

State Emergency Medical Services Board
November 13, 2012
Minutes

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Esq., Chair; Vic Broccolino, Vice Chair; Murray Kalish, M.D.; Sally Showalter; Gene Worthington; Mary Alice Vanhoy, R.N.; Robert Maloney; Dean Albert Reece, M.D. Ph.D. (by phone); David Hexter, M.D.

Board Members Absent: Sherry Adams; Dany Westerband, M.D.

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Mr. Brown; Ms. Goff; Ms. Wright-Johnson; Dr. Alcorta; Mr. Schaefer; Mr. Hurlock; Ms. Mays; Ms. Aycock; Mr. Balthis; Ms. Alban; Ms. Gilliam; Ms. Myers.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center: Ms. Huggins.

Maryland State Police Aviation Command: Major Gibbons; Mr. Lovejoy.

Maryland State Firemen's Association: Second Vice President Keller.

Mr. DeVries called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Dr. Kalish, which was seconded by Mr. Broccolino, the Board approved the minutes of the October 9, 2012, Board meeting.

SEMSAC Report: Dr. Kalish reported that the SEMSAC met on October 1, 2012, and approved the proposed 2013 EMS Protocols and the new JAC Officers. Dr. Kalish further stated that he and Roland Berg were re-elected as SEMSAC Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Executive Director's Report: Dr. Bass gave an overview of the EMS response to "Super Storm Sandy." He said that Crisfield, Maryland, had been hit hard, but there had been no hospital evacuations there and Western Maryland and Garrett County, in particular, had been hit very hard with blizzard conditions. He said that MIEMSS personnel along with Maryland Ambulance Strike Teams, which included commercial, volunteer and career ambulances (Baltimore City) and crews, were deployed to multiple locations in New Jersey and western Maryland.

eMEDS. Dr. Bass reported that after further review of possible use of “Field Bridge Express,” it was determined to be too costly at the present time.

Communications. Dr. Bass said that Region I (including Washington County) and Region IV have been transitioned to narrowband operation. MIEMSS Communications Engineering Services will be switching Region III to narrowband operation on November 14. He noted that these transition dates are firm as the FCC deadline to be operating in narrowband mode is January 1, 2013.

Cardiac Arrest. Dr. Bass reminded the Board that MIEMSS has created an out-of-hospital Cardiac Arrest Steering Committee to address multiple factors associated with sudden cardiac arrest, including 911 dispatch, pre-hospital provider treatment, community response, and data collection and reporting. The Committee, chaired by Dr. Kevin Seaman, is meeting at MIEMSS on a monthly basis. Subcommittees have been created to focus on the EMD, EMS, and Layperson components.

Legislative Report: Dr. Bass stated that the MEMSOF which supports various components of the statewide EMS system is projected to become insolvent in 2014. Consequently, the entities funded by the MEMSOF are working to develop a plan to ensure that MEMSOF remains solvent and able to provide the financial support needed by our EMS system. He said that the House EMS Workgroup will be meeting on December 13, 2012; agenda items include a briefing from legislative analysts on the MEMSOF and a briefing from MSPAC on progress toward FAA Part 135 certification.

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Report: Written report submitted.

MSP Aviation Update: Deputy Director Chris Lovejoy stated that the FAA ruled in MSP-Aviation’s favor regarding the training requirements for second pilots. As a result, he said that although MSP is still pursuing FAA Part 135 with two pilots, it will be able to operate as a public aircraft with one pilot.

Mr. Lovejoy gave an overview of the recent Search and Rescue Training with the LA Fire Department and upcoming trainings for the AW139.

MSFA Update: Second Vice President Dave Keller reported for President John Denver. He said that the MSFA Executive meeting in October had been changed to a one-day meeting due to “Super Storm Sandy.” Mr. Keller thanked everyone for their assistance during the storm and said that Crisfield was in need of cleaning supplies. He also reported that Past President Ed Preston passed away on October 29, 2012. Mr. Keller wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of JAC Officers: Mr. Hurlock, in accordance with JAC Bylaws, presented the names of Mike Deckard (Chair) and Christian Griffin (Vice Chair) to the EMS Board for approval.

Upon the motion of Ms. Vanhoy, which was seconded by Ms. Showalter, the Board approved the JAC Officers.

Protocol Updates: Dr. Alcorta submitted the protocol updates for approval, noting several changes specified in the accompanying “Summary of Changes.” Dr. Hexter commended the work of the Protocol Committee in addressing the issues in the current protocols. He asked who would sign the death certificate following pronouncement of death by an ALS provider. Dr. Alcorta said that the death certificate would be signed by the Medical Examiner.

Upon the motion of Dr. Kalish, which was seconded by Mr. Broccolino, the Board approved the Protocol Updates.

Maryland’s Medical Response after Super Storm Sandy: Mr. Donohue presented a timeline of Maryland’s response during the storm.

Super Storm Sandy hit the East Coast on October 29 and 30, 2012, resulting in flooding, destruction, and even severe snowstorms. The damage left in the wake was so severe that emergency responders and utility technicians from all over the country made their way to the hardest hit areas to assist in recovery efforts. Maryland providers were among those that helped organize and deploy to help. Maryland providers responded to Western Maryland, New Jersey, and New York. He highlighted for the Board the EMS deployments and recovery efforts.

October 29, 2012. MIEMSS organized an ambulance strike team to support Search and Rescue operations in Crisfield, Maryland as heavy flooding impacted local residents with medical needs. Seven ambulances from Wicomico, Worcester, Dorchester, and Somerset Counties were made available for transport. Ten residents with special medical needs were safely transported to local hospitals.

October 31, 2012. MIEMSS received a request from the State of New Jersey for ambulance strike teams to assist in recovery efforts. Two ambulance strike teams, with an overall Task Force coordinator, were staffed, equipped, and supplied through a coordinated effort by MIEMSS, Baltimore City Fire Department, Washington County Department of Emergency Services, Talbot County Emergency

Services, and LifeStar Response, a commercial ambulance company. They were assigned to various emergency response tasks such as patient evacuations, repatriations, and assisting with 9-1-1 emergency responses.

November 1-2, 2012. As the water surges were hitting Maryland's Eastern Shore, several inches of snow closed down parts of Western Maryland prompting a request for assistance from Garrett County Emergency Management. The response group, coordinated by MIEMSS, was inserted into Task Forces consisting of local and State law enforcement and emergency responder personnel. Charles County Emergency Services, Washington County Department of Emergency Services, Harford County Emergency Services, and commercial ambulance companies LifeStar Response, Butler Medical Transport, and Transcare Maryland, supplied EMS providers and ambulances. A group of 39 EMS providers, with a fleet of 16 ambulances and one supervisor vehicle, responded to the recovery efforts and were assigned to various emergency response tasks, including assisting with search and rescue missions and 9-1-1 responses, patient evacuations, and wellness checks on citizens.

November 3, 2012. About 50 Maryland healthcare professionals who are members of the Maryland Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) were deployed to Brooklyn, New York, to assist survivors of Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey. The Maryland DMAT was one of 18 teams from around the country who were deployed. These individuals included doctors, nurses, paramedics, and logistics professionals. They were assigned to work in Federal Medical Shelter Operations and Special Need Centers in Manhattan; build and staff Federal Medical Stations; support Emergency Departments in hospitals that were able to open; staffed a mobile hospital in the Rockaways section of New York City; and set up a mobile hospital in New Jersey to help support special need and sub-acute patients.

November 5, 2012. A team of 12 emergency management professionals from the Baltimore region traveled to New Jersey to help coordinate EMS response in that state. Two six-person Incident Management Teams (IMTs) were formed to assist with resource management; providing tracking and accountability of personnel, assets, and requests for aid. The Baltimore Regional IMT included staff from MIEMSS, Baltimore City, and Anne Arundel and Howard Counties. The IMT worked with New Jersey Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) personnel to assist with the coordination of EMS resources from many different areas, communicate with EMS field units, and plan for future needs and operations.

November 7, 2012. An additional ambulance strike team (six medic units, one supervisor, and one representative from MIEMSS) made up of staff and vehicles from Baltimore City Fire Department, Charles County Emergency Services, Queen Anne's County Emergency Services, and commercial ambulance companies Transcare and Lifestar Response, left to assist in New Jersey.

All Maryland personnel and equipment have returned. Mr. Donohue thanked all Maryland responders who worked so diligently both here in Maryland and those who went to assist others. Dr. Bass suggested a recognition event for EMS responders. Mr. DeVries thanked all those at MIEMSS and in the field who responded.

OLD BUSINESS

Pediatric Readiness Project: Ms. Wright-Johnson said that Maryland began participation in the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP - www.pediatricreadiness.org) on November 1, 2012, as a part of the national field test of the project along with Minnesota and Guam. She said that the NPRP is a nationwide online quality assessment of over 5000 hospitals with Emergency Departments that will provide a benchmark of how prepared EDs are to care for children on a daily basis. She noted that the online assessment is voluntary and confidential; the score for each hospital will be accessible only to that hospital and the aggregate score for each state and the national averages will be on the NPRP website (listed above).

She said that Maryland was selected to participate in a pilot of the Program because of our size and number of hospitals, our proximity to the federal HRSA EMSC program, and the fact that we have a military hospital in the state. She noted that while Maryland's official launch was 11/1/2012, efforts did not commence until several days after that because of Super Storm Sandy. She said that the initial Maryland hospital participation rate is 12% after only 5 days and that the goal is 100 % participation in Maryland. Ms. Wright-Johnson noted that state averages should be available in February 2013.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Dr. Kalish, which was seconded by Ms. Vanhoy, 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, Esq., Chairman; Vic Broccolino; David Hexter, M.D.; Murray Kalish, M.D.; Dean Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D. (by phone); Sally Showalter; Gene Worthington; Robert Maloney; Mary Alice Vanhoy, R.N.

Board Members Absent: Sherry Adams; Dany Westerband, M.D.

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Ms. Abramson; Ms. Goff; Ms. Oliveira; Mr. Fiackos; Mr. Schafer.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

MSP: Major Gibbons; Chris Lovejoy, Deputy Director.

The Board approved the closed session minutes from the October 13, 2012, meeting.

The Board discussed proposed budget items for FY2013 and FY2014.

The Board was provided information regarding various EMS provider education programs.

The Board considered provider disciplinary cases.

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

Board Members Present: Donald L. DeVries, Esq., Chairman; Vic Broccolino; David Hexter, M.D.; Robert Maloney; Sally Showalter; Mary Alice Van Hoy, R.N.; Dany Westerband, M.D.; Gene Worthington.

Board Members Absent: Sherry Adams; Dany Westerband, MD; Dean Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D.; Murray Kalish, M.D.

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Dr. Alcorta; Ms. Goff.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Ms. Vanhoy, which was seconded by Mr. Broccolino, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Baltimore City Fire Department BLS Education Program and ALS Refresher Education program on a one year provisional basis. Mr. Maloney abstained from the vote. Mr. Maloney abstained from the vote.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Ms. Vanhoy, which was seconded by Ms. Showalter, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Wisp Ski Patrol BLS Education Program for Emergency Medical Responder training for a period of five years.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Ms. Vanhoy, which was seconded by Ms. Showalter, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following law enforcement agency Emergency Medical Responder Education Programs for a period of five years:

McDaniel College Police

Westminster Police Department

Metro Transit Police Academy

ACTION: Upon the motion of Mr. Worthington, which was seconded by Ms. Showalter, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Talbot County ALS and BLS Refresher Education Programs for a period of five years. Ms. Vanhoy abstained from the vote.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.