

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
February 11th, 2011

A meeting of the Educational Standards Committee of the Ambulance Service Advisory Board was convened on Friday February 11th, 2011 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

Jason M. Rhodes

Sam Adams

Stephen Stokes

Bill Howe (proxy for Tom Caito)

John Potvin (proxy for Leo Kennedy)

2. Call to Order

Chairman Michael DeMello took the chair and called the meeting to order at 10:07am.

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:

Marisa Saccoccio, RIDOH

Bryan Choi, MD

Jason Umbenhauer, Warwick FD

Raymond Medeiros, RISAFF

Tom Kilday, RIDOH

4. Review/Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Sam Adams to accept the agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by John Potvin. 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 Bill Howe. The motion carried.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Old Business

Discussion centered on the new national education standards as they pertain to the all levels of provider. The RIDOH Division of EMS intent is to follow the new standards as closely as possible to decrease the workload in the understaffed office. Adoption of the new standards would also provide consistent credentialing for EMT's should they seek licensure in other states. Discussion ensued regarding specific skill performance at varying levels, however it was agreed that this would be an area better regulated through the protocols and would not necessarily affect initial course content. Discussion continued and it was agreed upon that adhering to national standards at least at the foundation level of programs, will be beneficial to the future of EMS within the state. A motion to accept the new educational guidelines for the EMT level and Paramedic level was made by Sam Adams, seconded by John Potvin. Hearing no discussion the vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Further discussion took place regarding the advanced EMT level compared to the Cardiac level, however all agreed it should be further evaluated during a future meeting before any decisions are made. A motion was made by Stephen Stokes to adopt the new educational standards with an effective date for program instruction of January 1, 2012. Any programs taught prior to this date would have the option of conducting their program under the current National Standard Curriculum, realizing that the NREMT will likely switch to tests using the new educational standards sometime this year, though little difference will be seen by the student. The motion was seconded by John Potvin. Hearing no further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

The subject of EMS instructor levels or credentialing continued, and Sam Adams stated he would provide better information on how to proceed in the future.

The status of the revised EMT-B skill guide was requested, and a draft copy adding to what was originally approved was submitted by Sam Adams for review for the next meeting.

8. New Business

A recent rules and regulations committee meeting approved Zofran to be added to the RI EMS protocol for treatment of Nausea and vomiting. A motion by Stephen Stokes to add Zofran to the medication guide under development was seconded by John Potvin. Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding the vagueness of the pain management and sedation protocol wording and whether it should be reworded. The question would be forwarded to the physician medical consultant for further review.

The new AHA guidelines were discussed, and future protocol changes may be necessary upon further review, however no action occurred at this time.

Jason Umbenhauer entertained the current treatment of hypothermic resuscitation and whether it could be an alternative allowed in the RI EMS protocols. Mr. Umbenhauer agreed to head a work group at the request of Chairman DeMello to obtain more information and put together a package for further discussion and review.

It was generally agreed upon that the Protocol process needs to be more fluid and dynamic, providing quicker update updates and changes on a regular basis. EMS Chief Jason Rhodes agreed stating his office will assist in making changes and updates to protocols in a more expedient and fluid manner.

B. Other items of interest to committee members

None

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by John Potvin to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Stephen Stokes, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 1132.

Respectfully Submitted,

John H. Potvin
Secretary Pro Tempore