

Emergency Medical Services Board
March 9, 2010
Minutes

Board Members Present: Donald DeVries, Chairman; Victor A. Broccolino, Vice-Chairman; David Hexter, M.D.; Murray Kalish, M.D.; Mary Alice Van Hoy, R.N.; Eugene L. Worthington; Dean E. Albert Reece, M.D., PhD.; Dr. Dany Westerband; Lt. Robert Maloney.

Board Members Absent: Sally Showalter

Others Present

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Ms. Alban; Ms. Beachley; Mr. Brown; Mr. Dubansky; Dr. Floccare; Ms. Myers; Mr. Hurlock; Mr. Schaefer; Mr. Seifarth; Ms. Gilliam; Anna Aycock; Mr. New; Mr. Balthis.

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

Maryland State Police Aviation Command: Jimmie Meurrens.

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

MSFA: Mr. Powell; Mr. Cox; Mr. Lewis.

INTRODUCTION

Chairman DeVries called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Action: Moved (Ms. Van Hoy), seconded (Dr. Hexter), and passed unanimously that the minutes of the December Board open meeting be approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Legislature. Dr. Bass reported that MIEMSS two budget hearings went well. The budget continues to be flat, with no new programs. Representatives of the entities supported by the MEMSOF testified in the Senate on the importance of the Fund and that the stability of the Fund needs to be a topic in the next legislative session as current projections have the Fund going into a negative balance in FY 2013. The same group will appear before the House side on Wednesday.

Dr. Bass provided an overview of legislation of interest to EMS.

H1N1. Dr. Bass reported that the second wave of the H1N1 flu virus appears over. The February snows have been a greater issue. Dr. Bass thanked EMS providers and MIEMSS staff who served at the MEMA EOC and at EMRC/SYSCOM during these conditions.

New Electronic Patient Care Reporting System. Dr. Bass reported that the RFP for the new electronic patient care reporting system is on the street. A pre-bid conference has been held. Bids are due in about 2 weeks, and a contract should be awarded in April or May. At that point, a decision will be made as to whether a portion of the funds for matching grants will be needed to support the project. To the extent they are not needed, the funds will be quickly released. To the extent they are needed, those jurisdictions that do not receive what they anticipated in 2010 will be first in line in FY 2011 and need not reapply.

Alerts. Dr. Bass reported that red alerts have gone down for two consecutive years, and turnaround times at emergency departments have been improving over the same period. However, the challenges of hospital overcrowding have not resolved and must continue to be monitored.

AED Task Force. The AED Task Force has been reconvened to establish recommendations for an integrated, coordinated approach to address many components of sudden cardiac arrest in Maryland.

EMS Today. Dr. Bass reported that EMS Today held a well-attended conference in Baltimore last week and that EMS Week will be held May 16-22. He urged everyone in attendance to consider Stars of Life nominations.

REPORT OF THE STATEWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. Kalish reported that SEMSAC approved the Volunteer Ambulance Inspection Program with one alteration which has been adopted in the version being provided to the EMS Board.

REPORT OF THE R ADAMS COWLEY SHOCK TRAUMA CENTER

Brenda Fosler reported that Shock Trauma Center admissions for the last two months were ahead of last year and above budget. She said that bed occupancy and OR cases were also higher than last year in the same period of time. There were no capacity alerts. The “slower” season is now passing and increases are expected in the upcoming months. The Center has been busy with education programs and is nearing the night of the Gala, April 24, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Volunteer Ambulance Inspection Program. Ms. Chervon noted that the program is reviewed every two years with input from the EMS community. She asked for approval of the revised program. **Dr. Kalish moved, seconded by Mr. Broccolino, that the revised VAIP program be approved. The motion passed.**

Proposed Changes to EMT Testing and Certification: Mr. Seifarth provided an overview of the direction of EMS training in Maryland. Maryland continues to implement the National EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach, specifically the EMS Education Standards. The education standards outline the terminal objectives and subjects to which each level of EMS provider is to be instructed. ALS education programs will have no significant challenge with implementing the new education standards. However, those programs offering paramedic must gain national accreditation by January 1, 2013. Education programs instructing EMT will need to have instructors updated to the content of the new standards prior to implementing them. MIEMSS is working collaboratively with education programs to have regional updates so that instructors can receive the information on teaching to the new standards. The updates will be local or regional and will take place before the 2012 projected implementation of the education standards.

In addition to the education standards, MIEMSS is considering using NREMT for initial testing of EMTs. This will allow for a more precise measurement of entry-level EMTs and will better align Maryland with the EMS Education Agenda for the Future and other states in the country. MIEMSS is also considering the issues associated with the costs of the testing and the need to work with the NREMT to increase the locations of exam sites throughout Maryland. More information on this consideration will be shared in the coming months.

EMTs can currently renew their Maryland EMT by completing a 24-hour refresher or a 12-hour skills class and 12-hours of continuing education. In addition to keeping these options to renew EMTs' certifications, MIEMSS is also proposing a regulation change to expand the renewal options available to EMTs. The first new option allows for an EMT who is a current and actively registered NREMT-EMT to have his Maryland EMT certification renewed without having to replicate the Maryland courses. The second new renewal option proposed allows EMTs to renew their certification by completing 12-hours of continuing education, which can be completed online, and passing a competency-based skills test. The skills test evaluates continued

competency with core EMT skills through the use of scenarios. Should the student fail the competency evaluation, he / she would be required to take the full 12-hour skills course in order to be eligible for renewal. These proposals ensure continued competency, thus protecting the public, and also save money to the State and local levels.

Action: Moved (Dr. Reece), seconded (Dr. Fowler), and passed unanimously to adjourn to Closed 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, Esquire, Chair; Victor A. Broccolino, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Robert Maloney; David Hexter, M.D.; Murray Kalish, M.D.; Mary Alice Van Hoy, R.N.; Eugene L. Worthington; Dean E. Albert Reece, M.D., Ph.D.; Dany Westerband, M.D.; David Fowler, M.D.

Board Members Absent: Sally Showalter

Others Present

MIEMSS: Dr. Bass; Mr. Dubansky; Mr. Schaefer; Ms. Myers; Dr. Alcorta

OAG: Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette.

The Board approved the minutes of the December meeting's closed sessions,

The Board reviewed and took action on pending disciplinary cases.

The Board was provided information on requests for approval of education programs.

The Board was provided information on the stroke center designations.

The Board appointed SEMSAC members to represent Regions I, II and III Emergency Medical Services Councils, the Regional Medical Directors and the Emergency Nurses Association subject to approval by the Governor.

The Board reconvened into Open Session at 11:40.

EMS Refresher Education Programs. Mr. Seifarth requested approval for the following EMS refresher education programs under COMAR 30.02.02.07:

University of Maryland-Express Care
All-American Ambulance
MSP-Aviation Command

Ms. Van Hoy moved and the motion was seconded by Dr. Westerband to approve the programs. The motion passed.

Primary Stroke Center. Ms. Aycock reported that Civista Hospital had effectively responded to four findings that resulted in a provisional designation in 2008. The hospital is now in substantial compliance and she asked that they receive a five-year designation. **Dr. Fowler moved, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Worthington, to approve the five-year designation. The motion passed.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.