

**State Emergency Medical Services Board
May 11, 2010
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Esq., Chairman; David Hexter, M.D.; Murray Kalish, M.D.; Robert Maloney; Dean Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D.; Sally Showalter; Mary Alice Van Hoy, R.N.; Dany Westerband, M.D.; Gene Worthington.

Board Members Absent: Vic Broccolino; David Fowler, M.D.

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Ms. Alban; Dr. Alcorta; Ms. Aycock; Mr. Balthis; Ms. Gainer; Ms. Beachley; Mr. Brown; Ms. Gilliam; Mr. Hurlock; Ms. Myers; Mr. New; Mr. Seifarth; Mr. Thompson; Ms. Wright Johnson.

OAG: Mr. Magee.

MSP Aviation Command: Lt. Walt Kerr; Jimmie Meurrens.

Maryland State Firemen's Association: President Roger Powell; First Vice Pres Doyle Cox; Second Vice President David Lewis.

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center: Jamie Huggins; Brenda Fosler Johnson; Jim Radcliffe.

SEIU: Andrew Tonelli

Mr. DeVries called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Dr. Kalish, which was seconded by Dr. Hexter, the Board approved the minutes of the April 13, 2010, meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Electronic Patient Care Reporting System. Dr. Bass reported that MIEMSS had announced its intent to award the contract for the new Electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) System to Image Trend. He said that the company's ePCR is used by EMS providers in more than 20 states and has an excellent track record. Dr. Bass thanked all providers who participated in all phases of the RFP development and technical evaluation. He said that the contract to purchase the Image Trend system would be considered by the Maryland Board of Public Works at its June 9th meeting.

50/50 Matching Grant Program. Dr. Bass said that MIEMSS has released the remainder of the monies from the 50/50 matching grant program that it was holding in abeyance until the costs of the ePCR were known. He said that MIEMSS has notified the entities eligible for the funds. He also said that those entities that have indicated they have a budget shortfall and are unable to provide the required match during this fiscal year will be on the priority list for funding in FY11.

Proposed Maryland Ambulance Information System Regulation. Dr. Bass reported that the proposed regulation regarding ambulance patient care reports and submission of patient care data to MIEMSS was published in the *Maryland Register* on April 9th. He said that MIEMSS is anticipating that implementation of the new ePCR system will be well underway before the regulation goes into effect.

Cardiac Interventional Centers. Dr. Bass said that the Cardiac Interventional Center Standards have been published in the *Maryland Register* as final regulations and that MIEMSS has initiated the steps necessary to begin the process to designate the centers. He said that MIEMSS will be participating in the May 22nd statewide conference sponsored by the American Heart Association, the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other key stakeholders. He said that MIEMSS will use the opportunity presented by the conference to kick-off implementation of a regional framework for coordination of STEMI issues and activities.

EMS Week. Dr. Bass said that the Stars of Life Awards will be held on May 20th at 10:30 a.m. at the Miller Senate Office Building. He said that the awards will be given during EMS Week (May 16-22) and invited all Board members to attend the awards ceremony.

Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Task Force. Dr. Bass reported that MIEMSS is working on a comprehensive plan to address the delivery of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest care that will be presented to the PAD Task Force in the near future. He said that the plan will include several additional components beyond public access defibrillation and that the Task Force will be expanded to include broader input and participation by stakeholders not currently represented.

STATEWIDE EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Kalish said that SEMSAC had met on May 6th. He said that SEMSAC approved changes to the Pediatric Medical Advisory Committee Bylaws that the Board will vote on at this meeting.

R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER

Ms. Johnson reported that patient admissions were 174 above the same period last year and that admissions were also higher than the number budgeted. She said that April 2010 bed occupancy was very similar to last April's, as were the number of operating room cases. She said there had been no capacity alerts during the month. She said that the ground-breaking ceremony for the Shock Trauma Center expansion would be held on Thursday, May 13th.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Gainer said that a status report regarding triage protocols, helicopter utilization and helicopter safety is due to the legislative budget committees by June 30th.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ambulance Safety. Dr. Bass briefed the Board on ambulance safety issues. He said that Maryland averaged 390 ambulance crashes per year in Maryland from 2006 – 2008, which was more than one per day. He said that while many of the crashes are minor, a crash that results in injury occurs about once every two weeks. He said that most incapacitating injuries occur in the rear compartment of the ambulance where providers are often unrestrained when treating patients. He noted that, historically, in over half of all crashes, the driver of the ambulance is found to be “at fault.” He discussed the factors that contribute to ambulance crashes: 1) low or inconsistent use of seat belts by EMS providers; 2) overuse of “lights and sirens;” 3) bad driving; 4) fatigue and distraction; 5) use of less experienced and younger drivers; 6) lack of EMS service safety procedures; and 7) poor ambulance vehicle design. Dr. Bass said that ambulance crash prevention strategies can be used to prevent such incidents.

Dr. Bass said that MIEMSS has been trying to draw attention to prevention of ambulance crashes through education at conferences and increased awareness. He said that MIEMSS will be including awareness and prevention information on its website and will continue to partner with career and volunteer services on this effort.

PEMAC Bylaw Revision. Ms. Wright-Johnson summarized the proposed revisions to the Bylaws of the Pediatric Medical Advisory Committee (PEMAC). She said that the Bylaws were last revised in 2004.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Ms. Showalter, which was seconded by Dr. Hexter, the Board approved the proposed revisions to the PEMAC Bylaws.

Maryland Traffic Records Assessment Report. Mr. New reported that on April 19th, a team from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration conducted a technical review of Maryland's traffic records system. He said that one component of this visit involved exploring how the prehospital patient care record and trauma records link to crash records. He said that the team looked at whether the prehospital care record contained the NEMSIS variables; availability, access, completeness and accuracy of data; and linkages to other data sets. He said that the Assessment Teams recommendations include use of mobile solutions to assist providers with data entry; using CAD data, especially for addresses and geographic information; continuing participation in CODES and data-sharing; and inclusion of vital statistics and injury prevention stakeholders in ongoing efforts.

Mr. Worthington presented Dr. Kalish with the pen that was used by Governor O'Malley to sign into law the bill that creates two new members of the SEMSAC.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Dr. Hexter, which was seconded by Dr. Westerband, the Board adjourned to Executive Session.

The purpose of the closed session was to carry out administrative functions under State Government Article §10-502(b), to obtain legal advice from counsel under State Government Article § 10-508 (a) (7) and to discuss certain site reviews and maintain certain records and information in confidence as required by Health Occupations Article §14-506 (b) under State Government Article § 10-508(a) (13).

The closed session was attended by:

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Esquire, Chair; Murray Kalish, M.D.; Mr. Robert Maloney; David Hexter, M.D.; Eugene L. Worthington; Mary Alice Van Hoy, R.N.; Sally Showalter; Dany Westerband, M.D.; Dean E. Albert Reece, M.D., PhD.

Board Members Absent: Victor A. Broccolino, Vice-Chair; David Fowler, M.D.

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Dr. Alcorta; Mr. Fiackos; Ms. Gainer; Ms Myers; Mr. Seifarth; Mr. Schaefer.

OAG: Mr. Magee.

The Board approved the closed session minutes from the April 2010 meeting.

The Board was provided information regarding medical transport quality assurance matters.

The Board was provided information on requests for approval of educational programs.

The Board considered appointments to the Statewide EMS Advisory Council.

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 11:03 a.m.

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Esquire, Chair; Murray Kalish, M.D.; Mr. Robert Maloney; David Hexter, M.D.; Eugene L. Worthington; Mary Alice Van Hoy, R.N.; Sally Showalter; Dany Westerband, M.D.

Board Members Absent: Victor A. Broccolino, Vice-Chair; David Fowler, M.D.; Dean E. Albert Reece, M.D., PhD.

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Dr. Alcorta; Mr. Fiackos; Ms. Gainer; Ms Myers; Mr. Seifarth; Mr. Schaefer.

OAG: Mr. Magee.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Ms. Van Hoy, which was seconded by Dr. Hexter, the Board approved the renewal Ocean City Fire Department EMS Refresher Education Program as an approved educational program for a period of five (5) years.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Ms. Van Hoy, which was seconded by Ms. Showalter, and with Mr. Maloney abstaining, the Board approved the Baltimore City Fire Department's ALS Education Program for a one-year provisional approval.