

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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## FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Meeting minutes** from the meeting of  
January 25, 2012

Ocean Center, Daytona Beach  
Daytona Beach

Members Present

John C. Bixler, Bureau of EMS Chief  
Cory S. Richter, EMT (Fire), Chairman  
Joe Nelson, D.O., State EMS Medical Director  
Patricia Byers, M.D., Physician  
Daniel Griffin, EMS Educator  
John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator  
Tom Quillin, EMT (Non-Fire)  
Charles E. Moreland, Ed.D., Paramedic (Fire)  
William Colburn, EMS Administrator (Fire)  
Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator  
David Mennini, EMT (non-fire)  
Maria Fernandez, Hospital Administrator  
Brad Elias, M.D., Physician  
Narcissus Willis, Department of Education  
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation  
Preston Bowlin, Department of Management Services

Note: A verbatim transcript of the entire meeting is available for review at the EMS Program Office.

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Richter called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairman Richter then conducted a roll call of the members.

A motion was then made to approve the minutes from the last meeting held October in Deerfield Beach. The motion was seconded and approved.

## **STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT**

Mr. Bixler began by stating that he and Chairman Richter attended a meeting with the Director of Legislative Affairs and the Chief of Staff with the Department of Health (DOH). At this time, the DOH does not support any rule changes allowing providers to use compounding pharmacies. Also, the DOH does not support changes to rules and/or statutes allowing the use of expired drugs. It was recommended to gather information from other states that may have changed statutes to allow using expired medications. Mr. Bixler then recommended striking all nine medications from the list of required drugs.

He then stated that former EMS prosecuting attorney, Thomas Cogdnon, resigned from the DOH and that Julie Forrester is now handling EMS cases.

Next, Mr. Bixler gave thanks to Rebecca Cash, Wendy Parkinson and Melia Jenkins for their hard work in the 911 Public Safety Telecommunicators program. To date there are over 7,800 911 PSTs certified, 156 training programs and over 5,000 that are in the process of re-certifying.

Captain Ken Devin updated the council on EMSsystems. He stated that on December 22nd, over 5,500 providers were moved from Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to production EM resources. This will allow the DOH to work with hospitals to build out the remainder of the ESS data fields.

## **MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Dr. Byers began her report by stating that the Committee on Trauma (COT) endorsed the spinal cord initiative by the EMS Medical Directors.

She then stated that the American College of Surgeons will be conducting a trauma systems assessment February 2-4 in Tallahassee. This visit normally takes three to six months to prepare for and 18 months for scheduling.

Next, she stated that the American College of Surgeon will hold their chapter meeting in May in Orlando and that they will conduct a legislative day February 19 & 20 in Tallahassee.

Dr. Nelson noted that the spinal cord immobilization paper was approved and will be published on the EMS Medical Directors website.

Next, he stated that the medical directors will be developing a cardiac arrest practices survey. The group would like to improve basic treatment practices in the state. This survey will be sent out to all medical directors and results will be discussed during the April meeting.

He then stated that a workshop will be held during CLINCON on Senior Falls Prevention. This workshop will educate emergency service personnel on the frequency and seriousness of falls in the elderly population.

In regards to the Statewide Disaster Protocols, it was determined that a field responder review is needed. A small committee will be formed with Disaster Response and Medical Care committee members and changes will be made as necessary.

At the national level, National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) was approached by the General Accounting Office (GAO) to collaborate with them on doing research on drug shortages. They were tasked by the Senate Judiciary Committee with reviewing the controlled substances that are in short supply and the effect on patients and healthcare providers. NASEMSO is working with GAO on creating a report on their findings.

## **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

### Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation (DOT)

Mrs. McPherson stated that the Safety Office has revised its five year safety plan with a new goal of five percent reduction in fatalities.

Next, she stated that the department's new initiative will be geared towards pedestrian and bicycle safety. Their new campaign focus is: "Alert Today, Alive Tomorrow - Safety Doesn't Happen by Accident". Pilot testing began in July in Miami and Hillsborough counties. In January, Broward and Palm Beach will be tested and in February during the Daytona 500.

### Narcissus Willis, Department of Education (DOE)

Mrs. Willis reported that during the 2013-14 school years, the EMS associate degree program will be changing. She stated that all Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees will no longer be available in two years. The only option available to students will be the Associate of Science degree.

She also stated that the draft version of the curriculum frameworks is available on the DOE website and will be reviewed in March.

### Danny Griffin, EMS Education

Mr. Griffin reported that he was approached by rural providers in the state asking for assistance to help develop an educational program for newly hired EMS managers. Mr. Griffin would like to develop a best practices type of program to guide them on basic guidelines and information regarding EMS. He would like to include sections like: roles of the EMS office, who to call within the office etc. Dr. Byers suggested having a core group of "seasoned EMS managers" to act as mentors to the program.

Chairman Richter then announced that the EMS Advisory Council will have four vacancies available in July. The positions available are: Paramedic (Non-Fire), Paramedic (Fire), EMS Educator and Physician.

### John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator

Mr. Scott read a letter that was recently released regarding regulation of air medical safety. The group plans to review the letter to determine the future needs and regulations of the air medical industry.

He stated that the committee would like to adopt a standard landing zone process throughout the state.

Lastly, the committee would like to develop a statewide Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) plan.

### John Scott reported for Amy Paratore, Emergency Nurse

The Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) will be sending representatives to Emergency Medicine Days in Tallahassee as well as Washington, DC in May.

The association is also working with legislators in support of no texting and driving as well as the booster seat law. They are also working with the Board of Nursing on a conscious sedation policy.

He stated that ENA is drafting a letter to encourage all emergency departments (ED) to institute the ED violence toolkit.

Lastly, he stated that a new version of an emergency nurse pediatric course is available.

Preston Bowlin, Department of Financial Services (DOFS), Division of State Fire Marshals Office  
In regards to Emergency Medical Responder and First Responder training, the department would like to formalize these certifications.

Chairman Richter then commented that the EMSAC chairman position will be voted on during the April meeting.

### **PRESENTATION**

Judy Rivenbark addressed the EMSAC regarding the Professional Resource Network (PRN) program. Mrs. Rivenbark stated that currently, EMTs and Paramedics are not a part of the PRN program. The program contracts with Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) as well as Department of Business and Professional Regulations (DBPR). She then stated that they contract with 29 other boards and councils. The success rate with drugs and alcohol for their program is 80-90% as they are in constant contact with the individual through monitoring. The program is strictly funded through licensure fees and donations. For more information regarding the PRN please contact Mrs. Rivenbark at 904.277.8004.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Education Committee

Mr. Griffin stated that the EMS Education bill, known as "Danny's Bill" will be sponsored by Senator Rob Bradley. Keith Perry is the representative from Gainesville on the House side, HB 195.

The final completion of the Paramedic curriculum was reviewed and should be final by July.

He then announced that the Florida Association of EMS Educators has developed a foundation for students to apply for funding for scholarships for the EMS and or Paramedic program.

Lastly, he announced that he and Dr. Christine Van Dillen were named as CLINCON chairs for 2013.

#### Medical Care Committee

Dr. Byers stated that Ken Devin presented to the group information on EM Systems.

Next, she stated that Dr. Nelson will be utilizing individuals on the medical care committee to review field disaster protocols.

In regards to Strategic Plan goal 6.3, EMRC will be reviewing data on the cardiac stats for the CDC report that Dr. Nelson is working on.

She then stated that the Trauma Registry is now being linked with Vital Statistics, EMSTARS, and the AHCA database.

#### Public Information, Education, and Relations (PIER) Committee

Chairman Richter stated that beginning with the April meetings, PIER will be meeting in conjunction with the EMS for Children Committee.

### Strategic Visions Committee (SVC)

Chairman Richter stated that the reporting tools are available on-line. The committee is also anticipating "Danny's Bill" passing and the plan being changed to a five year plan.

### Legislative Committee

Mr. Skavroneck stated that 2013 Legislative session begins March 5th and the following bills are being monitored:

- HB 3 / SB 66
- HB 9 / SB 110
- HB 13 / SB 52, 74, 152, and 396
- HB 83 / SB 56
- HB 195
- SB 302
- SB 458

Next, he stated that the two percent Medicare adjustment slated to sunset December 31<sup>st</sup> was extended.

Beginning October 1, 2013, there will be a 10% reduction in the amount allowed for BLS non-emergency dialysis transfers. This will be a permanent reduction.

Lastly, he stated that he has been selected as president elect for American Ambulance Association.

### Data Committee

Dr. Moreland stated that agencies participating with EMSTARS should begin working with their vendors to transition to version 3. He stated that pilot testing will begin in May 2013.

He then stated that 151 agencies are reporting (55% agencies total) and there are over seven million the records in database.

In regards to timeliness of reporting, 15% are submitting within ten days; 50% are submitting within 30 days.

### Access to Care Committee (ATC)

With deep regret, Chief Michael Patterson reported that St. Johns County lost Captain Kenneth Joseph Krulish Jr., January 22nd, 2013.

Chief Patterson stated that out of 100 agencies surveyed, only one, (Orange County) department that had a domestic violence program in place. Orange County works with Harbor House, a domestic abuse shelter for women/men.

A video was then shown (Orange County domestic violence program) on ways to identify domestic abuse. For a copy of the video, please contact Chief Michael Patterson at 386.329.0892.

### Disaster Response Committee

Dr. Elias commented that funding will not be available in the future for the DuoDote, atropine and valium injections. Dr. Jennifer Thompson with the Department of Health is available to provide information regarding funding for the destruction of the medication.

Sara Bordeaux gave a presentation to the group on the Planning, Preparation and Operational period during the Republican National Convention. The Ambulance Deployment Plan was used for the patient movement process.

Disaster protocols were discussed and how they are going to be implemented statewide.

Lastly, he stated that due to the recent incident in Connecticut, more training is being planned for pediatrics and mass casualty events.

Mr. Griffin stated that an incident occurred in Alachua County where a patient's personal information was overheard through an 800 megahertz radio. This information was obtained by a news reporter that used the radio to listen to the conversation between the paramedic and physician. The patient's name, address, injuries, etc. were then published in a newspaper article. Mr. Griffin stated that Alachua County is now looking into getting those channels "encrypted" to ensure patient confidentiality.

#### Drug Shortage Committee

Chairman Richter stated that survey results will be posted to the EMSAC website.

He then stated that compounding in the State is not going to occur at this time.

The position paper created by Alan Skavroneck and Danny Griffin is available on the website and available for use when speaking to your local representatives.

Lastly, he stated that the committee will be compiling data on other states that are using drugs past expiration date.

Dr. Nelson suggested that the survey results be shared through the NASEMSO to GAO. Chairman Richter stated that he is planning to share the results with the Association of State and Territorial Officials.

#### EMS For Children (EMSC)

Mrs. McPherson reported for Julie Bacon.

EMSC hosted "Pediatric Restraint" and "Pediatric Playtime" skill labs during CLINCON.

Danny Griffin is working with EMSC on and education training for mild traumatic brain injury on pediatrics patients.

EMSC purchased 100 Pedi-Mate transportation restraint devices for EMTs and Paramedics in rural counties in Florida. The agencies receiving the devices will also receive training on the use of the device.

Lastly, EMSC is working with the motorcycle safety coalition on safety requirements of pediatric patients. Florida currently does not have laws governing age or height requirements for passengers riding on motorcycles.

Dr. Byers urged providers to document accidents correctly by distinguishing a motorcycle rather than a motor vehicle.

#### Emergency Medical Review Committee

Dr. Nelson reported that the EMSTARS database has over seven million records in the database, which places Florida in first place for records in the database.

Next, he reported that through EMSTARS data, EMRC is able to track patients through the entire medical experience.

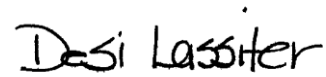
He then stated that over the next year, the committee will be working with Dr. Phyllis Hendry on pediatric projects.

Chairman Richter then commented that if your agency is facing a shortage on one of the nine drugs listed in 64J-1, a substitution letter from your medical director can be used. Letters will need to be signed by your medical director as well as filed in the EMS Program office.

Lastly, Chairman Richter stated that Karen Chamberlain has resigned her position with the Advisory Council and that Maria Fernandez will represent the Access to Care Committee.

A final motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was then adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Desi Lassiter

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Desi Lassiter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Administrative Assistant II, EMS Program