

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 16, 2015

ASAB Member Attendees:

John Potvin
Raymond Medeiros
Leo Kennedy
Tom Caito
John Pliakas
Michael DeMello
Jason Umbenhauer
Joseph Lauro
Michael McGrane
David Savastano
Scott Marcotte
Michael O'Brien
Kathleen Barton
Paul Casey
Charles Bynum

Dawn Lewis
Adam Reis
Scott Robinson
Joseph DeAngelis
Michael Connolly

Representing:

Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters
Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters
Providence County Paid EMS
Washington County Volunteer EMS
Emergency Nurses Association
Rhode Island State Fireman's League
Kent County EMS
American Academy of Emergency Physicians
Providence County Volunteer EMS
Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters
Proxy for John Vernancio Private EMS
Proxy for Randall Watt Newport County EMS
Member of the public
House appointed
Proxy for Bethany Gingerella Rhode Island
Association of fire Chiefs
Hospital Association of Rhode Island
Private EMS
Proxy for Derek Silva Senate appointed
Proxy for Lynn Palmisciano
American College of Surgeons

1. Establishment of Quorum – A quorum was established with 20 members present.

2. Call to Order – Leo Kennedy, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1308.

3. Introduction of Membership

4. Review/Consent of Agenda – A motion by Michael DeMello and seconded by Dawn Lewis to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion on the advanced EMT Cardiac program the motion passed.

5. Approval of Minutes of Sept 2015 meeting – A motion made by Jason Umbenhauer and seconded by Michael DeMello to accept the minutes as presented was passed.

6. Correspondence

A. Letter from Eric Rossmesl to add an agenda item to the ASAB agenda, the item was added as requested.

7. Announcements – None

8. Committee reports:

- A. **Educational Standards Committee** – Met on November 24th and discussed recertification programs, minutes have been filed.
- B. **Pediatric Committee** – None
- C. **Medical Affairs Committee** – None
- D. **Rules and Regulations Committee** – None, waiting on protocols
- E. **Legislative Committee** – None
- F. **Controlled Substances Committee** –None
- G. **Falls with the Elderly Committee** – None
- H. **EMS Data Management Committee** – Chairman Umbenhauer reported working on NEMSIS Version 3 looking to meet at the end of January to begin a pilot in March, 12/31/16 is the drop dead date for VS. Image Trend and PTS are close to being up and running. The PTS interface is built and running.

9. Old Business

A. None

10. New Business

A. Refresher curriculum to the RI Continued Competency Program (DeMello) – Educational Standards Committee Chairman DeMello stated that we currently recertify utilizing the 2011 standard for recertification. The proposal is to transition to the Rhode Island Continued Competency Program which allows for greater flexibility broken down into 3 levels: national, state, and local issues. Allows an agency to use classroom (as currently being used) distributive education, and online learning. Also, allows to use practical testing based on the instructor / coordinator. Russ McGillivray questioned who would “accredit” the CEUs. DeMello explained

that CEUs would be accredited based on I/C approval or accreditation by an accrediting association. The implementation date is to be determined. A motion made by Norman Manville and seconded by Joseph Lauro to accept the proposal as presented was passed.

B. Recent NREMT meeting (Rhodes) – Jason reported that the meeting was well attended despite there being an issue with the e-mail notification regarding the meeting. The purpose of the meeting explain how the Advanced EMT Cardiac program would be operated. The program was approved by the Board, however, there was a rearrangement of what the Board had approved to eliminate HEALTH from the testing process and also to improve the success of the student. HEALTH is not requiring Advanced EMT Cardiacs to maintain their NREMT, also, there is no requirement for current EMT-Cardiacs to become nationally registered. In addition the Health Department will utilize the Chief Examiner method of psychomotor testing which will consist of 10 psychomotor stations. Licenses will have 3 year expiration periods.

Ray Medeiros brought up discussion of the June 17th minutes which reflect that the procedure for becoming an Advanced EMT-Cardiac did not originally reflect a National Registry certified written exam. Ray expressed concerns that the Board should have been notified that this was going to be changed.

Jason stated that HEALTH needed to make a decision and that the process had been ongoing for two years.

David Savastano stated that he had been on the Board for 17 years and has never seen this happen where the Health Department circumvented the Board. He expressed concerns that if this could happen with licensure then it could happen to any issue. Jason replied that the Board had been asked for input several years ago which was never received or voted upon.

Paul Valetta (RISAFF) stated that is illegal to circumvent the Board. He stated that the Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters, Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs, and the League of Cities and Towns are all against the use of the National registry. He also stated we had an agreement not to use it. Mr. Valetta has legal opinion that the Board must be consulted with. (Mr. Valetta provided Chairman Kennedy with a copy of the legal opinion). Mr. Valetta also stated that if the Health Department proceeds with this proposal the Rhode Island State Association of Firefighters through it representatives will take legal action.

Mayor Joseph Polisena addressed the Board with concerns with the fact that there is no fiscal note and the potential for increased costs. Speaking on behalf of 22 mayors and city managers that if there is an increased cost then a fiscal note must be provided. He supports the education but is concerned with the cost of not using in house processes. He also expressed concerns that the Health Department may be trying to privatize EMS in Rhode Island.

Mike DeMello stated that the Board table this years ago meet with stakeholders which brought us into the current year so the Board had taken action and it was still a work in progress.

Russ McGillivray on behalf of the Community College of Rhode Island, the college was able to teach this program as proposed however, if the class is split which HEALTH has approved the course will be lengthened to 35 weeks. Also, was concerned with pool of avlable Cardiacs. On behalf of the Dean Russ questioned that there is no accredited testing for cardiac portion of the Advanced EMT but there would be for Advanced EMT portion? Stated that is makes no sense to have an accreditation for Advanced EMT and not for the Cardiac portion and that it should not lie with I/C.

John Pliakas questioned that the HEALTH was looking to credential Advanced EMT Cardiacs based on the ACLS program.

C. Addition to Ambulance Licensure and Inspection – Eric reported that HEALTH would like to begin a service inspection program. At the current time they are conducting a literature review and would like to start to meet with Rules and Regulations Committee. This would become a separate section of the inspection manual.

D. Expiration dates to Board (Kennedy) – Chairman Kennedy stated that the Governor’s office has finally assigned expiration to board members which were previously missing.

E. Nomination Committee (Kennedy) – Stated that Adam Reis, Ray Medeiros, and John Pliakas make up the nominating committee for 2016.

F. Advanced EMT – Addressed earlier in the meeting.

11. Good of the Order

A. Upcoming committee meeting dates?

- a. Hasbro Pediatric Trauma Symposium May 5, 2016
- b. Rhode Island EMS Expo April 26, 2016

12. Adjournment – John Potvin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom Caito, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1408.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Potvin
Secretary

