

**State Emergency Medical Services Board  
February 12, 2008  
Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq., Chairman; Victor A. Broccolino, Vice-Chairman; David Hexter, M.D.; E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D.; Sally Showalter; Eugene L. Worthington; Mary Alice Vanhoy, R.N.

**Board Members Absent:** Chief Scott Graham, Roger Simonds.

**Others Present:**

**MIEMSS:** Dr. Bass; Dr. Alcorta; Ms. Beachley; Mr. Brown; Mr. Dubansky; Ms. Fechter; Dr. Floccare; Ms. Gainer; Ms. Goff; Mr. Handley; Mr. Hurlock; Ms. Magee; Mr. Schaeffer; Mr. Seifarth; Mr. Slack; Mr. Young.

**OAG:** Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

**Maryland State Police Aviation Command:** Major A. J. McAndrew; Captain Cornwell.

**R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center:** Robbie Hartsock; Brenda Fosler Johnson; Jim Radcliff; John Spearman.

**Maryland State Fireman's Association:** President Sterling; First Vice President Underwood; Second Vice President Powell; Robert W. Jacobs, P.P.

**INTRODUCTION**

Chairman DeVries called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM.

**Action: Moved (Ms. Showalter), seconded (Ms. Vanhoy), passed unanimously to approve as written the minutes of the December 11, 2007, meeting of the State EMS Board and the January 8, 2008, Joint Meeting of the EMS Board and SEMSAC.**

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Ms. Gainer reported that the Senate and House hearings on the MIEMSS 2009 budget went smoothly with no budget cuts recommended by the Budget Analyst. Dr. Bass updated the Senate Finance Committee on February 6<sup>th</sup> on the status of the EMS Operations Fund. Current projections show the fund will be unable to meet expenses beginning as early as 2011 due in part to the failure of the registration surcharge fees to keep pace with inflation. There was a discussion at the Finance Committee of the reluctance to raise registration surcharge fees and the effect of cutting services. The

Finance Committee briefing also included an update on the commercial helicopter MOUs for scene work. The number of MOU flights increased slightly last year to 26.

House Bill 556 and Senate Bill 522 propose to add an MSP pilot and an additional public at large member to the EMS Board. Hearings are scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Senate Bill 810 proposes to require that an operator of a privately owned helicopter be reimbursed from the EMS Operations Fund for costs incurred in transporting individuals for emergency medical treatment. The Board discussed the likely impact of such payments on the Fund.

House Bill 1333 proposes that the Executive Director of MIEMSS be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor, instead of the current statutory requirement of appointment by the EMS Board with the approval of the Governor. There was discussion concerning how the current appointment process is consistent with other independent agencies.

There are several bills concerning automated external defibrillators. Senate Bill 570 proposes to remove existing barriers to participation in MIEMSS AED Program, e.g., removal of the \$25 registration fee. SB330 proposes to require AEDs at certain swimming pools; a recent study completed by MIEMSS for the Legislature identified such pools as being at relatively low risk for a cardiac arrest occurring at such a location. HB 1134 / Senate Bill 579 propose to increase the immunity available for AED use.

Two bills (SB 28 / HB 114), as well as MIEMSS budget language, propose to establish an All-Terrain Vehicle task force, to identify changes needed to make ATVs safer in Maryland.

Senator Middleton, working with the Maryland Health Care Commission, is expected to introduce legislation that will expand the eligibility for reimbursement from the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund and establish a grant process for equipment for Level II and Level III trauma centers.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Flu Season. Dr. Bass noted that this years flu vaccine turned out not to be a good fit for the virus which appeared. He reported that alerts are up and said the agency is considering whether a press release or hospital meeting is necessary.

EMS Week. EMS week will take place May 18<sup>th</sup> through May 24<sup>th</sup>.

EMS Summit. There was a productive "EMS Operation, EMS Educator, and EMS Medical Director Summit held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with over 200 attendees, including EMS operational program officials, lead EMS educational program officials, and 18 medical

directors. Several topics were discussed, including best practices for utilizing helicopter versus ground transport and the upcoming changes in EMS educational standards. These National EMS Education Standards are available for public comment and review. The National EMS Scope of Practice document which delineates the four levels of providers for the model EMS System and the role that both the CRT I-99 and AEMT may have in Maryland's system were discussed.

## **SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER REPORT**

Mr. Spearman distributed the written Shock Trauma Report to Board members. He noted that admissions and budget are slightly behind the previous year and that the budget is also running behind. Bed occupancy is lower than 2007, but still ahead of what is considered desirable.

The Shock Trauma Gala is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> and will feature suburban and rural cases emphasizing the Golden Hour.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Helicopter Update. Mr. DeVries reported that the Governor's budget included an allocation of approximately \$33 million for the acquisition of three replacement helicopters for MSP Aviation. The next step will be a request for information to refine data before a request for proposal is issued.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Action: Moved (Chief Worthington), seconded (Mr. Broccolino), passed unanimously to proceed to closed session with a return to open session to follow.**

The purpose of the closed session was to carry out administrative functions under State Government Article §10-502(b), consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on pending disciplinary actions under State Government Article §10-508(7), to consult with staff and counsel on pending litigation under State Government Article §10-508(8), to maintain certain records and information in confidence as required by Health Occupations Article §14-506 (b) and COMAR 30.08.02.05(B)(9) under State Government Article §10-508 (13) and to discuss matters under executive privilege.

The closed session was attended by the following:

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq., Chairman; Victor A. Broccolino, Vice-Chairman; David Hexter, M.D.; E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D.; Sally Showalter; Eugene L. Worthington; Mary Alice Vanhoy, R.N.

Others present: Mr. Schaefer, Ms. Beachley, Dr. Bailey, Dr. Alcorta, Ms. Sette, Mr. Magee.

Disciplinary cases, future budget options, matters covered by executive privilege, and confidential medical reviews of applicants for perinatal and primary stroke center designation were discussed.

## **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

Perinatal Designation. Ms. Bailey presented the Anne Arundel Medical Center for redesignation as a level IIIb perinatal center.

**Action: Moved (Ms. Vanhoy), seconded (Mr. Broccolino), passed unanimously to approve the re-designation of Anne Arundel Medical Center as Level IIIb perinatal center.**

Stroke Center Designation. Mr. Young presented Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for a one-year provisional primary stroke center designation.

**Action: Moved (Mr. Broccolino), seconded (Ms. Vanhoy), passed unanimously to approve Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for one year provisional status as a primary stroke center.**

Mr. Magee reviewed Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article § 3-8A-23, Effect of Adjudication and Disposition, and § 3-8A-27, Privacy of Records, which effectively prevent the EMS Board from considering in a disciplinary action the fact the provider or applicant has been adjudicated delinquent by a juvenile court for an act that would be a prohibited act if committed by an adult.

**Action: The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.**