

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 12, 2019
11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Mr. Graham Pervier
Mr. Robert Poe
Mr. John Grindstaff
Dr. Kim Askew
Dr. Bill Atkinson
Mr. Donnie Loftis
Dr. Jay Wyatt
Dr. R. Darrell Nelson
Dr. Jeff Williams
Mrs. Carolyn Creech
Dr. Douglas Swanson
Mr. Jim Albright
Dr. L. Lee Isley
Mr. Todd Baker
Mr. Chuck Elledge
Mr. David Garrison
Mr. Matt Peeler

Members Absent

Dr. Bryant Murphy
Mr. Jim Gusler
Mr. Edward Wilson
Ms. Viola Harris
Dr. Edward St. Bernard
Mr. Kevin Staley

Staff Members Present

Mr. Tom Mitchell
Ms. Susan Rogers
Dr. James “Tripp” Winslow
Mr. Brad Thompson
Ms. Melynda Swindells
Ms. Amy Douglas
Ms. Toshiba Oates
Mr. Chuck Lewis
Mr. Wally Ainsworth
Mr. Todd Messer
Ms. McKenzie Beamer
Mr. Joe Comello
Ms. Beth Blaise
Mr. Doug Calhoun
Mr. Dale Sutphin

Others Present

Ms. Joyce Winstead, NC Board of Nursing
Ms. Ashley Fox, Wake Forest EMS
Ms. Tonya S. Clark, NC Community College System Office
Mr. Joel Faircloth, NCAREMS
Mr. Russell Wish, Novant Health/Med-Trans
Mr. William Creech
Ms. Regina Godette Crawford, EMS Management & Consultants
Mr. Andrew Godfrey, Mecklenburg Co EMS

- (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 CaroMont Regional Medical Center’s Level III trauma center designation renewal, Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center’s Level I trauma center designation renewal and Duke University Hospitals’ Level I designation renewal. The Council also held annual elections for 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 Dr. Wyatt, seconded by Mr. Peeler, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: The EMS Advisory Council minutes from the November 13, 2018 meeting be approved as submitted

- b) Motion was made to elect the Chair nominee by Mr. 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 for their confidence in him.

- c) Motion was made by Mr. Robert Poe and unanimously approved that:

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

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 vice chair of the Council

- d) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Mr. Pervier, with two abstentions-Dr. Askew and Dr. Nelson, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center Level I Trauma Center designation be renewed effective through February 28, 2022

Explanation: Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center was reviewed on October 30-31, 2019 in a combined visit by the American College of Surgeons re-verification visit and the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) designation renewal visit. Many strengths were noted and no deficiencies were found.

- e) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Mr. Pervier and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Duke University Medical Center Level I Trauma Center designation be renewed effective through February 28, 2022

Explanation: Duke University Medical Center was reviewed on November 7-8, 2018 in a combined visit by the American College of Surgeons re-verification visit and the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) designation renewal visit. Many strengths were noted and no deficiencies were found.

- f) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Mr. Pervier, with one abstention-Mr. Donnie Loftis, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: CaroMont Regional Medical Center Level III Trauma Center designation be renewed effective through February 28, 2020.

Explanation: CaroMont Regional Medical Center was reviewed in a state site visit on November 28, 2018 and deficiencies were noted. After a six month reporting period, should the deficiencies not be fully cleared an on-site focused review will be required prior to the end of the one year designation.

g) Motion was made by Mr. Loftis, seconded by Dr. Wyatt, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: The Council shall form an Education Task Force to hold public hearings throughout the state on the proposed EMS Education rules change.

Explanation: In order to fully vet the proposed education rule changes, it will Necessary to conduct a series of meeting across the state to allow for oral as well as written comments

(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:

- Matt Peeler from Hertford is a North Carolina House appointee. He is a twenty-two year Navy veteran and currently serves on the Perquimans Board of Education. He has served on a number of Boards and Commissions in North Carolina.
- David Garrison represents the American Red Cross and is fulfilling the unexpired term of Lynn Norwood. H is from Carthage and is a Senior Disaster Manager with the American Red Cross.
- Dr. Kim Askew has been re-appointed. Dr. Askew represents the North Carolina Medical Society.
- Dr. Lee Isley, representing the North Carolina Hospital Association, has been re-appointed.
- Dr. Darrell Nelson, representing the North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians, has been re-appointed.

Dr. Ted Delbridge has resigned. Dr. Delbridge is going to Maryland to be the Director of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System.

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

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

- Upcoming Level III trauma center initial designation at WakeMed Cary and Womack Army Medical Center
- Reports were presented on recent trauma center renewal designation surveys at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Duke University Hospital

and CaroMont Regional Medical Center. The reports were reviewed by the Injury Committee and the recommendation for continued designation was approved by the Committee. CaroMont Regional Medical Center had two deficiencies; general surgeons who participate in trauma care have not attended at least 50% of the multidisciplinary trauma peer review committee meetings and there were noted delays in care in some instances for Neurosurgery and Orthopedic response times. Recommendation was made to allow CaroMont Regional Medical Center to receive a Level III trauma center designation effective for one year. If after a six month reporting period the noted deficiencies are cleared, the center will then receive an additional three year designation; if they are not cleared, an on-site focused review will be required prior to the end of the one year designation.

- (c) On behalf of the Compliance and Education Committee, Mr. Robert Poe report the following:

Compliance Update

- Data from November, December, 2018 and January 2019:
 - ✓ 58 cases heard by the Case Review Panel
 - ✓ 36% violent offenses
 - ✓ 67% referred to Disciplinary Committee
 - ✓ 71 cases heard by the Disciplinary Committee: top two reasons – violent offenses and drugs
- On average, paper turnaround is 8 calendar days for legal recognition and 9 calendar days for testing. Approximately 6 days of this time is for SBI processing.
- Compliance Work Group met on January 16th to outline priorities for 2019, as well as mid-range (1-3years) and long range plans (3-5 years). Currently, the focus is on a safety plan for OEMS, especially around the Disciplinary Committee, as well as report writing and interview questions.
- There is an agreement in place with the Division of Environmental Crimes Unit of the SBI. Met on 1/17 with agents across the state. Provide detail training to the OEMS staff on drug diversion
- Office is currently working on videos to help people set up a P# in Continuum, how to apply for legal recognition, how to pay for background checks online to aide technicians. Hope to launch in mid to early March.
- Ms. Swindells is doing a presentation at the EMS Administrators conference on March 7th in Wilmington. The presentation is designed to explain the complaint, investigation and disciplinary process and how EMS Administrators can assist employees.
- There is a website where EMS technicians can report workplace violence.

Education Update

- NC EMS Expo is calling for presentations, which closes Friday, March 29th.
- Accredited Institutions:
 - ✓ 29 have achieved accreditation; 2 more than last meeting
 - ✓ 12 in letter of review process

- Computer based testing with Castle Worldwide is going well, no identifiable problems
- There are 1191 individuals that have not yet transitioned; OEMS will be contacting them to help in needed. Transition is 96.93% complete (there are 38,752 credentialed)
- Proposed education rule changes were reviewed by the Committee. The Committee voted to request the Chairman form a task force to hold hearings for public comment at specific locations around the state. Comments that have been received are for and against the changes.
- Chuck Lewis explained the proposed rules to the Council. Primary change is the entry-level education requirement for a new paramedic applicant. Proposing that after July 1, 2023 any new paramedic applicant must possess, at a minimum, an associate's degree from an accredited institution.

(d) Joe Comello presented the following HPP program update:

- \$103,000 is left from last year's grant cycle. Coalitions have submitted regional projects for approval at the end of 2018, of which we funded \$216,000 of those projects. The difference came from lapsed salary of state funded positions and other completed projects that we had leftover funds.
- New ASPR grant cycle to begin 7/1/2019; no funding will be carried forward due to the start of a whole new grant. Funds from last grant cycle must be expended by the coalitions. Reports from the coalitions must be in by late April, early May. Should there be any funds leftover, projects have been identified to spend down the funds
- 2019-20 funding opportunity announcement has not been received yet; however, it is expected soon
- Personnel report: new hire, Beth Blaise, HPP Grant Coordinator started 2/4.
- Open positions: a posting for a Training & Exercise Coordinator will close the end of this week. A clinical background is a preference for this position
- We have worked with Mark Shepherd, Physician Assistant with Mission Hospital, who has experience in type I swift water teams and urban sear and rescue. Mark has agreed to work with our office on further developing an all hazards medic curriculum. The goal is to finalize the curriculum this grant year with train the trainer rolling out the next grant year
- In the process of finalizing after action report for Hurricane Florence response and plan to have a graph created by the end of March

e) Medical Director update

- The ketamine pilot program was initiated in October. The EMS Medical Board Advisory group will be meeting today to review the results in detail. Will also review some scope of practice possible changes
- Presently working with multiple counties on new and innovative ways to mitigate the effects of the opioid epidemic

- (f) Mr. Tom Mitchell gave the following agency update
- Staff updates: Vince Jordan, Regional Specialist will retire 2/28 and Susan Kennedy, Western Regional Office Administrative Specialist will retire 3/29
 - The office has contracted with Doug Bullins, who is working out of the Mobile Disaster Hospital in Mocksville, and Greg Edwards who is working with the high consequence pathogen part of the HPP program
 - Preparing to interview for the Central Regional Specialist position, as well as for a Project Specialist
 - UNC Department of Emergency Medicine has notified OEMS, the Division and the Department of their desire to cease operations of the EMS Performance Improvement Center, which was established in 1998. We are working with the Division and the Department to secure a third party software vendor to host the program on a temporary basis until it can be sent out for RFP or what the Attorney General's Office will require.

Other Business:

Ms. Regina Godette Crawford reported on the following:

- EMS Legislative day is scheduled for 2/19 with a pre-rally the night before. There are approximately 68 EMS agencies registered and approximately 10% of the General Assembly House and Senate members. Breakfast is 7:30-9:00 followed by a picture taking at the red steps of the Legislative Building. Several EMS agency members have scheduled meetings with their delegations. There will be several talking points about the opioid issue, as well as the drug shortage in North Carolina and throughout the country.
- Mr. Pervier reminded the Council of the May meeting date change. He also reminded the Council that the success of the Advisory Council is that their role is as advisory, not oversight. Should something be noticed that you feel the Chief should know about, by all means speak with him, but just a reminder that the Advisory Council meetings are not to address grievances or overturn something the staff has done. The Council has always endeavored to involve all stakeholders in the process and if, at any time, this has not happened we apologize for the oversight and want everyone to know it was not deliberate

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:51 am.

Minutes submitted by Susan Rogers