

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

FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMSAC)

Meeting minutes from the meeting of: October 23, 2014

Member Name:	Voting Status:	Attendance:
John Bixler, EMS Section Administrator	Non-Voting	Present
Charles E. Moreland, Ed.D., Chair	Voting	Present
Daniel Griffin, EMS Educator, Vice Chair	Voting	Present
Chief Darrel Donatto, EMS Administrator (Fire)	Voting	Present
Michael Lozano, M.D., Physician	Voting	Not present
Chief Tom Quillin, EMT (Non-Fire)	Voting	Present
Doris Ballard-Ferguson, Ph.D., Lay Elderly	Voting	Present
Jane Bedford, Paramedic (Non-Fire)	Voting	Present
Sheila Bradt, Emergency Nurse	Voting	Not present
Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator	Voting	Present
Tracy Yacobellis, Department of Education	Non-Voting	Present
Charles Hagan, III, Office of the Governor, Emergency Management	Non-Voting	Not present
Captain Timothy J. Roufa, Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles	Non-Voting	Present
Preston Bowlin, Department of Financial Services	Non-Voting	Not present
Trenda McPherson, Department of Transportation	Non-Voting	Not present
Carlton Wells, Department of Management Services	Non-Voting	Not present
Joe Nelson, D.O., State EMS Medical Director	Non-Voting	Present
Julie Bacon, EMSC Liaison	Non-Voting	Present

Note: A verbatim transcript of the entire meeting is available for review at the Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight, EMS Section.

Call to Order

Florida Department of Health
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Chair Moreland called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

A roll call was conducted and a total of seven members were present, therefore a quorum was not met.

State EMS Section Report

Rickey Stone reported that as of October 5, 2014 the Training and Education Unit had 2,832 first time test takers with a 75 percent pass rate. Also, there were 1,285 paramedic first time test takers with an 84 percent pass rate. Currently, there are 37,112 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and 30,156 paramedics that are actively certified.

Mr. Stone stated there are currently 272 licensed EMS providers with 4,588 EMS permitted vehicles. There are currently 153 state approved 911 public safety telecommunications (PST) training programs in Florida. The PST certification exam was offered 100 times this year so far. The number of individuals tested was 1,108 and 816 passed on their first attempt.

Next, John Bixler reported that the EMS section will conduct another statewide Ebola preparedness survey to determine how much personal protective equipment (PPE) each agency currently has in stock. The Department of Health (DOH) is contracting with vendors to purchase more PPE and some of it may be cached for EMS agencies that are low in supply.

Mr. Bixler then stated that the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Medical Directors (NASEMSMD) has finalized a national model of EMS clinical guidelines. A link to these guidelines will be emailed to everyone. Mr. Bixler requested everyone's awareness and feedback on them.

Dr. Joe Nelson stated that the clinical guidelines were developed through the National Association of State EMS Officials and that the Medical Director's Council spearheaded the development of these guidelines. About ten percent of the total number of guidelines is evidence-based material. The others were a broad-based consensus, which involved subject matter experts from multiple national groups including the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, the National Association of EMS Physicians and others.

Mr. Bixler announced that a draft charter for the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) has been produced. He requested each member's input in determining some goals, objectives and outcomes for the council as a whole. The draft charter will be emailed to the council immediately following the meeting. Mr. Darrel Donatto stated that the charter should be based on section 401.245, Florida Statutes.

Ms. Bethany Lowe then stated that the January 2015 EMSAC meeting has been approved. Constituency groups will meet from January 21-22, 2015 and the EMSAC meeting will take place on January 23, 2015.

Medical Director's Report

Dr. Nelson stated that the Medical Director's Association will meet at 1:00 p.m. today (October 23, 2014) in Orlando, Florida to discuss the role of the state EMS medical director. Dr. Nelson also stated the EMS response to the Ebola crisis will be a topic of discussion, as well as patient and stroke issues.

Dr. Nelson stated that he has been attending the FloridaNet meetings. It is a project focusing on Florida's strategy for connecting with a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network. It is still in the early stages of development.

Dr. Nelson then reported that the Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response (BPR) is working with the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center to develop Ebola training videos to be

used by the EMS community. Topics of interest in the training videos will include proper donning and doffing of equipment and how to best handle an Ebola case in the prehospital stages of treatment.

Chair Moreland stated that those interested in learning more about FloridaNet can visit: www.floridanet.gov.

Chair Moreland also stated that staff from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently hosted a webinar focusing on EMS Ebola preparedness. Specific topics of discussion included a detailed EMS checklist for Ebola preparedness and interim guidance for EMS systems and 911 public safety answering points (PSAPs). For those that have not had a chance to review information from the webinar, please contact Bethany for more details at: Bethany.Lowe@flhealth.gov.

Council Member Reports

Darrel Donatto, Florida Fire Chief's Association (FFCA)

Chief Donatto recommend that future minutes include a breakdown of voting members who are present, voting members who are absent and then a list of other members present.

Chief Donatto stated that Governor Scott has requested federal funding to help prepare health care workers for the Ebola crises. The FFCA has reached out to the BPR and requested that part of those funds to go to EMS providers in Florida.

The FFCA has taken an official legislative position for the upcoming legislative year. Chief Donatto announced that the FFCA is working on legislation to allow both Advanced Life Support (ALS) first responders and law enforcement officers to administer Naloxone (Narcan) to suspected opiate-overdose patients.

Chief Donatto reported that the FFCA is actively working on the enhancement of reimbursement for ambulance providers to Medicaid patients. The FFCA continues to oppose legislation that would require the mandatory collection and/or submission of electronic patient data that's not aggregate in nature. The FFCA does support the use of grant funds to allow local collection of EMS data for submission to the state.

The FFCA has taken a position of support for any legislative rule or change that would bring about a combined EMT and firefighter certification curriculum. Chief Donatto requested that the EMSAC take a formal position and send a letter of support to the chancellor of the Department of Education, as well as a copy to the state surgeon general and director of the State Fire Marshal's Office. The benefits of additional funding for this curriculum would result in an increase in the diversity of applicants by the removal of financial barriers.

Danny Griffin stated that in terms of status of the EMT/firefighter curriculum, lawyers from the Department of Education, the Office of the State Surgeon General and the Division of the State Fire Marshall are working together to produce a memorandum of understanding.

Tracy Yacobellis reported that Chancellor Duckworth has received both the letters of support from Mr. Bixler as well as Director Halas. He is working on a reply to both letters. Ms. Yacobellis stated that the implementation of a new EMT/firefighter curriculum would not be feasible for the 2015-2016 academic year due to time constraints. However, with the proper funding in place and support from the appropriate state agencies, the new curriculum would be more realistic for the 2016-2017 year.

Danny Griffin stated that the combination of the EMT and firefighter programs would better allow for students to reach the 600 credit hour limit so that they could apply for financial aid at the college level.

Chief Donatto stated that a lobbyist is currently working on behalf of the FFCA to propose an increase on Medicaid funding.

Julie Bacon, Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)

Ms. Bacon reported that EMSC has four education opportunities throughout the state (Panama City, Lake City, Vero Beach and Bonita Springs). For more information, please contact Bonnie Newsome at: Bonnie.Newsome@flhealth.gov or Ms. Bacon at: Julielbacon@aol.com.

Ms. Bacon stated that Danny Griffin has completed an instructional DVD called "Friday Night Lights Out," which focuses on the prehospital treatment of concussions. Copies of the DVD were sent to all of the EMS agencies, county health departments, as well as emergency departments throughout Florida's hospitals.

Danny Griffin then stated that he will conduct training opportunities to provide additional education on prehospital treatment for concussions between now and the middle of November. He will be speaking in Pensacola, Charlotte County and the east coast of Florida.

Old Business

Danny Griffin stated that he has included all suggestions collected over the past two weeks into a draft bylaws document. He reported that only council members have submitted suggestions (both voting and ex-officio members). Since an official vote is expected to take place in the upcoming January meeting, the bylaws will remain as a draft until then.

The first article received no suggestions. For Article 2, Alan Skavroneck recommended adding a section that defines the makeup of the council. This addition was opposed by Darrel Donatto.

Mr. Griffin stated that the next section that states: "No two (2) members from the same EMS organization shall serve on the EMSAC at the same time," would serve to negate a conflict of interest. He suggested that the word "organization" be changed to "licensed agencies". Chief Donatto recommended that the entire section be deleted and Mr. Bixler agreed because it is not based on legislative authority.

Next, Mr. Bixler stated that the bylaws would not receive any legal counsel review since it has no legal binding on anyone.

Chief Donatto recommended that the next section, "Council members may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms, unless the constituency group, by affirmation, continues to support and recommends to the Surgeon General that said member be reappointed to represent their constituency group," be deleted.

In Article 3, Mr. Griffin suggested moving paragraph three to Article 5 since it seemed like a more appropriate place in context. Chief Donatto recommended that if it were to be moved, the original text should stay intact.

In Article 4, grammatical suggestions were made by Mr. Griffin. Mr. Skavroneck made recommendations on how the chairperson would be selected (by voting members of the EMSAC). Mr. Griffin and Mr. Skavroneck also suggested that the administrator of the state EMS section serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. Chief Donatto suggested that the prior language remain in place in regard to election of officers. However, Chief Donatto suggested that a vote take place to determine the chair in order to make a recommendation to the State Surgeon General.

Suggestions were made to paragraph two by Mr. Griffin and Mr. Skavroneck so that it now reads: "The administrator of the state EMS section shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive

Committee.” Doris Ballard-Ferguson agreed to this change. Chief Donatto suggested that this Executive Committee be permitted as long as it meets according to the Sunshine Law.

Suggestions on the role of the secretary were made by Chief Donatto in paragraph five.

Edits were made to the sixth paragraph by Cory Richter so that it reads: “The parliamentarian shall be knowledgeable of Robert’s Rules of Order, advise the chairperson, the Executive Committee and Council.” Dr. Moreland suggested for Mr. Griffin to remove anything to do with the word “Executive Committee” since there is no such existence of one.

Dr. Moreland then stated that the roles of the secretary and parliamentarian are very important, and the information on both roles should be strong. Dr. Ballard-Ferguson stated that she would submit a clear definition for the role of parliamentarian to be included in the bylaws.

In Article 5, grammatical suggestions were made to paragraph one. In paragraph three, Mr. Skavroneck added, “Florida Statute 401.245 (2) (a) no more than 15 members may be appointed to this council.” Chief Donatto suggested it be exclusively stated that a minimum of eight members of the council would constitute a quorum.

Mr. Bixler then stated that the statute clearly states that the majority of the council members would constitute a quorum. Based on Roberts Rules of Order in determining what makes a quorum when there are open appointments, the EMSAC has nine voting members. Therefore, Mr. Bixler stated the correct quorum would currently be five members. Dr. Ballard-Ferguson agreed with Mr. Bixler’s statement. Mr. Griffin requested that if Mr. Bixler identifies any information that differs from what is currently stated in the bylaws on what makes a quorum, to notify him and the rest of the council of it.

Suggestions were made to the final paragraph in Article 5 by Mr. Griffin. Since it was recommended that any mention of “Executive Committee” be omitted in the bylaws, Mr. Griffin stated that he will revert back to the previous language with the deletion of “Executive Committee.”

No suggestions were made for Article 6.

Suggestions were made by Mr. Skavroneck on paragraph one of Article 7 so that it reads: “These bylaws may be repealed or amended upon approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council, as referenced in Article 5. Proposed modifications may be brought forth by...” Mr. Griffin stated that he would change the word “director” to “administrator” in item number three.

One suggestion was made in Article 8 by Mr. Skavroneck to change the word “stationary” to “letterhead.” Mr. Skavroneck stated that he would email Bethany his proposed EMSAC letterhead to be sent out to the rest of the council for consideration.

Mr. Griffin then stated that he plans to have a revised bylaws document in a week and a half’s time. Dr. Moreland expressed hopes of having a vote take place on the bylaws in the upcoming January meeting.

On behalf of Dr. Patricia Byers, Mr. Griffin suggested the addition of an ex-officio member from the Florida Committee on Trauma to give reports from the trauma sector of the EMS field.

New Business

Chief Donatto stated that one of the duties of the council is to make recommendations to the DOH regarding the appropriateness of suggested changes to administrative rules. He stated that the EMSAC should be making a recommendation toward the current rules that still require HIV training for recertification. The statute has changed, but the rules have not been updated. Dr. Moreland stated a council vote will take place on this issue in the January meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Education Committee

Mr. Griffin reported that the Department of Education is meeting the next day at Seminole State College to discuss articulation agreements with deans of colleges throughout the state. Later that same day, the Florida EMS educators will meet with Trey Rodriguez, Director, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Mr. Rodriguez will give a briefing on the changes toward the registry and steps required to implement the use of the registry's paramedic exam to certify individuals when they graduate from paramedic school.

Legislative Committee

Alan Skavroneck reported that ambulance inflation factor for 2015 is a 1.5 percent increase. He also stated that the reimbursement coming in for Medicaid was not looking good.

Access to Care Committee:

Jane Bedford reported that new information has come out on how to fund community paramedic programs. Florida Rural Health Association is considering to not fund their community paramedic program due to lack of interest.

Public Comments

Dan Sieber, San Carlos Park Fire stated that the state would expect mutual aid resources to follow their locally-developed, well-exercised, daily-used protocols and procedures in the event of an emergency. Draft disaster protocol states that in the event the Governor declares a state of emergency that this document would go into effect and in essence supersede all locally developed guidelines. Mr. Bixler stated that the language will be corrected in the near future.

Next, David Meurer requested the solicitation for letters of appreciation to the previous council members who have not been reappointed for their many years of hard work.

Dr. Moreland then thanked everyone for their hard work and input toward the council.

A final motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting was then adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Bethany Lowe
Administrative Assistant II, EMS Section