

SEMSAC Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2009

Members Present: D. Balthis; J. Fillmore; S. Edwards; AJ McAndrew; J. Brown; C. Mays; R. Simonds; K. Grote; R. Berg; S. Haas; K. Yamamoto; J. Fowler; M. Meyers; B. Johnson for J. Spearman; C. Wills.

Members Absent: M. Kalish; K. May; G. Delaplaine; D. Crane; A. Walker; W. Baxter; J. Scheulen; Denise Graham; R. Lipps; W. Gaasch; S. Henry; T. Scalea.

MIEMSS Staff Present: L. Myers; R. Bass; R. Alcorta; C. Hyzer; C. Coleman; R. Meighen; D. Kitis; L. Marshall; R. Dubansky; J. Donohue; B. Sopp; J. Barto; W. Seifarth; J. Davis; J. New; M. Francischelli; D. Floccare; B. Contee; P. Hurlock; J. Brown.

OAG: F. Magee

MSFA: F. Underwood; R. Powell; P. Sterling

Shock Trauma: Jim Radcliffe; Jamie Huggins

Regional Affairs: Michael FX O'Connell

MSP: Mike Gartland; Jimmie Meurrens.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. Vice Chairman Dave Balthis chaired the meeting in the absence of Dr. Kalish.

The February 5, 2009 meeting minutes could not be approved because there was not a quorum.

Executive Director's Report-Dr. Robert Bass

- A final legislative overview with the outcomes of EMS related legislation introduced during the 2009 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session was distributed.
- The STEMI regulations are going to be reviewed again and discussions will be resumed. A meeting is scheduled with the Maryland Chapter of the ACC in June.
- The application process for the vacant MIEMSS Deputy Director position has begun. Chris Handley also left MIEMSS but will continue to work with the National Study Center to support MIEMSS data analysis.
- Congratulations to Shock Trauma for a very successful gala.
- The new Region I Administrator, Dwayne Kitis was introduced.

- A plaque was presented to Mike FX O'Connell for chairing the Regional Affairs Committee the last several years. Roland Berg and Mike FX O'Connell will be cochairing Regional Affairs in the future.
- Southern Maryland Community College, a Pearson View testing facility, was recently reported to have had complaints related to irregularities during the administration of National Registry EMT P exams and is being shut down during an investigation. MIEMSS is monitoring if any Maryland providers may have been affected as well as Washington DC providers functioning in Maryland and will follow up with disciplinary measures if necessary.
- An issue with the Learning Management System has been identified and a workaround has been developed until a new system becomes available in July.
- EMS week is May 17-May 23, 2009. The EMS Star of Life Awards are Sunday May 17th @ 4pm.
- Several SEMSAC reappointments are in process and several more are coming up for reappointment.

There was no SEMSAC report.

There was no National Study Center report.

Committee Reports

BLS Committee-William Seifarth

- The next EMT-B refresher course is being developed and will focus on medical scenarios.

EMD Committee-William Seifarth

- The EMD Committee did not meet last month.
- The next meeting will be held in June or July 2009.
- There is an EMD conference coming up. It is a good opportunity for Continuing Ed and participation is being encouraged.

ALS Committee-Scott Haas

- The next ALS meeting is May 21, 2009. Education and Accreditation will be the main topics.

Regional Affairs-Mike FX O'Connell

- The last meeting was held by conference call on May 1, 2009.
- The status of the DHMH Bioterrorism grant was reviewed.
- Replacement of the MK1 kits was discussed.
- Existing grants are being closed out and the committee is beginning to prioritize needs for the upcoming grant year.

Old Business

- Mr. Seifarth provided and EMS Provider status update report. The total number of providers has declined by less than 200 and BLS & ALS testing have also increased.
- EMAIS® Update-John New and Bill Seifarth gave a Power Point presentation on EMAIS®. Currently, 17 jurisdictions, BWI and others are using EMAIS® 2.0. Many have indicated they want a better billing software system than EMAIS® 2.0 offers. Some jurisdictions are using different electronic reporting systems which make data collection more challenging. MIEMSS goal is to have all 2008 data by August 1, 2009. Jurisdictions will then be required to submit data monthly. Real-time submission to MIEMSS is ideal.
- An RFP is being prepared to obtain a replacement for EMAIS® 2.0. MIEMSS will be looking for an off the shelf product with some custom modifications rather than develop an in house replacement.
- FRED Upgrade-John Donohue explained that FRED and CHATS are being transitioned to HC Standard. This is the second phase of HC standard implementation. The upgraded version of FRED will include additional public health elements. CHATS is currently a labor intensive system for the EMRC operators. The upgraded version will allow hospitals to electronically make the alert request and EMRC will authorize. Hospitals will begin training during the summer and be able to begin self requests in the next few months.
- MedEvac Utilization-Dr. Bass gave a Power Point presentation that included updated data on the utilization of helicopters for transport since October, 2008.
- MSP Helicopter Replacement-Major McAndrew gave a Power Point Presentation on the status of the replacement of the existing MSP helicopter fleet. He indicated that the procurement process is underway and an amended RFP was issued on May 6, 2009. The final proposal is due June 26, 2009. Major McAndrew discussed several items of interest from the 2009 Maryland Legislative Session and the SMART Study that was completed and submitted during the Session. There are several reports MSP must complete and submit to the legislature during the upcoming year. MSP has applied to the Federal Aviation Administration for certification of MSP helicopter operations under the requirements of 14 CFR 135 which are applicable to civil commercial aircraft and are more stringent in certain areas than the requirements of 14 CFR 91 which are generally applicable to public aircraft. The Federal Aviation Administration has indicated that it now is reluctant to certify public aircraft under 14 CFR 135. MSP is pursuing the request.

New Business

▪ H1N1 Flu-Dr. Bass

The H1N1 flu was first reported by public health officials on April 25, 2009. H1N1 is reported to be a novel virus that has had high rates of death in Mexico. There is no vaccine available at this time. The CDC, state, and local health officials have

responded quickly and an operations center was set up at DHMH. MEMA was partially activated and MIEMSS also quickly engaged in the monitoring process. The number of cases is quickly increasing and data is changing rapidly. Because of the case fatality rate in the U.S. remaining low, DHMH has currently deactivated the operations center. The general consensus at this time among public health officials is that H1N1 is no more serious than seasonal flu, but they are continuing to watch it closely.

Information has been posted on the MIEMSS webpage for EMS providers. At this time, MIEMSS is recommending EMS providers continue to use Personnel Protective Equipment including the use of N-95 masks in lieu of ordinary surgical masks. Chief Simonds requested MIEMSS send a notice regarding the use of N-95 masks and PPE to state EMS officials to ensure they are aware of the recommendation. MIEMSS is having weekly teleconferences with the jurisdictions to provide information and updates as they become available. Maryland has 1.2 million doses of antiviral medications at this time.

- Dr. Bass was acknowledged for recently receiving The Distinguished Service Award from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine.
- Steve Edwards was acknowledged for recently receiving The Congressional Fire Services Institute's Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.