

State Emergency Medical Services Board
October 14, 2008

Meeting Agenda

- I. Call to Order – Chairman DeVries
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Executive Director’s Report
- IV. SEMSAC Report
- V. Shock Trauma Report
- VI. Legislative Report
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
 - Approval of Emergency EMS Protocol Changes-Dr. Bass-ACTION
 - EMS Data Issues-Dr. Bass-INFORMATION
- IX. Adjourn to Executive / Closed Session

**State Emergency Medical Services Board
October 14, 2008
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq., Chairman; Victor A. Broccolino; David Fowler, M.D.; Chief Scott Graham; David Hexter, M.D.; Dean E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D.; Sally Showalter; Roger Simonds; Mary Alice Van Hoy, R.N.; Eugene L. Worthington.

Board Members Absent: None.

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Ms. Alban; Dr. Alcorta; Ms. Beachley; Mr. Brown; Mr. Dubansky; Dr. Floccare; Ms. Gainer; Ms. Gilliam; Mr. Handley; Mr. Hurlock; Ms. Magee; Mr. New; Mr. Seifarth; Mr. Schaeffer; Mr. Slack.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

Maryland Fire Rescue Institute: Becky Spicer.

Maryland State Firemen's Association: President Frank Underwood; First Vice President Roger Powell; Second Vice President Doyle Cox.

Maryland State Police Aviation Command: Major A.J. McAndrews; Michael Gartland; Jimmie Meurrens.

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center: Brenda Fosler Johnson; Jaime Huggins.

INTRODUCTION

Chairman DeVries called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Mr. DeVries asked for a moment of silence for the victims and families of the crash of MSP Medevac Trooper 2.

Action: Moved (Chief Graham), seconded (Ms. Showalter), passed unanimously to approve as written the minutes of the September 9, 2008, meeting of the State EMS Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Bass said that there was no report for Open Session; rather, he would present several issues for Board consideration in Executive Session.

REPORT OF THE STATEWIDE EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Bass reported that SEMSAC had met on Thursday, September 2, 2008. He said that the meeting was devoted to discussion of the recent helicopter crash.

REPORT OF THE R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER

Mr. Fosler Johnson thanked Dr. Bass for participating in the recent press conference with Dr. Scalea regarding the crash of Trooper 2. She said that the thoughts and prayers of STC personnel were with the crash victims and their families. She provided the Shock Trauma Center Report to the Board. She said that admissions for the month were slightly ahead of the same period last year. He said that the beds occupancy rate was high at about 97%. She reported that the number of operating room cases were slightly ahead of the same period last year. She said that there had been one capacity alert during the month of July, but that no capacity alerts had occurred in August or September. She said that the STC was sponsoring a two-day conference on Special Topics in Trauma Care target to EMS and nursing.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Ms. Gainer said that there was no legislative report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Protocol Change. Dr. Bass told the Board that an emergency protocol change had been implemented as of 8 a.m. Thursday, October 9th, that required medical consultation with the receiving trauma center for helicopter dispatch for scene medevac requests for trauma patients with only Category “C” or Category “D” triage indicators. He reminded the Board that in July, a 30-minute rule had become effective that said that patients with a 30-minute drive time was having an impact, but that, generally, the mode of transport for Category “C” and “D” patients was unsettled. After the crash of Trooper 2, Dr. Bass said he had concluded that in order to give EMS providers / first responders at the incident site the opportunity to review the indications and potential benefits of helicopter transport with personnel at the receiving hospital prior to dispatch of a helicopter.

Dr. Bass said that he hoped to convene an Expert Panel who would review and make recommendations regarding the emergency medical protocols for the use of medevac transport of trauma patients from the scene of an incident. He said that the Panel would

consider the new consultation requirement and recommend whether it should be continued.

Upon the motion of Mr. Broccolino, which was seconded by Ms. Van Hoy, the Board approved the protocol change.

Dr. Hexter said that he thought the consultation requirement was an excellent modification. He asked whether it would result in an additional liability for the health care provider at the trauma center who provided the consultation. Ms. Sette said that existing Maryland law contained immunity provisions for physicians who provide such consultation and on-line support. Dr. Hexter asked whether such protections would extend to independent contractor physicians who provided the consultations.

Ms. Van Hoy said that she thought the consultation requirement could be a very positive change for providers and would help them work more closely with the consulting physician on how best to respond to the needs of the patient. Mr. Simonds said that it was important to keep in mind that ground transport to trauma centers was often problematic, particularly given rush-hour traffic problems in the metropolitan areas. He said that he was also concerned about hospital alerts since delays in ED treatment can result. Mr. DeVries said that the Expert Panel recommendations would be helpful in determining the long-term utility of the consultation requirement.

EMS Data Issues. Dr. Bass said that this issue would be deferred to another Board meeting. He indicated, however, that the question at issue was consideration what to do about EMAIS. He said that a number of jurisdictions had adopted EMAIS several years ago, but that now some jurisdictions were moving to other electronic data systems. As a result, there have been delays in electronic submission of data to MIEMSS, problems in translating data from other electronic systems into a format that MIEMSS can use, etc. He said he would ask the Board to consider whether to require electronic submission of data and, if so, what other elements would also be required, e.g., time requirements for submission, inclusion of specific data elements.

Mr. DeVries indicated that the Board would be adjourning to Executive Session and would likely reconvene into Open Session.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action: Moved (Mr. Broccolino), seconded (Ms. Van Hoy), passed unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session and, if needed, to reconvene in Open Session.

The purpose of the closed session was to carry out administrative functions under State Government Article §10-502(b), 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), to discuss personnel matters, to discuss disciplinary actions, 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; David Fowler, M.D.; Chief Scott Graham; David Hexter, M.D.; Dean E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D.; Sally Showalter; Roger Simonds; Mary Alice Van Hoy, R.N.; Eugene L. Worthington.

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Dr. Alcorta; Mr. Dubansky; Ms. Gainer; Mr. Schaeffer; Mr. Seifarth.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

MSP Aviation Command: Capt. Cornwell.

Matters discussed during Executive Session were those covered by executive privilege, disciplinary cases, and nomination of members to the Expert Panel, which was approved by acclamation.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned by acclamation.