

NEVADA DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH)
Committee on Emergency Medical Systems (EMS)
(Advisory Committee to DPBH)

MINUTES

July 20, 2017
2:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kevin Romero
Marc Pinkas

Myron Gomez, M.D.
Fergus Laughridge

Temple Fletcher
Robert Horton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Tina Smith

Heather Kermin

John Hammond

IN ATTENDANCE

Jenna Burton
Monica Myles
Chad Westom
Sam Scheller
Chris McHan

Michael Bologlu
Melanie Spencer
Azouley Martinez
Jon Stevenson
Todd Moss

Mark Conklin
Richard Fenlason
Brett Larkin
Lee Cabaniss
Ed McDonald

1. Roll call and approval of April 20, 2017, minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Myron Gomez motioned to approve the minutes.

SECOND: Marc Pinkas

PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment – none.

2. Update on activities within the State regarding Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) since last meeting.

a. Update on the activities of the Nevada State EMS Program.

Tina Smith provided the Committee with an update on the activities of the Nevada State EMS Program. She explained that the agency permit renewals have been completed. Tina also informed the Committee that this was the first time using the online system, ALiS, for agencies to submit their permit renewals. There were twenty-six agencies, approximately 30%, that used the online process. She informed the Committee that the online renewal process was very successful, including online payments. Tina explained that the next step is to work on the online applications for provider's and make changes or corrections to streamline the process.

Tina thanked Temple Fletcher for her involvement with the organization of the work groups regarding Trauma Destination and Air Ambulance. She explained to the Committee that a letter was drafted by Marc Pinkas regarding Trauma Destination. The letter was reviewed and approved by Dr. Myron Gomez and sent out to Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center, Banner Churchill Community Hospital, Mt. Grant General Hospital, Humboldt General Hospital, Carson Valley Medical Center, Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital, Battle Mountain General Hospital, South Lyon Medical Center, and Pershing General Hospital on July 6, 2017. She also

informed the group that they will continue to work on language changes to Trauma Destination up until the next legislative session.

Tina updated the Committee on the progress of the Air Ambulance group. She explained that Donna Miller brought up her concerns regarding interpretation of NRS 450B.600. Tina explained that any proposed language changes would be pursued closer to the next legislative session. Donna also asked if all permitted air agencies are required to submit a list of their staff to the State office. Tina confirmed that requirement. She informed the group of Kevin Romero's recommendation to have a quarterly work group to address the air ambulance regulations. He also suggested that one person from the work group should report back to the Committee.

Tina explained that there was a phone conference scheduled to discuss Policies and Procedures, however it was cancelled. Tina explained that in prior meeting minutes it was determined that the draft Policies and Procedures from the State EMS Office and Policies and Procedures from Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) EMS Office need to be reviewed by the current State EMS office staff. She anticipates having more information at the next Committee meeting.

Tina informed the Committee that the EMS Office has recently conducted over 24 separate psychomotor tests for National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Technician (AEMT), and Paramedic levels.

Tina told the Committee that the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Committee has filled their vacant positions. The EMSC Committee also had a Federal Oversight visit in May. The Federal Oversight committee was very pleased with the Committee and the grant. Tina said she couldn't be happier with the way the grant is going and thanked Mark Conklin for all his hard work and dedication to managing the grant.

Tina informed the group that the survey regarding the different possible certification renewal options has closed, but the results didn't change from the last committee meeting. The survey was sent to all the agencies here in Nevada. The survey asked which option would work best for the agency. The options were: Agency may select a month other than March for their providers to expire 41%, Agency supports all future provider certifications expire two years from the initial course completion, not to exceed NREMT expiration 41%, Agency may align all affiliated providers to expire on the same year 35%, and Agency providers remain responsible for the individual certification renewal 26%. There were 34 responses. Chad Westom said the EMS Office will do more research on this topic and come back to the Committee for their input.

At the previous Committee meeting, Temple made an official request for the EMS Program to review a particular course as an equivalent to Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) or International Trauma Life Support (ITLS). The course in question is the Transport Professional Advanced Trauma (TPATC). The course was reviewed and at this time it has not been approved. TPATC is not Commission on Accreditation for Prehospital Continuing Education (CAPCE) approved and does not have the same amount of field training or training on stabilization for the patient that PHTLS and ITLS has.

b. Update on the activities of the Southern Nevada Health District.

John Hammond gave the Committee an update on the activities of the SNHD EMS Office. He announced that the University of Las Vegas (UNLV) just recently opened up a medical school and all the new students will be completing an EMT course in addition to the other duties as assigned. The students should be applying for their certification within the next couple of

months. Next, John explained that their office is currently going over their protocol manual for their periodic review. They will be making changes to the ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Destination and Stroke Destination protocols. They are also reviewing their regulations and there will be minor changes throughout. He mentioned there would be a public workshop on Friday, July 21, 2017. They recently completed another Trauma Needs Assessment Task Force meeting, where they are attempting to come up with objective criteria for establishing new way to enter into the trauma system. They have been working on this for about a year and are getting very close to completing this task, so they will have a better tool by which they assess their trauma system and how they add new trauma centers to that system.

c. *Update on the activities of the Washoe County Health District.*

Heather Kermin provided an update on the activities of the Washoe County Health District. She informed the group that they will be having their EMS Advisory Board meeting on August 3, 2017. They are in the final stages of the updates to their regional protocols and they will be bringing them to the board for review. They will also be bringing a draft and possible acceptance of Washoe County's first trauma data report. Heather said that they were able to add the most recent quarter's data to their heat map response time, which can be found on their website. She mentioned they are also working on a regional project for public service announcements for the appropriate use of 911. They have received public announcements from Sparks Fire Department, Sparks Police Department, and Carson City Sheriff's office. They are also available on their website.

- *Project on higher level care and service to individuals with intellectual/development disabilities.*

Heather explained that the Washoe County EMS Oversight Program will be applying for a grant for a project which meets criteria for an objective under the strategic plan for the Nevada Governor's Council on developmental disabilities. They will create trainings to educate people on how to effectively communicate with people with intellectual or developmental disabilities in an emergency situation without an imminent threat, for example: neighborhood evacuations. There will be two trainings, the first will be a ten minute training video that will be good time length for police briefings, the second will be a 30 minute interactive training module that will have Continuing Education Units (CEU's) available.

d. *Update on the activities of the local EMS Agency's.*

None

e. *Update from EMS Committee Members.*

Temple gave an update on the Air Ambulance group and explained that the goal is to start meeting before the next legislative session to modify Air Ambulance regulations and possibly update the list of required items on an aircraft.

Dr. Gomez gave an update on the Trauma Destination group and explained that with the help of Marc Pinkas they have been working on rewriting the language. He said the first principal is to somehow adapt the CDC guidelines for field triage to the special needs of Nevada. Marc also added that there will be a Stakeholders' meeting before the next legislative session to keep everyone involved.

3. **Presentation of the vacant Committee EMS position, each candidate will have an allotted three minutes to discuss why they should be nominated for the position. Discussion and make recommendations and vote regarding filling the position.**

This agenda item has been moved to the next meeting because the Committee would like know what the definition of an “Urban fire-fighting agency” is.

4. **Discuss and make recommendation on development of EMS Advisory Committee support letter opposing the cut to Emergency Medical Systems for Children (EMSC) Federal Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.**

Kevin explained that the EMSC Federal Funding is up for being cut in the new healthcare act. He wanted to bring it to the Committee member’s attention that the dismantling of the EMSC program is not the best thing for our children, not only across the country, but within the State of Nevada. He went on to say that opposition to this comes from agencies like the American Ambulance Association, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Children’s Health Fund National Association of EMT’s, and National EMS Management Association. Kevin suggests a letter be drafted sent to the Board of Health and/or the Governor’s office to show the Committee’s opposition to the proposed cut. Fergus Laughridge also suggested the letter be sent to the State House and Senate representatives. He also suggested that before the letter is sent out that the State EMS office contact someone with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to ensure the letter will not affect them, or the State, since the letter would be going on with the State’s letterhead.

MOTION: Kevin Romero made a motion to have the State EMS office contact HRSA to ensure there would not be any negative consequences to sending out a letter of opposition. If there is not, he motions to move forward with drafting a letter of opposition to the proposed cut to the EMSC Federal Funding for FY 2018 and that it be sent to the Governor’s Office, as well as the State’s House and Senate Representatives.

SECOND: Marc Pinkas

PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Discuss and make recommendation on possible Community Paramedicine workgroup.**

Tina explained that Community Paramedicine was approved by the Board of Health, however an educational program for Community Paramedicine is still lacking. She suggests creating a work group to help develop Community Paramedicine educational programs. Jon Stevenson expressed his interest in participating with the work group.

MOTION: Dr. Myron Gomez motioned to form a work group to help develop an Educational Program for Community Paramedicine.

SECOND: Marc Pinkas

PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

6. **Presentation and discussion regarding the Nevada Donor Network by Monica Myles, Partner Liaison 15 minute presentation.**

Monica Myles gave a presentation on the Nevada Donor Network. She explained that the Nevada Donor Network is a federally designated, not-for-profit, organ procurement organization (OPO) that coordinates, recovers, and distributes donated organs and tissue for transplant, education, and medical research. She went over the different types of donations, which include liver, heart and heart valves, lungs, pancreas, kidneys, intestines, bone/connective tissue, eyes, pericardium, blood vessels, and skin.

Monica explained that in the hospital when a death occurs and they are an organ donor they are required to report the death to the OPO, but when a death occurs out of the hospital there is no requirement to report to the OPO. This means that registered donors and families who may want to donate are never given the chance because an OPO is not notified of the death. She is working on educating EMS providers to help bridge the gap of out of hospital deaths. She explained how to refer a potential donor when a death occurs out of the hospital by calling the Nevada Donor Network's 24-hour referral line within one hour of the death or as soon as possible. The information that the Nevada Donor Network will need includes the decedent's name, date of birth, sex, known medical history, time of death or last time known alive, circumstances of death, and next of kin contact information (if available). Their phone number is 855-NVDONOR (855-683-6667). She also explained that the Nevada Donor Network offers a course specifically geared toward EMS professions that is approved for one hour of CEUs. If anyone is interested in the course they can contact her by email, mmyles@nvdonor.org, or by phone, (775) 250-5238.

7. Public Comment – No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.

John asked that Tina reach out to Jon regarding the next meeting and also to participate in the Community Paramedicine work group. There was no other public comment.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Kevin motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

SECOND: Fergus Laughridge

PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY