

## Summary Minutes

### **Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board**

Executive & Legislative Committee Meetings

Wednesday, March 17, 2010, 8:30

Telephone Conference Call

2829 University Avenue SE

Minneapolis, Minnesota

#### Members Present

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

#### Members Absent

Lisa Consie  
Bonnie Engen  
Rep. Jeremy Kalin  
Sen. Gary Kubly  
Mark Schoenbaum

#### Staff Present

Katherine Burke Moore  
Melody Nagy  
Robert Norlen

#### Guests

Buck McAlpin  
Ron Robinson  
Lance Ross

### **I. Call to Order**

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order.

### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Miller commented that there is not a quorum for the Legislative Committee, but we will discuss the issues on the agenda.

Mr. Rieber asked for a report on MNTRAC issues. Mr. Rieber moved that this be added to the agenda. Mr. Lee seconded. Dr. Fink-Kocken, Mr. Lee, Mr. Miller, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Rieber voted yes. Motion carried.

Dr. Fink-Kocken moved that the revised agenda be approved. Mr. Rieber seconded. Dr. Fink-Kocken, Mr. Lee, Mr. Miller, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Rieber voted yes. Motion carried.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes are not ready for approval.

### **IV. EMS Related bills in the Legislature**

Ms. Burke Moore said that there is a bill regarding funding for ambulance services and the EMSRB will be asking for a fiscal note regarding this funding. The EMSRB would need to work with services on reimbursements.

Mr. McAlpin said that the issue has been raised by Cloquet. Mr. McAlpin said that there are funding issues for ambulance services covering some townships. This bill did not make a committee deadline. There is not a house version of this bill. It is likely dead. It would require additional resources for the EMSRB to implement. This bill could pop up again by being attached to another bill. Mr. Miller asked that the bill be monitored.

**V. Other Bills that May Impact EMS**

Mr. Miller asked if GMAC is decided. Mr. McAlpin said that this will be heard on the floor tomorrow. Mr. McAlpin said that on the federal horizon there is stimulus money that would be received if this passes. There will be a second bill introduced tonight that will change this. Mr. McAlpin said that this relates to the mental health report worked on with the EMSRB.

Mr. McAlpin said that there will be a bill introduced today to balance the health and human services budget. This would impact the EMSRB budget. The EMSRB would have a 2.5% budget reduction for grants. Ms. Burke Moore asked for the bill number. Mr. McAlpin replied that he would email the details to Ms. Burke Moore. This may eliminate program cuts.

**VI. Discussion of Board Goals**

Mr. Rieber asked for the document that Katherine and he discussed. We need to look at the four main goals and weigh them with the priorities. This will be discussed at the Board meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Rieber said that this will also be discussed at Executive Committee meeting tomorrow. Ms. Burke Moore said that the Board does not need to micromanage activities. Mr. Rieber said that this is high level. Mr. Miller said that is not our intent.

Mr. Rieber said that all the all the goals are measurable and all the Board members will have a measurable unit to measure the Executive Director's performance.

Ms. Burke Moore said that all the goals are not measurable in proportion. Some of the goals you either achieve or don't achieve. Such as, the EMSRB responds to the emergency operations center. Mr. Miller agreed that there are some goals that are meets or not. Mr. Miller said that how you meet the goals is the Executive Director's job.

**VII. MNTRAC**

Mr. Rieber said that he spoke to Mr. Norlen about this. Mr. Rieber said that there was some discussion about how information is provided. The metro region has chat rooms available to provide information. Can we set up chat room on MNTRAC for all services to see information? Mr. Rieber said that he received information from multiple sources.

Mr. Norlen said that he would set up a MNTRAC room that all ambulance services can participate in. The ambulance service would have to have the training and a password to access this information. The regional programs could also participate.

Mr. Norlen said that the SEOC was activated this morning and MNTRAC will be activated. We can expand MNTRAC as needed for communication purposes.

Mr. Ross said that goal of the EMS MAC group is to provide information to services. Mr. Ross suggested posting information to the MAA website and sending emails to interested persons. Mr. Ross said that the information needs to be "vetted" before it is released.

Mr. Rieber said that he is looking for general information for the public that any ambulance service can access. The regional programs should receive information valid for their region and there is also information that is not public. This is an incentive for

persons to be trained on MNTRAC. Mr. Ross suggested that he would discuss this with Mr. Norlen and come up with a public information site.

Mr. Ross said that the National Weather Service provides good information. Mr. Robinson said that there are other web sites in North Dakota that provide updated information.

Mr. Rieber asked about EOC operations integration. Mr. Ross and Mr. Norlen met after the committee meeting last week to discuss the flow chart. Mr. Ross provided the document by email to members on the phone. Mr. Ross explained the on-call portion and how the EMSRB responds. Mr. Ross explained the chain of response in making calls to respond to the issue.

Ms. Burke Moore asked how the on-call portion functions. Mr. Ross said that the west metro the MRCC has staff available 24/7. The “everbridge” will be used to communicate information to the person on-call by phone/pager/email. This will track who is responding to the issue. Mr. Robinson said that we would ask is the EMSRB staff person on-call to call the west metro MRCC and provide this information to initiate the call. Mr. Ross said that the information flow between the EMSRB and the MAC group will need to be “vetted” and shared as appropriate.

Mr. Ross said that the EMSRB staff at the SEOC will share information through MNTRAC as appropriate today. This will be a good test of our system. The liaison group will help with the status checks for deployed resources. Mr. Rieber said that it is essential to track resources so that we do not have the negative issues that occurred last year.

Mr. Robinson said that there are five regions that are supporting this effort. We are working with the other regions to discuss this issue.

Mr. Norlen asked about regional program staff participating on strike teams. Mr. Norlen said that we do not have a strike team in the Northeast region. Mr. Robinson said that the Central region has said that they are not interested. Mr. Robinson said that this is covered in another way with the services who participate with the metro strike team discussions.

Mr. Ross said that for nuclear drills, this can all be automated on the “everbridge” system with one call. Mr. Rieber said that this will be a good for the state to make sure our process works. Mr. Ross thanked Mr. Norlen and Mr. Robinson for their efforts.

Mr. Rieber said that he had a conversation with the Governor’s staff and he was asked if there are any changes needed in the executive order. He said that he will be communicating our response to the Governor’s office. Mr. Norlen said that it is the state agency that has the responsibility to respond with assistance from our regional partners to respond as emergencies occur.

Mr. Miller said that we need to make sure we drill this. Mr. Norlen said that education of all participants will be important. We will identify gaps and make changes as needed. Mr. Rieber said that this will help in coordinating communication.

Mr. Ross asked what is needed for the Board meeting tomorrow. Mr. Rieber asked for a short overview of how this system works. Mr. Ross said that we will present this to homeland security together.

The meeting went into closed session.

**VIII. Other Business**

None.

**IX. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned.