

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

MINUTES

January 30, 2019
1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Temple Fletcher
Donna Miller

Marc Pinkas
Bret Frey, M.D.

Fergus Laughridge

ABSENT

Darryl Cleveland

Jon Stevenson II

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Christian Conti

IN ATTENDANCE

Ed McDonald
Bodie Golla
Dennis Nolan
Michael Sullivan
Larteresta Lyon

Steven B. Towne
Nicolette Johnston
Margaret Chappel
Johnsey Lee Cabaniss III
Chris McHan

Beth Riley
Michael Bologlu
Jenna Burton
James Johnston
Bobbie Sullivan

1. Roll call and approval of October 25, 2019, minutes.

MOTION: Fergus Laughridge motioned to approve the October 25, 2019 minutes.

SECOND: Bret Frey

PASSED: Unanimously

Public Comment – no public comment.

2. Update on activities within the State regarding Emergency Medical Services (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 informed the committee that a Community Paramedicine Toolkit is being developed as a resource by Margot Chappel, Deputy Administrator of Regulatory and Planning of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH). She explained if anyone is interested in having any input or reviewing the toolkit, they can contact her

after the meeting and she will provide contact information for the staff member that is working on the toolkit.

Tina also informed the committee that the EMS Program has contracted with ImageTrend for data management systems. An ImageTrend Support Representative will be coming next week on February 5-6, 2019, to provide EMS staff training. Access to ImageTrend will be available shortly after staff is trained. Live and web-based trainings for the public will also be available and posted on the EMS website as they are scheduled. ImageTrend will be used for certification, licensure, permits, training, and data reporting.

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

No updated provided.

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

Christina Conti provided the update on the activities of the Washoe County Health District. She informed the committee that the quarterly Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2019. They will be sending the meeting agenda and packet today. They will also meet in May, August, and November. Christina let the committee know that they are also in the process of updating the EMS Strategic Plan. They anticipate it will be complete in the next month or two.

Christina asked about provider immunization endorsements and if they will be included on renewals this cycle. Tina explained this agenda item is for updates only and that it would be better to discuss the endorsements at a different time after she is able to research the topic further. Christina said she looks forward to working with Tina on this issue.

d) Update on the activities of the local EMS Agencies.

Temple Fletcher provided an update for Care Flight. She said she coordinated the California Association of Air Medical Services (Cal-AAMS) Safety Summit. She noted they had mostly first responders, both law enforcement and fire, attend. Temple also mentioned Care Flight's Safety Stand Down that was also well attended.

Dennis Nolan provided an update for Reno Fire Department. He told the committee he submitted 182 recertification applications to the EMS office, which represents nearly 70% of Reno Fire Departments workforce. He said he was excited for the transition to ImageTrend and looks forward to the go-live date.

Dennis explained they are completing a department Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) class. Those students will take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician's (NREMT) exam on February 16, 2019.

He explained the Reno Fire Department and Reno Police Department are working collectively on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) and will be doing live simulation exercises in April.

Dennis mentioned he was recently appointed to the Co-Chairman for the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). He informed the committee the next SERC meeting will be February 21, 2019.

e) Update from EMS Committee Members.

No updates provided.

3. Discuss and make recommendations on filling vacant committee member positions.

Vacant Positions:

1. One member who is employed by a privately owned entity that provides emergency medical services.
2. An employee of a firefighting agency at which some of the firefighters are employed and some serve as volunteers.

Temple explained that Patricia Bianchi and Johnsey Lee Cabaniss III applied for the first vacancy, however, they do not meet the requirements to fill the position. Beth Riley and Steven Towne are the remaining applicants for the first vacancy.

Marc Pinkas clarified Johnsey works for Elko County, a municipal service, and not a privately owned service. He does not meet the requirements for the first vacancy either. Marc also mentioned Patricia is from Pershing General Hospital, which is also a municipal service, and not privately owned.

Fergus Laughridge told the committee Patricia Bianchi is actually applying for the fire-fighting agency position, but she still doesn't meet the requirements because she works for Lovelock Fire Department, a volunteer only agency. Fergus said he wasn't clear on whether or not Pyramid Lake Fire Rescue EMS has paid employees and volunteers in regards to Jonathan Bidlake-Pritchard's resume. He was also unsure if Elko County would qualify as a privately-owned entity either. Fergus also brought up Beth and Steven's resumes and mentioned that they work for a hospital based entity, so they don't meet the requirements either. Marc agreed that if Beth and Steven are employed by a hospital that they would not meet the requirements of the position. EMS staff began researching this to confirm if they would qualify or not. Marc researched Pyramid Lake Fire Rescue EMS and confirmed they do have a mix of paid employees and volunteers. He also confirmed that Johnsey with Elko

County EMS does not meet the requirements. Temple thanked Marc and Fergus for their explanations.

Johnsey, explained that Elko County EMS is an enterprise funded service. He believes if an enterprise funded service is allowed to represent the position, they would have the same interests as privately owned entity because they operate in very similar ways. He also mentioned there are EMS entities that are not represented on this committee and that additional positions may be something to consider if and when the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) are revised. Temple thanked Johnsey for his contribution and agreed this is something the committee should take into consideration.

Tina provided clarification on Beth and Steven who are employed by Banner Churchill Hospital as EMS providers. The hospital is not run by the government, state, city, or county and is privately owned and operated. Fergus argued that because there is an existing committee position specifically for hospital based entities they do not qualify for the privately owned position. Steven does not agree that they should be excluded for consideration for the position because they are hospital based. He stated the hospital is still privately owned and rural and believes they should be illegible based on that. He explained they could fill the hospital based position or the privately owned position because they meet the requirements for both positions. Tina clarified that a hospital based entity can fill this position, provided they are privately owned and rural.

Temple explained each candidate will have three minutes to explain why they should be selected for the vacancies and asked Beth, applying for the first vacancy, to begin.

Beth Riley – Beth stated she has been with Banner Churchill Hospital since December 2009. She explained she started her EMS career in Highschool in 2000. She went to work for REMSA when she turned 18. She mentioned Richard Fenlason was her mentor while working for REMSA. She gained employment with Banner Churchill as an Emergency Room (ER) Technician in 2009 and transferred to the Ambulance Department in 2011. She continued her education, gaining her Advanced Medical Technician (AEMT) certification in 2012 and her Paramedic certification in 2015. She also has some experience in Emergency Management and has her Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Incident Command System (ICS) trainings 100, 200, 230, 235, 300, 400, 700, 800, and 907. She believes she has a well-rounded knowledge of Emergency Medical Services in both urban and rural areas. She would like to join the committee, so she can have a voice for the rural areas. She thanked the committee for their time and consideration.

Steven B. Towne – Steven stated he is a Paramedic with Banner Churchill Hospital and serves as Chief. He said he began his career as a junior firefighter in 1988 with Charlton County Volunteer Fire Department and was director for a rural service. He moved to Fallon, Nevada and became the director for Banner Churchill Hospital in 2009. He developed, in collaboration with Humboldt General Hospital (HGH), a Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) at Banner Churchill Hospital. He was the incident commander for numerous high-profile mass casualty responses to the Amtrak disaster in Zephyr, California in 2011. He also participates with the Fallon Youth Baseball League, the Fallon Rotary since 2017. He believes his vast

knowledge and experience with EMS would make him an excellent committee member. Steven thanked the committee for their time and consideration.

MOTION: Marc Pinkas motioned to appoint Steven B. Towne to the vacant position for a member who is employed by a privately-owned entity that provides emergency medical services.

SECOND: Bret Frey

PASSED: Unanimously

Temple asked the applicants for the second vacancy to explain why they would like to be a member of the committee. She asked James Johnston to begin.

James Johnston – James told the committee that his career in EMS began in 1999 in Las Vegas, Nevada where he took his EMT-Basic and Intermediate courses. He explained he also has a psychology degree that he acquired from University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). From there James went into fire and was hired on with Elko’s Fire Department in 2001. He became interested in rescue and started with technical rescue. He is also rope, trench, and confined space rescue certified. He has instructed many different EMS courses at the UNLV Fire Science Academy. He explained he has a bachelor’s degree in Fire Technology and Fire Administration. He also has a Master’s in Science in Emergency and Crisis Management, Associate of Science as a Paramedic, and an Associate of Applied Science in Fire Science. He explained he is very involved with the community. He is a Church Elder at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church. He has also volunteered at the St. Rose Sienna Emergency Room and the Red Cross. He explained he was promoted to Fire Captain for the City of Elko Fire Department in 2001. He loves being involved with committees and believes he would be an asset to the EMS Committee. He thanked the committee for their consideration.

Bodie Golla – Bodie currently works for the City of Ely Fire Department as the Assistant Chief and EMS Coordinator. He started his employment with City of Ely in 2008. He told the committee that he is interested in being apart of the committee to have his voice heard. He is interested in being a part of the decision-making process. He explained that Ely is unique because it is out in the rural area of Nevada by its self. He said his EMS careen began back in 2000 with the United States Air Force as a structure and airport rescue firefighter. He then began working as a seasonal firefighter with the Nevada Division of Forestry in 2003. In 2007 he became employed with Carson City Sheriffs Office as a Deputy Sheriff II. He has also worked for Imlay Fire Department, Pershing County Sheriff’s Office, Waste Management, and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District. He explained his experience with law enforcement gives him a unique perspective for EMS. He said he is also employed part time with Humboldt General Hospital and has been for six years. He explained one of his goals for Ely is to start an Advanced Life Support (ALS) service because there isn’t one currently available in White Pine County. Bodie believes his knowledge and experience will benefit the committee. He thanked them for consideration for the vacant position.

Johnathen Bidlake-Pritchard – Johnathen was not present to present.

MOTION: Bret Frey motioned to appoint Bodie Golla to the vacant position for a member who is an employee of a fire fighting agency at which some of the firefighters are employed and some serve as volunteers

SECOND: Marc Pinkas

PASSED: 1 abstained because they are both employed with Humboldt General Hospital

4. Discuss and make recommendation on the EMS Advisory Committee organizing an Agency Safety and Wellness Symposium

Temple explained this item was added to the agenda at her request. She would like to see if the committee would like to participate in a Nevada Emotional Wellness and Responder Safety Education Symposium. Marc stated he thought the symposium is needed. He said if the committee agrees to help organize a symposium he would like to be involved. Bret Frey agreed that physician safety is a hot topic right now. He thinks that provider wellness is equally hot. He said there is a 54% burnout rate amongst physicians in high stress specialties and he doesn't think that is any different for EMS. He states the rate may perhaps be higher. He fully supports the symposium. Donna Miller supports the symposium as well. Tina informed the committee that the suicide rate for providers is 38% higher than the rate for the public. She also supports the symposium. Tina offered administrative support to help organize the symposium. Temple suggested scheduling a stakeholders' meeting and suggested soliciting any input from agencies on the safety and wellness topics. She said she believes everyone can agree that the topics mentioned earlier are very important, but she would like to see if there are any other topics that agencies would like to focus on as well.

MOTION: Temple Fletcher motioned to schedule a stakeholders' meeting in prior to the next committee meeting to discuss the symposium and to solicit additional topics or suggestions from EMS agencies.

SECOND: Marc Pinkas

PASSED: Unanimously

5. Public Comment - no public comment.

6. Adjournment