

# **AMBULANCE SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD**

c/o Rhode Island Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908  
(401) 222-2401

## **Meeting Minutes of the Ambulance Service Advisory Board March 20, 2013**

### **ASAB Member Attendees:**

Leo Kennedy  
Raymond Medeiros  
Thomas P. Caito  
Joseph Lauro  
Michael DeMello  
Sean Thompson proxy for  
John Pliakas  
Dawn Lewis  
Paul Casey proxy  
For Steven Stokes  
Randall Watt  
John Robinson proxy for  
David Savastano  
John Potvin  
Al Galinelli  
Lynne Palmisciano  
James McDonald  
Ana Novais  
Jason Umbenhauer  
Peter Grenier  
John Vernancio  
Michael McGrane

### **Representing:**

Providence County Paid  
Rhode Island State Assoc. of Firefighters  
Washington County Volunteer  
American College Emergency Physicians  
RI State Fire League  
  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Hospital Association of RI  
  
Private Ambulance Service  
Newport County EMS  
  
Rhode Island State Assoc. of Firefighters  
Rhode Island State Assoc. of Firefighters  
Bristol County EMS  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
HEALTH  
HEALTH  
Kent County EMS  
RI Association of Fire Chiefs  
Private Ambulance Service  
Providence County Volunteer

1. Establishment of a Quorum
2. Meeting was called to order at 13:08hrs. by Leo Kennedy, Chairman.
3. Introduction of Membership
4. Review / Consent of Agenda - A motion by Randall Watt and seconded by Dawn Lewis to approve the agenda was passed.
5. Approval of Minutes of the December 2012 meeting – A motion by Randall Watt seconded by Al Galinelli to approve the minutes was passed.
6. Correspondence - None

7. Announcements – EMS Pride Awards – Awards were presented to seven EMTs from the Western Coventry Fire Department for two separate incidents. Awards were presented to:

- First Incident – Pediatric Trauma Code - Kelley Gaustini, Robert Mann, Russell Lacaillade, Peter Lamoon
- Second Incident –Maternity– Kathy Hartley, Charles Bowen Sr., Eric Oberg

8. Committee Reports:

A. Educational Standards – Chairman Michael DeMello reported that there was research into resurrecting the State exam and the committee was looking into it. Status of EMT-C was not the scope of the Educational Standards Committee. However, the committee will make decisions based on the educational components once the full Board makes a decision on what will happen with the levels of licensure. Jason Rhodes reported that there have been several inquires into the status of EMT-C licensure and that the time to make licenses more portable is now. The Cardiac program is decades old and the scope has changed significantly but the curriculum has not progressed at the same pace.

Issues that have been discussed recently:

1. Licensure costs – fees will continue to be waived however, the issue of 2-year vs 3-year renewals have not been discussed.

2. Looking at transitioning from a “normal” recertification to a system of con-ed.

3. Recertification length – recertifications should be shorter due to the CEU component coupled with a course that is competency based.

4. Course length – the course will be about 100-150 greater then the current Cardiac program

5. What will become of currently licensed EMT-Cardiacs? – There are several ideas including a sunset date in which everyone would need to comply or losing the remaining Cardiacs through attrition. The Department is also working with the National Registry to develop a Paramedic transition course. Existing EMT-Cardiacs will be allowed to practice however; they may be called something else. The level of service to communities will not be reduced.

6. Board members were concerned about potential legislation due to the change, is there anything that needs to be done to make sure that we can retain the current Cardiac level and establish a new licensure level. It was stated that even a nomenclature change may affect several communities with collective bargaining agreements.

7. There were concerns from members of the Board regarding potential billing issues for services utilizing different levels of providers.

8. Paul Valletta from the Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters had concerns and asked the Board and HEALTH to consider fiscal implications and to collaborate with the State Association regarding this issue. Also stated there were concerns with contracts and fiscal impact to communities. Mr. Valletta also stated that the State Association of Firefighters is not against this but has concerns.

9. Chief Brian Jackovonie from the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs had similar concerns and asked the Board and HEALTH to also collaborate with the RIAFC when making these decisions and developing programs. Chief Jackavonie also stated his organization was not against the issue but wanted to have input.

10. Tim Potvin stated that this is one of the best things the Health Department has considered in recent times.

B. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) Committee – No actual report, however, the Department has been awarded a \$100,000 EMS-C grant from HRSA. The original grant application was for \$130,000 Tom Kilday has been working on EMS-C since Don Dragon left and a new person will be hired shortly to manager the grant. The lecture series will be resurrected and an archived webinar will be developed.

C. Medical Affairs Committee – No report, minutes have been submitted. There is a meeting scheduled for March 21, 2013. Sean Thompson made a motion to allow the Medical Affairs committee to stay intact with new members joining on Friday morning 0800hrs to allow the medical affairs committee to function with current members for tomorrows meeting. New assignments would take effect on Friday morning. Michael DeMello, the motion carried, seconded the motion.

D. Rules and Regulations Committee – Working on a new inter-facility protocol. Discussed the rewrite of the Rules and Regulations looking at a start date of June 2014.

E. Legislative Committee - No Report – the committee did not meet.

F. EMS Dispatch Taskforce – No Report

G. Controlled Substances Working Group – No Report, as the issues still lie with the Department of Health Pharmacy Board.

H. Falls with the Elderly – There have been several meetings and a brochure is being developed for EMS providers to distribute.

I. Animals and EMS – Progress

## 9. Old Business

- A. Review of Protocols – Addressed under the Rules and Regulations Committee report.
- B. Psychological Protocol survey by Jack Ludwig asked to present to Educational Standards and Rules and Regulations.
- C. New KKK vs NFPA truck specifications – Rules and Regulations will be reviewed and recommendations will be made. – Progress, any new trucks should conform to KKK-F.
- D. RN to EMT training program status (Ed Standards 12/12) – Under review

## 10. New Business

- A. Non-emergency diversion – being referred to Rules and Regulations
- B. Election of Officers

A motion was made by Michael DeMello to accept the slate of Leo Kennedy – Chairman, Thomas Caito – Vice Chairman, and John Potvin – Secretary. Al Galinelli seconded the motion, which passed.

John Vernancio made a motion that the Secretary cast one ballot for each of the above positions; the motion was seconded by Al Galinelli, the motion passed.

B. New Committee Members

11. Committee assignments – Chairman Kennedy requested volunteers for each of the Boards committees.

12. Good of the Order -

13. Adjournment – Thomas Caito made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Potvin. The meeting adjourned at 1442hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

John H. Potvin  
Secretary