

**STATE OF MARYLAND**

**STATEWIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

May 1, 2008

**SEMSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Balthis; Wendell Baxter; Joe Brown; David Crane; George Delaplaine; Steve Edwards; Jeffrey Fillmore; Wade Gaasch; Scott Haas; A.J. McAndrew; Murray Kalish; Zeina Khouri; Melissa Meyers; Jim Scheulen; Roland Berg; Kathryn Yamamoto; Jim Pixton for Jay Fowler.

**SEMSAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Spearman; Sharon Henry; Denise Graham; Kathleen Grote; Ronald Lipps; Thomas Scalea; Kenneth May; Roger Simonds; Carol Mays; Allen Walker; Charles Wills.

**MIEMSS STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Robert Bass; Lisa Myers; Phil Hurlock; Joe Davis; Chris Handley; Rene Fechter; Chris Hyzer; Pat Gainer; Robert Dubansky; William Seifarth; Barry Conte.

**OAG:** E. Fremont Magee.

**SHOCK TRAUMA STAFF:** Robbi Hartsock.

**MSFA:** Frank Underwood.

**Anne Arundel County Fire Department:** Chief Michael F.X. O'Connell.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by Vice Chair Murray Kalish. Melissa Meyers was introduced as the new Trauma Net Representative for SEMSAC.

**Executive Director's Report-Dr. Robert Bass**

- Dr. Bass reported the Education Agenda is on target for final draft submission to NHTSA in August 2008 with anticipated implementation by January 2009. We are trying to limit EMT to 150 hours training. We would like for EMT-I to continue but will need to be discussed with the Atlantic Council. A paramedic assistant module is being considered. Advanced EMT will not be an option.
- MIEMSS is continuing to move forward with development of STEMI center designation regulations. The draft regs will be presented to hospitals at a MHA meeting on May 7, 2008 and then will be circulated to SEMSAC for comment at next month's meeting.
- EMS week is May 18-24, 2008. No date has been set yet for the awards ceremony. There will be a memorial bike ride on May 19 at 6 p.m. in Annapolis.
- MIEMSS is working with the Law Enforcement Training Commission in Maryland on developing a unique curriculum for Law Enforcement Officers who

- have been using the First Responder Curriculum in the past but feel it does not meet their needs. There is national interest in such a unique curriculum for LEOs. Mr. Edwards expressed concern over officers being dispatched without adequate training to respond to a medical emergency. Police officers are not dispatched to medical emergencies but often do respond and administer first aid which does not require First Responder certification. A draft will be presented to SEMSAC for review upon completion of a summer pilot.
- A handout of 2008 Maryland General Assembly bills of interest was distributed and an overview of several bill was given by Dr. Bass. A couple of highlights included the passage of the MIEMSS AED bill, the creation of an ATV Task Force that will be staffed by MIEMSS, and the Maryland Trauma Physician Services Fund-Reimbursement and Grants expansion bill.
  - Approval to proceed with the RFI and RFP for the helicopter replacements has been given, however the funding source is not clear. There is some discussion about evaluating a Service Life Extension Program (SLEP) as an alternative to fleet replacement after a site visit to the Coast Guard in Elizabeth City with Jim Haley and Major McAndrew. Responses to the RFI are expected back by June 1, 2008. The Helicopter Replacement Committee will be meeting before the May EMS Board meeting at MIEMSS. Interested SEMSAC members are welcome to attend.
  - MEMSOF currently has a fund life expectancy until 2011 and solutions will be required to prolong the viability of the fund. To help prolong the fund viability, Shock Trauma capital funds designated for equipment replacement and upgrades were shifted from MEMSOF to general obligation bond capital program for fiscal 2009, 2010, and 2011. The shift is projected to help to provide sustainability of the fund until 2014.
  - An April 2008 ACEP Task Force Report on Emergency Department Crowding was distributed for information.

### **SEMSAC Chairman's Report-No Report**

**A motion was made (G. Delaplaine) and seconded (J Scheulen) to approve the February 7, 2008 meeting minutes which were approved unanimously.**

### **National Study Center-No Report**

#### **BLS Committee-William Seifarth**

- The BLS Committee met today and reviewed a photo shoot of lower extremity injuries. There will be a preview of the photos at the MSFA convention in June.
- MIEMSS will be rewriting the MPPR and is gathering feedback from jurisdictions and educational programs. Upon completion various reports will be available to jurisdictions.
- Version 3.0 of the Education Standards is out and comment is being sought by the ALS and BLS committees. A state level meeting is being coordinated by MIEMSS on May 19. Individuals not able to attend may participate via conference call.

### **Education Agenda-William Seifarth**

- Comments are due back to National by June 1, 2008

### **ALS Committee-Scott Haas**

- The ALS committee met and focused on the Simulation Technology Committee work. ALS committee would like to reassure SEMSAC that the Simulation Technology Committee is on the right track and that state needs are being addressed.

### **Regional Affairs-Chief Michael FX O'Connell**

- Today's meeting was cancelled. Next meeting to be held on May 14, 2008 following JAC.
- Will review Bioterrorism and ALS grants at the May 14 meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### **EMS Provider Status Report-William Seifarth**

An updated provider report was provided (handout) with the status of various levels of providers. EMT-Bs are reported to be the highest in the past 10 years.

#### **Alert Utilization and EMS Return to Service Times-John New**

A PowerPoint presentation was given showing updated graphs and trends for yellow alert, red alert, reroute, and EMS return to service times. Several graphs were included in the packet for information. Overall, while alerts appear to be decreasing, EMS return to service times appear to be increasing. It was suggested that if possible to capture, a better measure of EMS times would be the "patient drop time" instead of the overall return to service time.

### **New Business**

**SEMSAC Committee Membership**-A chart of SEMSAC committees was passed around and members were encouraged to choose a committee to sign up for. The group requested the committee descriptions be emailed again to help determine which committees to choose.

#### **MFRI Distance Education-Steve Edwards**

Mr. Edwards distributed a handout and gave an overview of the MFRI EMT-B Recertification via Distance Education Program. The program is expected to begin July 1, 2008. The 12 hour didactic portion of the recertification program will be able to be completed online at any time of the day while the 12 hour practical component and testing will have to be completed in person.

#### **CMS Medicaid Cut Proposal-Fremont Magee**

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid in February 2008 proposed making Medicaid reimbursement for commercial ambulance transport services optional for states. The proposal is part of a larger administrative goal to decrease overall Medicaid costs. Congress is expected to vote on a bill that would not allow the overall package of

proposed cuts to become effective. The transportation proposal is not one of the cuts named in the bill being voted on, however. MIEMSS was not aware of the proposal when it was made but is concerned of the impact that such cuts may have on the EMS system.

**Detention Policy-Dr. Bass**

In response to a recent prisoner escape from Laurel Regional Hospital, a Task Force was created to evaluate and develop policy for law enforcement officers when individuals in custody must be transported to the hospital. There is concern over the EMS transport component of the draft policy by several members of SEMSAC related to the safety of EMS providers transporting potentially harmful prisoners in EMS units without a police officer present. Dr. Bass indicated that he will convey the concerns of SEMSAC to the Task Force and to the EMS Board.

Dr. Kalish asked if there was any other new business and hearing none a motion was made for the meeting to be adjourned at 2:30 p.m.