

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

MINUTES

April 26, 2018
10:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Temple Fletcher
Donna Miller

Kevin Romero
Marc Pinkas

Myron Gomez, M.D.
Jon Stevenson II

ABSENT

Darryl Cleveland

William Botelho

Fergus Laughridge

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Tina Smith

Christina Conti

IN ATTENDANCE

Debi Reynolds
Jenna Burton

Richard Fenlason

Melanie Spencer

1. Roll call and approval of February 23, minutes.

MOTION: Marc Pinkas motioned to approve the February 23, 2018, minutes.

SECOND: Myron Gomez

PASSED: Unanimously

Public Comment – Temple Fletcher, personally, and on behalf of the committee thanked Kevin Romero for his years of service to the committee and his dedication to Nevada Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

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

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

Tina Smith provided the update on the activities of the Nevada State EMS Program. She explained in April the EMS program received a notice of award for the remaining grant funds for Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) five-year award. This grant must be applied for annually. She informed the committee that Michael Bologlu, EMSC Program Manager, will be traveling to Austin, Texas to attend the annual EMSC conference. She also informed the group that the EMSC committee will be working on training for pre-hospital care awareness and education for providers at the upcoming Nevada Rural Summit in June. Tina let the committee know that the program is finishing

the remaining provider renewals and working on the annual permit renewals due June 30, 2018. She also explained that program staff schedules are quite full due to National certification testing and proctoring.

b. *Update on the activities of the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD).*
SNHD representative unavailable to provide update.

c. *Update on the activities of the Washoe County Health District.*
Christina Conti provided an update on the activities of the Washoe County Health District. She informed the committee that they have completed the annual report and that it can be sent out to anyone who would like to view it. The report includes data from 2017, an update from all their regional partners, and the accomplishments from the region. She also informed the committee of the progress made toward developing training videos for responders on how to respond to incidents that involve people with intellectual and development disabilities. The first part of the training videos they have been working on are almost complete. One will be for shift changes and more geared towards law enforcement. These videos have been piloted by Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) and Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC). The other videos will be a more in-depth training and geared more for EMS providers. Christina also stated it is time to review their strategic plan this summer and they are working on creating a subcommittee to continue to review and develop the plan.

d. *Update on the activities of the local EMS Agency's.*
None.

e. *Update from EMS Committee Members.*
Jon Stevenson II provided an update on the activities of the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue. He explained they were given clearance from Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and City Counsel to allow a licensed clinical social worker on ambulances. The social worker will be able to help treat patients with psychiatric problems. They will be able to clear the patient to be taken directly to a mental health facility instead of the emergency room (ER). Jon will be sharing the draft protocols they have developed that allows a social worker on an ambulance with Northern Nevada. If anyone has any questions on this topic they can contact Jon for more information. He then informed the committee that their Community Paramedicine (CP) endorsement has been approved by the City Counsel. Jon's next update explained they are working with Stephanie Woodard to develop a program for opioids. He asked the committee for their suggestions if anyone has already started a program for opioids. He talked about attending EMS on the Hill in Washington, District of Columbia. The Good Samaritan Health Professionals act was discussed at the event. This was suggested to shield health care professionals from liability under federal or state law when they volunteer their services, within their scope of practice, during a federally declared disaster. Another topic discussed at EMS on the Hill were possible changes to Veteran reimbursement. The Veterans Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Act (VERASA) would provide veterans with reimbursement for emergency ambulance services when a Prudent Layperson would expect a delay in seeking immediate medical attention to jeopardize the life or health of

the veteran. The Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) act was also discussed and received a lot of great feedback and support. This bill would create a grant program for EMS agencies in rural areas to support recruitment, retention, education, and equipment for EMS personnel in rural areas. He explained they are also seeking help from Congressional members to help with occasional EMS drug shortages.

Kevin Romero informed the committee that as of April 16, 2018, REMSA has entered into an agreement with the northern Nye County hospital district, in conjunction with Renown Regional Medical Center, to provide CP in Tonopah, Nevada. He explained there will be a phased implementation of several items. The first phase was to establish a direct phone line to the nurse health hotline. The second phase was to have a paramedic provide CP, including response to emergency calls with Nye County EMS to increase that level of care to Advanced Life Support (ALS). He explained they are providing this care in a quick response vehicle. He explained there has been a huge benefit to the community to have that ALS level of service. He explained there are several more phases and they will be working very closely with Renown Regional Medical Center to implement them and improve the health care in rural Nevada.

Donna Miller informed the committee that she was approached by Congress Woman, Dina Titus, for the committee's opinion regarding the proposed Ensuring Access to Air Ambulance Services Act of 2017. The act is designed to preserve access to critical care facilities for Americans who live in rural areas that don't have those services by requiring Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop an accurate payment system based on the actual costs of providing air medical care. She explained that if anyone has interest in assisting Dina Titus that she can provide that connection. Donna informed the committee that Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) is in support of this act and Temple explained that California Association of Air Medical Services (CAL-AAMS) is also supporting this act.

3. Discuss and make recommendation on updates from workgroups for Community Paramedicine (CP), Air Ambulance, and Trauma Center Destination.

There was no update to be provided regarding the activities of the workgroup for CP.

Temple provided an update on the activities from the workgroup for Air Ambulance. She explained there had been a couple of conference calls to discuss the current Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) and Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), they are still looking into the language to identify any potential changes. They are still looking into a helicopter landing zone (LZ) video and may use the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) video because it complies with helicopters as well. The FAA video could be made accessible to rural agencies, as well as, what is already currently offered by various programs. They also touched base on reconfirming that the air to ground frequency is consistent for helicopters. She explained that shopping around for a fixed-wing or rotor-wing depending in inclement weather was another topic they discussed during the conference calls. Temple explained the group has created a draft inspection sheet for air craft and has requested the EMS program to review it to see if it still complies with all the State requirements.

Myron and Marc Pinkas provided an update on the activities from the workgroup for Trauma Center Destination. They are waiting on the EMS programs review of the proposed language and legislative action. They explained the current language doesn't meet the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or American College of Surgeons. The proposed language provided to the State for review has been updated to reflect the current standards for the CDC and American College of Surgeons. Tina informed the committee that the language was received and sent to Administration for review and approval. She explained the next step after approval from administration will be to hold a Public Workshop, then it will go to the Board of Health (BOH) for review and approval. Once approved at the BOH, it will be sent to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). Temple and Kevin both commended Myron and Marc for their work on this item.

<u>Current List of Workgroup Stakeholders</u>		
<u>Community Paramedicine</u>	<u>Air Ambulance</u>	<u>Trauma Center Destination</u>
Fergus Laughridge Myron Gomez, M.D. Kevin Romero Jon Stevenson II (alternate)	Temple Fletcher Donna Miller Joel Hochhalter Stacy Ingram Chris Giller Alicia Farrow	Myron Gomez, M.D. Marc Pinkas

Public Comment – Christina suggested calling workgroup participants Stakeholders, so they are not subject to all open meeting laws.

4. Discuss and make recommendation on reviewing and accepting continuing education units (CEUs) approved by other states.

Marc and Darryl Cleveland were working on this item and suggested any continuing education units (CEUs) from out of State should be accepted. The committee asked Tina when this change would go into effect if approved by the committee. Tina informed the members that the out of State CEUs would have to be reviewed to determine if they could be accepted during the next renewal cycle. She also informed them a listserv notification will be created to inform applicants when out of State CEUs could be accepted. The listserv will be sent out once the revised policy and procedure for accepting out of State CEUs is approved by administration. Tina agreed to provide a status update on this item at the next committee meeting.

MOTION: Marc Pinkas motioned that if someone from out of State comes to Nevada with an out of State CEU number or certificate they will be granted reciprocal credit.

SECOND: Kevin Romero

PASSED: Unanimously

5. Discuss and make recommendation on the EMS Advisory Committee's review of agency protocols.

The EMS program has been working on finding a platform that can be accessed by all the committee members for sharing agency protocols for review. Some protocols from agencies are very large and cannot be printed for each member. Google Docs was suggested but committee members will need to contact their Information Technology (IT) departments to make sure it can be used by everyone. The item was tabled for discussion at the next meeting after the members can determine if they can use Google Docs.

6. Discuss and make recommendation on the EMS Advisory Committee coordinating a Nevada Health and Safety Symposium.

Temple suggested the committee work on providing education on health wellness and safety during a Medical Director's meeting, the Nevada Rural Summit, or the EMS State Conference. She believes there is a lot of expertise between the committee members and that they can provide this education to the rural areas of Nevada. Marc asked if this would exceed their scope of practice for the committee under NRS. Christina explained if there is a need for the education in Nevada then it shouldn't exceed the scope of the committee.

MOTION: Temple Fletcher motioned that the committee look into providing a summit on health, safety, and wellness in Carson City, Nevada or at the EMS State Conference for rural EMS.

SECOND: Donna Miller

PASSED: Unanimously

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.

Kevin reminded the committee to reach out to the committee working on active shooter response. He also informed the committee he will be leaving and asked the EMS program to notify committee members on the vacant position and how to fill it. He thanked everyone in the EMS field for all their arduous work and dedication to improving Nevada EMS.

Myron informed the committee of Renown's intention to install a recorded line at the hospital that is a phone and not a radio. He also mentioned they would be revising their current protocols for radios and recording of the line.

8. Adjournment @ 11:33 am.