

**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  
July 18, 2013

Caribe Royale  
Orlando, FL

Members Present

John Bixler, EMS Program Administrator  
Cory S. Richter, EMT (Fire)  
Daniel Griffin, EMS Educator  
John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator  
Patricia Byers, M.D., Physician  
Regina Sofer, Lay Person  
Maria Fernandez, Hospital Administrator  
Charles E. Moreland, Ed.D., Paramedic (Fire)  
Jane Bedford, Paramedic (Non-Fire)  
Tom Quillin, EMT (Non-Fire)  
Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator  
Michael Lozano, Jr., M.D.  
Charles F Hagan, III, Emergency Management  
Julie Bacon, EMSC Liaison  
Joe Nelson, D.O., State EMS Medical Director

Note: A verbatim transcript of the entire meeting is available for review at the Bureau of EMS

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Richter called the meeting to order at 8:06 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 April in Tampa. The motion was seconded and approved.

## **STATE EMS BUREAU REPORT**

Mr. Bixler presented outgoing member, Dr. Brad Elias, an appreciation plaque for his time and service while serving on the EMS Advisory Council.

## **MEDICAL DIRECTORS REPORTS**

Dr. Byers stated that the Education Committee of the Committee on Trauma will be hosting the following education courses: Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN), Advanced Trauma Operative Management (ATOM) and Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). For more information or to register, contact Chad McIntyre at [chadmcintyre@jax.universityofflorida.edu](mailto:chadmcintyre@jax.universityofflorida.edu).

Next, she stated that during the annual meeting in November, visiting Trauma Professor Denetriou Demetriades, MD, PhD, FACS will be presenting. Dr. Demetriades is a professor of surgery at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and the Director of the Acute Care Surgery at USC Medical Center.

Lastly, Dr. Byers stated that she was able to meet with a Florida Legislator on the Uniform Accident and Sickness Policy Provision Law (UPPS). This law allows health insurers to deny reimbursement for services for injuries incurred when a patient is intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic. She reported that 30% of states have abolished the law and more states are looking into it.

Mr. Bixler then introduced Patricia Stadler, Office of Trauma Director. Mrs. Stadler gave a brief background and her experience with Florida's Trauma system. She looks forward to working with the committees and council members.

Dr. Nelson reported that the medical directors have finalized their Cardiac Arrest Practices Survey. Next, they will poll the membership and medical directors across the state to better define trends and practices of emergency medicine across the state as it applies to cardiac arrest.

He then announced that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has funded three grants regarding developing EMS guidelines. The first project is the EMS Model guidelines project, which involves educators, field providers and other experts in the EMS industry to develop guidelines for EMS protocols. The second project is Statewide Implementation of Prehospital Guidelines. This project is to unify guidelines, train together and promulgate the EMS protocols in a uniform fashion. Lastly, NHTSA has opened a bid to develop a strategy for developing, implementing and training regarding evidence based guidelines.

Next, he stated that the disaster protocols are in the final stages of review and anticipate having them published in September.

Dr. Nelson then stated that the University of Central Florida is conducting a research project in regards to patient safety in EMS medication errors. They feel that EMS should be part of the education process with law enforcement, both at the administrative level and at the scene. The medical directors are requesting assistance with the law enforcement community to help improve communication between the two providers.

Lastly, he announced that Dr. Phyllis Hendry is spearheading a pediatric research focus group concerning pediatric emergency care.

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Chairman Richter then recognized two new members of the EMS Advisory Council, Dr. Michael Lozano and Jane Bedford.

He then recognized Danny Griffin and Dr. Charles Moreland for their re-appointments to the council.

Next, Chairman Richter and John Bixler introduced Dr. Eugene Nagal. Dr. Nagal is the first medical director in the state of Florida. Dr. Nagal recalled the first EMS systems in the nation: Seattle, Los Angeles, Columbus, Ohio, New York City and Miami. He stated that during this time in Florida, physicians did not ride with EMS due to the nature of the calls. He feels that today's health care presents both threats and opportunities.

Mr. Bixler also recognized the new and re-appointments to the EMS Advisory Council. Next, he introduced the new Bureau Chief, Thomas Blakeney.

He then announced that Amy Paratore had resigned her position of Emergency Nurse on the council and that Desi Lassiter is accepting nominations until August 2nd.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

#### **Jane Bedford, Paramedic (non-fire)**

Ms. Bedford thanked Florida EMS Medical Directors and the Florida Association of County EMS (FACEMS) for their support in the community paramedic workshop. During the workshop, Dr. Jeff Beeson, Doug Hooten, Gary Wingrove and Matt Zavadsky presented on topics relative to concerns of the community. She stated that the objectives of the workshop were met and that she is excited about the future of the program.

#### **John Scott, Air Ambulance Operator**

Mr. Scott stated that the air medical groups are discussing plans for the next air safety summit. Topics of the summit will include: texting of medical crews, crew rest time, and the team/together concept.

Next, he noted that the Aeromedical Transport Conference (AMTC) will be hosted in Virginia Beach in October.

Lastly, he stated that aeromedical dispatch was discussed. The committee recognizes that this type of dispatch is not part of the 911 system, however; better communication between the industries is a distinct problem.

#### **Julie Bacon, Emergency Medical Services for Children**

Ms. Bacon reported that EMSC completed the Pediatric Readiness Project. This project is a national self-reporting survey of emergency departments and their pediatric readiness. She stated that the average score for reporting is 70% and Florida is currently at 78%.

Next, Ms. Bacon stated that one of the requirements for the EMSC Federal grant is that an EMS agency assessment is to be completed. This assessment was conducted via a survey and looks at equipment, training etc.

Based upon the survey results, EMSC will be looking at a motorcycle safety campaign. This initiative will educate individuals on the dangers of putting small children on the back of a motorcycle. EMSC will also be hosting a two-hour education seminar on restraints for pediatric patients in the back of an ambulance. This course is currently for the rural providers and is free of charge.

Lastly, EMSC is in the planning stages of an emergency and disaster response packet for the daycare setting as well as linking data with the Motorcycle Safety Coalition.

#### Charles F. Hagan, Emergency Management

Mr. Hagan reported that hurricane season lasts until the end of November and that predictions are for 13 to 20 named storms with three to six being major storms. He encouraged everyone to get a plan and to be prepared.

He then reported that the statewide domestic security meeting will be held August 14-16 at the Tampa Sheraton Hotel.

Next, he stated that his agency is going through its reaccreditation process for emergency management. This reaccreditation occurs once every three years and that Florida has six counties that are seeking accreditation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Nelson then proposed a new workgroup to evaluate both Florida's and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Trauma Alert Criteria. He suggested a multidisciplinary work group of emergency medicine and trauma personnel and members of the EMSAC to be on the committee. He mentioned that this was a recommendation by the American College of Surgeons and is supported by the State Surgeon General, Dr. John Armstrong.

#### **VIDEO PRESENTATION**

New Jersey's Hospital Service Corporation and Dr. Nadine Levick have partnered to publish a public service announcement related to EMS fatalities as a result of ambulance crashes. To view the video, please visit: [www.mococ.org](http://www.mococ.org). For more information relating to any of Dr. Levick's studies, please visit her website at: [www.objectivesafety.net](http://www.objectivesafety.net).

Ms. Christie Luce with the Bureau of Preparedness and Response then presented information on their federal grant initiatives. Ms. Luce stated that they are in the second year of a five year grant and when reviewing the grant guidance they discovered that "hospitals" are no longer covered and have been replaced with "healthcare coalitions". This means that all Florida communities must be covered by a healthcare coalition by the end of the five-year grant period. To obtain a copy of the presentation or speak with Ms. Luce, please contact her at: [Christie.Luce@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Christie.Luce@doh.state.fl.us).

#### **AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### Education Committee

Mr. Griffin announced that during their EMS Education meeting, awards were presented and new board members were inducted.

Next, he stated that the committee completed the re-write of the paramedic curriculum and anticipates it being reviewed by the council in October.

##### Medical Care Committee

Dr. Byers stated that in regards to Objective 6.3, the committee has been working on the draft tourniquet protocol. They anticipate it being completed by the next meeting.

In regards to Goal 6.4.1, Trauma Alert Criteria, she stated that the Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) will be collecting data related to trauma transports. The Committee and Dr. Byers will be working with the Dr. Nelson to better align Florida's criteria to match up with the Center for Disease Control Criteria field triage guidelines.

Lastly, she stated that Dennis Ward with the Florida Association of the United States Lifesaving Association spoke regarding the open water lifeguard certification bill. Mr. Ward expressed his frustration to the group and asks for guidance with getting the bill passed.

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

Mr. Smallacombe reported that the number one call for EMS is slips and falls. He stated that a seminar, Gravity of Gravity will be held immediately following the EMSAC meeting.

He announced that a falls prevention webinar will be held on September 4th and that Falls Prevention Day is September 22nd. He encouraged all EMS agencies to partner with their local falls prevention agency to conduct a local community-wide event that day.

Next, he stated that the PIER committee is in the planning stages for a webinar entitled "Pediatric Potpourri" during EMS Week, 2014.

Lastly, other ongoing events that are taking place are drowning prevention, bike and pedestrian safety, as well as motor vehicle safety.

#### Strategic Visions Committee (SVC)

Chairman Richter stated that the committee is working on closing out the old plan but still needs updates from several groups.

In regards to the new plan, he would like to hold a one-day workgroup session in conjunction with the October EMSAC meetings.

#### Legislative Committee

Mr. Skavroneck reported that for the 2013 Legislative session, 1,848 bills were filed with 286 passing.

Next, he reminded EMS providers that October 1st, the permanent 10% reduction to BLS non-emergency base rates and mileage for repetitive transports goes into effect.

Lastly, he reported the Center for Medical Services has given final approval to a plan to overhaul Florida's Medicaid program. This will allow Florida to have a statewide managed care program for Medicaid.

#### Data Committee

Dr. Moreland began by acknowledging Ms. Stephanie Daugherty. Ms. Daugherty worked with the Department of Health, Data Unit and led the EMS Tracking and Reporting Systems (EMSTARS) program since its inception in 2006. Dr. Moreland applauded her for all of the time and hard work she put into the program.

He then reported that 153 agencies are now reporting to EMSTARS and over 8.7 million records are in the database.

#### Access to Care Committee (ATC)

Chief Patterson stated that Jane Bedford has agreed to represent and chair the committee.

In regards to Goal 3.2, the committee recognizes that hospital representation is critical on the ATC committee. With the current emergency department (ED) overcrowding situation, the committee feels that community paramedic could be some of the solution.

Jane Bedford added that during the Florida Council of EMS Chiefs meeting, Goal 3.2 and access to care was also discussed. She stated that during their meeting, a poll was taken and only about 25% of the individuals in the room represented a hospital committee.

#### Disaster Response Committee

Dr. Elias stated that Christie Luce also presented to the committee information regarding healthcare coalitions. Questions were posed regarding bylaws as well as how coalitions may govern themselves.

#### EMS Communications

Mr. Wells report is attached to and made part of these minutes.

#### Drug Shortage Committee

Chairman Richter stated that the committee has held several conference calls with representation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Recommendations from Center for Disease Control (CDC) is that the shortage should let up within the next six months to a year; the short supply will not be as drastic as it is now. However, he stated that the committee is still working on several initiatives.

Next, he mentioned that his agency is currently using the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP) and has had good success. He noted that all of the drugs may not be available however, most will be.

#### **VOTING AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Mr. Scott made a motion that the EMSAC request a letter from the EMS office to invite an ex-officio member of law enforcement, Florida Highway Patrol or the Sheriff's office to participate and attend the EMSAC quarterly meetings. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Bixler then stated that currently the ex-officio member Mr. Timothy Roufa currently represents The Florida Highway Patrol on the EMSAC. He stated that he will contact Colonel Brierton to discuss his representation. Discussion was held and Mr. Scott withdrew his motion.

Mr. Scott then re-stated his motion that the EMSAC send a letter requesting for Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to join the EMSAC as an ex-officio member on the council. The motion was then seconded and approved. Chairman Richter stated that this does not necessarily need a letter and that he can reach out to the police association and sheriff's association inviting them to the meetings.

Chairman Richter then assigned Dr. Lozano to the Disaster committee and Jane Bedford to assist on 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 11:00 a.m.

Desi Lassiter



Administrative Assistant II, EMS Program