

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

MINUTES

June 18, 2015
1:30 P.M.

MEETING LOCATIONS

Meeting Location:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
4150 Technology Way, 3rd Floor, Room 303
Carson City, Nevada

Videoconference to:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Suite 102
Elko, Nevada

ALSO AVAILABLE VIA TELECONFERENCE

Phone No.: 866-590-5055 Access Code: 8177211#

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Fogerson
Steve Tafoya
Charles Stringham, MD

John Mohler
Sarah McCrea for Robert Horton
Kevin Romero

Christina Conti (for Kevin Dick)
Jared Oscarson

MEMBERS EXCUSED

John Fildes, MD

Kristen Chandler

Michael Heideman

DPBH EMPLOYEES IN ATTENDANCE

Connie McFadden

Bobbie Sullivan

Richard Fenlason

PRESENTERS

Britney Dayton

Malinda Southard

Public Comment

Randi Hunewill, Nevada Department of Education, supervises the Health Science and Public Safety Programs at secondary and post-secondary schools. The Department of Education received a stream of funding (approx. 22 million dollars) in the last legislative session. A grant will be issued to Great Basin College (GBC) for approx. \$300,000 for a Paramedic Program. GBC will partner with Humboldt General Hospital (HGH). Another grant will be awarded to Carson Fire. They are in the second year of putting on an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class with the High School. The Department of Education is encouraging agencies throughout the state to partner with local school district to sponsor an EMT course.

Roll call and approval of December 18, 2014 and March 19, 2015 minutes.

Dave Fogerson took roll and verified that there is a quorum present.

MOTION: Jared Oscarson moved to approve the December 18, 2014 and March 19, 2015 meeting minutes as presented.

SECOND: Dr. Stringham

PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

Update on activities within the Nevada State EMS Program since last meeting.

Steve Tafoya provided report.

- EMS Program staff are currently working on Permit renewals. There are currently 63 permitted agencies.
- There are currently 3,098 certified EMS providers in the State.
- Pass / Fail rates
 - EMT – 550 with a pass rate of 70% (30% eligible for re-test).

- Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) - 284 with a pass rate of 74% (26% eligible for re-test).
- Paramedic - 49 with a pass rate of 96% (4% eligible for re-test).
- DPBH has been developing new websites for all programs in the Division. The EMS website should go live by the end of June. There will be an overlap of a few days between the old and new websites. The goal is to close the old sites in early July. The new sites should be much cleaner, a lot more user-friendly. There will be a much cleaner word-search feature. We are currently reviewing our links to make sure they are active and will allow users to access other sites as needed. We have an inter-active map that shows the locations for all Permitted Agencies and contact information for that services as well as a link to the agencies website.
- The EMS Program was able to use some of the grant funding from the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) grant to enhance the Trauma Registry. We were able to upgrade to version 5 which is the version that several hospitals have migrated to so it will allow for more interoperability.
- The office is planning to make data collection a priority. We will be working with services to insure that they are all submitting data and that we are using that data appropriately. This should make for more effective reporting. The office is hoping to get into more partnerships with other programs and finding more effective ways of using that data.
- The new patient care reporting system, Triptix, is planning to go live by the end of August. Their plan is to start providing demo versions and provide training to some services so that they can start getting used to the new system before it goes live. With this new system we hope to have data to tie with the trauma data.
- The EMS Program is working with other programs within the DPBH to develop a data-based Certification system.

John Mohler asked Steve if there is a “sunset” with the Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Program now that patients are utilizing the Physician’s Order for Life Saving Treatment (POLST) program. Steve answered that states nationwide are looking and both systems and attempting to determine which is most effective and which should be eliminated. Dave Fogerson stated that health facilities he has worked with have stated that they prefer using the DNR Program instead of the POLST because POLST requires patients be seen by a physician. The DNR Program allows the physician to issue a DNR with having actually seen the patient, on the recommendation of another healthcare provider. Steve stated that he will pass that along to the POLST Committee.

Jared Oscarson asked about the medical laboratory regulations. He asked if the language had been amended to be geared to medical laboratories within the entire state rather than just those outside Clark County. Steve stated that he has been working with Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) to insure they adopt similar language for regulation within SNHD.

Update on activities within Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) EMS Program since last meeting.

Mary Ellen Brit addressed the members regarding SNHD activities:

- SNHD is working on data.
- Hospital Mass Casualty Incident.
- The permit renewal process in SNDH is complete.

Mary Ellen stated that she is retiring from her position and she will be replaced by John Hammond and she turned over the balance of the report to him. John stated the rest of the activities:

- Currently working on a regulation re-write.
- SNHD have switched to Dextrose 10% vs Dextrose 25%.

John Mohler thanked Mary Ellen for her work on the Committee and wished her luck with her retirement.

Kevin Romero asked if there were costs affiliated with the move from Dextrose 25% to the Dextrose 10%. Mr. Hammond stated that it was a little bit cheaper.

John Mohler thanked Mary Ellen for her work on the Committee and wished her luck with her retirement. Other members agreed.

Presentation on Washoe County EMS Oversight Program, discussion only. (Christina Conti)

Christina Conti spoke to the Committee about the Washoe County EMS Oversight Program. She introduced Britney Dayton who presented a PowerPoint outlining the EMS Oversight Program. (Attachment A) Quarterly Report will be available soon.

Dave Fogerson asked if the Committee could receive copies of quarterly reports as they are prepared. Christina and Britney responded that this Committee would be added to the distributions list for this report.

Discussion on legislative changes that affect EMS from the last session.

Jared Oscarson spoke about the Community Paramedicine Legislation. He stated that a group of stakeholders throughout the state were able to craft enabling legislation to legitimize community paramedicine in the State of Nevada. With that there are requirements for endorsing both agencies and providers of community paramedicine in Nevada. Also a data reporting requirement, on a quarterly basis to the State Board of Health and yearly to Interim Healthcare Committee. Dave Fogerson spoke about legislation that dealt with the makeup of this committee. Previously certain positions were shown as fire-fighters, now they show as either a fire-fighter or a licensed attendant of an EMS agency. Also in that same bill "EMS Providers" were amended to read as "health care providers" which should help with reimbursement billing.

Steve Tafoya thanked the members for the work that was done during the session. As a result of Legislation changes, it will be necessary to make changes to the NAC. That process should begin in late summer, early fall. The Public Health Preparedness (PHP) Program also has regulation changes that need to be approved so the plan is for both EMS and PHP will hold combined public workshops.

Kevin Romero thanked the State for the regular updates on pending legislation.

Dave Fogerson asked about the training center concept. Will it be revisited in the upcoming Regulation revisions? Steve Tafoya stated that adding the Training Center concept to the NACs was a priority for this next revision.

Jared Oscarson asked about the upcoming NAC revisions and if that would be the Committee's opportunity to correct the NACs that were confusing during the last revision. Steve stated that he is working with the Board of Nursing to clarify licensing issues for flight nurses.

Discussion and possible action: selection of a new Committee chair

Dave Fogerson stated that he is stepping down as Committee Chair and called for nominations for a new Chair. Only nomination for chair was Jared Oscarson. Dr. Stringham proposed motion.

MOTION: Dr. Stringham nominated Jared Oscarson as the new Chair
SECOND: Dr. Stringham
PASSED: UNANIMOUSLY

Presentation / update from Health Care Quality and Compliance (HCQC) on the proposed medical laboratory regulations.

No one from HCQC was present so Steve Tafoya provided an overview of the process to date. HCQC presented the proposed regulations to the State Board of Health and it passed, so they are now working on the amendment to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). For agencies that were charged incorrectly, HCQC has started the process to reimburse those agencies. Those agencies should have received notification. When the new EMS website goes live there will be tools available to assist agencies. EMS staff will begin training with HCQC staff on the inspection process. Dave Fogerson stated that he wished to thank Richard Whitley, Kyle Devine and Dr. Green for the work that they put in on this issue.

Presentation on the crisis standards of care process (Malinda Southard)

Malinda Southard, Public Health Preparedness (PHP), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) provided a presentation on behalf of Dr. Ihsan Azzam, State Medical Epidemiologist, who has been guiding the Nevada Crisis Standards of Care project. Malinda stated that the goal of this statewide project is to create a plan for how the statewide healthcare system will operate in the face of a major disaster. (Attachment B).

This will be a two (2) year project. Dr. Azzam is putting together a stakeholder group that will begin meeting in the next few months. Malinda invited anyone who was interested in becoming involved in this group and to contact Dr. Azzam.

Public Comment

Donna Miller, Lifeguard Air Ambulance – Thanked Steve Tafoya and Mary Ellen Brit for their help and support with SB327. She said she wanted to discuss the air ambulance permitting and licensure that is different for in-state and out-of-state services. She stated that at the last two meetings she was told that the Attorney General's Office was looking into it and she wants to know the status. Steve Tafoya responded to let her know that one issue was the base hospital. He stated that he has worked with various hospitals who are willing to serve as the base hospital for out of state agencies so that should clean up one of the issues of concern. He also stated that when the regulations are revised later this year we will be able to clean up other areas of concern and stated that she will be able participate in those workshops.

John Mohler stated that he spoke with a nurse who has an application in with Crowd RX for Burning Man. She was contacted by the agency and they asked her if she was interested in working for them as a flight nurse.

Adjournment

DRAFT