STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
16 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. CANTARA
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING
JUNE 4, 2003
9:30 AM
MAINE EMS CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

Board Members: Carol Pillsbury (chair), John Burton (ex-officio), Bob Ashby, Peter DiPietrantonio, Richard Doughty, Bill Dunwoody, Sue Dupler, Jim Farrell, Kevin Kendall, Paul Knowlton, Steve Leach, Penny Lovejoy, Jim McKenney, Wayne Werts

Regional Coordinators: Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie

Staff: Jay Bradshaw, Dwight Corning, Dawn Kinney, Drexell White

1. Introduction of Guests
None present. Commissioner Cantara was unable to attend this month, but will try and reschedule at a future meeting.

2. Minutes of the May 7, 2003, meeting
MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 7, 2003, meeting as presented. (Werts; second by Farrell) Unanimous.

3. Old Business
   a. MEMS Rules – adopted Rules have been filed with the Secretary of State's office and will be posted on the MEMS web site within a few days. Cards will be sent to service chiefs notifying them of the online access and printed copies will be available at MEMS upon request.
   b. EMS Awards Ceremony – by all accounts, the Awards ceremony went very well. Governor Baldacci, Commissioner Cantara, and Carol Pillsbury all participated. There were also several legislators present in the ~150 people who attended.

4. New Business
   a. Legislative/Budget Items
   There is nothing new to report since the May meeting.

   b. Operations Team Action Items
   Ops Team met on 6/3 to discuss changes to the EMT-Intermediate curriculum, receive an update on the Youth Suicide Prevention program, discuss the Rural Access to Emergency Devices grant, and review the contract for FY04. There are no items requiring Board action.

   c. Investigations Committee Action Items

MOTION: To ratify the Investigations Committee minutes of May 7, 2003. (Lovejoy; second by McKenney). Unanimous

d. Regional Contracts
Contracts for the next fiscal year have been given to the Regional Coordinators for signature by their council president.

e. HIPAA
Jay has drafted a question and answer sheet that is being reviewed by Laura Yustak Smith (AAG). This is in response to a number of questions/concerns that have been raised about if/how HIPAA affects EMS services. There have been a few situations where confusion by both law enforcement officers and EMS providers has caused some concern. Jay is working with the Maine State Police to help them draft a form that can be used to request information, and make their requests.

During the discussion on this item, it was noted that non-transporting services are not likely to be affected by HIPAA as this only applies to "covered entities" and defines those as health care providers who are billing for services. However, all services would do well to be mindful of these needs and establish confidentiality practices consistent with HIPAA.

f. SBI Background Checks
Jay reported that since the last Board meeting, there has been increasing concern and confusion about the impact of the $15 background check fee. It also appears that municipalities are able to get the same SBI report at no charge, where MEMS will be charged the $15 fee. Jay has talked with both Commissioner Cantara and Col. Sperry (MSP) about this fee and asked that due to the large number of municipal services, that the fee be waived for MEMS inquiries.

MOTION: To suspend implementation of conducting SBI background checks on all applicants until the matter of fees and other logistical issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of MEMS staff. (Farrell; second by Werts) Unanimous

g. QI Committee
There was considerable discussion about the role of the state QI Committee, including the membership, responsibilities of same, and whether or not the Committee should be called a "QI" Committee.

It was the consensus of the Board that chair would approve/appoint individuals as members of the Committee and that the Committee would use the existing data to identify performance measures to evaluate how providers in Maine are performing in accordance with standard practice.

The Committee composition will be: one member from the Board, one member from each regional office, one member from the Ops Team, one member from the MDPB, one MEMS staff member, a service chief, an EMS field provider, and a hospital representative.

Bill will forward the names of those who have expressed an interest to Carol for her consideration and appointment.

h. Other

1. In recent months there have been an increasing number of services who are looking at different methods of obtaining and storing medications. In the past, this has been brought to the Board; however, now that there is a history of criteria by the Board, a request from MEMS staff is for this to become a staff function.

MOTION: To allow staff to approve alternate arrangements for services to obtain, store, and restock drug boxes. (Werts; second by Farrell) Unanimous.

5. Staff Update

a. MEMS

1. Jay reminded members that the MEMS staff has been reduced by one clerical position as a result of budget cuts. Overall, the process for handling the workload seems to be working OK; however, there may be times when callers will get the voice mail system.

2. Jay asked to make sure that all members received the agenda and minutes that were sent via e-mail, and that this was an acceptable method to distribute same. Consensus was that this process is acceptable.

3. Scope of Practice – Dwight explained the national Scope of Practice project in which he has been participating in his role as President of the National Association of State EMS Training Coordinators. This is a multi-year process to quantify the skills that are performed by EMS providers, assign those skills to an appropriate provider level, and develop (and maintain) training standards appropriate for those levels. The project deadline is December 2005 and is actually ahead of schedule at this time.

b. MDPB

1. Dr. Burton reported on the highlights of the recent Society for Academic Emergency Medicine annual meeting he attended in Boston. Of particular interest is a study by Dr. Ian Stiell (Ontario, Canada) on the effectiveness of advanced life support vs. basic life support. The abstract presented some interesting information on patients that benefited from ALS care and those where ALS did not make a significant difference. The full study is likely to be published within the next year.

2. May MDPB meeting – discussion continued on the Critical Care Transfer (Mobile Intensive Care) module. There were concerns about how this program may be used by hospitals and businesses to expand their activity, and in so doing adversely affect other EMS services – as well as the need to identify the critical skills that are really necessary for the select group of patients that would benefit from this module. The proposal has been withdrawn by the proponent to review the concerns that were expressed and perhaps present another version of the program at a future MDPB meeting.

3. Concerns have been expressed that the current spinal program does not fully address the use of the protocol in pediatric and elderly patients.

Rather than attempting to resolve any issues by a protocol change, there will be an effort made to education EMS providers about the importance of being mindful of the special considerations when caring for these age groups.

4. Dr. Burton announced that due to his career interests and the effort his is able to provide to the various responsibilities and interests, he will be resigning as Maine EMS Medical Director effective January 1, 2004.

   Jay explained that the process for recruiting and selecting a replacement would begin immediately and that a selection committee consisting of Dr. Burton, and representatives of the MDPB, Board, MEMS, and Regional Offices would work to bring a recommendation back to the Board in the fall.

6. Other
   a. Next Meeting
   The next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3, 2003, unless there are items/issues during the summer that require Board attention.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.