

## 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

August 13, 2019  
11:00 A.M.

#### **Members Present**

Dr. Kim Askew  
Mr. Robert Poe  
Mr. Donnie Loftis  
Dr. Jeff Williams  
Mrs. Carolyn Creech  
Mr. Jim Albright  
Dr. L. Lee Isley  
Mr. Todd Baker  
Mr. David Garrison  
Mr. Matt Peeler  
Mr. Jim Gusler  
Mr. Kevin Staley  
Dr. Roberto Portela  
Dr. Bill Atkinson  
Ms. Viola Harris  
Dr. Jay Wyatt  
Mr. Chuck Elledge  
Dr. Douglas Swanson

#### **Members Absent**

Mr. John Grindstaff  
Mr. Graham Pervier  
Dr. Bryant Murphy  
Mr. Edward Wilson  
Dr. Edward St. Bernard  
Dr. R. Darrell Nelson  
Dr. Kim McDonald

#### **Staff Members Present**

Mr. Tom Mitchell  
Ms. Susan Rogers  
Dr. James “Tripp” Winslow  
Mr. Brad Thompson  
Ms. Amy Douglas  
Ms. Melynda Swindells  
Mr. Chuck Lewis  
Ms. Toshiba Oate  
Mr. Wally Ainsworth  
Mr. Todd Messer  
Ms. Kimberly Clement  
Ms. Beth Blaise  
Mr. Dale Sutphin  
Mr. Mike Prevatte

#### **Others Present**

Mr. Stephen Taylor, Pitt Co  
Ms. Rhonda Vincent, WakeMed  
Ms. Sarah Hoffman, WakeMed  
Ms. Sara McIntyre, WakeMed  
Dr. Matt Alleman, WakeMed  
Nicole Hick, WakeMed  
Mr. William Creech  
Ms. Joyce Winstead, NC BON  
Mr. Mike Vicario, NCHA  
Mr. Andrew Baird, Vector AirMed  
Mr. Joel Faircloth, NCAREMS  
Dr. Andrew Godfrey, Durham EMS

- (1) Purpose of the Meeting: The NC EMS Advisory Council meets quarterly to hear reports on the NCOEMS Compliance and Education Committee and Injury Committee and to receive updates from the agency as well as the Healthcare Preparedness Response & Recovery program and the state medical director.

(2) Actions of the Council:

Dr. Askew, co-chairman of the Council, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

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

RESOLVED: The EMS Advisory Council minutes from the May 21, 2019 meeting be approved as submitted

- (b) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Mr. Loftis, with one abstention, Dr. Atkinson, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: WakeMed Cary Hospital Level III Trauma Center initial designation be approved effective through August 31, 2020

Explanation: WakeMed Cary Hospital was reviewed on May 9, 2019 for a Level III Trauma Center initial designation. A one-year designation is recommended due to a lack of a full year of functioning Trauma PIPs and Multidisciplinary Peer Review meetings, as well as the current program being minimally staffed. In order to extend the designation, documentation will be required to be submitted to the OEMS no later than May 29, 2020.

- (c) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Dr. Wyatt and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center Level III Trauma Center designation renewal be approved effective through August 31, 2020

Explanation: Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center was reviewed for a Level III designation renewal on June 20, 2019. A one-year designation is recommended due to a deficiency in that all general surgeons on the trauma call panel did not meet the 50% attendance requirement at the Multidisciplinary Trauma Peer Review Committee meetings. Upon submitting the required attendance documentation for a reporting year of April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 to the OEMS, the trauma center will receive the remaining three years; however, failure to submit the necessary documents will result in an on-site focus review.

- (d) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Dr Wyatt and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Womack Army Medical Center Level III Trauma Center initial designation be approved effective through August 31, 2022

Explanation: Womack Army Medial Center was reviewed for a Level III initial trauma center designation in a combined state/ACS visit on May 23-24, 2019. Many strengths were found and there were no deficiencies.

- (e) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Mr. Baker, with one abstention, Dr. Wyatt, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Moses H. Cone Hospital Level II Trauma Center renewal designation be approved effective through November 30, 2021

Explanation: Moses H. Cone Hospital was reviewed for a Level II Trauma Center renewal designation in a joint State/ACS visit in August 2018. At that time, a deficiency was identified requiring a focused review on June 25, 2019 during which it was determined the deficiency had been resolved.

- (f) Motion was made by Dr. Wyatt, seconded by Mr. Poe, that on behalf of the Dr George Johnson, Jr. Award Committee:

RESOLVED: The Council accept the recommendations of the Dr. George Johnson, Jr. Award Committee for Dr. Roy Alson be the recipient of the 2019 award.

Explanation: In 2000, the Council elected to established and award named in honor of the Council's longtime chairman, Dr. George Johnson, Jr. The award, given in the name of the Council and OEMS staff, would be given to individuals who have made outstanding and long-lasting contributions to the development and improvement of Emergency Medical Services in North Carolina. The requirements seek individuals whose efforts have been felt statewide and not just in a local community or area.

After careful review of all nominations received, it was decided to choose Dr. Roy Alson

(3) Other Actions of the Council:

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

Education Update

- NC EMS Expo will be held September 27 through October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019; to date, there are 500+ registered
- Preliminary Paramedic Competition was held on July 12; regional winners were:
  - ✓ Gaston College: Rowan County EMS
  - ✓ Surry Community College: Mecklenburg EMS
  - ✓ Johnston Community College: FirstHealth Montgomery
  - ✓ Fayetteville Tech: Harnett County EMS
  - ✓ Cape Fear Community College: Hoke County EMS

- North Carolina Community College will be hosting a series of statewide industry summits. Summit participation will be limited to three per EMS agency and three per community college. Scheduled dates are:
  - ✓ August 27 at the College of the Albemarle, Elizabeth City
  - ✓ August 28 at Johnston Community College in Smithfield
  - ✓ September 13 at Haywood Community College in Clyde
  - ✓ September 16 at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College North Campus in Salisbury
- Transition update as of August 12, 2019 has 863 remaining that must transition

#### Compliance Update

- Sixty-nine cases were heard by the Case Review Panel, including investigations and criminal records. Violent offenses were the top reason someone was sent to the Case Review Panel. Only 8% of these cases were due to patient care issues/offenses.
- Of these, 57% were referred out of Case Review to be heard by the NC EMS Disciplinary Committee
- Fifty-two cases heard by the NC EMS Disciplinary Committee; violent offenses were the top reasons; 6% of cases reviewed were due to patient care issues/offenses
- Average turnaround time for paperwork is less than a week once we have a complete packet.
- EMS Disciplinary Committee meetings are now held at the NC Judicial Center
- Complaint reports continue to be heavy for 2019. In 2018, just over 70 complaints were received; in 2019 there have been 71 complaints received to date
- Ms. Swindells is visiting the NC EMS systems during their regularly scheduled Peer Review meetings during 2019 and 2020. This is to introduce herself, provide compliance updates and answer any questions they may have. To date, she has visited twelve systems and has more scheduled for the fall

(b) On behalf of the Rules Task Force Committee, Mr. Chuck Lewis reported the following:

- 2019 draft rules were introduced
- Published online
- At the request of the Chairman of the Council, a task force was formed. The members of the task force were:
  - ✓ Robert Poe, Chairman
  - ✓ Bill Atkinson, Vice-Chairman
  - ✓ Chuck Elledge, Senate Appointee
  - ✓ Kevin Staley, House Appointee
  - ✓ Jim Albright, NCAEMSA
  - ✓ Darrell Nelson, NCCEP
  - ✓ Todd Baker, AHA
  - ✓ Mike Price, Educator
  - ✓ Steve Taylor, Educator

- ✓ Sarah Rivenbark, Community Paramedic
- Conducted ten public hearings at five sites with two opportunities per site
- Email was established for written comments
- Approximately 275 attendees at the hearings
- Received 59 comments (verbal and written)
- Degree requirement rule .0502; Paramedic without a degree receives AEMT until degree is completed
  - ✓ 11 opposed
  - ✓ 32 support (18 complete support, 14 support with change)
- Degree requirement for instructors rule .0507; Level I-Associate's degree Level II-Bachelor's degree
  - ✓ 2 support
- Program Coordinator workshop rule .0601; annual workshop required for all program coordinators
  - ✓ 2 support
- Online course requirement (50% rule) rule .0602; Paramedic must have 50% training in traditional classroom
  - ✓ 6 support
  - ✓ 6 opposed

Task Force recommendations:

- Rule .0502-Paramedic degree requirement
  - ✓ Revised implementation: complete con-ed program, test for Paramedic and receive Paramedic credential; have four years to complete Associate degree
  - ✓ Revised to a specific degree; must be EMS or allied health care degree
  - ✓ Legal recognition/out of state will closely match in state
  - ✓ Practice setting restrictions for provisional status Paramedics
- Rule .0507-Instructor degree requirement – no changes
- Rule .0601-Program Coordinator workshop – no changes
- Rule .0602-Online course requirements-removed. Concern on content of education, not delivery
- Develop and share vision of where changes are taking EMS in NC
- Hold meetings with outside stakeholders to garner support, receive input and address concerns – seven groups identified
- Move away from the Medical Board to a self-governed board for management of scope of practice and individual licensure
- Solidify credibility of EMS by matching minimum entrance educational requirements of our highest level

(c) On behalf of the Injury Committee, Ms. Amy Douglas reported the following:

- WakeMed Cary Hospital Level III trauma center initial designation
  - ✓ Outstanding leadership
  - ✓ No deficiencies
- Novant Health Presbyterian Hospital Level III trauma center renewal designation
  - ✓ Strong leadership
  - ✓ Support from administration
  - ✓ One deficiency

- Womack Army Medical Center State/ACS combined Level III trauma center initial designation
    - ✓ Strong hospital leadership and support
    - ✓ No deficiencies
  - Moses H. Cone Hospital State/ACS combine Level III trauma center focus review
    - ✓ Deficiency satisfied
  - A Level III trauma center renewal designation is scheduled for September 12, 2019 at Atrium Health Cabarrus
  - A Level III trauma center consult is scheduled for Novant Health Rowan Hospital on September 19, 2019
  - A combined State/ACS Level I trauma center renewal designation is scheduled for UNC Hospital on October 7-8, 2019
- (d) Kevin Staley, member of the Dr. George Johnson, Jr. Award Committee, presented the nominee chosen to the Council
- (e) Kimberly Clement presented the following HPP program update:
- Staff update: two new staff members, Doug Bullins was a temp employee and has come onboard full time. His position is State Medical Response System Operational Planner. Ms. Linda Lloyd has been hired as a temp employee to assist in budget
  - Contract work plans and budgets have been completed for all eight coalitions
  - The MDH will be demobilized; has been in St Croix since April 2018. Five employees will be leaving Saturday (8/17) to demobilize the unit and will return the following Wednesday
  - Presently working on reimbursement packets from Hurricane Florence; deadline is 10/1
  - On November 4-8 there will be a full scale Ebola exercise
- (f) Dr. Tripp Winslow, EMS State Medical Director, gave the following update:
- Working closely with Chuck Lewis and leadership of DHHS with regards to counties wanting to help post overdose heroin patients
- (g) Mr. Tom Mitchell gave the following agency update
- Staff update: there was a vacancy in the Central Regional Office which was filled with an employee from the Western Regional Office; now are interviewing for the vacancy in the Western Regional Office
  - With regards to the problem of provider suicide, there will be a conference call on Tuesday, August 20 at 10:00 am to discuss what the state can do to help with this problem. This will be a sort of round table to brainstorm some ideas that will be beneficial. Everyone is invited to join this call to help fight this problem.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Rogers