STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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GOVERNOR

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# Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
June 5, 2002

## MINUTES

Board Members: Leo Bouchard (Chair), Carol Pillsbury (Chair-elect), John Burton (ex-officio), Sue Young, Oden Cassidy, Penelope Stevens, Jim McKenney, Wayne Werts, Charles Little, Alan Azzara, Bill Dunwoody, Richard Doughty, Paul Knowlton, Robert Ashby, Kevin Kendall

Regional Coordinators: Donnie Carroll, Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie, Dan Bahr, Jim Caron, Bill Zito

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

Guest: Jim Farrell, Chief, Augusta Fire Department

1. Introduction of Guests
   Chief Farrell was welcomed to the meeting. Chief Farrell is representing the Maine Fire Chiefs Association at Board meetings and will be submitting his name for formal appointment by Governor King to the Board when the law change (adding an MFCA representative) becomes effective (July 25, 2002).

2. Approval of May 1, 2002 Meeting Minutes

   ***MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 7, 2001, as presented (Stevens; second by McKenney) Unanimous***

3. Old Business
   None at this time.

4. New Business
   a. Impact of Executive Orders and other budget matters

   Jay updated the Board on the impact of the state's fiscal crisis upon MEMS. This was also the focus of considerable discussion at the Operations Team meeting the previous day. Governor King issued an Executive Order last month that froze all personnel vacancies, virtually eliminated out of state travel, and made other cuts in an effort to close what is estimated to be a $180 million shortfall during FY03 (July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003).

The immediate impact upon EMS is that the Training Agent position that was authorized by the Legislature will not be filled. In addition, MEMS had to identify an additional $45,000 in cuts for FY03 ($15,000 of this is a result of the loss of Block Grant funds made during FY01).

However, what makes matters worse is that as MEMS prepares its biennial budget for FY04/05 that will be submitted to the next Legislature, the starting point for the budget will be almost $100,000 lower than the current budget.

After discussing various options, the Operations Team agreed that it was necessary to cut $5,000 from each of the six regions for FY03.

The Ops Team also discussed the need to adjust the cost of administering licensing exams and recommended that these be adjusted as soon as possible. Following discussion about the costs associated with the exams, the following motion was made:

***MOTION: Effective with EMS programs that begin on or after July 1, 2002, the fee will be $80 for a First Responder or EMT written and practical exam, and $100 for an Intermediate or Paramedic written and practical exam. (Doughty; second by Pillsbury) Unanimous***

Also discussed was the matter of initiating a fee for individual licenses and increasing the service and vehicle fees. These will be referred to the subcommittee working on rules revisions for incorporation into the proposed changes.

b. Operations Team

Jay reported that in addition to the previously reported budget discussion, the Ops Team discussed approving ASHI CPR programs and developing a matrix for other programs that may meet the same standard. Joanne LeBrun is working with Dwight on this and it is anticipated that ASHI will become approved when the new course material is available in the coming months.

The Ops Team also continued its work on Objective Course Approval and is awaiting input on a student manual and a standardized evaluation template to finalize the project. The remaining items should be available within 1-2 months.

c. Investigation Committee Action Items

i. George Ryder application.

Carol Pillsbury reported that the Investigations Committee met with Mr. Ryder to review his application, his conviction for unlawful sexual contact and to discuss the matter with the applicant. Following this review, the Committee voted to reaffirm the denial of his application for licensure as a First Responder.

***MOTION: To affirm the denial of George Ryder's license application. (Werts; second by Little) Passed (13/1/0) (Azzara)***

ii. Ratification of Minutes

***MOTION: To ratify the Investigation Committee minutes of the May 1 meeting (Dunwoody; second by Little) Unanimous***

iii. Executive Session

***MOTION: To enter Executive Session to discuss a possible investigation. (Stevens; second by Young) Unanimous***

Executive session began 11:10.

***MOTION: To exit Executive Session. (Dunwoody; second by Pillsbury) Unanimous***

Executive session ended at 11:18.

***MOTION: To initiate investigation # 02-05 (Dunwoody; second by Pillsbury) Passed with two abstentions (Knowlton, Doughty)***

d. Rules Committee

Bill Dunwoody reported that there was no meeting in May, but that the Committee is schedule to meet on May 19 @ 1:00 to finish their work on a draft to be presented to the Board for discussion. He suggested that following distribution to the Board, that additional time be planned for the next meeting to discuss the draft. Jay will work with Leo on scheduling same.

e. Annual EMS Awards

Jay reported that well over 100 people attended the awards ceremony held at the Hall of Flags on May 22. Fourteen individuals and one service were presented with awards which included comments by Commissioner Kelly and Chief of Staff Kay Rand.

Rick Petrie reported on the EMS Day at the Portland Sea Dogs that was held on May 25. Nearly 200 people attended the cookout that preceded the game, and the game itself was a sell out. Plans are already in the works to make this an annual event during EMS Week.

f. Other
None at this time.

5. Staff Reports (Jay Bradshaw)
   a. Office
      i. Homeland Security – Drexell and Laura Yustak Smith attended the four-day retreat in Bangor to work on drafting the state's homeland security plan. A draft has been circulated to attendees and when the document has been approved by the Governor's office for release, Board members will be sent a copy.

ii. Licensure Program – work continues on the project to upgrade the computer software used for licensing, continuing education, and inspections. The project is anticipated to take approximately 6-9 months. This software update is an essential replacement for the DOS version that has been used since 1987 and will enable MEMS to be ready for online licensing and real time access for license status, CEH status, etc.

iii. Trauma/EMS Grant status – no word yet on the grant application.

iv. EMSC Site Visit – MEMS was scheduled to have a technical assistance team visit on our EMSC project, but it has been cancelled due to funding cuts at EMSC.

b. MDPB (John Burton, MD)

i. Protocol Book Update – books due any day and will go into effect July 1, 2002.

ii. Naloxone (Narcan) out of drug box. The significant increase in drug overdoses statewide, but particularly in Portland has prompted a request to having Naloxone added to the list of medications that can be kept outside of a locked drug box. Initially, this will only affect critical care and paramedic services, but the MDPB will also be discussing a protocol to allow Intermediate EMTs who have taken the update course to administer IV or ET Naloxone.

Concern was expressed by Board members at one regional coordinator that adding another medication to those already available to Enhanced EMT-Is should be done with great caution because it could have the potential to, over time, expand the EMT-I level beyond the base training of the individuals. Dr. Burton agreed with this concern and explained that the overdose situation in Maine has become so widespread that, in his opinion, taking this step at this time is an important step.

***MOTION: To add Naloxone (Narcan) to the medications that may be kept outside of a pharmacy sealed drug box, provided all other requirements for out of drug box storage have been satisfied. (Dunwoody; second by McKenney). Unanimous.***

iii. Meeting schedule – next meeting June 19, no meetings scheduled in either July or August.

6. Other

None at this time.

There will be no Board meeting in July; however, and August meeting may be necessary to focus on Rules changes and pending disciplinary matters. Due to numerous vacation conflicts with the first Wednesday in August, Jay will poll Board members on other possible dates that month.