

**Emergency Medical Services Board
February 10, 2009
Minutes**

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

Others Present

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Ms. Beachley; Mr. Brown; Mr. Davis; Mr. Dubansky; Dr. Floccare; Mr. Handley; Mr. Hurlock; Ms. Magee; Ms. Myers; Mr. Schaefer; Mr. Seifarth; Mr. Slack; Mr. Coleman; Mr. New; Mr. Marshall; Mr. Fiakos; Ms. Fechter.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

Maryland State Police Aviation Command: Captain Cornwell; Jimmie Meurens.

R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center: Jim Radcliffe.

MSFA: Mr. Underwood; Mr. Powell.

INTRODUCTION

Chairman DeVries called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. He welcomed Dr. Kalish to his first Board meeting.

Minutes: Chief Graham asked that his name be added to list of attendees, by telephone, to the January 9, 2009 meeting

Action: Moved (Mr. Broccolino), seconded (Dr. Fowler), passed unanimously to approve as written the minutes of the Board's December 9, 2008 and, as amended by Chief Graham, the minutes of the January 9, 2009 joint meeting of the State EMS Board and SEMSAC.

REPORT OF THE STATEWIDE EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Kalish reported that the Council's new committee membership and chairmen were being finalized. He reported on discussions at the SEMSAC meeting related to the timely submission of MAIS and EMAIS reports. Understanding that it is not always possible, the goal should be to leave the information at the hospital before the EMS unit leaves the hospital.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Bass reported that the final report of the Expert Panel was near completion. One chapter is outstanding. When the report is completed, it will be circulated to the Board. If there is no Executive Summary, the staff will develop one.

REPORT OF THE RADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER

Mr. Radcliffe distributed the Center's report. The Board took several moments to review the report and there were no comments or questions.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mr. DeVries reported that several bills of interest were being introduced. SB 649 introduced by Senator Pipkin would provide payment from the EMSOF to private helicopter carriers for emergency transports. SB 650, introduced by Senators Pipkin and Astle, would provide for the development of an RFP process to solicit bids for the provision of Medevac services in Maryland; law enforcement, search and rescue and homeland security missions would be flown by a fleet of 4 helicopters operated by the Maryland State Police. Another bill is expected that would establish a state Department of Emergency Medical Services, combining several EMS agencies including MIEMSS, MFRI and MEMA into one cabinet-level department; it also expected to propose the abolition of the EMS Board. The actual bill is not yet available. Another bill has been introduced to add an MSP Medevac pilot and an at-large member to the EMS Board. Also, a bill has been introduced that would make several Level III hospitals eligible for funding from the Trauma Physicians Fund. A bill has also been introduced to define a role for the EMS Board in establishing ATV training and safety standards.

Dr. Bass reported that the Speaker of the House has named a committee, split into three subgroups, to look at EMS issues; one would focus on helicopter procurement, one on medical protocols, and one to study system governance. Action on the Senate side is being driven by bills related to governance and Medevac services as described above.

NEW BUSINESS

Data Issues- Chris Handley provided an update on the status of the various systems being utilized to capture EMS data as well as an update on the pending re-write / upgrade of the EMAIS system. A number of jurisdictions are behind in their submission of data with exact timeframes discussed. This issue, along with other issues related to EMS data systems, led to a discussion of the draft EMS data regulation.

Ms. Van Hoy noted the importance of receiving timely information for patient care and indicated that there are many instances where she has to call companies for the information. Chief Graham emphasized the importance of contemporaneously putting down patient information; he acknowledged that sometimes it is 3-4 days before reports are submitted because of shift schedules. He suggested wireless communications to submit reports in an easier fashion. Mr. Underwater noted that companies in some jurisdictions need to get their providers back into service quickly for other calls, and suggested that ambulances be equipped with computers. Mr. Powell raised the possibility of voice-activated software. Dr. Floccare noted that the need of the Medevac fleet to respond to other calls or get back to refuel in preparation for other missions often means that patient care information cannot be provided right away. He also mentioned the need for 12-lead strips to become part of the EMAIS record.

Medevac data: Mr. Handley presented updated numbers from SYSCOM regarding requests for Medevacs. The decline in Medevac requests was first noted in FY 2008 after protocol changes related to drive times. The decline increased after the Medevac crash once the consultation protocol was put into place. Ensuing discussions centered on outcomes of patients diverted to local ED's. It was requested that MIEMSS engage the ED Base Station coordinators to assist in this regard. It was also requested that more formal statistical analyses be utilized to examine for trends within the request data. Dr. Reese asked that follow-up data be carefully studied to determine whether patients were going to the proper facility for these injuries.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendment to Licensure and Certification regulations: Ms. Sette noted that the regulations were published in the Maryland Register and that no comments were offered.
Action: Moved (Mr. Broccolino), seconded (Chief Graham) and approved unanimously for the final approval of the regulations.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action: Moved (Mr. Broccolino), seconded (Ms. Showalter), and passed unanimously to proceed to closed session with a return to open session to follow.

The purpose of the closed session was to carry out administrative functions under State Government Article §10-502(b), consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on pending disciplinary actions under State Government Article §10-508(7), to consult with staff and counsel on pending litigation under State Government Article §10-508(8), 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) and to discuss matters under executive privilege.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

Board Members Absent: Victor A. Broccolino; David Fowler, M.D.;

Action: Moved (Ms. Van Hoy), seconded (Dr. Reese), and passed unanimously to approve the Charles County Advanced Life Support Education Program by extending the original provisional approval to the remainder of a full five year term.

Action: Moved (Chief Graham), seconded (Ms. Showalter), and passed unanimously to approve the Union Memorial Hospital Curtis National Hand Center as a hand and upper extremity trauma center under COMAR 30.08.14 for a full five-year term.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.