

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley,
MS
Director

**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

 **NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



Cody Phinney,
MPH
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical
Officer

MEETING MINUTES

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

May 10, 2023, at 1:00 PM

Meeting Locations:

This meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams, by phone, and at physical locations.

Online Meetings Link:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Phone Number:

+1 775- 321- 6111 **Phone Conference ID: 585- 908- 782#**

Physical Meeting Locations:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health

4150 Technology Way, Room 303

Carson City, NV 89706

1. **Call to Order/ Roll Call** – *Dr. Dale Carrison, Chair*

Board Members Present:

Dr. Dale Carrison

Carl Bottorf

Sean Burke

Bodie Golla

James Johnston

Markus Hirt

Steve Towne

James Wohlers

Ex- Officio Members Present:

Bobbie Sullivan

John Hammond

Andrea Esp

Douglas Oxborrow

Dr. Dale Carrison called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

Roll Call was taken, and it was determined that a quorum of the Nevada Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee was present.

2. **Public Comment:**

No public comment was made at this time.

3. **For Possible Action: Approval of minutes from the EMS Advisory Committee meetings on February 8, 2023, and April 14, 2023.**

Minutes for February 8, 2023:

MOTION: Markus Hirt

SECOND: Carl Bottorf

PASSED: Unanimously

Minutes for April 14, 2023

MOTION: Steve Towne

SECOND: Douglas Oxborrow

PASSED: Unanimously

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

Dr. Dale Carrison introduced Bobbie Sullivan to give an update on the activities within the State EMS Program.

a. **Update on the activities of the State EMS Program – Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager**

Bobbie Sullivan thanked Dr. Carrison and began her report. Bobbie Sullivan introduced Cody Phinney, explaining she was once the Deputy Administrator and has now become the Administrator. Cody Phinney has joined the meeting today. Bobbie also introduced Kyle Devine, the divisions new Deputy Administrator and Janice Hadlock- Burnett, the divisions Bureau Chief.

The EMS Staff, Health Division and Burning Man staff have been working closely together to ensure Burning Man plans go as they should. Bobbie explained that everything looks in place for the event.

Bobbie Sullivan explained that Image Trend moved the system to a cloud-based server, which was met with some difficulty regarding Payment. Bobbie Sullivan explained that Douglas Oxborrow fixed that and got it up and running.

Bobbie Sullivan went on to say that the EMS Office has finished certification renewal season, and as expected there was a huge influx of people who waited until the last minute. Although, the end of April, beginning of May, office staff was able to go through all the standing applications and get corrections sent out to individuals. Bobbie explained that all staff is coming close to being finished with all of these.

Bobbie explained that in March, she attended a site visit for the American College of Surgeons, Nellis Air Force for their Trauma Center accreditation. Bobbie was happy to inform the committee that when she attended the site visit, she told the agency that they were notified they passed the inspection, and now they are just waiting for the formal notification. Bobbie said that they got Nellis Air Force base online, so in the future we should be receiving some of the Trauma reports through NEMSIS.

Bobbie Sullivan went on to explain that the State EMS office has received approval from the Deputy Attorney General, that the office can take applications straight to issue, if all necessary documents are there, except for the completed background. Once the background is brought in, if there are any disqualifying convictions then the office can move to revocation when that is presented.

Bobbie asked that all agencies receiving new vehicles to please keep the state office in the loop so that they can plan for inspections as they come in.

Finally, Bobbie Sullivan explains that the letter voted on to send to the assembly, regarding AB358, was revoked because it is not within the limits of the Advisory Committee.

Dr. Dale Carrison commented on the Trauma Centers, saying that it is important to partner with Military colleagues. He says that everyone needs to be aware of the significant changes that the State EMS office is making, with the help of the committee. For example, changing renewal date to date of birth, and being able to approve applications without the background check. His final statement is that communication is key to getting issues fixed within the State EMS Program.

Cody Phinney introduced herself, and explained that she and her executive assistant, Kelli Knutzon, are more than happy to answer any emails or have meeting with anyone who has constructive criticism.

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

Bobbie Sullivan included her updates for Image Trend in the previous agenda item.

c. Update on activities of the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Committee – *Douglas Oxborrow, EMSC Program Manager*

Douglas Oxborrow introduces himself and begins his update.

Douglas explains that the EMS Office staff are still in the process of delivering pediatric restraints to agencies who need them, which he feels so happy to be able to do. Doug explains that the EMSC Committee is looking into a pediatric recognition program, to make people more aware. The point of this would be to show that certain agencies/ hospitals that meet criteria, will get some sort of item to show they meet those criteria. EMSC is also in the process of adding new board members and will be having a meeting shortly in the future.

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

John Hammond introduces himself and explains that the SNHD has been working on data management initiatives, as well as working very close with several vendors to make sure that everything runs smoothly, being that they are having issues with PCR data due to the large amount of data coming in. He explains it is hard to pick and pull for data.

John expresses that he has been watching legislature with all the upcoming changes with the EMS office as well as the changes with open meeting law.

John Hammond asks the committee about a bill that was being talked about in legislature that would limit freestanding ED's based on geographical locations, then closed out by thanking everyone for their time and asking for questions.

Dr. Dale Carrison thanks John Hammond for his time in explain an update for Southern Nevada Health District.

Bobbie Sullivan responds to Johns question and says that she is unaware of that bill but will have staff investigate it and get back to him. Bobbie also added that the legislature is working through a bill to allow the size of the EMS Advisory Committee to be increased by two members. She said it looks like it will be moving forward.

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

Andrea Esp introduced herself and explained that the Washoe County Health Committee has met and come up with a five-year plan for Washoe County EMS, in which will go in front of the Board of Health for final approval. Andrea explains that one thing to note from the five-year plan is the development of a community paramedicine program. She is happy to say that the program has secured \$350,000 to help support this. Andrea explains that they have updated the response map for REMSA, which will also go to the District Board of Health for approval.

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

Markus Hirt introduces himself and gives an update on Care Flight, explaining that REMSA was covered well by Andrea. Markus explains that they are all still recovering from the incident in February, but things are slowly getting back to normal as time goes on. Both their aircraft and ground transport are in service and running as usual. Markus is happy to say that nurses from UNR have been shadowing their ground transport team, which has been very successful and can lead to many great things. Markus thanks the committee and hands it back to Dr. Carrison.

Dr. Dale Carrison introduces Steve Towne to give an update.

Steve Towne introduces himself and gives an update for Banner Churchill EMS. Steve explains that the volume is starting to get up with summertime coming around. They are currently working on their next “batch” of paramedic and EMT students, educating and training the next generation. This is all Steve has for the committee.

Dr. Dale Carrison asks the individuals present online to give an update for their local EMS agencies.

Sean Burke introduces himself and gives an update for Persian County Volunteer Fire Service. Sean explains that recruiting volunteers for this service continues to be a challenge, as most of their departments are operating at less than 75% normal capacity.

Dr. Carrison explained how important it is to have full staffing, as well as staff with all sorts of experience so that they can fill in as needed.

5. **For Possible Action: Discussion of forming a working group with the bringing of Fire Chief Associations to work on our concerns with AB358.**

Bobbie Sullivan requested a five-minute recess.

Dr. Dale Carrison agreed to this short break.

Dr. Dale Carrison called the meeting back to order at 1:37 PM.

Bobbie Sullivan explained that at the last meeting on April 14, 2023, there was discussion of forming a working group related to assembly bill 358.

Steve Towne brings about the concerns that were brought up within this legislation, but not hearing those concerns before that, Steve is recommending that the committee form a work group, including the stakeholders from the fire- side of EMS so that there can be more awareness in the future of any issues that may come about.

Dr. Dale Carrison explains that he met with Rich Harvey regarding this working group and said that there were concerns from both sides. He says that, as he expressed communication is key. There have been many things said about the State EMS Office that could have been communicated instead of said in a sneaky and harsh way, Carrison explains. Dr. Dale Carrison says that his main goal is to keep everything running smoothly, so we as a team can do what is best for Nevada. Dr. Carrison asked for comments and thoughts from the committee or the public regarding this matter.

Public comment from Mike Brown. Mike Brown thanked the committee for the discussion of this working group. He explains that through watching legislation, this situation has become made out to be all about fire, which he says it is a statewide issue. Mike says that fire cannot function without private agencies and private agencies cannot function without fire. It is a must that they work together. Mike Brown agreed with Dr. Dale Carrison that communication is key. Mike expressed that he would like to see it all be worked out.

Dr. Dale Carrison thanked Mike Brown and asked if any other individuals had a comment.

Steve Towne commented and said that he is disappointed that it looks like it is coming from the fire side, but he believes that is how it was presented. Steve explained that in the years he has been on the committee, he had never seen this legislation coming. Steve Towne expressed that he felt blind sighted with this bill up until the week before it was heard. He expressed that no one reached out to him, as a board member or as an EMS agency. Steve agrees with Dr. Carrison that communication is very important because change cannot happen without talking about the issues at hand.

Rich Harvey, Fire Chief for the Central Lyon County Fire, made public comment. Rich Harvey explained that AB 358 was not developed in a vacuum and that communication takes both sides to accomplish things. Mr. Harvey said that the Fire Chiefs association has a working group/ committee that works together to make changes throughout the state, that they feel are necessary. Rich explained that the committee sent a letter to the State EMS office back in December of 2022, saying that they were a standing agenda item and asking to talk about the issues that the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association has throughout the state, and there was no response from the State EMS office. Rich Harvey explains that there are no sides in this, everyone is in this for the same reason: to provide the best care to the public of Nevada. Rich expresses that AB358 is not the solution to all the problems but is a step in the right direction to solving issues that have been presented.

Dr. Dale Carrison asked Rich Harvey a question. The question he asked was, "You went to the Department of Health and Human Services, but I am wondering how that filtered down. I believe if we are going to be able to do anything about it, it needs to come directly to this committee. It never got to this committee, for whatever reason. Overall, how do we best go forward, right now?"

Markus Hirt added onto what Dr. Carrison said, by explaining that the letter did not get filtered to the committee. He adds that he does not believe there needs to be another working group, he thinks everyone just needs to work together in meetings. He expresses that attendance to the committee meetings is important so these things can be added to the agenda and talked about. He also brings up meeting more often so that there can be more consistent discussion.

Rich Harvey explains that in the fine print of AB358, the committees got "teeth", meaning they could make decisions for the state. Replying to their Dr. Carrison and Markus Hirt's concern of the letter not filtering through to the committee, he did not know where to send it to, so they sent it to the top. He says that by moving State EMS to the Fire Marshalls office, there would be an individual who could receive that letter and get it where it needs to go. Rich Harvey challenged State EMS to show up to the Fire Chiefs Association meetings, to discuss with them there. He says it is much easier to chat, without an agenda.

Kyle Devine introduced himself as the Deputy Administrator and explained that he has worked over EMS in the past and knows that these issues can be solved. Mr. Devine explained that if you contact Cody Phinney, Janice Hadlock- Burnett, Bobbie Sullivan, or himself, he guarantees that there will be a response. Kyle expressed that he would go to the Fire Chiefs Association meetings, all he needed was to know when and where the meeting takes place. Kyle expressed that he is supportive of everything and will do his best to do whatever is necessary.

Dr. Dale Carrison explained that he does not want the discussion to stop here. He believes the conversations need to continue outside of this meeting. It is the only way things will get solved. He says if

the Fire chiefs association wants EMS representative there, they will need an invite. Dr. Carrison expressed that as a committee, before making decisions, it is important that the committee wait it out to see how AB358 will go through senate. Dr. Carrison explained that he thinks all the committee can do now is communicate with the Fire Chiefs association and start that and see what the committee can do from there.

Bodie Golla commented on item number 5, of forming a work group. Bodie made a motion to form the working group, that includes the Fire Chiefs to get some things accomplished.

Dr. Dale Carrison responded to Bodie explaining that he does not think starting the working group before legislative session is over is going to be conducive to the situation, because if the bill gets passed there are going to be a lot of changes made.

Douglas Oxborrow agreed with Bodie Golla, saying that regardless of before or after the senate passes or does not pass AB358, a working group needs to happen to continue this communication that the committee is seeing today.

Markus Hirt asked Pierron Tackes, the State DAG, if members of the committee were allowed to join the Fire Chiefs Association Meetings.

Pierron Tackes introduced herself as the Deputy Attorney General and stated that it is okay for members of the EMS Advisory Committee to attend the Fire Chiefs Association meetings. If, they are not part of the quorum or taking items from the Advisory committee to their meetings.

Bodie Golla made a motion to table the work group related to AB358 until the next meeting.

MOTION: Bodie Golla

SECOND: Markus Hirt

PASSED: Unanimously

6. **For Possible Action:** Introduction and possible action to recommend to the Board of Health appointment of new Committee Members. "An employee of or volunteer with a medical facility located in a rural area that provides emergency medical services". – *Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager*

Bobbie Sullivan explains that this position has been open for quite some time. She explained that the EMS Office sent out the positions through the list serv, and there are currently two letters of interest. The two applicants for this position are Kevin Grannis, who is an employee for Humboldt General Hospital and General Rescue, along with, James Gibson who is an employee for Duck Valley Indian Reservation Clinic Facility. Bobbie said that Kevin Grannis was online, but James Gibson was not online.

Kevin Grannis introduced himself, explaining that he would like to bring his expertise and wisdom into this committee and help make the EMS system better for Nevada.

Markus Hirt asked Kevin Grannis if he would be able to attend meetings regularly, Markus noted that it is important we have a quorum, so the committee meetings do not get postponed.

Kevin Grannis responded to Markus and explained that he would be able to attend either online or in person.

Ryan McIntosh was unable to join the meeting.

Markus Hirt made a motion to recommend Kevin Grannis as the EMS Advisory Committee member who is "an employee of or volunteer with a medical facility located in a rural area that provides emergency medical services".

MOTION: Markus Hirt

SECOND: Steve Towne

PASSED: Unanimously

7. **For Possible Action:** Introduction and possible action to recommend to the Board of Health appointment of new Committee Members. “An employee of a fire-fighting agency at which some of the firemen are employed and some serve as volunteers”. – *Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager*

Bobbie Sullivan explains that this position is becoming open, as this is Bodie Golla’s final meeting with the committee. Bobbie introduces the applicants for this position, Jim Morgan who is the Battalion Chief of Storey County Fire Protection District and Ryan McIntosh who is an employee at Central Lyon Fire.

Ryan McIntosh introduces himself and points out to the committee that there has been a mistake in the way the committee has been doing appointments, he says that this is a small example of things that he would like to see fixed with AB358. Ryan explains that as a sitting board member, he would like to bring fire representation to these meetings. His goal if he was welcomed onto the board would be to fix the State EMS program.

Dr. Dale Carrison asked the committee if they had any questions for Ryan McIntosh. There were no questions asked at this time.

Jim Morgan was unable to join the meeting.

Bodie Golla made a motion to recommend Ryan McIntosh as the EMS Advisory Committee member who is “an employee of a fire- fighting agency at which some of the firemen are employed and some serve as volunteers.”

MOTION: Bodie Golla

SECOND: Markus Hirt

PASSED: Unanimously

ABSTENTION: Steve Towne

8. **For Possible Action:** Introduction and possible action to recommend to the Board of Health appointment of new Committee Members. An employee of a privately-owned entity that provides emergency medical services”. – *Bobbie Sullivan, EMS Program Manager*

Bobbie Sullivan explains that the State EMS office did not receive any letters of interest for this position.

Dr. Dale Carrison explains that it is a concern that there is not many people who are interested in being on the committee, and it is important that we have individuals wanting to be part of the EMS Advisory Committee so we can make necessary changes.

9. **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment at this time.

10. **Adjournment:**

Dr. Dale Carrison asked for a motion of approval for adjournment.

MOTION: Steve Towne

SECOND: James Johnston

PASSED: Unanimously

Dr. Dale Carrison adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.

DRAFT