



State Emergency Medical Services Board
October 13, 2015
Minutes

State of Maryland

**Maryland
Institute for
Emergency Medical
Services Systems**

653 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21201-1536

*Larry Hogan
Governor*

*Donald L DeVries, Jr., Esq.
Chairman
Emergency Medical
Services Board*

*Kevin G. Seaman, MD
Executive Director*

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Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq., Chairman; Vic Broccolino, Vice-Chairman (phone); Roland Berg; Kyrle Preis; Dean E. Albert Reece, MD. (phone); Fred Cross; Mary Alice Vanhoy; Sherry Adams; Sally Showalter; David Hexter, M.D.; Dany Westerland, M.D.

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Seaman; Ms. Gainer; Ms. Abramson; Ms. Aycock; Mr. Balthis; Mr. Brown; Mr. Deckard; Dr. Floccare; Ms. Myers; Ms. Oliveira; Dr. Bailey; Ms. Gilliam; Mr. Reynolds; Mr. Deckard; Mr. Cantera; Ms. Goff.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette

MSPAC: Major Lioi; Captain Konold; Captain King

MSFA: President Roth

Mr. DeVries called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Berg, seconded by Dr. Hexter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2015, meeting of the State EMS Board, as written.

SEMSAC REPORT

Mr. Berg said that having no pressing business, the SEMSAC did not meet in September; therefore, no report.

MIEMSS REPORT

Chairman DeVries said at the last Board meeting, the transition to National Registry testing for initial certification of EMTs and EMRs was discussed. After the meeting, Dr. Seaman met with MSFA President Roth and MFRI Executive Director Edwards to discuss specifics regarding issues surrounding National Registry Testing. Chairman DeVries said that this issue is a significant challenge and the highest priority for the EMS system. He announced the formation of a committee to include members of the EMS Board, MFRI, MIEMSS, MSFA and educational institutions (academy and college) to look at ways to improve testing and pass rates for Maryland students with concrete, implementable solutions by the end of 2015.

Dr. Seaman said that assisting students regarding the National Registry EMT (NREMT) exam is of the highest priority for MIEMSS. At the meeting with Chairman DeVries, Mr. Edwards and Mr. Roth, it was determined that the primary focus would be on students who have completed and passed the EMT course and passed the EMT practical, but have yet to take the National Registry test (“limbo status”). Dr. Seaman said that the goals are to improve and streamline access to National Registry testing; increase the number of eligible candidates taking the National Registry test, and meet or exceed national first time pass rates for the National Registry exam. By the end of October, MIEMSS will assist in facilitating group testing, improve internal processing and determine the financial impact of “no-shows”. MIEMSS will be contacting the students in “limbo status and offering test registration scheduling assistance

Dr. Seaman said that MIEMSS had conducted a survey of students and results indicated that about one-third of students did not feel prepared to take the exam. Dr. Seaman said that, to date, 572 EMT students passed the National Registry test on the first attempt with 425 fails on the first attempt; this equates to a 57% pass rate on the first attempt. Dr. Seaman added that there is a huge variation in educational program pass rates: from 0% to 100%. He said that MIEMSS will be working with all educational programs to assure they have the content and tools needed to ensure student success. MIEMSS will also assist with development and dissemination of a test prep course for eligible students who have failed the test. MIEMSS has engaged educational programs to share test results and best practices. MIEMSS will be monitoring and reporting Educational Program pass rates to the EMS Board.

Mr. Cross asked for clarification on paying for a second test. Dr. Seaman said that MIEMSS will pay the NREMT testing fee for a subsequent NREMT test for EMT students who are affiliated and failed the NREMT, provided that the student successfully completes an approved Test Preparation Course (see below) or an approved remediation course. A discussion regarding prep tests, critical thinking skills, study skills, test taking skills and testing ensued.

Mr. DeVries added that the volunteers are critical partners and the backbone of the Maryland EMS system and workable solutions need to be implemented to resolve issues involving NREMT testing. Mr. DeVries asked President Roth to relay to the MSFA membership that the EMS Board is committed to addressing issues the transition to National Registry testing has caused.

President Roth said that second chance testing should be free to all EMT and EMR students. He said the “bottom line” is that students need to be properly trained and educated, pass the test and be out on the street serving the citizens of Maryland.

Dr. Westerband asked if MIEMS had researched the experience of other states with higher National Registry test pass rates to see how they accomplished the higher rates. Dr. Seaman said MIEMSS has reviewed many states had found they had had similar experiences with initially low pass rates in these states. He said that states saw an increase in pass rates after better preparing instructors and teaching critical thinking and test-taking strategies. Ms. Adams said since there is no entrance exam for EMT, as there is for Paramedics, it cannot be determined whether EMT students have the appropriate reading and math skills to be successful.

Chairman DeVries reiterated that issues regarding the transition to NREMT testing is the highest priority and the EMS Board intends to have solutions in place by the end of the year.

R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER – Ms. Carlson

Ms. Carlson submitted a written report to the EMS Board and said that patient volumes and inter-facility transfers are down slightly from last year. She said there has been a slow and steady decline of injury patients across the state, partly attributed to older vehicles being taken off the roads and replaced with newer, safer vehicles. Ms. Carlson added that STC has a very robust organ tissue transplant program and added that recent legislation added more opportunities for people to register as organ donors, such as when applying for a marriage license or when registering a will. Ms. Carlson also highlighted STCs global outreach, injury prevention and pre-hospital educational activities.

Dr. Westerband asked and Ms. Carlson agreed to put by-pass and capacity alert statistics back in the report.

Dr. Hexter asked for STC to investigate further the decline in injury admissions.

MSP AVIATION COMMAND UPDATE

Major Lioi reported that effective September 16, 2015 Lt. Col. Anthony Satchell was appointed Chief of the Field Operations Bureau and will be acquiring most of the functional units from the Special Operations which has been dissolved. Major Laura L. Herman was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, and was appointed Chief of the Support Services Bureau, which, through realignment, now includes the Aviation Command. Captain Steve Konold, a licensed pilot, now commands the Flight Operations Division of the MSPAC and will oversee all Helicopter Sections, the Fixed Wing Section, and the Training elements of the Command. Lieutenant Patrick King was promoted to Captain and has been appointed the Commander of the Support Operations Division of the MSPAC. Captain King, a licensed paramedic, will oversee Maintenance Operations, Materials, Procurement, Human Resources, and other support functions of the Command.

Major Lioi said the FAA Certification Team from the Baltimore Flight Standards District Office visited the Operational Control Center at SYSCOM. MSPAC also had their Part 135 contractual consultants present to answer questions and to assure adherence to the MSPAC Part 135 Operations Manual.

Construction has begun on the Flight Training Device (FTD), and delivery is tentatively scheduled for May 2016, with anticipated operation expected in by September 2016. Architectural drawings have been submitted and preliminary site visits have been completed for the building to house the FTD.

Master Services Agreements for the heavy maintenance on the AW-139s have been completed. MSPAC will be working with DBM on the bid preparation process.

Major Lioi reported that date for the public unveiling ceremony of the Trooper 2 Memorial is Friday, November 6, 2015, at 11:00 AM. Donations are still being sought for the Trooper 2 Memorial Fund. More information on the fund can be found on the MSPAC Facebook page or the Waldorf Fire Department website at: <http://www.waldorfvfd.com/maryland-state-trooper-2-memorial/>

The base of operations for Trooper #1 was discussed.

Mr. DeVries and the EMS Board members congratulated Captain King on his promotion.

MSFA UPDATE

President Roth asked that the pass/fail rate of EMR also be addressed by the EMS Board Committee on the National Registry testing issues.

President Roth added that the MSFA attended the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial over the weekend. President Obama was in attendance and took the time to shake every family member's hand of the fallen 87. The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial is held every year on the first weekend in October.

President Roth said the legislative committee of the MSFA has been working diligently to oppose the proposed "opt out" option to the residential sprinkler bill. The MSFA legislative reception is scheduled for January 16, 2016 in Annapolis.

President Roth added that the MSFA has written a letter of support for the Maryland Search and Rescue's (MSAR) application as an EMS Operational Program.

Chief Preis said most line of duty deaths are cardiac in nature and asked if the MSFA encourages member companies to require physicals for active duty members. President Roth said that MFRI offers physicals entry level firefighters whose companies do not have a program. Part of the SAFER grant is to provide individual member companies who apply with monies for physicals. President Roth added that the MSFA rejuvenated Safety Committee will be addressing cardiac and other health issues.

Chief Preis added with the Affordable Care Act, everyone should have insurance with and have physicals available to them.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeVries noted that it is Nurses Week and thanked all nurses for their service.

EMS Protocol Updates. Mr. Reynolds gave an overview of the proposed changes to the distributed 2016 Protocols. Proposed changes include the consolidation of pediatric age range recommendations, medication changes for adult and pediatrics, a return of spontaneous circulation protocol after cardiac arrest, an optional change in the dextrose treatment of adult diabetic patients, the addition of a ALS administered epinephrine drip (replacing the IV slow push) to adult anaphylaxis patients suffering from hypertension or impending respiratory failure and the removal of the medical consultation requirement when administering Narcan. This week, the American Heart Association will be distributing its 2015 guidelines; the Protocol Review Committee will be assessing these guidelines for any necessary changes to the 2016 Maryland Protocols. The proposed protocol changes will be presented to the EMS Board as an action item at the November meeting.

A discussion followed regarding the pilot ultrasound protocol in QAC and the fiscal impact of the recommended protocol changes.

Upon the motion of Ms. Vanhoy, seconded by Mr. Broccolino, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn to closed 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).

In Closed Session:

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq., Chairman; Vic Broccolino (phone); Vice-Chairman; Roland Berg; Kyrle Preis; Fred Cross; Mary Alice Vanhoy; Sherry Adams; Sally Showalter; David Hexter, M.D.; Dany Westerland, M.D.

Board Members Absent: Dean E. Albert Reece, MD

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Seaman; Ms. Gainer; Ms. Abramson; Ms. Aycock; Ms. Oliveira; Ms. Goff.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette

In closed session the Board:

1. Approved the closed session minutes of the September 8, 2015 Board meeting;
2. Reviewed EMS provider disciplinary actions;
3. Discussed commitment to facilitating transition to NREMT;
4. Discussed Protocol Review Committee Procedure and;
5. Considered a hospital Base Station re-designation.

The Board returned to open session.

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq., Chairman; Vic Broccolino, Vice-Chairman (phone); Roland Berg; Kyrle Preis; Fred Cross; Mary Alice Vanhoy; Sherry Adams Sally Showalter; David Hexter, M.D.; Dany Westerland, M.D.

Board Members Absent: Dean E. Albert Reece, MD

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OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette

Upon the motion of Mr. Berg, seconded by Dr. Hexter the Board voted unanimously to approve a 2 year provisional designation of Shady Grove Hospital as a Base Station.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned.