

SEMSAC Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2009

Members Present: George Delaplaine; Scott Haas; Carole Mays; Roger Simonds; Roland Berg; Steven Edwards; Wade Gaasch; Murray Kalish; AJ McAndrew; David Balthis; Jim Scheulen; David Crane; Jay Fowler; Kathryn Yamamoto; Melissa Meyers; Tom Scalea; John Spearman.

Members Absent: Wendell Baxter; Joe Brown; Jeffrey Fillmore; Sharon Henry; Denise Graham; Kathleen Grote; Zeina Khouri; Ronald Lipps; Kenneth May; Allen Walker; Charles Wills.

MIEMSS Staff Present: Dr. Robert Bass; Lisa Myers; Craig Coleman; Phil Hurlock; Rick Meighen; John Barto; Page Trissell; Beverly Sopp; Chris Handley; Mary Beachley; Aksa Nainan; William Thompson; William Seifarth; Michael Francischelli; Douglas Floccare; John New; Richard Alcorta; Barry Conte; Marie Warner; Jim Brown; Robert Dubansky.

OAG: E. Fremont Magee

MSFA: Frank Underwood

Shock Trauma: Robbi Hartsock; Jim Radcliffe; Jamie Higgins; Raimlindas Linevichus

Regional Affairs: Michael O'Connell

Executive Director's Report-Dr. Robert Bass

- ALS grant funding has been restored and is no longer in jeopardy.
- There have been three legislative briefings to date. The MSP fleet replacement is moving forward. The RFP has been released and a contract is anticipated to be awarded by summer if no problems arise. There is a bill that is anticipated to be introduced shortly that would restructure the EMS system and another that would make significant changes to the MSP aviation program.
- A special Helicopter Task Force has been created by Speaker Busch that will be studying various aspects of the EMS System including Helicopter Procurement, Medical Protocols and System Governance. The Chairman of the Task Force is Delegate John Bohanan.
- Major McAndrew indicated that MSP has sent a letter to DBM requesting funding approval for the purchase of recommended equipment under FAA 135.
- The SMART prepared Helicopter Base Assessment Report is expected to be released shortly and will include recommendations for the number of MSP Helicopter bases in Maryland.
- The Expert Panel which met in November 2008 is also expected to release its final report shortly.

- The NTSB is holding hearings this month in Washington, D.C. to study national helicopter crashes. There were reported to be 77 helicopter related deaths last year. The risk of death by occupation for EMS providers and pilots is now very high. NTSB is looking at safety requirements that should be in place for helicopter transports.
- The FAA is currently not requiring HEMS meet increased safety requirements but MSP is doing so voluntarily.
- A recent article in the Washington Post on Mass Casualty Triage was critical of Maryland's existing triage system. An alternate system was discussed in the article developed by "Think Sharp" which uses a scored system that adjusts for factors such as age. Individuals that have piloted the Think Sharp system reported it was not user friendly. MIEMSS is looking closely at the issue.

The November 2008 and January 2009 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

National Study Center-Dr. Scalea

- Candidates for the Director position have been forwarded to the Dean of the School of Medicine for consideration.
- NSC is anticipating \$3 million in new grant funds.

BLS Committee-William Seifarth

- The BLS committee is working on the EMT refresher curriculum. The curriculum is heavily focused on medical.

ALS Committee-Scott Haas

- The EMS Education Symposium was held on January 8, 2009 at Howard County Community College. Accreditation of paramedic programs was the focus.

EMD Committee-David Balthis

- The EMD committee met last month.
- There was \$25K set aside by the EMD Committee to use towards statewide educational initiatives including EMDs attending conferences, distributive learning via our LMS, and the instructors' corner. The remaining \$30 K has been distributed to jurisdictions as in the past.

Regional Affairs-Michael O'Connell

- Highway Safety Grant has been fully funded and each region is going to receive \$30,000.
- Some companies may have difficulty being able to participate in the matching grants program due to budget cuts.
- Winterfest was reported to be a success and have good attendance.
- There will be a statewide EMS Symposium May 14-17, 2009
- Pyramid will be held October 16-18, 2009.

Old Business

- William Seifarth provided an EMS Provider Status Report.

- Dr. Kalish requested SEMSAC members consider joining a committee if they have not done so already.
- EMS Data Update-A Power Point presentation was given by Chris Handley. The draft regulation was discussed and it was recommended that all grant funds be withheld from jurisdictions that are not in compliance with the data reporting requirements. The amount of time in which reports must be submitted to the hospital after the patient is delivered by EMS was discussed. There were concerns raised about the accuracy of data being reported after extended periods of time have lapsed. A motion was made by Chief Simonds (second by Dr. Crane) that the draft regulation would be revised so that it would require the record to be left at the hospital before the provider leaves the hospital except in exceptional cases. Mr. Fowler indicated that requirement would be impossible for commercial services to comply with. The motion to amend the draft regulation to require the record to be left at the hospital with the patient was approved.
- Medevac Data Update-A Power Point presentation with data since the Trooper 2 crash was presented by Chris Handley. MIEMSS is closely monitoring the utilization of helicopters for patient transport and will continue providing regular reports to SEMSAC.

New Business

- Electronic Mass Casualty Assessment and Planning Scenarios (EMCAPS)-Jim Scheulen

Mr. Scheulen provided a presentation on EMCAPS. EMCAPS makes national disaster scenarios scaleable. The resource is available free of charge at Hopkins-CEPAR.org. An article on EMCAPS is to be published in the Annals of Emergency Medicine in February 2009.

- Dr. Bass announced the resignation of Deputy Director Clay Stamp effective in March. Clay has accepted the position of Emergency Manager for Talbot County.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.