

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
December 17, 2014

ASAB Member Attendees:

John Potvin
Leo Kennedy
Thomas Caito
Randall Watt
John Pliakas
Michael DeMello
Jason Umbenhauer
Kathleen Barton
Lynne Palmisciano
Joseph Reppucci
Joseph Lauro
Michael McGrane
Raymond Medeiros
Paul Casey
John Vernancio

Representing:

Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters
Providence County Paid EMS
Washington County Volunteer EMS
Newport County Paid EMS
Emergency Nurses Association
Rhode Island State Fireman's League
Kent County EMS
Public
American Academy of Pediatrics
Hospital Association of Rhode Island
American Academy of Emergency Physicians
Providence County Volunteer EMS
Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters
Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters
Private EMS

- 1. Establishment of Quorum** – A quorum was established with 15 members present.
- 2. Call to Order** – Leo Kennedy, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1301.
- 3. Introduction of Membership**
- 4. Review/Consent of Agenda** – A motion by Michael McGrane and seconded by Randall Watt to approve the agenda was passed.
- 5. Approval of Minutes of September 2014 meeting** – A motion made by Thomas Caito and seconded by Randall Watt to accept the minutes as presented was passed.
- 6. Correspondence**
 - A. Letter from Dave Savastano designating Paul Casey as a proxy for this meeting.
 - B. Letter from Dawn Lewis designating Joseph Reppucci as a proxy for this meeting.
- 7. Announcements** - None

8. Committee reports (upon approval of reports, move action items to New Business)

- A. **Educational Standards Committee** – Chairman DeMello reported that there was a meeting last week and there were no action items for the full board. He presented a device called the Lifevac to the board for review at the request of the vendor; the device was more aimed at lay rescuers than EMS professionals. The device was placed on a table for those that were interested. Chairman DeMello then briefly discussed the ongoing accreditation process for an institution instructing initial EMT courses, states that HEALTH has received a couple of applications so far. Chairman DeMello then discussed the proposed alignment of the EMT – Cardiac curriculum with the new Advanced EMT curriculum. Based on the proposal from the Educational Standards Committee Rhode Island Advanced EMTs would receive additional training to allow them to function at the current Rhode Island Cardiac Level. The board was assured that current EMT-Cardiacs would be grandfathered and would not see any changes to their licenses. There was discussion about the current EMT-C recertification, which is currently 38-55 hours; the AEMT requires 36 hours plus an additional 36 hours of continuing education, which can be conducted in house. Chairman DeMello stated that there is no action item for today, as more meetings must be held to facilitate a smooth transition. Jason Rhodes stated that we must continue to meet and work to progress the curriculum to align with current practices and national standards. Jason also stated using the National Registry reduces a large burden on HEALTH by using an outside testing agency which has validated, evidence based questions. Ray Medeiros questioned whether a stakeholder meeting had occurred. John Potvin also stated concerns about HEALTH mandating this change without consulting the stakeholders. Rumor on the street was that this was a “done deal.” Many of which are in the audience today. Also, stated that many of the stakeholders are concerned with diminishing the level of care that Rhode Island Cardiacs currently provide. Jason Rhodes assured the board that this was not a “done deal.” He also stated that this was brought to Educational Standards and the board in an effort to be sure all of the concerns were addressed. Leo Kennedy asked about the assurance document that was to be produced which states that current Cardiacs would not be affected. Jason Rhodes confirmed that the document had not been produced. After all board members spoke, the floor was opened to the audience for comments. Jeff Howe spoke about the concern regarding increased clinical hours. Lynne Palmisciano stated that she thought the increase clinical component was something that hospitals could deal with and did not see it as an obstacle. Lynne also stated that hospitals need to provide for better clinical experiences for students as many students get forgotten and do not get pulled into the action. Paul Valletta from the Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters stated that he did not think that this was some thing that could not be solved and encouraged more input from the stakeholders and took offense to Michael McGrane’s comment that “we torpedoed” this last year. Paul also stated that his biggest concern was with the National Registry.

Russ McGillivray asked if we were smart of enough in this room to make our own cardiac curriculum. He also expressed concern about switching to the National Registry and “privatizing” our EMS office. Russ also asked about the report on the outcome of the CCRI AEMT pilot program. Joe Lauro stated that there are clinical opportunities. A list of potential stakeholders was compiled in order to bring all interested parties together to come to a resolution. Albert Peterson also stated that the accreditation process may help facilitate the issue of clinical time.

- B. **Pediatric Committee** – No meeting
- C. **Medical Affairs Committee** – Two open cases, next meeting January 15th
- D. **Rules and Regulations Committee** - Chairman Caito stated that there was one meeting to look at the Ambulance Inspection Manual. Progress on the new protocols, which should be brought to the committee in February. Jason also reported about the emergency regulation for Ebola transport vehicles. The full re-write of the rules and regulations is forthcoming.
- E. **Legislative Committee** – No activity
- F. **Controlled Substances Committee** – One meeting with the new pharmacy director, still waiting on the state to allow individual agencies to register.
- G. **Falls with the Elderly Committee** – No meeting
- H. **EMS Data Management Committee** – Chairman Umbenhauer reported one meeting since last full board meeting. Two projects being worked on first is NEMSIS version 2.2 data clean up. The second is implementation of NEMSIS version 3, which is required by NEMSIS to be implemented by the end of 2015 the committee is meeting twice a month in January and February to make an aggressive schedule to start a version 3 pilot. Timeline is March 1 we want version 3 data set to be complete, May 1 version 3 pilot program, July 1 version 3 live with pilot communities, December 31 all services must be version 3 compliant. Jason Rhodes also stated that the State has submitted its first batch of reports to the NEMSIS database. If agencies want data they can request it from the state or directly from NEMSIS.

9. Old Business

- A. **Enterovirus Update** – Had run its course and seems less invasive now
- B. **Rewrite of Rules and Regulations** – Moved to committee
- C. **Inspection Manual** – Progress being made
- D. **Status of IT Clamp** – HEALTH has issued an advisory notice and supports its use.

10. New Business

- A. Updates to Curricula & EMT Training Programs – handled under Educational Standards Committee Report.
- B. Name Change - Name of Division of EMS will change to Division of Emergency Care Preparedness and Response
- C. Recognition of Regional Appointments - Carolina Roberts Santana– has been named Chair-Elect to Pediatric Emergency Care Council at the NEMSO level. Dr. Williams has been named Chair-Elect to the Medical Directors Council at the NEMSO level.
- D. HEALTH announces the addition of Emily Lemoge to the EMS office; Beverly has taken another role within HEALTH.
- E. Happy holidays from the Director and the Division of EMS

11. Good of the Order

- A. Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates
- B. Location of the March Meeting CCRI 4th Floor Room 4090
- C. Nominations Committee – Positions open for nomination are Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary. Chairman Kennedy appointed John Potvin, Jason Umbenhauer, and Ray Medeiros to the nominating committee.

12. Adjournment - Thomas Caito made a motion to adjourn, John Potvin seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Potvin
Secretary