

Meeting Minutes

**State of Minnesota
Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board
Medical Direction Standing Advisory Committee
September 10, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
WebEx Meeting**

Attendance: Aaron Burnett, M.D. (Chair); Jennifer Fischer, M.D.; Paula Fink Kocken, M.D.; R. J. Frascone, M.D.; Carson Gardner, M.D.; John Hick, M.D.; Charles Lick, M.D.; John Lyng, M.D.; Pat Lilja, M.D.; John Pate, M.D.; Nick Simpson, M.D.; Andrew Stevens, M.D.; Mari Thomas, M.D.; Mike Wilcox, M.D.; J.B. Guiton, EMSRB Board Chair; Tony Spector, EMSRB Executive Director; Melody Nagy, EMSRB staff; Dave Rogers, EMSRB staff; Charles Soucheray, EMS Specialist; Greg Schaefer, Assistant Attorney General.

1. Call to Order and Introductions – 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Burnett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He introduced himself and asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

2. Public Comment – 7:02 p.m.

Dr. Burnett asked if there was any public comment.

None.

3. Review and Approve Agenda – 7:10 p.m.

Dr. Burnett asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

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

4. Review and Approve Minutes – 7:15 p.m.

Dr. Burnett asked for approval of the March 6, 2020, minutes.

Motion: Dr. Lick moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Thomas seconded. Motion carried.

5. MDSAC Committee Chair Report – 7:20 p.m.

Coronavirus Update

Dr. Burnett said the Governor will be seeking to extend the emergency declaration that suspends statutory requirements for ambulance services. He said the Coronavirus is a challenge for the state, the nation and the world. He asked for comments from other committee members.

White Earth Nation Voluntary COVID-19 Serology Screening

Dr. Gardner said this testing started several months ago and it has been pretty effective. The intent is to offer this to patients during transport. He said there are over 100 cases and there has been several

deaths in his service area. He said it is an easy serology test that is being offered to crew members for voluntary testing. Dr. Burnett said he is impressed with the innovative actions by this service.

Non-EMS-Certified Ambulance Drivers

Dr. Burnett said this question was brought to him from an ambulance service director. The question is should the agency consider credentialing non-EMS-certified personnel as drivers. Dr. Burnett suggested minimum qualifications for these individuals. This may assist with staffing shortages in rural areas of the state. He said he feels that the EMSRB should have regulatory oversight of these individuals to assure public safety.

Mr. Deane Benson, Lanesboro Ambulance Director, said individuals are interested in helping but not committed to taking the certification classes. He said the service is experiencing staffing shortages and this would assist us.

Mr. Spector said when the agency published the memo regarding this topic it was labeled that it was authored by EMS staff. Staff have not had an opportunity to vet this. I do not want there to be confusion that this was endorsed by staff.

Mr. Spector said a person that wishes to drive an ambulance must have a valid driver's license and must complete a drivers' course as determined by the ambulance service. He said that services must be staffed to meet statutory requirements. He said there is some regulatory concern for the state. The obligation of the agency is to protect the public.

Mr. Miller said a legislative proposal could be developed to create a driver credential with specific regulatory requirements. Dr. Burnett said there needs to be standards but not have this be as cumbersome as credentialing for other personnel. Dr. Burnett said he is looking for consensus and a motion. The committee discussed the issue and made this motion.

Motion: Dr. Stevens moved that MDSAC would direct staff to explore the options to support rural services and conduct a data dive to research what has had success in other states. MDSAC supports options for legislative and rulemaking language to facilitate a change. Dr. Hick seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Burnett asked for a staff report for the March Board meeting.

Request for Course Approval – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Advanced Cardiac Life Support

Dr. Burnett said Pacific Medical Training is asking for Board approval to provide CPR and ACLS training in the state. The committee is being asked to provide a recommendation to the Board. He said this company is accredited to provide CEUs in other states. Dr. Burnett said he reviewed the attachment provided in the committee packet.

Mr. Spector said state statute requires EMTs and AEMTs to complete a course in cardiopulmonary resuscitation as approved by the Board. Mr. Spector provided a list of approved programs.

Dr. Stevens asked if there would be any degradation by having an out-of-state company provide this training.

Motion: Dr. Hick moved approval of the course. Dr. Pate seconded. Motion carried.

Minnesota EMS Medical Directors Special Presentation

Dr. Burnett said the EMS Medical Director's Association is offering a webinar on Sunday, September 13, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. This is a free presentation but participation requires registration. This presentation is targeted for a Minnesota audience.

Dr. Burnett said the state trauma advisory committee met to discuss priorities. EMS is getting attention at this committee.

Dr. Tanghe represents the MDSAC on the POLST committee. The POLST committee is working on a new form that will be released in a year and they would welcome feedback from this committee. Dr. Tanghe said he would welcome discussion from committee members.

6. Minnesota NAEMSP Chapter Update

Dr. Simpson said this committee discusses issues on a national level. He encouraged members to attend the webinar on Sunday.

Dr. Clay Mann reported on a data collection tool in use by NEMSIS. There was no national reporting on PPE for pre-hospital care. He said EMS agencies can provide reports on shortages of PPE. This tool was developed to share COVID related exposures and PPE shortages. He explained how to complete reporting to this site. The request is for states to participate in this data collection process. Mr. Spector thanked Dr. Mann.

7. Executive Director Report – Tony Spector – 8:00 p.m.

Agency Report

Mr. Spector provided certification reports in the packet. He said staff are working on providing data for GIS mapping to provide multi-layered polygon PSA maps. This information will be available on the EMSRB website. Mr. Spector reported on the MNSTAR transition from version 2 to version 3. He said all but four ambulance services have a paradigm in place to transition. When all services have transitioned the server for version 2 will be turned off. The EMSRB will be phasing out the paper forms. Staff are working with services on this transition.

Mr. Spector said staff are waiting to hear about the extension of the Governor's Emergency Declaration and he will communicate this information to ambulance services.

Mr. Spector said the agency has been receiving data requests and is tracking these requests. Mr. Rogers completes many of the requests. The EMSRB is working with a vendor for tracking of data requests and this information will be shared when this is "go live".

Initial Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Certification/Renewal Based on National Registry Reciprocity

Mr. Spector said Minnesota statute allows certification for EMR's by two methods. The completion of a 40 hour course or by having National Registry certification as an EMR. Mr. Spector said renewal in Minnesota is only allowed by completing a 16 hour refresher course. He said he has received questions from individuals that have current National Registry as an EMR and are seeking renewal in Minnesota using their current National Registry certification. He said staff is seeking a recommendation on allowing renewal using current National Registry.

Motion: Dr. Pate moved to allow EMR renewal using current National Registry certification. Dr. Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

8. New Business – 8:25 p.m.

None.

9. Adjourn – 8:30 p.m.

Motion: Dr. Simpson moved to adjourn. Dr. Pate seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.