

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 18, 2015

ASAB Member Attendees:

John Potvin
Paul Casey

Thomas Caito
John Pliakas
Michael DeMello
Jason Umbenhauer
James McDonald
Joseph Lauro
Michael McGrane
David Savastano
John Vernancio
Al Galinelli
Frank O'Reagan

Representing:

Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters
Proxy for Leo Kennedy
Providence County Paid EMS
Washington County Volunteer EMS
Emergency Nurses Association
Rhode Island State Fireman's League
Kent County EMS
Rhode Island Department of Health
American Academy of Emergency Physicians
Providence County Volunteer EMS
Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters
Private EMS
Bristol County Fire Departments
Proxy for Brendan Martin – Private EMS

1. Establishment of Quorum – A quorum was established with 13 members present.

2. Call to Order – Tom Caito, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1305.

3. Introduction of Membership

4. Review/Consent of Agenda – A motion by Michael DeMello and seconded by John Potvin to approve the agenda was passed.

5. Approval of Minutes of March 2015 meeting – A motion made by John Potvin and seconded by David Savastano to accept the minutes as presented was passed.

6. Correspondence

A. Proxy letters from Leo Kennedy and Brendan Martin

7. Announcements – EMS Pride Awards, Dr. Williams presented pride awards to members of the Harrisville Fire Department for the successful resuscitation of a cardiac arrest victim.

8. Committee reports:

- A. **Educational Standards Committee** – A motion made by John Potvin and seconded by John Vernancio to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2015 as presented was passed.
- B. **Pediatric Committee** – No report.
- C. **Medical Affairs Committee** – No active cases
- D. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – Jason Rhodes stated that the Regulations were being converted by an intern and should be read for the September meeting.
- E. **Legislative Committee** – Chairman Pliakas stated that there were four pieces of legislation, not directly affecting EMS but related:
 - a. H5686 / S0618 – Establishes standards for Comprehensive Stroke Centers.
 - b. H5315 / S0746 – Prohibits employers from terminating employees for failure to report to a regularly scheduled shift if it is due to their function in an emergency situation as a volunteer EMT or firefighter.
 - c. H5047 / S0154 – Requires schools with grades 6-12 to maintain a supply of opiate antagonist on the premises, also provides immunity to schools for the use of such.
 - d. H5699 / S0084 – Requires schools to have epinephrine auto-injectors on the premises.Bills H5047 / S0154 and H5699 / S0084 are both scheduled for hearing today.
- F. **Controlled Substances Committee** – Still waiting on the state to allow individual agencies to register.
- G. **Falls with the Elderly Committee** – No report
- H. **EMS Data Management Committee** – Chairman Umbenhauer reported there has been 2 meetings of the Committee since the last Board meeting and that there is progress toward NEMSIS Version 3 compliance.

9. Old Business

- A. **Rewrite of Rules and Regulations** – No movement, looking to have something prepared for the September Board Meeting.

10. New Business

A. I/C Guidebook approval (DeMello)- A motion made by John Potvin and seconded by Jason Umbenhauer to adopt the proposed I/C guidebook (to include addition of the newly proposed EMT-Cardiac practical testing and any grammatical changes as needed) was passed

B. Practical Testing for EMT- Cardiac (DeMello) - Chairman DeMello stated that he was proposing to return to practical testing for the EMT-Cardiac level as we used to do. The proposal is to utilize is the Advanced EMT – Practical Exam. The testing process would be: 1. Class written final, 2. Class practical exam, 3. State written exam, 4. State practical exam minus the cardiology component. The student can utilize any National Registry certified center. Students DO NOT have to take the National Registry written exam, students DO NOT have to become National Registry certified, this does not apply to recertification's. There will be an additional cost for the test (as there was in the past). This would take effect January 1, 2016. This is a first time, one time issue. This must be taken even if the student does want to be Nationally Certified.

A motion made by Al Galinelli and seconded by Joe Lauro to adopt the proposal to return to state practical testing utilizing the National Registry Advanced EMT- Practical exam for EMT-Cardiac was passed.

B. Ambulance Inspection Manual approval (Caito) - Chairman Caito proposed that the draft of the Ambulance Inspection Manual be approved by the full Board, Chairman Caito stated that Rules and Regulations had approved the document and sent it to the full Board for approval. Discussion ensued that the at the March meeting of the full Board the document was sent back to Rules and Regulations for discussion. The document was never discussed at Rules and Regulations which led to frustration of Board members. Members of the Board brought up many small suggested edits, the HEALTH Department noted all of the proposed changes.

Jason Umbenhauer made a motion to accept the update to the Ambulance Inspection Manual as presented with the exception of: "vented" as it pertains to chest seals, change the provision for pediatric stethoscopes, an exception to the cardiac monitoring 12-lead requirement for non-transporting vehicles, and any grammatical and formatting as needed. John Vernancio seconded the motion, due to close numbers for and against the motion, Chairman Caito called for a show of hands vote. There were 8 votes for and 5 against, the motion passed.

C. QI project at HEALTH (Rhodes)- Jason Rhodes stated that he and Eric have been appointed to Quality Improvement Team 4, their project is how to improve ambulance inspections.

11. Good of the Order

A. Upcoming meeting dates: November 22-23 the New England Council for EMS will hold a conference in Newport.

B. Next Board meeting date is September 16, 2015, CCRI Room 4090

C. Carolina Roberts reported that EMS-C has been working on interfacility guidelines. EMS-C day was held on May 20th at the Dear to Dream Conference.

12. Adjournment – Michael DeMello made a motion to adjourn, Jason Umbenhauer seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Potvin
Secretary