

Minutes
EMS Committee Meeting
January 21, 2009

EMS Committee

Present

Tammy Barton, Chair
Kevin Johnson, V. Chair
Kathleen Adelgais
Raleigh Bunch
Jeff Davis
Jay Dee Downs
Sheila Garvey
Kathy Johnson
Mike Mathieu
Steve Pehrson
Breck Rushton
Lynn Yeates
Shellie Young

Excused

Mark Bair
Jeff Brown
Mario Sanchez

Bureau Staff

Leslie Johnson
Jenny Allred
Dennis Bang
Dan Camp
Guy Dansie
Tami Goodin
Kristin Gurley
Michelle Hale
Gina Holley
Bob Jex
Allan Liu
Joshua Legler
Irene Petrogeorge
Travis Scoresby
Peter Taillac
Jolene Whitney
Don Wood
Susan Garcia

Visitors

Rand Andrus
Jeff Bassett
Mike Bohling
Lana Burningham
Arnold Butcher
Neil Coker
Mike Ditolla
Steve Easterman
Jammie Embly

Ross Fowlks
Shauna Hatton-Ward
Mason Hall
Gary Jolley
Steve Joyce
Linda Larsen
Don Marrelli
John Miller
Mike Moffitt

Stephen Morris
Jared Sholly
Lynn Schofield
Russ Sneider
Karl Steadman
Paul Sullivan
Mike Veenendaal
Kevin Ward

Tamra Barton called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and explained that Paul Patrick, Bureau Director was unable to attend the meeting and Leslie Johnson would act as Bureau Representative. She asked if everyone had read the minutes, and called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Kevin Johnson moved that the minutes be approved as written. It was seconded by Jay Downs and passed with an affirmative vote by Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, and

Lynn Yeates. Shellie Young abstained as she had not received a copy of the minutes.

Election of Officers

Tammy Barton said that by law new officers must be elected in January and opened the meeting for nominations for Chairperson. Shellie Young nominated Tammy Barton for Chair. There were no other nominations.

Shellie Young moved that Tamra Barton be appointed by acclamation. Sheila Garvey seconded the motion and it was approved through an affirmative vote from Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

Shellie Young nominated Kevin Johnson for the office of Vice-Chairperson for the EMS Committee. There were no other nominations.

Shellie Young moved that Kevin Johnson be approved as Vice-Chairperson by acclamation. Sheila Garvey seconded the motion and it was approved through an affirmative vote by Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

Subcommittee Changes

Shellie Young reported that there were three vacancies on the training subcommittee. She suggested that Ryan Frandsen, LaRay Thorpe, and James Jackson be approved to fill the vacancies. She asked if there were any questions or comments from the EMS Committee.

Shellie Young moved and Jay Downs seconded Ryan Frandsen, LaRay Thorpe, and James Jackson for the vacancies on the Training Subcommittee. The motion was approved with an affirmative vote by Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young. There were no negative votes or abstentions.

Subcommittee Reports

Training Subcommittee – Proposed Rule Change

Jack Meersman presented the proposed rule changes that would be required to meet the standards of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). He said that Paramedic Agencies, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services representatives, and members of the Training Subcommittee worked on the proposed rule changes. He reported that Advanced EMTs and Paramedics will see changes in the level of training for CPR and CME hours. Some requirements increase and some will decrease.

Jack requested that the EMS Committee waive the rule for the Basic EMT to wait one year before they can advance to the Intermediate level.

Shellie Young moved that a waiver to the rule stating that the Basic EMT wait one year before advancing to the Intermediate level be approved. It was seconded by Kathy Johnson and was approved by a vote in the affirmative by Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

Jack said if the committee recommends the proposed rules changes, they would be sent out for public comment. The soonest the rules could be in effect is 90 days.

Questions were asked about the training hours and possible financial effect on all statewide EMS agencies, and the response was that implementing the change would be a gradual three to four year process. With that time frame, agencies should be able to budget accordingly.

Kevin Johnson moved that the proposed rule change be sent out for public comment; it was seconded by Jay Downs. The motion was approved by a vote in the affirmative from Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

There was also a proposed rule addition to include Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification with an age requirement of 16 years and 60 hours of training. The new EMR certification will be an introduction to the field of EMS. Their role will be to take care of the patient until an EMT or paramedic arrives. EMR Instructors will be required to have a minimum certification of EMR. The Bureau will administer certification after testing, based on national standards, is completed.

Breck Rushton moved that the rule change be approved. Jay Downs seconded the motion and it passed with an affirmative

vote from Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

Operations Subcommittee

Lauara Snyder discussed the dispatch center designation rule update. It was recommended that a task force be formed to review the results of the survey conducted, the proposed rule changes, and to prepare a new draft for proposed rule changes. This will be presented to the EMS Committee at the April meeting.

Shellie Young moved that a task force be formed to review the results of the survey of dispatch center designation. The task force will present to the Committee in April a draft of proposed rule changes. Kevin Johnson seconded the motion and it passed with a vote in the affirmative by Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

Lauara said the goal is to assist small rural agencies to have paramedic service. It was suggested that a waiver to allow an agency to staff one Paramedic and one Intermediate during transport be approved. An agency will have three years to reach a two Paramedic standard.

Lauara said apparently there were fears that one Paramedic and one Intermediate will become the new minimum standard for the state of Utah. All agreed that one paramedic is better than no paramedic.

The Subcommittee felt that use of the word “rural” was ambiguous. Rural is considered to be all counties classified as three through six.

Jeff Davis moved that the staffing waiver be approved for counties of class three to six. Raleigh Bunch seconded the motion and it was approved by affirmative votes of Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Steve Pehrson, and Lynn Yeates. Breck Rushton abstained and Sheila Garvey, Mike Mathieu, Shellie Young, and Kathleen Adelgais were opposed to the motion.

Trauma System Advisory Committee

Jolene Whitney updated the committee on the leadership changes in the Trauma System Advisory Committee (TSAC). Dr. Stephen Morris of the University Hospital is Chairman of the committee and Dr. Tom White of Intermountain Medical Center (IMC) is Vice-Chairman. TSAC is a statutory committee to advise the Department of Health whose duties include the establishment for guidelines of triage, treatment and transfer of patients, and the establishment of

model state guidelines (not standards). She stated that EMS and Trauma systems are one emergency health care delivery system and that we need to be informed of the trauma system development activities. Jolene shared the minutes of the previous TSAC meeting with the Committee.

Triage and Transfer Guidelines and Rule Changes

Bob Jex presented the Utah version of Triage and Transfer Guidelines which were partially generated from Maryland, Alaska, Oregon, Iowa, and Texas guidelines. Bob asked for suggestions from the EMS Committee on the proposed guidelines.

Dr. Peter Taillac said that these are guidelines and not a “one-size-fits-all”. The guidelines can be changed to fit needs. The goal is to remove the “disconnect” between EMS, hospitals, and the trauma patient. The triage scheme does not require hospitals to be designated as a trauma center. A discussion of the RTS scheme and differences with the proposed guideline was held. The proposed guideline is a guideline and not a standard. Kevin Johnson requested that the Bureau include in the resource document, the hospitals that have submitted their letters of intent to become designated as trauma centers. The committee also suggested that the guidelines read that the patient is transported to a trauma center or the closest most appropriate hospital, which is consistent with the destination language in the statute. Jolene and Bob agreed to make those two changes.

Shellie Young moved that the Triage, and Transfer Guidelines be approved with changes as requested. Sheila Garvey seconded the motion and it was approved with an affirmative vote from Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

EMSC Off-line Protocol Guidelines

Kristin Gurley and Dr. Kathleen Adelgais presented a brief overview of the pediatric offline protocol guidelines. CME credits may be obtained from web trainings. They asked for feedback and support from the EMS Committee.

Breck Rushton moved to support the EMSC Off-line Protocols. Kevin Johnson seconded the motion and it was approved by an affirmative vote of Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

Ambulance Rate Summary

Allan Liu presented the new rate order which became effective January 1, 2009. He explained that the Paramedic Ground Ambulance Rate is new to the rate structure.

Also, the new rate order does not include a non-transport treat and release fee. Instead, ambulance agencies can charge for provision of supplies as long as they are priced fairly and competitively.

Ambulance rates have increased slightly to compensate as Medicare no long reimburses for transports.

The new rate order and simplified fiscal reporting guide have been posted to the Bureau's website.

Additional Business

The committee members recommended that the setting of the current EMS committee meetings was not a conducive environment. It was recommended that meetings be held back at the Martha Cannon Health Building.

Budget Cuts and Grant Program

Paul Patrick was unable to attend as he was at the Capitol regarding the grants program, the elimination of the Department of Health, and other potential budget cuts. If the Department of Health is dissolved and programs are to be incorporated into other departments, many rule changes would have to take place.

The legislative fiscal analyst has proposed to cancel the grants program and redirect the funds to Medicaid.

The bureau will update the committee as it becomes necessary.

POLARIS Update

Josh Legler reported that more agencies have become NEMSIS compliant. The most recent is Unified Fire Authority.

Tammy Barton asked if there were any more business and entertained a motion for adjournment.

Mike Mathieu moved that the meeting adjourn. Jay Downs seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote in the affirmative from Kathleen Adelgais, Tammy Barton, Raleigh Bunch, Jeff Davis, Jay Downs, Sheila Garvey, Kathy Johnson, Kevin Johnson, Mike Mathieu, Steve Pehrson, Breck Rushton, Lynn Yeates, and Shellie Young.

Next meeting is April 8, 2009
in the conference room at 3760 South Highland Drive

Minutes were prepared by Sharon Ormond, Executive Secretary, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. Reviewed and approved by the EMS Committee on April 8, 2009.