

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

**MINUTES
December 15, 2021
Carson City–10:00 AM**

**MEETING LOCATION:
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
4150 Technology Way, Room 204
Carson City, Nevada 89706**

Attendees were also able to participate by Videoconference and Teleconference

1. Roll call.

Minden Hall took roll call, and the Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Advisory Committee met a quorum.

Members in Attendance

Dr. Dale Carrison – Chair	Bodie Golla	Dennis Nolan
Markus Dorsey-Hirt	Steven Towne	James Wohlers

Absent

Carl Bottorf	Sean Burke
--------------	------------

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance

Bobbie Sullivan	Michael Bologlu	Anthony Parenti
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Absent

Dr. Douglas Fraser	Dr. Fermin Leguen
--------------------	-------------------

In Attendance

Rhonda Upchurch	Douglas Oxborrow	Kevin Haywood
Minden Hall	Sandy Wartgow	Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner
Melanie Spencer	Jennifer Walters	Linda Anderson
Chris Bosse	Andrea Esp	Cody Phinney
Adam Heinz		

2. Public Comment.

Public comment may be presented in person, by computer, phone, or written comment. Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than five minutes. A person may also have comments added to the minutes of the meeting by

submitting them in writing either in addition to testifying or in lieu of testifying. Written comments may be submitted electronically before, during, or after the meeting by emailing Jenna Burton at jburton@health.nv.gov. You may also mail written documents to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, 3rd. Floor, Carson City, NV 89706.

Dr. Dale Carrison opened the meeting for public comment. Jennifer Walters with Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority (REMSA) provided a comment regarding agenda item number six. Jennifer said REMSA supports allowing Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) in a Paramedic program and they also support the pursuit of higher education related to the EMS field. She said they would like to ask, and it may be clarified later in the meeting on the recommended anatomy and physiology course as the type. Is it a full one-to-two semester courses before they need to take this program at a college or is it a one-day course? They believe this could create a barrier for EMTs to apply when there is already a Paramedic shortage. She explained at REMSA they currently incorporate anatomy and physiology at the college level similar to anatomy and physiology 223 and 224 throughout the didactic portion of the program. They think that incorporating that as they go through the divisions increases the retention to the body system that they cover. Jennifer reiterated that REMSA is in support of allowing EMTs to join a Paramedic program but that the anatomy and physiology requirement may create barriers for students before attending the program. Dr. Carrison thanked Jennifer for her public comment and confirmed they will discuss this item further when they get to item number six. He asked if anyone else had any public comments. Hearing none, the Committee moved on to agenda item number three.

3. For Possible Action: Approval of minutes from the meeting of the EMS Advisory Committee on October 27, 2021.

MOTION: Steven Towne
SECOND: Markus Dorsey-Hirt
PASSED: Unanimously

4. Informational Only: Update on activities within the state regarding EMS.

a. Update on the activities of the State Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Program. – Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager

Bobbie Sullivan gave an update on the activities of the State EMS program.

- The State has released an updated crisis standard of care and will be getting that out to the agencies. She asked if people do not receive an update version by the end of the month to reach out to her.
- Bobbie had a conversation with Commission on Accreditation for Pre-Hospital Continuing Education (CAPCE) and ImageTrend regarding certificates of completion and the ability to migrate those directly into ImageTrend. She explained this is currently not an option because of privacy regulations within the United States as

well as internationally. She said they do not provide completion certificates of training to third party vendors. Bodie Golla asked if Target Solutions is a third-party vendor. Bobbie said this is a third-party vendor, but they are taking the collected information from CAPCE and sending it back to the third-party vendor who handles the licensing system. She said any of the certificates that they collect are through an accredited vendor. Dr. Carrison asked if the students can still get their own certificate to provide as proof of completing the course. Bobbie said yes, they can request the certificate themselves and provide it to whoever they like.

- The air service list was recently updated and will be posted online. She said it would be beneficial to make that list available to agencies and hospitals to ensure they are utilizing permitted air services in the event of hospital transfers here in Nevada.
- An update was done to the facility list and entered into National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS). She explained NEMSIS is the national database that is used to store EMS data from the United States and Territories and is a universal standard for how patient care information resulting from an emergency 911 call for assistance is collected. Bobbie said if there is a facility that is not on the list to contact the office to have it added. She said it usually takes a couple of days to get the list updated once they are aware of the missing facility.
- ImageTrend has made some changes to the system that will not allow for group uploads for continuing education units (CEUs). Once a course is approved, people are unable to view the individual approvals if uploaded as a group. She asked those who submit for individual CEUs throughout the year have them submitted individually.
- There are currently two vacancies in the EMS program. One staff member has recently stepped down from their position and the candidate chosen for the other position has elected not to come on board. She said those positions are posted on the EMS website and asked that anyone interested reach out to the office for more information. Dr. Carrison reiterated the importance to fill the vacancies as soon as possible and urged anyone interested or if anyone knows someone who would be interested to go to the EMS website to review the job listings and apply.
- Anyone that received their provisional license during COVID-19 will be expiring at the end of December 2021 and there won't be any extensions from National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). If providers don't get the full card before the end of December, their credential will go away through the registry and the EMS office. Dr. Carrison said it is important for the Medical Directors to know this because they have to sign off and approve providers through NREMT.
- The state has switched to a new email filter called "Barracuda". She said if anyone is noticing a delay in response time to reach out to staff by phone.

- Bobbie explained that Kevin Haywood will be reaching out to complete a data survey to check for compliance of uploads of patient care reports into the ImageTrend ELITE portion of the system.
- The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is in the process of bringing online the new Nevada Shared Radio System and will need everyone to be on the new system. If anyone has questions about the new system, they can reach out to the EMS office for more information on those requirements.
- The due date for yearend quarterly data for agencies that have a Community Paramedicine (CP) program changed and agencies must submit their yearend quarterly data as early as possible. Any agencies that have a Driver Only program are also required to submit their yearend data. Bobbie informed everyone that these reports can be submitted to the healthems@health.nv.gov email address for processing.
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recently released updated education standards for EMS and a link will be put on the EMS website.
- While looking at provisionals for students that were attending classes staff noticed that some students uploaded the provisional attendant application to the documents but did not submit a provisional attendant license application for them to complete their field internship. She asked that people check with the students to make sure those are submitted correctly and issued prior to them doing ride-a-longs in an ambulance.

b. Update on the activities of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Committee. – Anthony Parenti, EMSC Program Manager

Anthony Parenti provided an update on the activities of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Committee. He said it was great to attend the meeting in October 2021 and get familiar with the process and agenda items.

- He informed the Committee that the next EMSC meeting will be in February and held in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Anthony said the non-competing continuation performance and progress reports were submitted to Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and they noticed that Nevada has about \$172,000 on balance for the grant and with this year's funding there will be approximately \$300,000 in the budget.
- One of the open positions that they would like to address prior to the upcoming meeting in February is the hospital representative since it will help with increasing

the performance measures 06 and 07 for National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMESIS). He said there are a number of ex-officio vacancies as well and if anyone is interested, they can contact him directly for more information.

- There was a National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Pediatric Emergency Care (PEC) meeting held on December 14, 2021, where they shared a pediatric skills work group update which will help with performance measure 03 and can help agencies with the training requirements. If interested, or if you know someone who would be interested, he can be reached directly for more information.
- Michael Bologlu and Anthony will be working on a survey and application for funding to purchase approximately 400 Ambulance Child Restraint (Q-ACR4) systems that can be distributed to agencies across the state.
- They will continue to distribute airway training surveys so they can determine and formulate how they can apply for a program for the state.
- They will continue to explore the EMSC role towards applying for a Helmsley Charitable grant for rural healthcare toward Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) purchases.
- Anthony told the members he will be busy this month looking at HRSA grant 22087 cooperative agreements between the state, agencies, and hospitals. He may reach out for additional information if necessary. Markus Dorsey-Hirt asked Anthony when grant applications would be due. Anthony said the 22087 cooperative agreements within the regional organizations are due next month and he said he would reach out to Markus to get his opinion on it. Markus said that would be great and thanked him for the information.
- Dr. Carrison commented that it is very important to stay current and up to date with these practices because there are Paramedics that respond to patients of all ages including new borns, adults and the elderly.

c. Update on the activities of the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD). – John Hammond, EMS and Trauma Systems Manager

Dr. Carrison asked if John Hammond was on the line to provide an update. John or an alternate was not present. Dr. Carrison said that it is disappointing that John could not attend to provide an update since it is a very large health district. He believes that information could be valuable to the Committee and Nevada.

d. Update on the activities of the Washoe County Health District (WCHD). – Andrea Esp, WCHD EMS Coordinator

There was no update from the Washoe County Health District (WCHD).

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

Dr. Carrison asked for an update on the activities of the local EMS agencies.

- Markus said the biggest update CareFlight has is that they are administering booster shots and pediatric shots within the agency. He estimated they are administering approximately 100 booster shots per week. He thinks they have been well received. He said within their organization they have about a 90% vaccination rate. He said they don't know what the federal mandate will bring or if it will even go through so they are waiting on that. He said their call volume has normalized some even though they are still struggling with staffing.
- Dennis Nolan said the Reno Fire Department is still doing vaccinations and boosters. He said they held a Point of Dispensing (POD) at the Bonanza Casino in Reno, Nevada where they dispensed approximately 115 boosters on December 14, 2021, and they held another POD on December 15, 2021. Dennis said they are averaging about two to three PODs a week.
- The Reno Fire Department currently has an academy going on that is the largest that they have done. There are twenty-four recruits in the academy, and they will be doing a second academy overlapping the first academy with an additional twenty recruits. Dennis said the city had matched the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grants to reinstitute twenty positions that were lost between 2008 and 2013 during the recession and never restored despite the fact that they have seen a 10% increase in call volume. He said most of the recruits will allow them to add an additional Paramedic unit next year. He said they have also ordered a second rescue/ambulance that should be in service sometime after the first of the year.
- Dennis was on a conference call with Division of Emergency Management (DEM) and the WCHD to collectively work with all their regional partners on a full-scale mass casualty incident that will take place in March of 2022 and will highlight a number of components. This will allow hospitals and the airport to exercise their mass casualty internal plans and it will also be a radiological event. Dr. Carrison asked Dennis to provide information on the dates for this incident so they can plan to schedule the next EMS Advisory Committee after the exercise. Andrea Esp confirmed the dates for this exercise will be March 22 to March 24, 2022.

Dr. Carrison asked if there were any other updates and hearing none, he moved on to agenda item number five.

5. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to create a working group to review and update the EMS Advisory Committee Rules of Order. - Dr. Dale Carrison, Chair

Dr. Carrison reminded members that this is an Advisory Committee, and they are there to advise the State Health Department of changes they would like to make. He would like to see a group developed so they can review all of the rules at once to see what is not functional. He would also like to look at the makeup of the members to either eliminate or add members without making the committee so large that it's not functional and/or extending terms to fit the needs of the committee. He said it is extremely difficult for a chair of a committee that only meets four times a year to accomplish anything when the term is so short. He would like to propose a two-year term for the chair and vice chair so there would be more continuity. Dr. Carrison asked if there are any members who are interested in participating in a working group because this item hasn't been changed or updated in multiple years. He explained they can have the working group meet on the condition that there aren't too many active members, no more than one or two, participating because that would be a violation of open meeting law. He said there is a lot of public attendance and asked if those people would also participate.

Markus said he would be willing to join the working group. Dr. Carrison asked if Markus would be willing to lead the group since he doesn't think it would be appropriate for him to do it because of his role with this committee as chair. Markus agreed. He explained changing the rules of order would be a statutory change and would have to go through the process through the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB). Once those changes have been made, they can get assistance with forming a bill draft request (BDR). Dennis also offered to help with the working group and legislative process. Dr. Carrison asked Bobbie if she would distribute information on the working group and contact information for Markus to those interested in participating, including members of the public that attend these meetings frequently. Minden said that in the meeting chat Sandra Wartgow, Andrea, and Melanie Spencer are also interested in participating in the working group.

6. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to recommend to the Division to amend Nevada Administrative Code Chapter (NAC) 450B, to allow Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to be eligible to enter a Paramedic training program and if changed, adding the requirement to have completed a course in anatomy and physiology to enter a Paramedic program.

Dr. Carrison said this item is to amend Nevada Administrative Code Chapter (NAC) 450B and the process is different from the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS). It is easier to change but there are still policies and procedures in regard to those changes too. Dr. Carrison said there has already been a comment made on this item during agenda item two. He would like to allow Bobbie to speak on this item. Bobbie thanked Dr. Carrison and said the current NAC requires you must first be certified as an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) in order to join a Paramedic program in Nevada. She said this discussion is to allow EMTs to join a Paramedic course after completing anatomy and physiology. That change was based on the recommendation from the Committee in 2016. Dr. Carrison asked if Bobbie could share with the Committee her comparisons and findings from surrounding states. Bobbie said they had reached out to partners with NASEMSO and sent out a state-

wide survey asking the EMS programs if they allowed EMTs to enter directly into a Paramedic program and there are several that do and some that do not. She is putting together that data and will have it sent out shortly. Another question that was brought up was if there had been a significant success in allowing EMTs to go directly into the Paramedic program or if they are experiencing challenges with those students. She said they are still collecting that data for review.

Dr. Carrison said his personal opinion is that it is important to have that requirement because the anatomy and physiology course is typically an entire semester course and can't be taught in a one-day or three-day course. If you incorporate it into the Paramedic course, they have found that one of the weaknesses of the people in the program that have not had anatomy and physiology course is they do not understand some of the pathophysiology of the disease processes that Paramedics are required to do a differential and provide treatment for in the field. He said they won't discuss that right now, but it is an important item to discuss, and he would like to see volunteers form and organize a working group for this item. Markus asked what the process would be and the timeline for changes made to the NAC. Bobbie explained the process is initiated and done through the EMS office and involves getting the information in a presentable format. There is also an opportunity for public comment. She apologized for not having the entire process available but explained that it can take four to six months on average to process those changes. Markus said he thinks this is a fairly urgent item to move forward with but said since all the agencies are experiencing staffing challenges right now maybe they can remove as many obstacles as possible while still maintaining quality care. He suggested an approval process for the anatomy and physiology courses that are being taught in Paramedic courses to potentially eliminate a further requirement.

Dennis said he has also had a lot of input on this item. He remembers when the committee made this change and supported it based on the information at the time. He thinks it was a logical conclusion that more training and experience as an AEMT would be an advantage and help with the success of Paramedic students. Dennis told the committee they started getting feedback about a year later and the Paramedic programs were not seeing any significant difference between the EMT students going straight to the Paramedic program and with the shortage of Paramedics they wanted to find a way to accelerate through this process. He said there had been suggestions for EMTs with six months experience or a certain number of patient contacts to be able to attend a Paramedic program. He has since changed his mind and would like to participate in any discussions on this item. Adam Heinz agreed stating that furthering the knowledge that Paramedics receive is in the best interest of Nevadans. He shared his concerns, which he believes is echoed by his colleagues, that Nevada like every other state in the Nation is experiencing a shortage of Paramedics and he thinks that additional requirements at times could be arbitrary. He said most of the Paramedic programs have the same kind of anatomy and physiology component to them and he would like to ask that rather than throw something at it that may thwart or prevent or add to another item in which individuals will have to partake in in order to participate in a

Paramedic program may cause a decline which is not in the interest of Nevada and its communities.

Adam said he is interested in participating with the working group with Dennis to better prepare people in an EMT course so those people can become illegible to apply for Paramedic school right after completing it. He appreciates the opportunity and thanked Dr. Carrison for the advocacy to progress this in the confides. Dr. Carrison thanked him for his comments and said maybe they could increase the anatomy and physiology components in the Paramedic courses because it is a very important in the pathophysiology of a disease and administering the mechanism action and the pharmacology.

Dr. Carrison asked Dennis if he would like to serve on the working group and help organize the meetings. Dennis said he would be happy to help and asked if Bobbie could also help with this item and organizing the working group. Dr. Carrison thanked them and said this is a very important thing that they can do, and they can improve over the next year instead of having something two or three years down the road. Steve Towne said this item has been previously discussed it was determined there should be a way for an EMT to go straight to Paramedic school. He said speaking from his area it is dire and is only going to get worse. He thinks next year if they continue down the same pathway multiple agencies will be in dire straits, and it will come down to not having enough Paramedics to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services. He would like to see these changes done as quickly as possible. He thinks that after working closely with education institutions that they have a good anatomy and physiology component.

Steven thinks that another working group will slow down this process even more. He said hearing that Reno Fire Department is hiring twenty more Paramedics and many other agencies are also looking to hire the pool continues to get smaller and smaller and he thinks a solution needs to be put in place post haste since it is something they have already addressed. He said the AEMT component is very important for students, but he believes the Paramedic programs that are here in Nevada address that pretty thoroughly. His recommendation is to be as expeditious as possible when it comes to this item. Markus agreed with Steve, stating this is a very important matter and needs to be addressed urgently.

Dr. Carrison said he recognizes the need for this, but they can't pass the resolution until the next committee meeting. However, if the EMS office can organize a working group for January, then those interested could come up with a consensus on a recommendation that could be presented to them prior to the next meeting. Then they can review and vote to approve or deny the recommendation in March. He asked Bobbie to have staff send out a meeting date and information for the working group. After the item is approved, he can work with the EMS Program to get the legislative process started. He said he is willing to hold working groups prior to the next meeting since time is of the essence as everyone has expressed and hold a formal vote during the next meeting that way later in 2022, they can have EMT students enter Paramedic programs without the AEMT requirement.

Bobbie said she would like to add Great Basin Community College to the group of accredited Paramedic programs along with REMSA, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and Western Nevada College (WNC). Dr. Carrison said that is fine and that he would like to include everyone. Steve said the committee has already made their recommendation to the state that they would allow this, and he asked that they reconsider the working group since it's already been discussed. He said his opinion is that the educational institutions already have an AEMT component, and he believes adding another AEMT prerequisite would be another roadblock. Dr. Carrison said his only concern is that they have input from all educational programs to make sure they all agree with this change and asked Bobbie if she knew if they did. Bobbie told him she does not recall but can research it and get back to him with an answer.

Dr. Carrison said he would entertain a motion so long as it was with the advice and consent of the educational institutions because they are directly affected. Steve said with respect to the educational institutions they are not the end user of their products and as the leader of his department they are in dire need, and he doesn't agree with delaying this process any further if they can avoid it. Steve made a motion to allow Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to go straight to Paramedic school. Dr. Carrison asked him if he would add that the change be approved with the advice and consent of the educational institutions. Steve said he would not because he feels there has been ample time for the educational institutions to attend these meetings and be a part of the discussions. He said the feedback he has received is that the educational institutes are on board with the change and would like to see this move forward. Bodie said he couldn't recall if this item had been voted on previously and asked if this needs to be a new motion.

Markus said he thought this item had been voted on during the first meeting of 2021 and that it was approved. He said he thought this item doesn't even need to be voted on if that is the case and asked if there was someone who could confirm this. Dr. Carrison said if this is true then the discussion and vote on this item is a moot point. After reviewing previous minutes Bobbie was not able to find where the committee had voted on this item. Dennis Nolan explained that he wasn't opposed to the motion but that he would have liked to hear from the educational institutes first. Dr. Carrison agreed and said he and Bobbie will reach out to the educational institutes on this agenda item and they can have another motion if needed at a later meeting. Dr. Carrison said he is aware of one institution that is opposed to this change. He said he thinks after he explains that they can also have a better emphasis on the education in regard to the anatomy and physiology and the importance of that, that they will not be opposed anymore.

MOTION: Steven Towne made a motion to move forward with the recommendation to remove the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) requirement and allow Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to be

eligible to enter a Paramedic training program and to allow educational institutions to teach AEMT as part of their program.

SECOND:

Bodie Golla

PASSED:

One opposed.

7. Informational Only: Update and discussion relating to ImageTrend. – Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager

Bobbie said there were no other updates and that this item was included inadvertently. She told the committee that there have been a number of updates recently though and asked if anyone is experiencing problems to reach out to staff for assistance.

8. Informational Only: Update and discussion relating to the recommendation that State EMS Office develop a policy and procedure on statewide communications to identify leadership changes. – Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager

Bobbie said there were no updates for this item currently.

9. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to select the 2022 years meeting dates. – Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager

Bobbie said they need to discuss and schedule meeting dates for 2022 so they can provide a little bit of a better foundation for the committee to plan around those meetings. She said she has had some feedback from members requesting the meetings start in March. The second meeting of 2022 would then be held in June or July, third meeting in September and the fourth meeting sometime before the end of the year. Dr. Carrison asked if March 9th, July 13th, September 14th, and November 16th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. will work. Dennis said he thinks getting these dates scheduled now helps and that after looking at his calendar those dates seem to be clear. He asked if meeting invites could be sent out to the Nevada State Firefighter Association so all of the fire departments can add the meetings to their calendars. He also mentioned that Andrea Esp should be sent the invites as well since she will be able to work around conflicts for Washoe County.

10. Public Comment - Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting.

Dr. Carrison thanked everyone for their patience and helping to fit in the fourth meeting of the year and he thanked the state staff who has stepped up to the plate and allowed the meeting to happen.

11. Adjournment

MOTION:

Markus Dorsey-Hirt motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

SECOND:

Dennis Nolan

PASSED:

One opposed