

EMS Operations Subcommittee  
December 10, 2008

Subcommittee Members

Present:

Bill Butts  
John Miller (Jeff Hunt)  
Ron Johnson  
Dr. Steve Joyce  
Dr. Brent Mabey  
Deborah Mecham  
Todd Richardson  
Lauara Snyder  
Dr. Eric Swanson  
Rod "Hoss" Tomkinson  
Ernie Williams  
Deanna Wolfe

Excused:

Dennis Wyman  
Rand Andrus

Visitors and

Bureau Personnel:

Jenny Allred  
Guy Dansie  
Dan Camp  
Susan Garcia  
Tamara Goodin  
Jim Hansen  
Joshua Legler  
Allan Liu  
Mike Moffitt  
Dr. Peter Talliac  
Shellie Young  
Jolene Whitney

Welcome and Introductions

Lauara Snyder brought the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. She introduced Dr. Eric Swanson and Bill Butts as new members of the Committee.

Dr. Eric Swanson is the Emergency Physician of the University of Utah and the Medical Director of AirMed since 1998. Dr. Swanson is the editor of the Air Medical Journal that contains peer-reviewed research articles. He has participated nationally on 15 EMS committees, has written approximately 85 papers, abstracts and research presentations for EMS activities. He brings to this Subcommittee a national perspective, a focus on national air medical transport and has a strong EMS experience background.

Bill Butts, Director of Operations, of Life Flight, has been flying for 35 years. He has worked at Life Flight for 18 years after retiring from the military. Have a great deal of experience in aviation, 2,000 operating certificates and deals directly with the FAA.

Action Items

Review and Approval of Minutes

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

**Ernie Williams moved that the minutes of September 3, 2008 be approved as written. Dr. Brent Mabey seconded the motion and voting was approved by all. There were no abstentions or negative votes.**

Lauara Snyder stated that there are vacant positions on the Subcommittee. Lynn Yeates and Mike Mathieu have been assigned to the EMS Committee.

Shellie Young explained that there are one basic EMT and two intermediate positions that need to be filled.

#### Dispatch Center Designation Rule Update

Jim Hansen gave the history of the proposed dispatch center rule changes. The Subcommittee recommended that the Bureau of EMS perform an assessment on dispatch centers to gather information. He discussed the summary of the Dispatch Center Survey assessment results. Out of 462 dispatchers surveyed 88% are state certified, 84% are national certified, and 7% are not certified. Of those dispatch centers surveyed, 90% listed an EMD Certified Dispatcher was the most important service the Bureau of EMS could provided

Lauara Snyder recommended forming the task force work group. The purpose of task force is to review the results of the survey; the proposed rule changes, and prepares a new draft of rule changes. The following Subcommittee members volunteered: Deborah Mecham, Chair, Ernie Williams, and Jim Hansen. All the dispatch centers will be invited to volunteer for the task force.

#### Equipment List Work Group

Dr. Peter Taillac discussed the proposed draft equipment list. The equipment list work group referenced items, updated the list, and added optional items.

**Deanna Wolfe moved that the proposed equipment list be approved as written. Rod “Hoss” Tomkinson seconded the motion and voting was approved by all. There were no abstentions or negative votes.**

#### Paramedics Staffing Work Group

Mike Moffitt presented the proposed draft Staffing Policy. Agencies applying for a Paramedic Ambulance or Paramedic Rescue license may request a waiver of rule according to Utah Code Section 26-8a-106. Agencies would be required to obtain a waiver from the EMS Committee before application is submitted to the Department. The request for wavier should include: a) a detailed plan of operation explaining the justification of the waiver, and b) letter of support by the off-line Medical Director. Once a waiver is approved and licensure is granted by the Department, the agency is responsible to report back to the EMS Committee prior to re-licensure.

The Bureau of EMS will develop the criteria that must be met for the waiver.

Lauara Snyder recommended that once a waiver is approved and licensure is granted by the Department, the agency is responsible to report back to the EMS Subcommittee first like all the staffing waivers.

**Dr. Brent Mabey moved that the proposed draft Staffing Policy be approved with the clarification of language. Ernie Williams seconded the motion and voting was approved. Dr. Steve Joyce was opposed to the motion.**

### Information Items

#### State EMS Directors

The Utah State EMS Directors Association is reviewing the by-laws. The election process will be held on January 21, 2009 at 10:30 a.m.

#### Ambulance Rates

Allan Liu explained that the ambulance rates are being revised. Orem City charged a patient in a minor motorcycle accident with a non-transport fee. They contacted Bill Gephardt with KUTV News that aired on television. This was discussed at the Health and Human Services Subcommittee Meeting in October. Paul Patrick agreed to change the rule to discontinue the non-transport fee on the ambulance rates. The transport rates may increase accordingly.

#### Emergency Medical Responders

Dennis Bang presented an overview of the Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) certification course that begins July 1, 2009. This will be a 60 hour course that includes a written test and students can be certified at 16 years old. This course will require a student to have 2 background check investigations (BCI) for the 4 year certification period. The cost of the course will be similar to an EMT course. There will be 58 hours of continuing medical education (CME) hours required. The EMR will not be allowed to run on an ambulance they are strictly emergency responders. This course will be helpful for police officers, mine workers and high school students. The four levels of certification will be: EMR, EMT, advanced EMT, and paramedic.

Lauara Snyder stated that the Operations Subcommittee is tasked to look at where the EMRs will be fitting into the EMS system.

#### Other Items for Discussion

Dr. Brent Mabey discussed a copy of the National Report card on the State of Emergency Medicine, published by the American College of Emergency Physicians. This information could be presented to the Governor for support to improve the State of Utah.

#### Adjourned

**Ernie Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Steve Joyce seconded the motion and there were no abstentions or negative votes.**

**The next meeting will be March 11, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at 3760 South Highland Drive, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom.**