

**Ambulance Service Advisory Board**  
C/O Rhode Island Department of Health  
3 Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908  
(401)222-2401

**Educational Standards Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 15, 2010**

A meeting of the Educational Standards Committee of the Ambulance Service Advisory Board was convened on Friday October 15, 2010 at 1000 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill Providence, Rhode Island. The meeting was held in accordance with the Rhode Island open meeting law.

**1. Establishment of a Quorum**

The following members were present:

Michael DeMello	Thomas Caito
John Pliakas	Stephen Stokes
Todd Manni (proxy for Samuel Adams)	Jason Umbenhauer (proxy for Leo Kennedy)
John Potvin (proxy for David Savastano)	

**2. Call to Order**

Chairman Michael DeMello took the chair and called the meeting to order at 10:14am.

**3. Announcements – Introduction of Membership**

Those in attendance introduced themselves to the group. In addition to the members of the committee the following people were also in attendance:

Jeffrey Howe	Bill Howe
David Miller	

**4. Review/Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Thomas Caito to accept the agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Jason Umbenhauer. The motion carried.

**5. Review of Minutes**

A motion was made to dispense with a reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and to accept them as printed by John Potvin and seconded by Thomas Caito. The motion carried.

## **6. Correspondence**

None

## **7. Old Business**

### **A. National Education Standards**

Discussion centered on the new national education standards as they pertain to the EMT basic-level of provider. The license nomenclature would change from EMT-Basic to EMT under the new educational guidelines, and education would be competency based. Comparison of the existing EMT-B National Standard curriculum and the new educational guidelines yielded some minor differences, mostly in the addition of some new content. It was noted by several attendees that many of the programs currently added similar content to existing programs to meet training needs required by skills listed in the current protocols for the EMT-B anyway, leading to little difference other than increased time for the program slightly over actual course lengths currently being performed. Our current basic course is approximately 120 hours the new EMT would be 150-190 hours, though many programs are around the 150 hour mark now. It was also explained that the text books following the old National Standard curriculum will soon no longer be published, and using them would begin to navigate from the accepted national standard of care. Many of the textbooks following the new educational guidelines are preparing for the new AHA guidelines and would incorporate them upon the release, which is expected within the coming weeks. It was also suggested that the approval process for course textbooks be reviewed and updated as many different textbooks are now available. One concern regarded the National registry's historic practice to begin testing under the new standards in June, leading to the possibility that on June 1, 2011 the National Registry will be conducting tests on the new educational standards, putting Rhode Island students at a disadvantage when taking the exam. It is also recommended that a date be proposed requiring all future EMT's certified on, or after a date to be determined, maintain their National Registry certification. Discussion followed regarding refresher training transitioning to continuing education based training as most other health professions follow that type of format. Mr. Pliakas pointed out that discussions about the refresher programs is being discussed by national committees currently, and new recommendations are expected in the near future. Discussion also took place on whether or not license expiration dates would be a problem if the national registry registration was required since the Dept. of Health just compiled the licensing transition to a new system. Mr. Manni stated he would discuss that further within the EMS office and provide information at a future meeting. No action was taken at this time, and committee members were urged to continue reviewing all the information for future meetings. The paramedic programs can be adopted as presented in the guidelines, and requirement for accreditation for paramedic programs in order to be eligible for national registry

registration in the near future, will aid in improving program delivery and guidance. Discussion regarding the EMT-Advanced level and EMT-Cardiac level will be discussed in future meetings.

### **B. National EMT Instructor Guidelines**

The committee should look at creating a certification level for lab instructors. The committee was encouraged to research [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov) and also look at Florida who has an effective program. The committee will evaluate the possibility of different level EMS instructors after discussion of the new educational guidelines and EMT levels nears completion.

## **8. New Business**

### **A. Student Clinical and Field Rotation Regulations**

Chairman DeMello presented a draft of a regulation addressing EMT students of all levels. The RIGL do make some reference to EMT students, but the rules and regulations do not address student clinical and field time specifically. After brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Caito, seconded by Mr. Pliakas that the proposed draft of the regulation be forwarded to the Rules and Regulations committee for further discussion and action. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **B. Other items of interest to committee members**

None

## **9. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Thomas Caito to adjourn; the motion was seconded by John Pliakas, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1135.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Potvin  
Secretary Pro Tempore