

EMS Operations Subcommittee
September 3, 2008

Subcommittee Members

Present:

Rand Andrus
Lamar Guyman
John Miller (Jeff Hunt)
Ron Johnson
Dr. Steve Joyce
Dr. Brent Mabey
Mike Mathieu
Deborah Mecham
Todd Richardson
Lauara Snyder
Lynn Yeates
Ernie Williams
Dennis Wyman
Rod "Hoss" Tomkinson

Excused:

Jenny Allred

Visitors and

Bureau Personnel:

Allan Liu
Guy Dansie

Welcome and Introductions

Lauara Snyder announced a quorum has been reached. After welcoming all, Lauara asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Action Items

Review and Approval of Minutes

Lauara Snyder asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes. She asked a motion for the approval of the last meeting minutes.

**Mike Mathieu moved that the minutes of June 4, 2008 be approved.
Ernie Williams seconded the motion and voting was approved by all.
There were no abstentions or negative votes.**

Paramedic Staffing Rule

Lauara announced that the EMS Committee passed the Wendover Ambulance request for Paramedic licensure waiver with stipulations.

Guy Dansie at the Bureau of EMS is gathering names for the workgroup to focus on paramedic staffing issues. Several committee members voiced their interest to be

involved. They were: Mike Mathieu, Dr. Steve Joyce, Ron Johnson, Rod “Hoss” Tomkinson, Todd Richardson, and Lauara Snyder.

NDMS Exercise with the Strike Teams

Dan Camp explained that in early August there was a disaster exercise in coordination with the VA Hospital and Air National Guard to prepare for possible events related to the Democratic National Convention in Denver, CO. One important lesson learned was that the EMS Strike teams are a great resource for the State. It was reminded that the Strike Team can only be activated by the Utah Bureau of EMS and for Utah disasters/emergencies. A team could possibly be deployed outside of Utah. But that would be just one of six teams that would be utilized. If the Strike Team is to be sent out of the state, it is still under the discretion of the Bureau (of EMS).

Information Items

EMS Committee Workshop Report

EMS Committee Workshop Wrap up: At the workshop in Midway, Paul Patrick discussed benchmarks and self assessments of the State’s EMS System. The Bureau graded themselves lower on a few items. After some discussion some scores did increase, however scores were never lowered. All benchmarks could be potential goals for 12 months. Some identified goals are: staff retention and training, data analysis and quality assurance processes, scope of practice models, and educational standard models.

Dr. Peter Taillac also discussed the upcoming Medical Director Online Training Course. This 4-5 hour course is to be taken by all Medical Directors in the State of Utah. With a new listserv, Dr. Taillac will be sending regular bulletins to all the Medical Directors. To facilitate communications, Dr. Taillac will be visiting EMS Council Meetings and hold 3 regional “meet and greets”.

EMS Provider Quick Reference Guide

EMS Provider Guide Booklet was arranged to bring EMS and hospitals together. Several hospital ERs were involved in a study regarding their knowledge of EMS providers’ capabilities. The hospitals were tested before and after the training. The study showed a significant increase in awareness, appreciation, and collaboration between the ER staff and EMS providers after the training.

In addition to the scope of practice by EMS providers, the EMSC presentation at the EMS Committee Workshop also discussed the treatment of pain with children. The average time a child received pain medication is 45 minutes. The discomfort of the child can delay proper diagnosis & treatment. Their goal was to raise awareness & discuss medicines available.

Equipment List Update

A meeting has been set up for Sept 24 at 1pm in the EMS 5th Floor Board Room. For those interested in participating please contact Guy Dansie. Those who had agreed to be on the work group at the June 4 meeting are: Lynn Yeates, Ron Johnson, Tamara Goodin, Guy Dansie, "Hoss" Tomkinson, Dr. Steve Joyce, Gina Holley, Lauara Snyder, Rand Andrus, Steve Easterman and Dr. Peter Taillac.

Dispatch Center Assessment

Jim Hansen reported that from a survey conducted with dispatchers, they all feel certification is the most important topic in their field. The least important topic is reciprocity through national accreditation. A summary of the survey will be compiled at the end of the year, when the survey is completed.

Air Ambulance Reorganization

A history of the Air Ambulance advisory committee was given. Because of misperceptions, Paul Patrick stepped in and clarified.

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services can only regulate licensure. In the past the Air Ambulance group met separately. Paul advised that they were not actually a subcommittee. It was determined that they would only meet on an as-needed basis in the future. The members of that group desired representation on the two subcommittees (training and operations). Now they will meet for issues that arise specific to Air Ambulance Agencies only. At the last EMS Committee meeting, the committee approved three of their membership to participate on the existing committees. Dr. Eric Swanson was appointed to replace an air medical representative vacancy formerly filled by Ken Mathews, and Bill Butts was appointed to replace Renee' Hollaran. A new position was created on the Training Subcommittee for an air medical representative and Pam Moore was appointed to that position. Lauara Snyder apologized to Brian Simpson for the error assuming that he was able to assume Ken Mathews position on the board since he has taken many of the other assignments Ken had before leaving Air Med. Brian has attended meetings in the past as the proxy for Ken and Lauara had included him in committee business for the past several months.

Utah EMS Directors Association Update

Utah EMS Directors Association Update-Guy Dansie is assisting with the organization of this group. Any EMS Director is welcome to attend the Quarterly, Wednesday meeting. The next meeting is September 18, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

Data Systems Update

A short form template and list of data elements are now available on the Bureau of EMS website. This is to assist EMS agencies as a guide so they are passing pertinent information to Hospital ER staff.

The Prehospital User Group (PUG) conference is at the Salt Lake Community College Miller Campus on September 11, 2008. The goal of the conference is to provide training to the features of POLARIS, the Bureau's pre-hospital data collection system.

The Bureau of EMS will reach the 100,000 Patient Care Report in the next couple of weeks. This is a great milestone. Currently 84 agencies are providing NEMSIS-compliant data. Unfortunately, this is still only 60% of all agencies. For those who continue to be non-compliant with state rules, grant funds will be unavailable to them.

Other Items for Discussion

It was reminded that grant funds are lower than projected. Therefore, a 20% reduction has been made for all agencies awarded grants. Although the total funding has decreased, the EMS agency has discretion with the quantity of the approved items. If you have any questions please contact Irene Petrogeorge if you have any questions.

New regulations come into effect on November 24th pertaining to vests worn by police, EMS, and construction/surveying folks. This new standard requires the use of high visibility clothing (as defined by ANSI/ISEA 107 standard) when working in the right-of-way on federal-aid highways. There's a webinar scheduled for September 4th from 11am to 1pm. Information about this has already been sent by Jenny Allred via email.

Adjourn

Mike Matheiu made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rand Andrus Seconded and there were no abstentions or negative votes.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Highland Building, 3rd Floor Auditorium.