

Summary Minutes

Meeting of the
Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board
10:00 a.m., March 17, 2011
2829 University Avenue SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Members Present

James, Rieber, Chair
Dawn Bidwell
Brenda Brown
Lisa Consie
Paula Fink Kocken, M.D.
Michael Gormley
Kathleen Haney
Michael Jordan
Pat Lee
Kevin Miller
Gary Pearson
Paul Satterlee, M.D.
Mark Schoenbaum
Matt Simpson
Mari Thomas, M.D.

Members Absent

Bonnie Engen
Sen. Gary Kubly
Rep. Duane Quam
Marlys Tanner

Guests

Pam Biladeau
Suzanne Gaines
Tim Held
John Huot
Curt Ireland
Kjelsey Kluge
Kristi Moline
Cheryl Pasquarella
Darel Radde
Scott Reiten
Ron Robinson
Bill Snoke
Kelly Spratt
Martin Van Buren
Tom Vanderwal

Staff

Debby Teske, Interim Executive Director
Olivia Awoudi
Melinda Buss
Holly Hammann
Talia Landucci
Melody Nagy
Robert Norlen
Rose Olson
Cindy Greenlaw-Benton, ASU
Nathan Hart, AGO

I. Call to Order

Mr. Rieber called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

II. Introductions

Mr. Rieber asked that members and guests introduce themselves.

Ms. Teske introduced Olivia Awoudi, temporary staff for EMS to help with the overflow work during renewal time.

- **Appointment of Representative Quam**

Mr. Rieber said that Representative Duane Quam has been appointed to the Board.

- **Data Collection Discussion**

Mr. Rieber said that there has been discussion at the MAA meeting about a moratorium on data collection. Mr. Rieber said that he discussed this with Mr. Norlen. Mr. Rieber said that the data in MNSTAR is highly accurate. When there are statements that the data is not accurate it is that the accountability needs to come from where the data is entered. Mr. Rieber said that the data reports are useful but are based on how the query is framed. Mr. Rieber said that he understands that there are concerns about the costs of changing the system. Mr. Rieber said that version 3.0 enhances data collection with validity scores, business logic and user interfaces to improve data quality and reporting capabilities.

Mr. Norlen said that the number of states reporting to the national data bank is increasing, currently 26 states are reporting to NEMESIS and another 7 states should be submitting in the next few months. Mr. Norlen said that the data can be used to compare information across states. Mr. Norlen said that the emphasis is not to provide data at the national level but to provide data at the local and regional level. Mr. Rieber said that we need the migration to version 3.0 to improve the value of the data and the reporting of the data.

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Mr. Robinson said that some of the regional programs have expressed concern about the data reporting tool. He asked that staff work with the Board on this issue.

Dr. Satterlee said that the Data Policy Standing Advisory Committee (DPSAC) asked for comments on the cost to upgrade the system. Although he has heard that it would cost millions of dollars to make the change, no comments to this effect were received during the open comment period. Dr. Satterlee stated that he would strongly object to a moratorium on data collection, as he believes the upgrade will improve the data quality. The timeline offers time for transition by ambulance services and the DPSAC is open to changing the timeline if significant cost roadblocks are encountered.

Mr. Rieber said that 80% of the calls are reported by 20% of the services. Discussion has included writing some “canned” reports that provide feedback to services. The larger services have their own personnel to look at their data. Mr. Rieber said that he wanted to have a discussion with MAA.

Mr. Miller referred to the Board minutes and said that he is unclear as to what was approved at the January meeting. Mr. Miller said that it refers to a timeline from compliance testing. Mr. Miller asked if an ambulance service can demonstrate a hardship what will the Board do? Mr. Miller said that we do not know what it will cost for this conversion.

Dr. Satterlee said that the date that was set for compliance is 12 months from when vendors are compliant. Mr. Norlen said that this timeline was provided at the January meeting and was based on NEMSIS being ready to do compliance testing with vendors. An expectation for compliance testing commencement is June 30, 2011. The intent of the approval at the January meeting was that services would have one year from that date to come into compliance with 3.0 standards. The majority of the vendors that have current NEMSIS approved software will be ready for testing. The latest date would be June 30, 2012 based on the timeline approved at the January Board meeting. Mr. Miller said that there is still a cost component and he has heard several questions about implementation.

Mr. Schoenbaum asked if MAA has taken formal action on this. Mr. Robinson said that the motion was to discuss this with the EMSRB. They are asking for additional time to gather information. If there is an impasse then they would seek legislation for a temporary moratorium. They need data but want a system that works. Data compliance will require an investment by MAA members. We want to bring information to our regions and providers. Mr. Schoenbaum said that we do not want legislative proposals regarding collection of data because the funding for the EMSRB could be affected. Mr. Schoenbaum said that MDH is seeking data for the trauma system, especially vital signs. Mr. Schoenbaum said that we want to work with the Board and with services that are not reporting vital signs to have them include this information.

Ms. Haney said that the Department of Public Safety, Office Traffic Safety, has entered into a grant with the EMSRB to provide funding for the data mining tool and for mini-grants to services for improvements to the system. The funds need to be spent on improvements to 3.0 or the funding will be lost.

Mr. Rieber suggested changing the timeline to December 31, 2011, with staff determining a cost estimate to assure that we have the information we need to make these decisions. Then we would have implementation 12 months from that date for conversion to 3.0. This is a compromise position.

Ms. Bidwell asked for the timeline on the grant. Ms. Haney said that the current grant requirement is to September 30, 2011, but an extension could be requested.

Dr. Satterlee said we could ask for a transition plan to go with the proposed timeline. Mr. Rieber said that would be good information to include in the mini-grant proposals from ambulance services.

Mr. Pearson moved that we wait until December 31, 2011 to allow services time to make financial decisions and services would be 3.0 compliant by December 31, 2012. Ms. Bidwell seconded.

Ms. Haney said that the Board could request additional funds and that there may be federal money available to the DPS, Office of Traffic Safety to grant.

Mr. Jordan asked why services did not respond and will they respond now. Dr. Satterlee said that services will have additional information from their vendors on the costs and if we tie this to grant funding then the compliance may occur. Mr. Jordan said that he is questioning why we are giving them 8 months. Dr. Satterlee said that we need to have further information from NEMSIS to assure that they know the costs.

Mr. Schoenbaum asked that MAA encourage services to submit information to the EMSRB so that we have the needed information. Mr. Rieber said that working with the regional systems would be helpful.

Mr. Norlen said that he has had conversations with software vendors that have customers in Minnesota using their systems to submit data to the MNSTAR system. He said that this is being considered an upgrade to the system and will not be an additional cost.

Mr. Pearson said that his employer could not develop a cost to re-write their whole program. There are costs that are unknown to his employer in order for them to be compliant. He said that he is in favor of this delay.

Mr. Rieber asked for a vote on the motion. Motion carried.

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Rieber said that we are moving the discussion of SF 557 to the legislative committee report.

Mr. Lee moved approval of the agenda. Dr. Fink Kocken seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Brown moved approval of the January 2011 minutes. Ms. Haney seconded. Motion carried.

V. Regional Grant Process

Mr. Rieber said that we have an open competitive grant process in progress and cannot answer specific questions today.

Ms. Landucci said that the Executive Committee may want to meet to approve the review panel recommendations. Ms. Teske said that the RFP was published and a notice of intent

was received from the applicants. Ms. Teske said that a conference call had been conducted, with the results of that meeting to be posted on the EMSRB website on Friday, March 18, 2011. The questions and answers are public information. Specific questions cannot be answered, nor can discussion occur, without all parties who submitted a letter of intent being present. The next step will be the appointment of a grant review panel.

Mr. Lee said that he wanted to discuss an item. Mr. Rieber reiterated that a process is in place and no discussions or questions can be brought forward without all parties who submitted a letter of intent being present.

Mr. Rieber said that the Executive Committee can review the grant review panel recommendations or a Board meeting via conference call could be held. This is a four year commitment and a very important part of our agenda for the future. Mr. Rieber asked that Ms. Teske work on developing a date for a conference call for review of the grant review panel recommendations.

VI. Executive Committee Report

Mr. Miller said that the last meeting was February 21, 2011, when minutes from two previous meetings were approved.

Mr. Rieber complemented Ms. Teske's efforts as the interim director.

VII. Medical Director's Standing Advisory Committee Report

Dr. Thomas said that the committee has a new member -- Dr. Burnett, currently working at Regions Hospital. Dr. Thomas said that we are seeking comments to the BLS guidelines and pediatric guidelines. Dr. Fink Kocken commented that we are working on a combined ALS/BLS pediatric document.

Dr. Thomas said that the MDSAC voted unanimously to support the trauma system. Dr. Satterlee said that we would like to see more involvement by the regional medical directors.

VIII. Presentation and Selection of Executive Director

Mr. Rieber announced that Ms. Greenlaw Benton would provide a presentation of information on the hiring process. Ms. Greenlaw Benton reported that the hiring committee was unanimous in their decision to bring this candidate forward for Board approval. Ms. Greenlaw Benton said that this is an open meeting and the candidate is willing to answer questions but the questions must relate to the job qualifications.

Mr. Jordan named the members of the committee. There were 80 resumes received. We reviewed the resumes and then selected 6 candidates for interview. Two persons chose not to interview and they were from out of town. The questions asked during the interview related to Board structure and operations, policy and a broad range of knowledge and experience with business. Mr. Jordan introduced Ms. Pamela Biladeau.

Ms. Biladeau said that she recognizes this as an opportunity to work with a very talented and experienced group in continuing efforts to improve health care in Minnesota. She said that she has experience as a firefighter/EMT. She said that she has an understanding of rural EMS and has worked on projects at a local, regional and national level.

Mr. Schoenbaum asked for highlights from the candidate's resume. Mr. Jordan said that she has been a firefighter and has worked for DPS in developing courses for personnel. She has a Master's degree from the Naval Academy. She has worked with law enforcement and has

been involved in emergency management programs, with a wide range of experience in EMS. She also has academic experience.

Mr. Rieber commented that the candidate has experience working collaboratively with groups. Mr. Miller commented that with the pending floods it will be an advantage to have someone who has worked with the State Emergency Operations Center and has knowledge of emergency preparedness.

Ms. Bidwell asked if she is a volunteer firefighter. Ms. Biladeau said that she holds a paid on-call position with Roseville Fire. Mr. Miller said that Roseville Fire is affiliated with Allina Transportation, but that he had no prior knowledge of this candidate.

Mr. Jordan said that the identity was masked on the initial resume review. The hiring committee did not know the names of the candidates until the interview day.

Mr. Jordan moved that the Board vote in the affirmative to hire the candidate selected by the hiring committee. Ms. Bidwell seconded. Mr. Schoenbaum thanked the committee for their efforts. Mr. Rieber thanked Ms. Greenlaw Benton for her efforts. Motion carried.

Ms. Greenlaw Benton explained the hiring requirements and said that an offer letter was made that included a salary proposal and the position responsibilities. Ms. Biladeau's term will begin on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. Mr. Jordan asked that the hiring letter and resume be attached to the Board minutes for the record.

IX. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Pearson reported that no meeting has occurred, since there is no new information at this time. We are prepared if there would be proposed cuts. No cuts have been proposed. We are waiting for further information. Ms. Teske continues to do a good job on the budget and stays in touch.

X. Data Policy Standing Advisory Committee Report

Dr. Satterlee said that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting but is discussing how to report information to ambulance services.

Mr. Rieber asked about data reporting to hospitals. Mr. Norlen said that the service would need to give permission to hospitals. There are data privacy act issues. Once the state has the information the state cannot release private data. We are working on this with the MDH staff and we may want to propose legislation in the future. We can make this change with an enhancement to MNSTAR. Mr. Rieber said that we need to know the cost of this change. Mr. Rieber asked for a report on this at the next meeting. Mr. Rieber said that we do double data entry to provide information to hospitals. Mr. Schoenbaum said MDH is interested in providing this data but we must overcome the legal barrier on data sharing. Mr. Schoenbaum said that we may not want to propose legislation, but seek other solutions. Mr. Norlen said that we are sharing data for the trauma systems and it is being linked to hospital data. Mr. Norlen said that he met with MDH staff on these data reporting issues, and work continues on system evaluation and reporting. This will provide trauma system information for EMS and Trauma system improvement and evaluation.

XI. Legislative Committee Report

Mr. Miller said that the committee has not recently met, but has three bills to introduce. Mr. Miller said that the bills have not yet been introduced but we have made contact to have the bills jacketed. We are waiting for further instruction from the Executive branch.

Ms. Teske said that Senator Kubly's office suggested that the bills be combined. The bills have been sent by Senator Kubly's aide to the Senate Research, where they await jacketing. She said that the deadlines have changed significantly this year. We will need to get authors and get through one committee before April 29. Ms. Teske said that we may not be able to accomplish this goal this year, as the budget discussions are the focus at the legislature.

Mr. Rieber asked for a plaque for Senator Kubly for his efforts in supporting the EMSRB.

Board Position Regarding Statewide Trauma System Repeal

Mr. Rieber said that the Board should have a formal position regarding a potential repeal of the trauma system (SF 557). Ms. Bidwell moved that the Board support the trauma system and oppose SF 557, which repeals of the statewide trauma system. Mr. Lee seconded. Mr. Rieber said that we need have a formal position if we are asked to testify. Mr. Schoenbaum said that as a partner to the EMSRB, the Trauma System continues to want to improve patient care.

Mr. Jordan asked why this was proposed. Mr. Schoenbaum said that MDH has not had any communication with the author of this bill. Mr. Schoenbaum said that the bill is not being highly supported. Mr. Jordan suggested a discussion with legislators as to why the EMSRB opposes repeal of this legislation. Mr. Rieber commented that there is not a house companion bill. Dr. Thomas said that when this was discussed at MDSAC there was overwhelming support of the trauma system.

Mr. Radde said that it is felt that this is an unfunded mandate and that the cost is not beneficial. There is benefit in having a trauma system but there is not a mandate in how to treat a stroke patient (for example). The cost is significant and budgets are very tight and decisions should be made at the local level. He commented that we would be open for discussion on this.

Mr. Rieber called for a vote on the motion to oppose legislation (SF 557) regarding trauma system repeal. Motion carried.

XII. Complaint Review Panel Report

Ms. Bidwell reported that the committee met twice and conducted the following business:

- 115 disclosures were reviewed; 113 passed, more information was requested in six cases, two certifications were denied, four cases were referred to HPSP.
- One mandatory report/complaint was reviewed and closed.
- Three stipulation and Orders were signed.
- Five conferences were scheduled and 4 were attended. The Attorney General's Office was requested to prepare an agreement for corrective action for one case, one was dismissed, and additional information is being sought for one case.

Mr. Rieber thanked Ms. Bidwell for her efforts.

XIII. EMS Week

Ms. Teske said that the Board meets on May 19 which is during EMS Week. She is suggesting a celebration of EMS Week. The Board assented to a celebration. Staff will invite Governor Dayton, or a gubernatorial representative to the Board meeting.

XIV. Other Business

Mr. Jordan thanked Ms. Teske for serving as the Interim Director. Mr. Rieber agreed with Mr. Jordan's statement and reiterated her excellent efforts in keeping him informed.

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Mr. Rieber said that when the new Board members are appointed there will be a Board orientation session. Mr. Rieber thanked members for their hard work and said that this will likely be his last meeting.

XV. Public Comment

None.

XVI. Closed Session

The Board met in closed session to discuss disciplinary matters.

XVII. Adjourn

Mr. Miller moved to adjourn. Ms. Brown seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Reviewed and Approved by:



4/25/2010

Pat Lee, Secretary

Date

James Rieber, Chair

Date