

Summary Minutes

Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board

Executive Committee Meetings
Wednesday, March 31, 2010, 8:30
2829 University Avenue SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Members Present

James Rieber (by phone)
Paula Fink-Kocken, M.D. (by phone)
Pat Lee (by phone)
Kevin Miller

Member Absent

Gary Pearson

Staff Present

Katherine Burke Moore
Melody Nagy

I. Call to Order

Mr. Rieber called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

II. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Rieber said that he wanted to add legislative issues and update to the agenda for the meeting each week. Dr. Fink-Kocken moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Lee seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Lee, Mr. Miller, Dr. Fink-Kocken, Mr. Rieber voting yes, motion carried.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lee asked if the Red River Flood should have been a closed session. Mr. Rieber asked Ms. Burke Moore to follow-up with Attorney General's office on this. Ms. Burke Moore reminded them that it was discussed in an open session. However, she said that she will check with the AG whether internal agency documents could be considered non-public information and appropriate for discussion in a closed session. She will report back to the committee.

Mr. Lee moved approval of March 17th and March 18th minutes. Mr. Miller seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Lee, Mr. Miller, Dr. Fink-Kocken, Mr. Rieber voting yes, motion carried.

IV. Legislative Issues and Update

Mr. Miller asked for a status report on the bill regarding revenue for townships. He said that Mr. Doyle testified on the bill and said that it needs more work. Ms. Burke Moore said that in the House the bill has been laid on the table for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill. Mr. Miller said that the fiscal issues may prevent the bill from moving forward. Ms. Burke Moore said that she prepared the fiscal note. The ESMRB would need additional staff to determine fees, tax revenue, and local government funds and carry out any additional regulatory duties that would come with it. She said that EMSRB does not have staff with the fiscal and analysis skill required by this legislation. These skills may be a better fit with staff at the Department of Revenue. Mr. Rieber said that this should be taken out of the regulatory authority and made a taxing issue. Mr. Miller said that if an ambulance service is not financially sound then there should be someone making recommendations to assist the service. Mr. Rieber suggested that this could be a study for ambulance services.

Ms. Burke Moore said as the bill is currently written, that the municipality can determine its deficit and the EMSRB would determine how the the costs would be shared with the townships. The townships would be notified of a fee that they must than pay to the municipality. She said that the EMSRB's main role is to assure quality EMS for the people of Minnesota. It is not our role to advocate for ambulance services. Mr. Miller said that if an ambulance service fails then the EMSRB has a role to assist the ambulance service. Mr. Miller said that the industry has not had an opportunity to look at this. Mr. Rieber said that this would also affect PSA law and we will not support this. Mr. Rieber said that the EMSRB not only protects people but we also should protect the system. Ms. Burke Moore agreed; the viability of ambulance services is a part of assuring quality ambulance service for the people of Minnesota.

Mr. Miller said that there was an amendment that tried to eliminate no-fault insurance but it was defeated. This would have had a huge impact on EMS. He said that there are other issues with federal health care and GAMC.

Ms. Burke Moore said that she does not yet have an update on our final budget. There is a recommendation in the house to restore a portion of the funding that was reduced from our budget last session. The same language is not in the senate yet. Ms. Burke Moore said that she cannot assume that we will receive this funding. She will also be informing the regional programs and other grantees that there may be an additional 6% cut this year. This will impact general fund and seat belt monies. Mr. Rieber asked to give them a specific amount to set aside. Mr. Miller said that the legislature is discussing the state budget deficit.

Ms. Burke Moore said that if we get the money reinstated it would be redistributed to the programs that were reduced. The reductions were to volunteer training reimbursement, CALS, and the EMSRB operations budget.

V. Adjourn

Dr. Fink-Kocken moved to adjourn. Mr. Lee seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Lee, Mr. Miller, Dr. Fink-Kocken, Mr. Rieber voted yes, motion carried.