

MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Brown Building
Dorothea Dix Campus
801 Biggs Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina

February 13, 2018
11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Mr. Graham Pervier, Presiding
Mr. Robert Poe
Dr. Douglas Swanson
Mr. John Grindstaff
Dr. Jeff Williams
Mr. Chuck Elledge
Dr. Kim Askew
Mr. Kevin Staley
Dr. Ted Delbridge
Ms. Viola Harris
Dr. L. Lee Isley
Mrs. Carolyn Creech
Mr. Donnie Loftis
Mr. Todd Baker
Mr. Jim Gusler
Dr. R. Darryl Nelson
Dr. Bill Atkinson
Mr. Jim Albright

Members Absent

Ms. Lynn Norwood
Dr. Edward St. Bernard
Dr. Bryant Murphy
Dr. Jay Wyatt

Staff Members Present

Ms. Amy Douglas
Mr. Tom Mitchell
Mr. Will Ray
Ms. Susan Rogers
Dr. James “Tripp” Winslow
Mr. Wally Ainsworth
Mr. Todd Messer
Mr. Doug Calhoun
Mr. Mark Payne
Ms. McKenzie Beamer
Dr. Roy Alson
Mr. Jim Morris

Others Present

Ms. Regina G. Crawford, NC EMS Administrators
Mr. Danny C. West, NCAP/Union EMS
Mr. Joel Faircloth, NCAREMS
Ms. Joyce Winstead, NC Board of Nursing
Mr. Kenny Weatherington, NCCCS
Mr. Greg Chapman, CMC
Mr. Joshua Lloyd, CMC/Mecklenburg EMS
Mr. Tim Hykes, Atlantic Emergency Solutions
Mr. Bryan Edwards, Union EMS
Mr. Mike Vicario, NCHA

- (1) Purpose of the Meeting: The NC EMS Advisory Council met to hear reports from the Injury Committee, the Compliance and Education Committee and receive updates from the Healthcare Preparedness Response & Recovery program. In addition, the Council met to consider Cape Fear Valley Medical Center’s Level III Trauma Center renewal designation. The Council also met to elect officers for the Advisory Council Chair and co-Chair.

- (2) Actions of the Council:

Mr. Pervier, chairman of the Council, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

- a) Motion was made by Mr. Loftis, seconded by Dr. Williams, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: The EMS Advisory Council minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting be approved as submitted.

- b) Motion was made to elect the Chair nominee by Todd Baker and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Mr. Graham Pervier be reelected chairman of the North Carolina EMS Advisory Council.

Explanation: Mr. Pervier opened the floor for nominations for the office of chairman of the EMS Advisory Council. No other names were submitted. Mr. Pervier expressed his appreciation to the council in their confidence in him.

- c) Motion was made by Robert Poe, seconded by Donnie Loftis, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Dr. Kim Askew be elected as vice chairman of the North Carolina EMS Advisory Council.

Explanation: Mr. Pervier opened the floor for nominations for the office of vice chairman of the EMS Advisory Council. No other names were submitted. Dr. Askew thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as co-chair of the Council.

- d) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Dr. Askew, seconded by Robert Poe, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Cape Fear Valley Medical Center Level III Trauma Center designation be renewed effective through February 28, 2019.

Explanation: Cape Fear Valley Medical Center was reviewed on November 7, 2017 with a visit by the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS). Many strengths were noted; however, state deficiencies were found, requiring a focus review in one year.

(3) Other Actions of the Council:

- (a) Mr. Pervier welcomed guests to the Council meeting and announced to the Council and guests the following appointments and reappointments:
- Mr. Chuck Elledge is a new Senate appointee. He is from Moravian Falls and is a graduate of Queens University. Mr. Elledge is a credentialed Paramedic with Wilkes County EMS.
 - Mr. John Grindstaff is a new appointment representing the Public. He is a supervisor of Air Medical Services, Mountain Area Medical Airlift (MAMA) at Mission Hospital and a graduate of Western Carolina University. Mr. Grindstaff is the past president and vice president of the North Carolina Air Medical Association and is from Weaverville.
 - Mr. Jim Albright is a new appointment who is from Greensboro. He is representing the NC Association of EMS Administrators and has been an active participant of the Advisory Council for many years. Mr. Albright is a graduate of UNC Chapel and is the Guilford County Emergency Services Director.
 - Dr. Bryant Murphy, who was not able to be with us today, is a new appointment representing the Medical Board. Dr. Murphy is from Chapel Hill and is a member of the Department of Anesthesiology at UNC School

of Medicine, where he is also an Associate Professor and is Board Certified in Anesthesiology.

- Ms. Viola Harris has been reappointed, representing the Board of County Commissioners
- Dr. Ted Delbridge represents the Medical Society and has been reappointed to the Council.
- Mr. Edward Wilson has been reappointed to represent the North Carolina Nurses Association.
- Dr. Bill Atkinson has been reappointed representing the Public.

Mr. Pervier reappointed, without objection, Mr. Robert Poe as Chairman of the Compliance and Education Committee and Dr. Kim Askew was appointed as the Chairman for the Injury Committee.

(b) On behalf of the Injury Committee, Dr. Kim Askew reported on the following items:

- Mission Hospital has had a site visit recently and will be presented to the Council in May
- Cape Fear Valley Medical Center's Level III renewal designation was presented to the Injury Committee. There were notable strengths; however, there were deficiencies which will require a focus review in 2019.

(c) On behalf of the Education and Compliance Committee, Mr. Poe reported on the following:

Compliance Update

- Ms. Melynda Swindells is now in place as the Compliance Manager. She is reviewing all of the processes to insure they are as effective and efficient as possible. She is also working closely with the SBI to ensure we are handling records correctly.
- There are three new Disciplinary Committee members: Dr. Bryant Murphy, Mr. Bryan Blanton and Dr. Robert Portela
- During the November Disciplinary Committee meeting, it was resolved that any charge of a sexual nature, murder or attempted murder would render an automatic summary suspension without individual case approval of the Committee. The decision is supported by the Attorney General's office

Rules Update

- Two new rules became effective January 1, 2018
 - ✓ Rule .224 Ground Ambulance Vehicle Manufacturing Standards: A memo was distributed yesterday, relating to enforcement of the rule, to EMS agencies and also ambulance dealers and manufacturers.
 - ✓ Rule .410 Components of Medical Oversight for Air Medical Programs: currently working through the same rule revisions related to definitions, most specifically, 13P .0506 Practice

Setting for EMS Personnel. A lot of this is geared toward Community Paramedicine

Education Update

- Call for presentations is open for the 45th annual EM Today Conference; March 9 is the deadline for submission. There are currently 89 submissions
- Twenty two institutions have achieved accreditation; this is an increase of two since our last meeting
- Credentialed personnel that have transitioned is 53%. The office is planning on a push to get more of this transition completed
- Transition to computer based testing was supposed to go live on January 2, 2018; however, this date was pushed back due to issues beyond the control of the Office of EMS. Looking at March 1, or shortly thereafter, to go live.

(d) Mr. Will Ray provided the Council with the following Healthcare Preparedness Response & Recovery update:

- With the release of the president's budget, ASPR has been allocated 2.2 billion dollars, which is a significant increase; 50 million has been earmarked for the continuing support of the National Disaster Medical System
- The HPP program was allocated 255 million, which is approximately 2 million more than what the continuing resolution currently has in program.
- Budget allows for all 62 awardees to be funded, which includes 50 states and 12 territories; risk based hazard will continue to be used
- The Medical Reserve Program was also included in the allocation, 4 million allocated, approximately 2 million below what the current continuing resolution has. Support will continue for the program but will be decreasing.
- The Strategic National Stockpile has been managed out of the CDC; the Secretary of HHS and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response. Via the president's budget, they are going to move the SNS management and oversight out of the CDC to ASPR.
- The ASPR program is currently managed within the Department of Public Health. Their major areas of focus continue to be on epidemic preparedness, high consequence pathogens. They are encouraging states and coalitions to continue to look at and support risk based capabilities and hazards.

State and Regional Updates

- Work plans are moving forward. Budget and work plan development are being looked at for the upcoming grant year
- Funding opportunity has not been received yet; anticipate to receive in the next month or two

Ongoing Field Operations

- Hurricane Harvey (Texas): significant assets sent out of state. No medical assets were requested. They were able to move the medical evacuations within their own state.
 - Hurricane Irma (Florida): portions of the MDH were deployed to replace Fishermans Hospital in Marathon, 5 bed emergency room, 6 bed inpatient, lab and x-ray. Asset will be deployed until 4/15/18
 - Hurricane Maria (US Virgin Islands): Staff, as part of an Incident Management Team, was sent to support medical operations. One staff member was sent for two weeks. We are currently in the process of preparing the other MDH slide-out trailer for deployment at the request of the Federal Government. It will be converted to a 2 suite OR. This trailer will be partnered with t3 trailers from University Medical Center in Hackensack, NJ. These assets will be in St. Croix for months; undetermined exactly how long. The asset will be moved to New Jersey the end of this week and placed on a ship with New Jersey's assets to be shipped to St. Croix
 - Winter weather has called for support of institutions with HVAC generator support, basic medical supplies, etc. Also seeing med-surge relating to influenza and working closely with the Department leadership to address some of the med-surge issues. Med-1 was deployed to Grady Hospital in Atlanta to deal with some significant surge issues. Sent for 30 days, but may need to extend an additional 30 days.
- (e) Dr. Winslow gave the following Medical Director update
- Adjustment of new protocols, as a result of skill level changes, for every county is almost done. Dr. Nelson revised all of the NCEP protocols with the NCEP Committee
 - Met yesterday with the NC Medical Board regarding scope of practice of ketamine; the meeting went very well
 - Office of EMS, along with NCEP EMS Committee, developed a statewide naloxone refusal policy. The for this this is because more than half of the opioid reversals with naloxone have the capacity to refuse transport; this will help EMS agencies deal with that issue
 - Craven County EMS has instituted the first EMS based needle exchange program in the country. Several other counties are following suit
 - A workplace violence survey has been sent out to EMS via CIS
- (f) Mr. Tom Mitchell gave the following agency update
- Moving the Trauma Center certificate presentation to the STAC (State Trauma Advisory Committee) meeting will allow for the Council to vote freely, the staff of the Trauma Center will not have to travel a long distance for a very brief presentation; the STAC meeting is a meeting at which the staff of trauma centers attend fully. The Chairman of the STAC is in favor of this move. The approval of designation will continue at the Advisory Council meetings.
 - In staff updates, Ms. Melynda Swindells is the new Credential and Compliance Manager; Carl VanCott and Jerry Ashley retired 1/31/2018;

Carl's position is currently open and we are accepting applications. Jerry's position has closed and we are in the process of working with HR to make an offer. Friday, 2/16, is Will Ray's last day with OEMS; he has accepted a position with the Division of Emergency Management in their Homeland Security Planning section. Will's position is open and we are in the process of seeking a replacement.

- The new credentialing information system, Continuum, is up and running. We are working with the EMS Performance Improvement Center to iron out some problems with the system; however, it is operational and in use.
- We are in the final contract faze for computer based testing. The delay is due to the OEMS, in agreement with Castle Worldwide, wanting to contract with Castle Worldwide for a five year agreement to keep testing fees at \$68; however, the state does not like five year contracts so this has been a challenge. We have worked through this and are now in the final stages. Further updates will be available in the near future.
- The JEMS (Journal of Emergency Medical Services) conference will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center 2/21-23
- The EMS Administrators Conference is being held on 3/6-9 at the Hilton Riverside in Wilmington.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Minutes submitted by Susan Rogers