

State Emergency Medical Services Board
December 17, 2015
Minutes

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

Others Present:

MIEMSS: Dr. Seaman (by phone); Pat Gainer (by phone); Mr. Brown

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette

Chairman DeVries reported that the EMS Board Committee on National Registry Testing for Basic Life Support Providers met on December 17, 2015. The Committee considered a means to lessen the impact of the transition to testing by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) which is delaying certification of students as emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and is reducing the cadre of emergency medical services (EMS) providers available to provide prehospital services to the citizens of Maryland.

The Committee concluded that those students who passed all modules of the EMT course between October 1, 2014, and September 15, 2015, (Cohort One), and completed the EMT practical exam, had demonstrated proficiency in EMS skills that would allow them to provide EMS at the emergency medical responder (EMR) level. The Committee therefore recommended that the EMS Board consider certifying that group of students, provided they were otherwise eligible for certification, as EMRs pending testing or retesting for EMT with NREMT as a means of allowing them to practice EMS at the EMR level and providing needed EMS services to Maryland citizens.

A second recommendation of the Committee was to consider a bridge course from EMR to EMT in Maryland which would facilitate EMT certification by establishing a two-step process which would reduce the impact of the 165 plus hours of education currently required for EMT certification.

Chairman DeVries noted the first remedial EMT course for Cohort One students was attended by 26 students last night in Cecil County.

Chairmen DeVries stated that the details of any EMR to EMT bridge course would need to be decided at a later date.

The Board noted that an EMR may not be the primary EMS provider on a transport, that certain jurisdictions do not include EMRs in their organizational structure, and that some jurisdictions limit the time during which a provider can remain with the jurisdiction at an EMR level unless the provider progresses to EMT with a certain period.

Dr. Seaman stated that while an EMR may not perform all of functions that an EMT is authorized to perform, an EMR is able to respond with critical life saving skills such as securing the airway, providing CPR, managing bleeding, and providing oxygen until more detailed treatment and transport is available.

Ms. Sette and Mr. Magee advised the proposed procedure for EMR certification was consistent with the current Education Article §13-156 regarding on EMR certification if the Board approved the measure.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Dr. Reese, seconded by Dr. Westerband, the Board voted unanimously: (1) to certify as Emergency Medical Responders those students who passed all modules of an EMT course approved by the EMS Board between October 1, 2014, and September 15, 2015, and who have successfully completed the EMT practical exam, and who are otherwise eligible for EMR certification, but have not yet passed the NREMT EMT certification exam; and (2) to address at a future date the institution of a bridge course that would provide for transition from EMR to EMT.