

Meeting Minutes

Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Attendance: J.B. Guiton, Board Chair; Jason Amborn; Lisa Brodsky; Aaron Burnett, M.D.; Steve DuChien; Scott Hable; Megan Hartigan; Jeffrey Ho, M.D.; Michael Jordan; Paula Fink-Kocken, M.D.; Kevin Miller; John Pate, M.D.; Mark Schoenbaum; Jill Ryan Schultz; Matt Simpson; Tony Spector, Executive Director; Melody Nagy, Office Coordinator; Greg Schaefer, Assistant Attorney General.

Absent: Rep. Jeff Backer; Lisa Consie; Patrick Coyne

1. Call to Order – 10:07 a.m.

Mr. Guiton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Public Comment – 10:08 a.m.

The public comment portion of the Board meeting is where the public is invited to address the Board on subjects which are not part of the meeting agenda. Persons wishing to speak are asked to complete the participation form located at the meeting room door prior to the start of the meeting. Please limit remarks to three minutes.

None.

3. Review and Approve Board Meeting Agenda – 10:10 a.m.

Motion: Mr. Miller moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Pate seconded. Motion carried.

4. Review and Approve Board Meeting Minutes – 10:13 a.m.

Motion: Ms. Ryan-Schultz moved to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2017, Board meeting. Mr. Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

5. Presentation from NovusAGENDA – 10:15 a.m.

Alex Chacon and Byron Gillin from NovusAgenda presented their agenda software solution via WebEx. The EMSRB will be moving forward with this software solution. The Board of Psychology currently uses this product and finds that it is a great time saver.

6. Board Chair Report – 10:30 a.m. – J.B. Guiton

Synopsis of Workshop

Mr. Guiton said the Board met at 9:30 a.m. today to discuss changes to the Board's Internal Operating Procedures and to discuss Board goals (handout provided). A small group of Board members will be meeting to discuss this further and will report back to the Board. (Mr. Jordan, Ms. Brodsky and Mr. Guiton)

Regional Grant Extension

Mr. Guiton said current staff cannot develop a Request for Proposals right now for the competitive bid process for regional grants. The best option is to extend the current contracts for an additional two years.

Mr. Spector said the regional grants need to be aligned with the goals of the Board. There needs to be a discussion of the goals and objectives for these grantees. A two-year extension is being suggested to align with the fiscal year cycle so the agency and the grantees would not have to engage in two (2) one-year contracts. Mr. Schoenbaum asked if the funding is secure for these contracts. If funds are no longer available the agency must have the option to cancel the contract.

Motion: Dr. Ho moved to extend the regional grant contracts through fiscal year 2019 as long as funds are available. Mr. Schoenbaum seconded. Motion carried.

EMSC Contract – Federal Reduction of Funds

Mr. Guiton said the agency was recently informed there was a reduction of funds.

Mr. Spector referred to the handout provided from the Health Resources and Services Administration that outline the reduction. The award previously was \$130,000. He suggested the agency would assist the EMSC Program as we are able to.

Dr. Fink-Kocken (medical director for EMSC Program) said she has had discussions with federal officials regarding this reduction and was told to wait and see what will be proposed for future funding and she will inform staff and the Board of any developments.

Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Endorsement

Mr. Guiton said the Medical Direction Standing Advisory Committee (MDSAC) endorsed the concept of POLST. MDSAC members will be involved in future revisions of the form. The EMSRB has posted the revised form on the website and it will be provided it to all EMS agencies statewide.

Informal Inquiry of Workforce (Paramedic Shortage)

Mr. Guiton said it is now apparent that there is a shortage of paramedics in Minnesota. That was not the case in the past. Other states have had problems for several years. Some agencies in Minnesota are now offering benefits or a hiring bonus. Mr. Guiton said Woodbury is looking at diversity programs for hiring. Dr. Pate said there is also a shortage of nurses and physicians.

Mr. Schoenbaum said that this is something that is studied at MDH. Mr. Guiton asked for further discussion of this topic with Mr. Spector sometime in the future.

7. Executive Director Report – 11:00 a.m. – Tony Spector

Staffing Update

Mr. Spector introduced the two new temporary employees for the EMSRB; Tanner Berris and Jeny Le. He said they are focusing on data entry for renewals.

Mr. Spector announced the Southwest EMS Specialist position has been filled. Mr. Ted Armon has accepted the position and will be starting March 29th. He comes to the agency with a great amount of EMS experience.

Agency Update/Certification Update

Mr. Spector provided statistics for renewals completed since July. Data entry is currently being completed for March 8th, meaning that the agency is only one week behind in renewals. He wants to assure the public that information will be entered by March 31 for all persons with complete applications. It may take additional days to print cards. If the application is incomplete there will be delays.

Mr. Guiton said some agencies require a card. Mr. Schaefer said if the Board approves the application they are approved by the State.

Mr. Spector said certification cards are being emailed to the applicant. There was a problem with the old elicensing system in that the effective date on the card actually was the issue date. So if someone sought a duplicate card, the effective date would be the date the duplicate card was issued. This caused confusion. To address this, the EMSRB will no longer list an effective date on the certification card; it will list only an expiration date. The website should be used for verification of certifications. And on the subject of cards, ambulance services do not have to have paper copies of certification cards on file for inspection.

Calendar Year 2016 Metrics

The metrics were provided as a handout. If anyone has questions, please contact Mr. Spector.

Cooper/Sams Longevity Payment Report

The payments for Cooper/Sams Longevity awards will be made by the first of April. (Handout provided) The appropriation does not fully fund the payouts so there will need to be a withdrawal from the trust fund.

REPLICA

Mr. Spector provided a brief summary of the REPLICA interstate compact model. As part of the House file in committee, the agency provided a fiscal note to the legislature. A key point of the REPLICA model is that the protections would not apply to Emergency Medical Responders (EMR). This was a conscious decision by REPLICA. The purpose of having REPLICA would be for crews to cross borders to take care of patients. Fingerprint background checks are a requirement and there would be a fee for the applicant and the agency. There would be a delay in granting certifications while awaiting for the results of the background check. REPLICA has stated that it does not contemplate fees to be paid by the member states, but the REPLICA statutory language makes it clear that fees may be required. REPLICA also is being considered by other states, but not any of our border states.

Mr. Guiton said the other HLB's are implementing requirements for fingerprinting. Fingerprinting is a good idea, but the funding mechanism may need to be discussed for this agency.

Mr. Spector said there may need to be future discussions on how this protects the public health and safety.

A course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation that is approved by the board. . .

A course in advanced cardiac life support that is approved by the board. . .

This will be discussed in the MDSAC Committee report.

Ambulance Standards Rule Change to 4690.1505 – Update

Mr. Spector referred to the handout providing the language for a rule change. There are also suggestions for housekeeping changes. The recommendation is that these items are addressed together. The next step is a resolution by the Board and then staff will initiate the rulemaking process. The next step would be for the Board to approve the rule change as proposed in the handout labeled ED4.

Mr. Guiton asked for a motion but asked to delay this until the May Board Meeting and said this should also be referred to the Legislative Work-Group.

Mr. Spector said this was approved by the Ambulance Standards Work-Group and the Board. The Ambulance Standards Work-Group will be meeting on March 27 and will receive this handout.

Mr. Spector said this would be a separate rulemaking process from the legislative process.

8. Committee Reports – Committee Chairs – 11:15 a.m.

Medical Direction Standing Advisory Committee – Dr. Burnett

Mr. Guiton said it was good to see the engagement of the physicians at the MDSAC meeting.

Dr. Burnett said the EMSRB/STAC Joint Policy Committee met this week.

Dr. Burnett announced that the University of Minnesota was awarded a “Siren” grant. This is a grant to study acute care research. Minnesota ambulance services will be participating in this study.

Dr. Burnett said 14 physicians attended the MDSAC meeting. He commented that he wants to have physicians participate by conference call but there was difficulty with the equipment at the last meeting; it will be fixed before the next meeting.

Dr. Burnett said there is a new level of certification (Community EMT). The Board needs to approve the curriculum and referred the question to MDSAC for discussion and a recommendation. Dr. Mike Wilcox, a founder of community EMS, has led the development of a curriculum. The committee unanimously approved this motion for a pilot program.

Motion: Dr. Burnett moved approval the Hennepin Technical College Community EMT Education Program Pilot project as detailed in the summary document provided to MDSAC for its meeting on March 3, 2017, with the following change: the terms primary care technician and PCT shall be replaced with the Community EMT. Dr. Pate seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Burnett said the committee extensively discussed Board approval for CPR and ACLS. It was decided to take a broad approach and approve multiple courses. The recommendation is that the EMSRB also accept courses/content provided by Minnesota approved education programs.

Motion: Dr. Burnett moved approval of courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and advanced cardiac life support from the list as found in figure 2 of the fifty-state-survey as well as approval of courses or content in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and advanced cardiac life support as provided by an EMSRB-approved education program. Dr. Pate seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Guiton commented that a medical director must be involved in these decisions.

Dr. Burnett said the concept of a health care exchange for EMS was discussed. A subcommittee of MDSAC members will be formed. It should be modeled after the prescription monitoring program of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy. This would provide communication for EMS agencies. Mr. Guiton said this is another opportunity to work with MDH.

Dr. Burnett said there is variability on how the HIPPA law is interpreted and what is shared by EMS providers. There needs to be standardization across the state. The MDSAC suggested a formal opinion for release of outcome data.

Mr. Schoenbaum said the trauma system is paving the way in this discussion but there are not as many concerns when looking at aggregate data.

Motion: Dr. Burnett moved that the EMSRB and the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office release a joint statement to be circulated by the Minnesota Hospital Association and other partners affirming the importance of EMS quality improvement and the legality under HIPPA and the Minnesota Medical Records Act of sharing specific patient outcome information with the licensed ambulance service or the medical director of a state-registered EMS responder agency that provided the patient’s care. Mr. Pate seconded. Motion carried.

Ambulance Standards Work Group

Mr. Spector said the Ambulance Standards Work Group will be meeting on March 27. There will be a discussion of repopulating the work group for future discussion of vehicle standards and monitoring. Further clarification may be sought regarding the charge from the Board. Mr. Guiton said that one addition question to be answered in the future is the status of work group or standing advisory committee.

CRP/HPSP – Mr. Simpson

Mr. Simpson referred to the statistics in the metrics. He said the CRP meets twice in March to assure cases are resolved before renewal deadlines. He referred Board members to the handouts provided for the HPSP caseload.

Education Standards Post-Transition Work Group – J.B. Guiton

Mr. Guiton said this work group has been on “hold” for a time. He will be looking to have a meeting in May or June. The work group has accomplished most of the tasks assigned. He said he needs to communicate with this group.

Mr. Guiton said that “we have never had an inspection of our education program”.

Data Policy Standing Advisory Committee – Ms. Hartigan

Ms. Hartigan said there have been some issues with the MNSTAR data base and the data base is being repaired. ImageTrend is looking at problems regarding data transfers.

Ms. Hartigan said there were some concerns expressed by Hennepin County regarding upload confirmation issues. Staff are working with Hennepin to resolve these technical issues.

Legislative Ad-Hoc Work Group Report – Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller said there is an outline of what is to be accomplished. He said he will be meeting with Mr. Spector to discuss how these items move forward. There are substantive changes and organizational changes to be made. There are also changes for education and the requirement for EMR to have CPR.

Mr. Spector said he asked for assistance from the Revisor’s Office to make changes. He said Mr. Bill Snoke (who is retired from Allina) will be working as a contract employee to assist with these changes. This contract was thoroughly vetted for conflict of interest. Mr. Schaefer said the final work product will be provided to the Board for approval.

Mr. Spector said other legislative changes will need to occur in the next session and this will allow time for development of a complete package.

9. New Board Business – 12:00 Noon

None.

10. Closed Session – 12:15 p.m.

Closed per Minn. Stat. § 144E.28, subd. 5 and Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 2(b) (*Complaint Review Process*) and Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(d) (security matters)

Disciplinary actions were discussed and voted on by Board members.

11. Re-Open Meeting – 12:46 p.m.

Mr. Guiton re-opened the meeting.

12. Adjourn – 12:37 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Hable moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Brodsky seconded. Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting:
May 18, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.
Minneapolis, MN**