



# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 9, 2022, at 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.**

### **Core Members**

Dr. Dale Carrison – Chair  
Carl Bottorf  
James Wohlers  
Sean Burke

Bodie Golla  
Dennis Nolan  
Markus Dorsey-Hirt  
Steve Towne

### **Ex-officio Members**

Bobbie Sullivan  
Dr. Fermin Leguen  
Michel Bologlu

Dr. Douglas Fraser  
Andrea Esp

### **In Attendance**

Douglas Oxborrow  
Jenna Burton  
Marc Pinkas  
Pierron Tackes  
Sabrina Braswell

Kevin Haywood  
Richard Fenlason  
Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner  
Andrea Esp

## **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 no 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](mailto:jburton@health.nv.gov). Written documents can be mailed to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, 4150 Technology Way, 3rd. Floor, Carson City, NV 89706.

No public comment.

**3. For Possible Action: Approval of minutes from the meeting of the EMS Advisory Committee on December 15, 2021.**

**MOTION:** Dennis Nolan

**SECOND:** Markus Dorsey-Hirt

**OPPOSED:** None

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

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

Bobbie Sullivan provided the update on the activities of the State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program. Bobbie said she had several items to present during the update. Earlier in the week, the Office of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) at the 4150 Technology Way, Ste 101, Carson City, NV 89706 location has relocated to across the parking lot at 4126 Technology Way, Ste 101, Carson City, NV 89706. She said that address change will not take effect until all staff have moved over approximately the first part of April and staff will notify everyone when that move is complete. All mail will still go to the 4150 Technology Way, Ste 101, Carson City, NV 89706 address until the transition is complete.

The pending EMS applications were at about 150 in the queue that needed to be reviewed and approved, but late last week that number jumped to 600+. Bobbie said in the last six-month staff has processed approximately 900+ applications along with other job tasks such as inspections, testing, grants, and other tasks as assigned.

Bobbie reminded everyone that if the licenses expire in 2022 the completed application is due by submittal through the online system no later than March 31, 2022.

Last week and this week staff have been conducting interviews for open EMS representative positions. The interviews will be finished this week and the candidates will be selected and offer letters will be sent out.

Michael Bologlu and Douglas Oxborrow have been working on the ImageTrend system to allow issuance of certification of completion for training from within the system. This will help alleviate some of the workload for educational programs, providers, and the Office of EMS because once the certificate is created it is saved in the applicants file and attached to their application, so staff won't have to do redundant work by having to reupload it.

Staff will be sending out a reminder to educational programs that the documentation for their courses needs to be completed within the time frame provided in the approval letter, because in the alternative what happens is the file locks so that it can't be manipulated. If someone misses something or needs to add something to their file, please reach out to office staff so they can reopen the file.

Training grant fund for fiscal year (FY) 22 have been exhausted. Staff are now accepting training grant applications for FY23. Staff estimate that there will be about \$40,000 available. Bobbie said the grant is approximately \$54,000 but with the increase in pass through to the Grants Office for the state that number will be reduced to \$40,000-\$45,000.

Bobbie reminded everyone about the change in the replacement radio system from the current 800 to the updated system that Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is now in the process of implementing in Clark County and then they will move up the western side of the state, working across I-80 and then back down. Please reach out to EMS staff if anyone needs contact information for a liaison that works for NDOT assigned to this project and works with the Office of EMS.

Dr. Dale Carrison reiterated how important the March 31, 2022, date is for providers who need to renew this year because they have to submit their renewal application to their medical director as well as the state office for approval.

Dr. Carrison said with the new radio system everyone should understand that there will still be dead areas in Nevada because its not possible to not have some dead areas. He said hopefully with the interoperability this upgrade will help.

Dr. Carrison asked if anyone had any additional comments or questions for Bobbie on her update, hearing none, he moved onto agenda item 4c.

**b. Update and discussion relating to ImageTrend. – Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager**

Bobbie combined the update relating to ImageTrend with the update on the activities of the State Emergency Medical Systems (EMS) Program.

**c. Update on the activities of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Committee and Health Resources and Services**

**Administration (HRSA) grant. – Michael Bologlu, EMSC Program Manager**

Michael provided the update on the activities of the EMS for Children (EMSC) Advisory Committee and Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant. Michael reintroduced Douglas, who goes by Doug, to the committee as the new EMSC Program Manager who has been in this position for approximately two months. He said some may have received an email from Doug regarding the 2022 EMSC Pediatric Survey. The survey is at approximately 50% response rate. As they did last year, they would appreciate it if everyone could complete those surveys as quickly as possible and the deadline to submit is March 31, 2022. Staffs goal is to have a 100% response rate by March 23, 2022.

Michael informed the committee that grants fund have been exhausted for FY22 as Bobbie had mentioned and fund will not be available again until the next budget period begins April 1, 2022. He explained they have received approval for funding from the HRSA but with the conflict in Russia and Ukraine the Federal Government has significantly decreased the amount of funding available to EMSC programs across the Country for FY23. He said they are used to operating on a budge of \$130,000 a year and that was cut to \$42,000 this year. He said they are hopeful that they will increase funding once the conflicts in Russia and Ukraine subside but at this time there is no guarantee that there will be additional funding.

Michael informed the committee that the EMSC Advisory Committee has an ex-officio vacancy for a fire-based EMS agency representative. If anyone is interested in participating on the EMSC Advisory Committee please email [healthems@health.nv.gov](mailto:healthems@health.nv.gov), Bobbie Sullivan at [bsullivan@health.nv.gov](mailto:bsullivan@health.nv.gov), Jenna Burton at [jburton@health.nv.gov](mailto:jburton@health.nv.gov), Michael Bologlu at [mbologlu@health.nv.gov](mailto:mbologlu@health.nv.gov), and Douglas Oxborrow at [doxborrow@health.nv.gov](mailto:doxborrow@health.nv.gov) and include a letter of interest and current resume. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2022, and this vacancy will be included as an agenda item for possible action.

Dr. Carrison asked if there were any comments or questions on the update provided by Michael, hearing none, he moved on to agenda item 4d.

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

Bobbie informed the committee that she has been in touch with John Hammond, and they are doing interviews and he will not be able to participate. She also said that he informed her that there are no updates currently for the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD).

Dr. Carrison thanked her for that and said one update he has concerning the SNHD is the new level 3 trauma center that is now up and running in the northern part of Clark County. He said the level 3 will go to the Nellis Airforce base and patients will be taken there when they have minor traumas that don't meet the criteria for a level 1 or level 2 trauma center. Dennis Nolan asked about Centennial Hills Hospital, Dr. Carrison said they have applied numerous times, but he hasn't heard about an approval on that yet.

Dr. Carrison asked if there were any comments or questions on the SNHD update, hearing none, he moved onto agenda item 4e.

**e. Update on the activities of the Washoe County Health District (WCHD). – Julie Hunter, WCHD EMS Coordinator**

Andrea Esp, Program Manager for EMS and Public Health Preparedness provided the update for the Washoe County Health District (WCHD). She introduced Sabrina Braswell as their new EMS Coordinator for the region. She informed the committee that their region is participating in a full-scale exercise beginning on March 22, 2022 - March 24, 2022. She said it relates to EMS because they will be using their mass casualty incident (MCI) plan and the evacuation plan for in-patient health care facilities. They will also be using the community reception center. All EMS providers will participate in all areas of those responses so this is a very robust exercise testing many different aspects of their response system in the region. As a result of these exercises, they will finish updating their MCI plan and their evacuation plan for the region and will include a burn annex so they will be able to flush out their burn capabilities in the region as they currently stand. They do not currently have a burn unit in the region. It will also include an update on how they do immediate evacuations. She explained their current plan looks at a planned evacuation or urgent evacuations such as if a building no longer has power. The update to the plan will have to do with emergency evacuations such as a building being on fire, or the building is compromised to some level where people have been evacuated outside and what to do with those individuals afterwards as far as patient movement and tracking of those individuals. She said that is something their plan has lacked, and they do recognize that, and they are actively working to improve their plan to address this issue.

WCHD finalized their franchise compliance report for ground ambulance transportation. She said, Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority

(REMSA), who has that franchise agreement with WCHD, was found to be in compliance.

She said they are working with EMS and fire partners to look at patient outcome data as a region. This is a newer project for the WCHD, and they are trying to analyze their response so they will collect the data and use it to determine how that data will be used moving forward. She said right now this project is in its infancy and they don't have the data yet, but they will be contact the Office of EMS to request access to that.

They are also working on a special trauma data report. She said they produced the annul trauma data report but now, through feedback from community partners, they are specifically looking at data from homicide, suicide and falls. They are looking to see how they can learn from that data to develop some initiatives to move forward.

Her last update was that they are working on updating their catchment zone map. They have a new hospital opening up in Washoe County so that map will include that hospital as well as one hospital outside of the County. Patients transferred to the hospital outside of the County will be sent there because it is closer than transferring them to other hospitals within the region. Bobbie asked Andrea to send her the information on the new hospital so it can be entered into the ELITE Patient Care System so units that are transferring have a destination available. Andrea said she would send her that information.

Dennis suggested inviting one or two of the EMS Representatives to participate with the MCI exercise so they can observe it and see what resources they have available to respond to those events. Andrea said anyone from the Office of EMS that is interested in observing the exercise are more than welcome to. She asked them to send her an email and she would be more than happy to accommodate them. Dennis said they had a cross over with their second academy which started last week which also has twenty-four students.

Dr. Carrison asked if there were any other comments or questions for Andrea regarding WCHD, hearing none he moved on to agenda item 4f.

**f. Update on the activities of the local EMS agencies.**

- Dennis provided the update on the activities of Reno Fire Department. He told the committee that Reno Fire Department has just completed one of their academies that started with twenty-four students and finished with twenty. He said only four of those students are paramedics and they were

hoping to draw more but like everybody else in this system they are suffering from a lack of paramedic candidates.

Reno Fire Department has purchased another rescue advanced life support (ALS) ambulance, which is in Salt Lake City, UT. He said it was delivered there by the manufacturer and had to have a maintenance issue resolved before they received it.

Dennis said Cindy Green and Kim Eastman are just finishing up all of Reno Fire Departments certification and license renewals. He said they were under the impression that all of them were complete but there were a few stragglers that Cindy is working with to finish and submit their applications to the Office of EMS.

- Markus Dorsey-Hirt provided the update on the activities of REMSA/CareFlight and said his update is basically reflective of what Dennis said including the same kind of staffing issues since hiring paramedics is really tough right now. CareFlight was able to hire a couple of flight nurses and flight paramedics. He said they hired a few from REMSA which unfortunately makes it tough on them, but he hopes things will improve.

Markus said thankfully the pandemic has been easing and currently they do not have anyone in isolation.

He said the system in Washoe County and the franchise is still running on a tiered basis with basic life support (BLS), intermediate life support (ILS) and advanced live support (ALS) responses depending on the patient determination. He said it is working fairly well right now and they haven't had any issues.

An assess and refer program was implemented where not all patients are transported but are referred to urgent cares or other appropriate health care facilities. He said this program is being communicated to the community and politicians and has been working really well so far.

- Sean Burke provided the update on the activities of Lander County EMS. He said from the volunteer perspective the fire departments in Pershing County are experiencing the same staffing issues. He said trying to find paramedics willing to come to Battle Mountain is extremely difficult.
- Steve Towne provided the update on the activities of Banner Churchill Community Hospital. He said everything seems to be stabilizing in Fallon

and they have made it through the pandemic. He said they are still dealing with staffing shortages but overall, they are doing good.

There are two Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes that they are supporting. One is with NAS Fallon Federal Fire and the other is with the high school and he said that has been a great pipeline for them. He said they have also been very busy with training interns and students.

He said he has been working on a new set of guidelines and they just received a new ambulance that they are working on getting that in service. He said their call volume is 15-20% above what they were pre-pandemic. Dr. Carrison said that is interesting because they are seeing it across the United States that the emergency departments, which were not very busy except with COVID, are starting to go back and eventually COVID will be considered a seasonal flu.

- Dr. Carrison provided the update on the activities of Western Nevada College (WNC). He said they have graduated another paramedic class but there has been a delay in the graduation because a number of the students got hired on by the fire departments that had to go through the academy first before they could go to work. He said their third class began in January. They anticipate a visit sometime this year from the co-ops or certifying agencies because they have now graduated two classes so hopefully WNC will be up there with Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and REMSAs program.

Dr. Carrison asked if there were any additional comments or questions, hearing none, he moved on to agenda item 5.

**5. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding updates to the EMS Advisory Committee on Rules of Order, reviewed and edited by an Advisory Committee working group – Dr. Dale Carrison, Chair**

Dr. Carrison said this has been discussed and they were going to have a group, including Markus and Dennis review and edit the Rules of Order but it never really got off the ground. What he suggested is that everyone pull a copy of the Rules of Order, review them then submit their comments/suggestions by email to [healthems@health.nv.gov](mailto:healthems@health.nv.gov), Bobbie Sullivan at [bsullivan@health.nv.gov](mailto:bsullivan@health.nv.gov), Jenna Burton at [jburton@health.nv.gov](mailto:jburton@health.nv.gov). He said it is too difficult logistically to get everyone together and this should help streamline this process. He said one of the changes he recommends is to extend the chair's term to two years because it is hard to accomplish anything with only four meetings a year. Markus suggested having a shared document that members of the working group can add their



comments to. Dr. Carrison said that is an excellent idea and based on those comments they can go to the individual that made the comment for clarification if needed. He said it is important to move forward with this because as an advisory committee they can still provide input on the Rules of Order, and they need to support Bobbie and her team with this because there will be legislative hearings that come up and they need to be there when it comes to the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) as opposed to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). Dennis echoed his comments and said he feels it would be easier and more consistent for the committee and the Office of EMS to have a chairman over a two-year period or eight consecutive meetings versus just the one year or four consecutive meetings. Pierron Tackes said the term of the chair is in NRS and is not something that can be changed in the Rules of Order so that election has to occur every year but that doesn't mean that the chair can't be re-elected and there is no limitation on how many times a chair can be re-elected, and statute does not have a limitation on how many times a chair can be elected. She said this may be something they should consider clarifying in the Rules of Order so there isn't any confusion in the future.

**6. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to elect an EMS Committee member as Chair, pursuant to NRS 450B.153.**

Dr. Carrison said he had no intentions of trying to be the chair two years in a row but since it was made clear that that is possible, he would certainly like that because he would like to finish what they have been trying to do since he has been chair and have some continuity. A motion was made by Bodie Golla that both Sean and Dennis agreed to make a second to re-elect Dr. Carrison. Bodie asked if the vice-chair position would be a for possible action agenda item at the next meeting. Dr. Carrison confirmed yes, they would need to elect a vice chair during the next meeting. Dr. Carrison thanked everyone for the opportunity to be re-elected as chair for the next year and they will try their best to live up to expectations and get a few of the projects they are working on completed and done in the next five meetings. Dr. Carrison asked if this item would have to be voted on at the next meeting. Pierron said they can push it to the next meeting if they would like, however, it is a for possible action item and there is nothing restricting the members from voting on this item now during this meeting. Dennis said since this item allows for a vote they may as well address it now rather than wait until the next meeting.

**MOTION:** Bodie Golla

**SECOND:** Sean Burke

**OPPOSED:** None

**7. For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action to recommend amendments to Nevada Administrative Code 450B, to allow Emergency Medical Technicians to be eligible to enter a paramedic training program – Dr. Dale Carrison, Chair**

Dr. Carrison said he reached out and spoke to REMSA who are highly in favor of it. He also spoke to Great Basin College who are also in favor of it. He didn't get a response from TMCC, however, Dennis advised him that he spoke to them, and they are also in favor of it. Dennis said he did reach out to them and confirmed they are in favor of this but that they would like to see a level of experience required for an EMT to go straight to a paramedic course. He said there have been a lot of different opinions on that requirement and Dr. Carrison may have a solution to that. Dr. Carrison said everyone is in favor of this and that an EMT should qualify to apply for a paramedic program based on the requirements set by the individual program. For example, a program may decide they don't want any requirements prior to applying to a paramedic program and another program may decide they want to require a years' experience as an EMT prior to applying for a paramedic program. He said the only thing they definitely want to change is that EMT can apply for a paramedic program, which is the majority of the programs in the United States. He said with the shortage they're experiencing for paramedics, especially in the rural areas where medicine is definitely lacking and some are doing a herculean job at trying to provide care, it is extremely important and one of his primary objectives to do something to improve medicine in the rural areas so that people have access to at least paramedicine and know where they are going to go in a timely manner for advanced care. Dr. Carrison said he believes the need for possible action was essentially done last time. He said Steve made the motion and the motion passed with the caveat that the educational intuitions agree with the proposed change, and it appears that they do want this to occur. Dr. Carrison asked Bobbie if she had any comments to add. Bobbie said not at this time but based on the recommendations from this committee the Office of EMS can start working on some of those changes. Dennis asked if this would be a change in NAC. Bobbie confirmed that yes, this would be an NAC change. Dennis said if staff needs help with this, he is more than willing to assist them. Steve said with the shortages he is very appreciative and thanked the committee and Office of EMS for working on this expeditiously. Bobbie thanked him and said she appreciates all the support that they get from all of the stakeholders in this group and across the state. She said everyone has been very proactive and willing to help at a moment's notice and that they do certainly appreciate that.

**8. 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.**

No public comment.

**9. Adjournment – Dr. Dale Carrison, Chair**

**MOTION:** Dennis Nolan

**SECOND:** Markus Dorsey-Hirt

**OPPOSED:** None

**2022 Years Meeting Dates: July 13th, September 14th, and November 16th.**