discussions regarding Protocol revisions.
- b. Investigation Committee Action Items (recorded in the order in which it appeared on the agenda, not as it was discussed).

MOTION: To ratify the minutes of the January 18, 2007, Investigations Committee as presented (McKenney; second by Beals). Unanimous.

MOTION: To enter executive session pursuant to 32 M.R.S.A. §92.3 and 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(F) for the purpose of reviewing pending investigation #06-13 and 1 M.R.S.A. §405(6)(E) for receiving legal advice on the aforementioned investigation. (DiPietrantonio; second by Doughty) Unanimous

Executive Session started at 11:02

MOTION: To exit Executive Session (McKenney; second by Kneeland) Unanimous

Executive Session ended at 11:07.

MOTION: To ratify the Consent Agreement in case # 06-13. (Montejo; second by Doughty). Unanimous

c. Legislature/Budget updates

- Donnie Carroll reported on the meeting of the Board Sub-Committee. The regional coordinators have agreed to support the Department bill and will use LR 1800 as a possible vehicle to explore funding options for the EMS system, including both state and regional offices. He will be setting up a meeting with key legislators later this month to discuss options and seek guidance on how best to proceed.
- Jay reported that the Department's EMD bill has been printed and scheduled for public hearing. LD 627 will have a hearing with the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy on March 1. Drexell is the staff contact person and will be drafting testimony and talking points. Rep. Richard Sykes has agreed to sponsor the Department's other EMS bill. Discussion is ongoing regarding the bill that would reinstate SBI background checks for renewal applicants.
- Tim Beals noted that LD 496 also has a hearing in February. This bill would exempt municipal services who cover the Maine Turnpike from tolls when using the Turnpike, regardless of the purpose.

d. Annual EMS Awards – The Hall of Flags and Gov. Baldacci have been confirmed for the annual awards presentation on Tuesday, May 22, @ 2:30. The deadline for nominations to be received by MEMS is March 15. Volunteering to serve on the nomination review committee are” Bob Ashby, Dr. Chagrasulis, and Paul Knowlton.

e. Waiver request re: Alan Leo was withdrawn.

f. Other – Laura Yustak Smith reported that the Warren Ambulance appeal is now before the Maine Law court. It is not known if the Law Court will make a ruling based on briefs presented, or by oral argument. Ms. Yustak Smith also reported that Dr. Richards Staples, Ph.D., Waterville, has been approved by Dr. Diaz and Steve Leach to conduct the evaluation of Andrew Higbie.

5. Old Business – none.

6. Staff Reports

a. Maine EMS

- MEMSRR – Ben reported that Mayo, Capital Ambulance, MEDCU, and Baileyville are now submitting run reports electronically. Ben continues to meet with hospital personnel, and EMS service chiefs to help them understand the merits of e-run reporting. Dr. Diaz suggested developing a white paper on the values of EMS data collection along with a business plan. This is especially important to hospital and IT administrators.
- Inspection Update – Alan reported that there are only a handful of services to complete the 2006 inspections. He will be doing those later this month. As he and Dawn are doing inspections, they are bringing to the service's attention the importance

of securing items in the back of ambulances. Often times cabinet doors are open, or in some cases have been removed, and items on the shelves, including cardiac monitors are unsecured, which could be very dangerous to the occupants.

- Other –
 1. Jay reported that MEMS has received a grant from the Bureau of Highway Safety to conduct instructor training programs on safely securing children in an ambulance. This program will be taught by Safe Kids Maine, who have been involved in Child Protective Seat training for several years. Classes will be scheduled in each EMS region.
 2. The final version of the updated DNR form and instructions are being reviewed for readability and will hopefully be approved and available to post on the web site in the very near future. Drexell has been working with Medic Alert on the details of a Maine EMS DNR bracelet, which will be an option that patients can order directly from Medic Alert.
 3. A contract has been drafted with Slingshot Multimedia for publishing the Journal of Maine EMS. Once the contract has been approved, Jay will meet with the publishers on a new design and publication timetable.
 4. Jay and Dr. Diaz, who are both members of the MQF In a Heartbeat Executive Committee have written Op-Ed pieces that are being distributed to newspapers for publication during February, which is National Heart Month.
 5. The Trauma Advisory Committee met in January and discussed how best to update the state trauma plan. The decision was to assemble a sub-committee in March/April to review the guidelines provided by HRSA, then present their draft to the full TAC for approval.

b. Medical Director Report (Dr. Diaz)

- Protocol updates are continuing. February will be the Brown (forward) and Gray (references) sections. March will be Green (trauma) and Red (cardiac) sections.
 - Bar Harbor and Delta have been approved to join the CPAP study
 - Dr. Diaz has been invited to participate in a national committee to review the structure of state EMS offices.
 - Survey has been developed for blood bank administrators to gather information about their willingness to have paramedics transferring patients receiving blood products and to identify concerns/issues surrounding this concept.
 - National CDC has released a set of disaster protocols. A sub-committee of the MDPB will be meeting to review these protocols and discuss how to best incorporate some/all into the next version of the MEMS protocols.
 - At the February meeting, Dr. Jonnathan Busko (EMMC) will make a presentation on a proposal to develop a Tactical EMS training program.
 - There have been a number of recent changes to the PHTLS program and Rick Petrie will be presenting an overview of these changes to the MDPB.
7. AAG Presentation on legal issues involving the Board of EMS. Laura Yustak Smith presented a review of the various Laws and Rules that apply to EMS personnel and the process by which the Board gets its authority, and the types of options open to the Board in handling complaints and investigations.
8. Other - none.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.