

**NEVADA DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH)
Committee on Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

**MINUTES
June 4, 2020
1:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Marc Pinkas
Dr. Myron Gomez

Markus Dorsey-Hirt
Donna Miller

Steve Towne
Bodie Golla

ABSENT

Darryl Cleveland

Jon Stevenson II

IN ATTENDANCE

Jenna Burton
Andrea Esp
Mitchell Hinton
Melanie Spencer
Jeremy Sonenschein
Dr. Douglas Fraser
Carl Bottorf
Michael Peck

Michael Bologlu
Vicki Olsen
Dennis Nolan
Kacy Dunckhorst
Yvette Wintermute
Dr. Dale Carrison
Dr. Bret Frey
Lee Cabaniss

Shannon Petty
James Wholers
Darlene Amarie-Hahn
Bobbie Sullivan
Chris McHan
Diane McGinnis
Sean Burke

1. Roll call and approval of minutes from meeting on February 27, 2020.

MOTION: Donna Miller motioned to approve the minutes from February 27, 2020.

SECOND: Steve Towne

PASSED: Unanimously

Public Comment – no public comment.

2. Recognition and moment of silence to reflect on the sacrifices that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers, in Nevada and across the nation, have made during the COVID-10 pandemic and update on EMS Week, Sunday, May 17th, through Saturday, May 23rd.

Marc Pinkas said none of us could have predicted or expected what's going on due to the pandemic and many of us did not have a chance to celebrate EMS Week, May 17-23, 2020, this year. He said this year was "Ready Today, Preparing for Tomorrow" and that is exactly what we're doing now. In this committee we are preparing the future of Nevada EMS for tomorrow. One of the customs during EMS Week is remembrance, whether locally or at the national level, of our EMS family who gave their life in the line of duty. This year we have seen providers of all levels, doctors and nurses, that have served on the

front line of this pandemic, get sick and others have passed away. Marc asked for a moment of silence to honor those who could not be honored during EMS Week and for those who continue to serve during this crisis. Marc thank everyone for their silence. Darlene Amarie-Hahn informed the committee that during EMS Week and on EMSC Day, May 20, 2020, the State Emergency Medical Systems office sent out certificates of appreciation to all EMS agencies thanking them for the critical work. Marc thanked Darlene and said his agency happened to be one that received a certificate of appreciation. Markus Dorsey-Hirt said they also appreciate the certificates that were received for Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) and Care Flight. Darlene told them you're welcome.

3. Discuss and make recommendations to fill committee member vacancies.

- **A physician licensed pursuant to NRS 630 or 633 who has experience providing emergency medical services.**

Dr. Carrison thanked the committee, staff members, and everyone that is here for this opportunity to apply for the physician position. He said he has a lot of experience with EMS and it started when he went to medical school to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) basic in San Bernardino. After that he did his emergency medicine residency in Chicago, Illinois Cook County where he worked with Chicago Fire Paramedics. He has been on multiple commissions and committees throughout his career in the State of Nevada in the last twenty-nine years. While he was chairman of Nevada's Commission on Homeland Security for seven years, he noticed the lack of resources that are available in so many parts of our state, outside of the metropolitan areas of Reno and Las Vegas. So, he has directed EMS in the rural areas, particularly with the National Park Service, Lake Mead and Death Valley, Death Valley being over 10,00 square miles. He has also been the Medical Director for multiple agencies including Clark County Fire Department, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, where he was also a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) doctor, Mercy Air, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Burning Man and the Electric Daisy Carnival. He has a lot of experience as a Medical Director dealing with mass gatherings. He has taught Paramedics in the academy for over twenty years at University Medical Center (UMC) and also Clark County Fire Department. He served on the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) Medical Advisory Board for several years and was Chairman for two years. He has experience with level one and level two trauma centers. He said he was working at UMC Trauma when the Route 99 mass shooting occurred and gained valuable experience. He said because he has been attending previous meetings, the committee member know that he is currently working as the Medical Director for Western Nevada College (WNC) and they are going through their first Paramedic class now with an anticipated graduation by the end of December or early January. He said he knows he would have big shoes to fill and noted that Dr. Gomez, from Renown, has done an excellent job with the committee. He said as he thinks the committee knows, because he has been participating with committee for a while now, that he has the time, knowledge, expertise, experience and commitment to be an asset to this committee and he thanked the committee for their consideration and opportunity.

Dr. Frey thank the committee for the opportunity to be here and their consideration of him for the physician position. He said as the committee members know, he has attended many of the meeting instead of Dr. Gomez as an alternate over the past couple of years. So, he is familiar with the members and the inner working of the committee. He said he has experience in aero-medical instruction for American Medflight and REACH Air Medical Service for the last nine years. In that role, he gained a unique perspective of the tremendous challenges of rural EMS and critical access hospitals throughout Nevada. He said he has practiced in Las Vegas for perspective for a couple of years just out of his residency. He said he wanted to disclose that he is a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners but doesn't perceive that as a conflict of interest. His passions lie with quality, safety and transparency. He thinks that we get the chance at the EMS Committee level to really elevate on safety in EMS operations thought the state and creating and solidifying quality assurance (QA) feedback loops that lead to higher liability. He would like to help the committee in any way possible.

Dr. Gomez nominated Dr. Bret Frey.
Donna Miller nominated Dr. Dale Carrison.
Bodie Golla nominated Dr. Dale Carrison.
Steve Towne nominated Dr. Dale Carrison.
Markus Dorsey-Hirt nominated Dr. Bret Frey.
Marc Pinkas nominated Dr. Dale Carrison.

MOTION: Donna Miller motioned to nominate Dr. Dale Carrison to the committee member position of "A physician licensed pursuant to NRS 630 or 633 who has experience providing emergency medical services".

SECOND: Bodie Golla

PASSED: Dr. Dale Carrison was nominated with four votes to Dr. Bret Frey's two votes.

- **A registered nurse who has experience providing emergency medical services.**
Diane McGinnis stated she is a nurse practitioner and received her doctoral degree from Touro University Nevada. She said she applied for this position on the committee because she feels her experience makes her uniquely qualified. She has been a National Registry of Emergency Medical Services (NREMT) Paramedic in Southern Nevada. She has also been a volunteer firefighter in rural Nevada and has her firefighter two and fire instructor one certificate. She has several years of experience as a Registered Nurse (RN) in the emergency room. She has also worked the Emergency Department (ED) as a nurse practitioner. She believes part of her uniqueness is that she has been the only provider, as a doctor or RN, in a small town with the closest position by seventy-five miles away and the closest Advance Care Life Support (ACLS) who are her flight partners that are forty minutes away from her clinic. Her current position is what she calls an EMS Adjacent Physician. She said their private third-party company partnered with West Metro Fire approximately six years ago in the Denver area to staff a community paramedicine program. They have

expanded to twenty markets including Reno and Las Vegas, where she currently works. She makes Urgent Care Health calls for the program to help decompress EMS, Urgent Care, and ED's by treating patients at home, leaving those spots open for patients that don't have that option. She works with EMS training partners in a two-person car and make health calls. She has volunteered in Lumberton, Texas during Hurricane Harvey as the relief medical team lead at the Fire Department Incident Command Center. She has participated with EMS education at the National Park Service in Death Valley and Joshua Tree. She has also volunteered as an EMS Psychomotor Test Proctor in Pahrump. She is a member of the Serve Nevada Volunteer Corps and the Southern Nevada Medical Reserve Corps and through them she has volunteered several shifts to assist with COVID-19 alongside the National Guard, local shelter staff and city of Las Vegas employees. She said uniquely she participates in legislative calls to help change EMS regulations. She has maintained her Nevada State Annual Threat Driver Certificate for four years. She said she is familiar with serving on committees and served on the Nevada Nurses Association Legislative Committee for over ten years, which she believes shows her dedication and desire to help and volunteer. She said she was also a Nevada State Representative for the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and participated with the National Nurse Practitioner Organization to support practitioner care across the Nation. She feels her broad experience can add strength to this committee and also her third part company experience can go along with thing discussed at the last meeting regarding bringing in representative from third part agencies as well. Bodie asked Diane if she would be willing to travel to Carson City to attend meeting in person. Diane said yes, she is willing to travel.

Shannon Petty thanked the committee for allowing her this time to tell them a little bit more about herself. She is a long-time resident of Northern Nevada. She moved her in 2001 after first obtaining a degree in psychology from the University of Washington Seattle (UW). She said after that she wanted to pursue a career that would help her help others and was encouraged by her family and friend to pursue in the footsteps of her grandmother into nursing. Two years later she received her bachelor's degree from the University of Nevada Reno (UNR) in nursing and she began shift in the trauma intensive care unit at Washoe Medical Center. She watched Washoe Medical Center grow into the large regional level two trauma center that it is today, known now as Renown. Her work there evolved into becoming a lead preceptor, charge nurse of a forty-four bed Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Chair of their Innovative Change Committee. She is certified as a Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) and a Critical Care Flight Nurse (CFRN). She is also a member of the Association of Critical Care Nurses and Air and Surface Nurse Transport Association (ASNTA). She said while working at Renown she also worked for St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in the ER and Northern Nevada Medical Center in the ICU. She said her passion for EMS medical care took hold during her time as a trauma ICU nurse. For years she watched EMTs, Paramedics, and flight crews bring in patients that they worked very hard to save and it was their jobs on the front lines that she was inspired by. In 2011 she was hired by Care Flight as a flight nurse and began her journey amongst the ranks of first responders. She has since become fluent in both air and

ground EMS operations. She is a lead preceptor for new employees. She is the supervisor for their fixed-wing and ground critical care transport platforms. She is also involved with community, customer and EMS outreach and education all while maintaining a full-time flight nurse position. She believes she would make an excellent candidate for the committee because of her experience and passion for the continued improvement and growth of EMS in Nevada. Marc asked Shannon who she is currently employed by, Shannon told him she is employed by REMSA Care Flight. Marc apologized and told her unfortunately she can't fill the position because Markus is also employed by REMSA Care Flight and the committee cannot have more than one person from the same organization on the board.

Carl Bottorf thanked the committee for their time and consideration. He told the committee that he understands participation is important and he agreed to participate as much as possible. He thinks he offers a balance of experience. He has been a medic and a nurse. He said he understands the balance between the elements of EMS, whether its career, volunteer, fire, urban or rural and military versus civilian. He said being apart of this committee is on his bucket list of things to do to give back to a lifestyle that has provided him a living and an occupation for the last thirty-five years. He said he is a retired Air Force officer and currently he works for the Air Force as a civilian. He said exciting things are happening with EMS all over the State. He told the committee that he has already vetted his candidacy to be part of the committee through the Department of Defense. He explained he had to be evaluated for conflict of interest and there were none. He said he would like to figure out a way to leverage the resources for EMS in the State of Nevada for Nevadans. He thanked the committee again for their time.

Bodie asked Carl if he intends to participate in person and can travel to attend meetings since he is located in Las Vegas. Carl said yes, he does intend to travel to Carson to attend meetings in person. He also said that he has worked for Donna Miller for most of her time on the board so he was able to see how the committee works and what is required of the committee members and he is willing to travel to continue to participate with the committee.

MOTION: Dr. Myron Gomez motioned to nominate Carl Bottorf to the committee member position of "A registered nurse who has experience providing emergency medical services".

SECOND: Donna Miller

PASSED: Carl Bottorf was nominated unanimously.

- **A volunteer firefighter.**
Sean Burke told the committee he is an Assistant Fire Chief at a very rural fire department in Grass Valley, Nevada outside of Winnemucca. He said it is an eighteen-member department and they do a lot of medical calls possibly even more than fire calls. He has been with that department for almost ten years now. He said prior he was a member of the Coast Guard for twenty-seven years. He has been affiliated with a couple different ambulance services in rural Nevada including

Humboldt General Hospital and most recently, as the EMS Director, at Lander County EMS. He is also affiliated with the Lovelock Volunteer Fire Department as an EMS Instructor. He thanked the committee for their consideration for the vacant position. Markus asked Sean if he would be able to participate in person for the committee meetings and Sean answered yes.

MOTION: Donna Miller motioned to nominate Sean Burke to the committee member position of “A volunteer firefighter”.

SECOND: Steve Towne

PASSED: Sean Burke was nominated unanimously.

- **An employee of or volunteer with a medical facility located in a rural area that provides emergency medical services.**

No resumes were received for this position. Donna asked if Diane would qualify for this position assuming she is interested in accepting it. Marc said he wasn't sure if she works for a rural medical facility. Diane clarified to the committee that she does not meet that requirement.

- **An employee of an operator of a service:**
 - **Provided for the benefit of the employees of an industry who become sick or are injured at the industrial site; and**
 - **Staffed by employees who are licensed attendants and perform emergency medical services primarily for the industry.**

James Wholers told the committee that he has worked with Marc Pinkas for the last four years at the Nevada National Security Site. He said Marc actually brought the vacancy to his attention. He explained prior to working at the Nevada National Security Test Site he worked for MedicWest. He said he has been involved with EMS Education. He has taught at the Southern Nevada Training Center for the last two years and College of Southern Nevada (CSN) for the last year and a half. He was also a part-time flight medic for three years and is familiar with the flight aspect. He said after he received his EMS degree, he worked for Denver General for about five years. He has taught for the University of Nebraska for their paramedic program and also the local community college. He was a part of the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association (NEMSA) that helped create policies and procedures. He said during that time he was the president for the EMS Instruction Association where they provided many different EMS classes to rural agencies. He told the committee that he believes with his education and experience he would be a good fit for this position, and he is willing to travel to attend meetings in person.

Mitchell Hinton said he would like to join the committee to be a voice for the industry, not only for his company, but also for responders in Northern Nevada. He has been in Nevada for about fifteen years. He said he was a police officer for five years and has responded to several medical calls with personnel with Humboldt

General Hospital. He said he learned a lot from that experience and he really enjoyed it. He said he has been responding to calls as a first responder since 2008. He explained he left the police force and started working for Nevada Gold Mine. He gained his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certification and EMS Instructor Certification, American Heart Association (AHA) Instructor and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Instructor through Nevada Gold Mine. He said he takes care of the emergency medical needs for about a thousand people at the mine. He said Nevada Gold Mine is a permitted agency that hire contract paramedics and volunteer employees. He believes with his diverse background would provide a unique voice and would benefit the committee. Bodie asked if he would be able to attend meetings in person. Mitchell answered yes, and he told the committee he has attended previous meetings in person as well.

Michael Peck said he wants to join the committee because he believes it is important to have a voice for those in an industry setting because there are unique challenges that people face with EMS in an industry setting. He has been in the mining industry for the past twenty years. He has been on the emergency response team his entire career. He said he has been on several committees throughout his mining career. He wants to be apart of the committee to have a voice to help improve EMS and EMS in the industry. He has been an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) for the past fifteen years and he is also an EMS Instructor. He has done several EMS classes in the industry setting. He said he believes its important to have good communication with local agencies as well and he works closely with them to build that relationship. He would like to help the committee improve EMS in Nevada by building strong partnerships with agencies across the state. He told the committee he would be able to attend meetings in person. Michael thanked the committee for their time and consideration.

MOTION: Dr. Myron Gomez motioned to nominate James Wholers to the committee member position of “An employee of an operator of a service”.

SECOND: Donna Miller

PASSED: Unanimously

- **A physician who is a member of a committee which consists of directors of trauma centers in the state. (Ex-Officio)**

Dr. Douglas Fraser told the committee that he is a board-certified general surgeon and has done critical care surgery and burn surgery. He came to Las Vegas to complete his fellowship for those specialties in 2013. He said he met Dr. Dale Carrison and Dr. John Fildes during that time and was fortunate to have them as mentors. He obtained his EMT license and joined the Notre Dame Fire Department. He also worked as a medic for a private ambulance company in Orange County, California. He continued his education by attending medical school. He said he has come full circle now where

instead of dropping off patients, now he receives them as the trauma surgeon on duty. He said his goal in life was to be a trauma director at a major academic center in a large city. He achieved that goal as is the trauma director and UMC. He said he is very excited to join the committee and working with EMS. He said he would be more than willing to travel to attend meeting in person as well. He thanked the committee for the opportunity to become a board member.

MOTION: Donna Miller motioned to nominate Dr. Douglas Fraser to the committee member position of “An employee of an operator of a service”.

SECOND: Dr. Myron Gomez

PASSED: Unanimously

Public Comment – no public comment.

4. Update on activities within the state regarding EMS.

a. Update on the activities of the State Emergency Medical Systems (SEMS) Program.

Bobbie Sullivan informed members that EMS Representatives will be reaching out to agencies to conduct their annual inspection in the next few weeks and then after that staff will be preparing for the next provider renewal season.

• Update on certification and licensure deadline extension due to Covid-19.

Bobbie informed the committee that under the Governor’s declaration of emergency, 009, expiration dates for providers that were due to expire March 31, 2020, were extended until June 30, 2020. She said they are in the final stages of getting the renewals done and then they will begin agency permit renewals. She said as a result of COVID-19, Pearson Vue testing centers across the nation and world closed. As of last month, they are slowly reopening to accept candidates needing their cognitive exams. She told the committee that the State EMS program has been utilizing the mobile testing lab and have been able to test fifty-eight candidates. She said they are also starting to do psychomotor testing for all levels of exams again.

Marc asked if there are any other specific guidelines or restrictions that are occurring here in Nevada that are above or beyond what the National Registry is recommending for psychomotor exams. Bobbie said restrictions are being based on what the local health authority recommends. She said they are working with programs so there is the least amount of exposure.

• Update and discussion on Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) file R102-18, specifically revising the criteria for determining the medical facility to which an

injured patient will be transported, and whether it can be enforced before it is codified to Nevada Admirative Code (NAC).

Marc asked if there has been any progress on codifying LCB file R102-18 and if it was confirmed that agencies are expected to follow the new guidelines in the meantime even if it hasn't yet been codified. Bobbie said from her understanding nothing has changed from the answer Donald Watson provided previously and agencies are expected to follow the new guidelines. Staff has not received any different direction on how to address those questions from agencies. She said as far as any updates from the LCB she is unaware of anything at this time. Marc asked if an official notification be sent to the agencies to inform them of the new guidelines that they are expected to follow. Bobbie said she will work with Donald on a notification when he returns to the office. Marc asked for this item to be included on the next meeting agenda to provide another update.

- **Update and discuss the recent legislation codified during the 2019 session regarding Assembly Bills (AB) 129, requiring certain first responders to receive certain training concerning persons with developmental disabilities; AB 317, revisions to provisions governing the licensing and operation of certain medical facilities; and AB 319, revisions to provisions governing professional licensing.** Marc asked if Bobbie had an update on AB 129, AB 317, and AB 319. Bobbie told him she did not have an update currently. Chris McHan asked if the deadline of October 2020, for AB 129 would be extended due to COVID-19. Bobbie said she will need to discuss possibly extending the deadline with Donald when he returns, and it may need to review this with the Deputy Attorney General's Office. Marc asked for this item to be included on the next meeting agenda to provide another update.

b. Update on the activities of the EMS Committee Members.

Dr. Myron Gomez said he didn't have an update that would directly impact EMS. He informed the committee that Renown Regional Medical Center is still seeing COVID-19 patients, but they have started a full elective surgery schedule again. He said they are normalizing their operations and he is happy to report that in the past several months the institution was able to adjust, and they were not overwhelmed at any time.

Donna said due to COVID-19 they will be celebrating EMS Week during the third week of September. She said they assisted with the creation of the convention center search facility and have been actively participating in preventing the worst-case scenario of COVID-19 in Southern Nevada. She said they have worked closely with the gaming industry to assess and develop certain parts of the plan to reopen, especially in developing efficient plans for screening and testing. She said now that the casinos reopen today, they will be able to see how their planning works out.

Markus said in Northern Nevada they have also worked hard to help prevent the worst-case scenario of COVID-19. He said REMSA created a call center with Washoe County Health District utilizing temps and volunteers to perform risk assessments for residents to get tested. He they have been keeping track of their employee's health to try to minimize exposures. They utilize a cellphone app that requires all employees to screen themselves daily for COVID-19 related symptoms and temperatures. He said that has really helped him keep track of employees that need to get tested and/or self-isolate. He informed the committee that in Northern Nevada he has seen the call volume for both air and ground has dropped considerably to about 30-40% of the regular call volume. He said it is starting to normalize and they are almost back to normal.

Steven said in Churchill County they have been fortunate that they haven't had a lot of cases of COVID-19 but they have experienced the same effects on call volume. He said they are looking forward to clinical rotations to opening back up so their students can finish that process.

Marc told the committee that the Nevada National Security Site shut down for a little over thirty days due to the pandemic and they have been slowly reopening at the discretion of the Department of Energy. He said their call volume has also decreased but is starting to go back up slowly.

c. Update on the activities of the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD).

There were no updates from the SNHD.

d. Update on the activities of the Washoe County Health District (WCHD).

Andrea Esp told the committee the WCHD has completed their multi-casualty incident plan update that involves their alfa plan and family service center plan, it will go before their board in a couple of weeks. They have been working with their EMS partners to do mobile tests. She said Reno Fire Department has done an excellent job of helping WCHD in that capacity. She said they hired a new EMS Program Coordinator, Vicki Olsen, who started in April. Andrea said she also started with WCHD in April and a Public Health and Preparedness on EMS Program Manager. She said REMSA has also been very helpful by testing those citizens who are unable to get to the testing center.

e. Update on the activities of the local EMS agencies.

Lee Cabaniss told the committee they have been working with the county, the emergency operation center and public health officials to provide day to day testing for COVID-19 to their community. He said its been a little more challenging for them considering they are rural and the finite resources available. He said the Department of Emergency Management and the National Guard have also been very helpful with

providing resources and have been assisting all the agencies during the COVID-19 event.

5. **Discuss the higher makeup of the committee and make recommendations on how to address gaps in membership, including an education position, third services position and tribal position.**

Bodie asked if this item could be table for the next meeting because he would like to do more research on the topic. Marc agreed that it would be a good idea to table this item especially since there will be so many new committee members at the next meeting. He asked the committee if someone would like to make a motion.

6. **MOTION: Bodie Golla made a motion to table this discussion for the next meeting and to have the Vice-Chair act as Chair.**
SECOND: Markus Dorsey-Hirt
PASSED: Unanimously

Public Comment – no public comment.

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.**

There were no public comments.

8. **Adjournment at 2:17 P.M.**