**FLORIDA COUNCIL OF EMS CHIEFS**

**January 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

**Ocean Gallery**

**Daytona, FL**

President Malcolm (Mac) Kemp opened the meeting at 1000 hours.

The minutes of the November 17, 2015 meeting were motioned, seconded and unanimously approved.

President Kemp thanked everyone for coming. He said it has been very busy so far this year with new legislation. He discussed new bills pending in the legislature. He mentioned that normally there are about 2500 bills pending but there year so far only about 1800 have been introduced.

**President’s Report**

The first bill that Mr. Kemp discussed was the balanced bill SB 1442 driven by consumer advocates and the insurance industry – anything classified as emergency services will only be paid 2-3 times what Medicaid pays and prevents agencies from seeking the balance from the patients.

Providers may not bill after what they pay. It also affects HMOs. He said that if it affects your agency to speak to your elected officials as to how much it will cost you. House companion bill is HB 221, Health Insurance Coverage for Emergency Services.

Another bill that he spoke in length about was HB 517 and CB742, the COPCN bills that have taken what is generally a local problem making it into a state problem and taking COPCN licensure out of the hands of local legislators and putting it into the hands of the judiciary. These bills are moving well through the houses and he encourages everyone to let your elected officials know how you feel about them. He stated there are both pros and cons for these bills and that the Florida Council of EMS Chiefs is in opposition to these bills.

Another bill Mr. Kemp discussed was SB 664 and HB 957 regarding Physician Orders for Life sustaining Treatments that deals with palliative care for hospice patients, basically what is life sustaining and what is not. He wants clear protocols ion this bill for paramedics in the field.

President Kemp then talked about HB 941 and SB 918 regarding licensure of health care professionals. There are two parts to this bill. One changes the amount of time for license renewal from 180 days to two renewal periods or 4 years to change one’s mind without having to go back to school again. The other part is for out-of-state nationally recognized testing process or military people coming into the state would not have to go through the testing process a second time but would be eligible for a Florida license.

The final bill that he talked about is federal bill HR 4365, one that the FCEMSC should oppose. What is behind this bill is that the DEA has taken a different view against EMS and would require that each ambulance not service have DEA licensure for controlled narcotics carried on that ambulance. This would be a bureaucratic nightmare for EMS service.

Mr. Kemp said that he is currently tracking 24 bills pending in the legislature and that he would be sending out more information on various bills as they are either introduced or moving through the legislature. Also if someone did not want to receive this information to let him know and he would take them off the list.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

Mr. Kemp said that Brenda Clotfelter was at the meeting to discuss 405C grants from the Florida Department of Transportation. It is 100 percent funding and can be used for EMS reporting purposes. He said it is the first time that EMS is competing against law enforcement and that this money can be used for replacement as well as collecting quality data. Also the matching grants program is now open and closes on March 9, 2016. It is a 25-75% grant from the state.

Mr. Kemp stated he would be sending out an email asking for possible presentations for the next meeting.

Mr. Kemp said he has seen more EMS people in Tallahassee this year then he has seen before and he urged all present to have their voices heard. There are at least seven lobbyists for every legislator making their way around.

Because of the shortfall in the actual money available there is the possibility that the legislators may do what they did last year and slam the door shut on most issues and go home. Especially in budgetary and health care matters.

The meeting adjourned at 1050 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen Schramm

Secretary