

Summary Minutes

Regular Meeting of the
Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board
Data Policy Standing Advisory Committee
1 p.m., May 9, 2011
Conference Room A, 4th floor
2829 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Members Present

Paul Satterlee, M.D., Chair
Renee Donnelly
Patrick Egan
Tom Fennell
Curtis Fraser
Suzanne Gaines
Lee Pyles, M.D.
Darel Radde

Members Absent

James Aagenes
Marty Forseth
Kathleen Haney
Sen. Gary Kubly
Aarron Reinert

Guests

Clif Giese
Leslie Seymour

Staff

Pam Biladeau
Holly Hammann
Talia Landucci
Melody Nagy
Robert Norlen

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Satterlee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Fennell moved approval of the agenda. Ms. Gaines seconded. Motion carried.

III. Approval of January 10, 2011 Minutes

Ms. Donnelly moved approval of the minutes. Mr. Radde seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Staff Report

Data Requests

Mr. Norlen said that members received a handout of data requests for 2011 and that no patient identifiable information was provided. Ms. Gaines asked for a clarification on an item and Mr. Norlen responded that all releases were completed.

Compliance Report

Mr. Norlen said that he is not able to provide the data compliance report today because we are updating our software. He said that he will provide a report as soon as it is available but all ambulance services are currently in compliance.

V. EMSRB/NEMSIS Version 3.0

Mr. Norlen said that at the January DPSAC meeting we reviewed the submission requirements and the committee made a recommendation to the Board. (The transition would start to occur from one year from when NEMSIS is ready to receive data. March 2011 to March or June 2012 for an implementation period). The Board adopted this recommendation for 3.0 including the proposed timeline. At the March 17 Board meeting the implementation timeline was discussed again because there was concern from MAA that services would not be able to meet that timeline. The Board moved to modify the timeline to January 2013.

Mr. Norlen said that the MAA indicated they would submit legislation unless the Board compromised on an extended timeline. Dr. Satterlee said that the compromise position was to move the deadline to January 2013. That is the assumption this committee should go forward with.

Dr. Pyles asked when the feds will be ready to transition. Mr. Norlen said that the data manager's council met last week and this was discussed. At the NASEMSO meeting we learned that the NEMSIS technical assistance center has moved the compliance testing date to October 15, 2011. The June 2011 date was the best information I had available when the prior discussions took place. Now that this date has changed this may change the timeline but the Board already changed their timeline at the March meeting. NEMSIS has had a discussion on this with the major software vendors. Compliance testing will begin October 15, 2011 and will be more stringent than previously.

Ms. Biladeau said that Mr. Norlen does a considerable amount of work above his regular job with NEMSIS.

Mr. Giese asked about downloading directly to EMSRB. Mr. Norlen said that could happen today.

VI. MNSTAR Improvement Grant – TRCC

Mr. Norlen provided a draft handout of a grant application form.

Mr. Radde asked how many services are not submitting data. Mr. Norlen replied none. Mr. Radde asked how many services are doing direct data entry. Mr. Norlen said that 75% of services do direct data entry. Mr. Radde asked why these services need grant funds. Mr. Norlen said for staff training for data entry. Mr. Norlen said that for the major software providers the upgrades will come as a software upgrade.

Mr. Norlen said that we are seeking input on grant processing.

Mr. Radde asked how many software providers are we interacting with. Mr. Norlen replied that there are 5 major software providers.

Mr. Fennell said that he has heard that 3.0 is not done. Mr. Norlen said that NEMSIS is doing a final review of the data dictionary and the XML file format. The data managers council has been reviewing the final data dictionary and XML format to make sure both pieces coincide with each other, to ensure they match exactly. Mr. Norlen said that there may be one or two elements that were dropped that will be added back in. Mr. Norlen said that what we approved will not be impacted by any of these changes.

Mr. Fennell said that the grant deadline is September 30. Mr. Norlen said this is a federal calendar year timeline. When this grant was entered into we did not know the October 15 timeline change. Mr. Norlen said that we are discussing an extension with DPS.

Ms. Gaines asked if an extension is not available what do we do? Mr. Norlen said that the backup plan would be to use the funding to improve data linkages with trauma data (this was a Board request). This would allow hospitals to log into MNSTAR and extract data to populate

trauma reports. The cost of the program is \$40,000 and would include technical support to implement this change so that hospitals can extract data. This would also provide data in the MNSTAR system on patient disposition. This would provide outcome data for ambulance services for QA. We would discuss changing the focus of this grant with DPS.

Mr. Norlen said that we are looking at developing another grant proposal. Ms. Biladeau said that she is conducting assessments with staff to understand what is needed.

Mr. Norlen said that we want to discuss the criteria for awarding funds. Mr. Norlen said that staff and this committee will need to review grant applications received and determine how much funding is granted. Mr. Norlen said that we are seeking to limit grant funds to \$2,500 – 5,000.

Mr. Radde asked if this is specific to version 3.0 or improvement of data collected. Mr. Radde suggested applying the funds to a staff person to review data accuracy. This small amount of funding would be exhausted quickly with individual grants but could be used to improve the data accuracy statewide. We want to get our data to a 2% error rate. Mr. Norlen said that he agrees this would be useful and staff devote as much time as they can on this. Mr. Norlen said that the data accuracy continues to improve statewide.

Ms. Biladeau said that she had a discussion with Dr. Satterlee regarding staff functions needed to support MNSTAR. This includes asking questions such as: How will this data improve health care in Minnesota? How is the data used? What reports would be helpful? How do we look at statewide gaps in information? Ms. Biladeau said that she will be meeting with Dr. Satterlee to discuss this further. The survey provided today is a result of this conversation.

Mr. Radde said that we need to prove the worth of the data. We need statewide consistency of the data. This would be beneficial education statewide for consistency.

Ms. Biladeau said that having a staff person available to do training at a regional level would be helpful. Ms. Biladeau said that a pilot project to verify the validity of the data may be helpful. Dr. Satterlee said that we discussed this also at previous committee meetings.

Ms. Gaines said that she sees spending \$40,000 in this environment may not be beneficial.

Dr. Satterlee asked for a committee decision. Do we make a recommendation to the Board asking for a staff person?

Ms. Gaines asked if there are limitations on how this funding can be spent. Mr. Norlen said that the majority of the funding is to be used for upgrading the system. Mr. Norlen said that we cannot spend this grant on staff. We must use some of it on the report writer and \$5,000 will be for staff activities.

Mr. Fraser asked if staff is currently reviewing data with services. Mr. Norlen said that is included in the inspection process in a limited manner. Mr. Fraser suggested that this would be an opportunity for education on the system and how the data is reported. Mr. Fennell said that staff does not have enough time to devote to this because an inspection occurs once in two years.

Ms. Biladeau said that she will discuss changing this within the grant requirements. Dr. Satterlee suggested that someone build an education tool to be distributed to all services. Mr. Fraser suggested that it could be accomplished by webinars.

Ms. Gaines moved that the committee does not support the mini grant process as presented. Mr. Radde seconded. Mr. Fennell said that the timeline has changed and our next meeting is not until August we would not have time to process the grants. He suggested that staff re-direct their efforts to focus the grant to statewide training dollars. Dr. Satterlee said that the risk is that we would lose the funds.

Mr. Giese said that every vendor needs to develop a program to comply with data entry requirements. Mr. Giese suggested that the state spend funds to develop the blank tables and distribute them to services. Services had to spend money to develop this. It would only be developed once and then distributed. Mr. Fennell said that could be used nationwide.

Dr. Satterlee asked for a vote on the motion to not support the mini grants. Mr. Engen said that the MAA expressed concern that this was an unfunded mandate and the grants would be to placate the unfunded mandate issue.

Motion carried.

Ms. Biladeau said that she spoke to Ms. Haney and she said that the grant is specific. An option would be to re-write the contract and rollover the unused portion for a salary position for the next grant cycle but this needs to be discussed at the Board level.

Dr. Satterlee said that we could ask for an extension but with our discussion today we have further evaluated our needs and would like to change our focus to have a staff position to improve data quality.

Mr. Radde asked if there could be funds used for the item that Mr. Giese suggested a software program to be distributed statewide. Mr. Giese said that data is entered into a table provided by NHTSA and we write translation tables. We provide the data to the state as an XML routine. Every vendor that submits data must convert data to XML and this costs \$5,000 to 10,000 per vendor.

Dr. Satterlee asked for a handout to be provided before the next meeting to decide if this grant funding can be used for Mr. Giese's proposal. Mr. Norlen said that a discussion that we had regarding implementation of version 3.0 is that we took some of the NEMESIS elements and modified the elements to be Minnesota specific. When we decided to move to version 3.0 there would be no modifications for Minnesota specific information. If a software vendor complies with the testing process – then everyone would be submitting the same information and there would be no data translated again. There will be no translation tables. Services could choose to collect all elements but the state only requires specific elements to be reported. The business rules and schematron rules would be the same for everyone in version 3.0.

Mr. Norlen said that we have a list of provider impressions available and they all have codes. Some services use provider impressions not on the list and then it is mapped back to an element on the list. Mr. Norlen said that in version 3.0 we will have a robust provider impression list to help personnel identify the correct provider impression to use and we will be able to add ICD 10 codes. Dr. Pyles said that knowledge is lost in translation.

VII. Review of MNSTAR version 4.5.5 Software Update

Mr. Norlen said that we completed a software update to MNSTAR on April 30. This included a server change. We updated the production server and sequel server. We obtained a new server donated from another board at no cost. The server has a considerable amount of space available. The software upgrade will improvedirect data entry. We will be doing a pilot project on the improved format.Services will be able to map their call volume on a GIS mapping tool. The analytical reporting will allow creating and distributing reports. This will allow us to provide reports to ambulance services daily, weekly, or monthly. This will be a great timesaving tool and will improve data quality.

Darel Radde left at 2:45 p.m.

Ms. Gaines asked when the upgrades will be available. Mr. Norlen said that they are available now but we want to do some pilot reporting to see that everything works as we expect. We want to have a training session for staff on reporting. We will be able to provide reports by end of June.

Mr. Fennell asked for a review of minutes to see what was suggested by committee workgroups for data reports. Ms. Gaines said that we discussed this in small groups but did not develop recommendations for data reports.

VIII. MNSTAR Survey Distributed to Ambulance Services

Dr. Satterlee said that legislation was proposed in the Health and Human Services omnibus bill suggesting that data reporting become voluntary. A moratorium was included on data collection until 2014. This was proposed in March and I had a discussion with MAA about this.

Dr. Satterlee said that 155 people responded to this survey. (copy of results distributed) Dr. Satterlee described the responses.

Dr. Satterlee said that this is real information to provide to contradict the misinformation out there. Dr. Satterlee said that he would provide the survey data to anyone who would request it. This could also provide information on needs for funding in the future.

Mr. Engen asked who the survey was distributed to.Ms. Biladeau said that it was sent to all ambulance services.

Mr. Fennell said that the cost will be borne by the uploading services. Dr. Satterlee said that the data can be interpreted differently by looking at the data provided. Dr. Satterlee said that he would be happy to provide more information. Mr. Fennell said that he wanted to see the correlation between uploading services and the cost of the upgrade.

Mr. Norlen asked if any service has done a cost analysis for importing to MNSTAR. Mr. Fennell said that the process took a long time to develop and any time there is a change then the process has to be changed. Mr. Giese said that there are positives because we find errors and correct them.

Dr. Satterlee said that this survey is for your information.

Mr. Giese asked what happens with the legislation. Ms. Biladeau said that the bill is still in the Health and Human Services conference committee.

Ms. Donnelly left at 3:15 p.m.

IX. Data Policy Initiatives for 2011

Dr. Satterlee said that we want to discuss what we want to see in the future. We will have a new data reporting tool. There may be interest in forming a workgroup to develop data reports. We can look at previous minutes to see what was suggested. Mr. Fennell asked for a demonstration of the enhancement.

Mr. Giese said that he wants to receive reports and wants a comparison of his service to statewide data.

Mr. Norlen provided the workplan from 2006 and said that it was provided to the committee again in December. We need to refer to this document and update it. We need to decide what is completed and develop initiatives for 2011.

Mr. Fennell said that we should stay the course we do not know what 3.0 will be. Dr. Satterlee said that we can develop some initiatives and change the wording on some initiatives. He said that he would add an initiative on continuing assessment of data and improvement of data quality and development of reports to providers and an ongoing assessment of 3.0 to determine if it is right for the state.

Ms. Gaines said that the determination of standards is completed from initiative 3 but the second paragraph is not completed. We discuss this but not take action. Dr. Satterlee said that we can refocus this.

Mr. Norlen said that we did a report on provider impression and it was mailed to all services. This was an excellent project but it required a huge amount of staff time. Mr. Norlen said that we also provided a cardiac arrest report and discussed the data reporting issues found in the results.

Dr. Satterlee said that he would like to see reporting on variances provided.

Dr. Satterlee said that he would provide an updated initiatives document for the next meeting. Mr. Norlen suggested a separate meeting to discuss this document.

Ms. Gaines asked what reports were provided before, when can we do this again, and how can this be done in the new system.

Mr. Norlen provided a demonstration of the new reporting tool. He said that many of these reports can be developed at the service level.

Ms. Gaines moved that Mr. Norlen will find the last published reports from the regional statistics and that we have your best faith efforts to develop a report from the Eagles 2008 reports. This would be a report for the August meeting. Mr. Giese suggested that the reports be sent to all services and ask for responses. (There was not a quorum to vote on the motion).

Mr. Engen said that there will be some issues with email addresses that need correction.

Mr. Fraser suggested the initiatives document be distributed for review and comment for the August meeting.

X. Other Business

None.

XI. Next Meeting

August 8, 2011

XII. Adjourn

Ms. Gaines moved to adjourn. Mr. Fraser seconded. Motion carried.