**FLORIDA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Meeting minutes** from the meeting of:

March 16, 2016

Mid-Quarter Conference Call

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| **Member Name:** | **Voting Status:** | **Attendance:** |
| Steve McCoy, EMS Section Administrator | Non-Voting | Present |
| Charles E. Moreland, Ed.D., Chair | Voting | Present |
| Daniel Griffin, EMS Educator, Vice Chair | Voting | Not Present |
| Chief Darrel Donatto, EMS Administrator (Fire) | Voting | Present |
| Michael Lozano, M.D., Physician | Voting | Not Present |
| Doris Ballard-Ferguson, Ph.D., Lay Elderly | Voting | Not Present |
| Jane Bedford, Paramedic (Non-Fire) | Voting | Present |
| Alan Skavroneck, Commercial Ambulance Operator | Voting | Present |
| Ann Brown, Emergency Nurse | Voting | Not Present |
| Isabel Rodriguez, EMT (Non-Fire) | Voting | Present |
| Danita Allen, Hospital Administrator | Voting | Present |
| Bari Conte, Air Ambulance Operator | Voting | Present |
| Angela Alban, Lay Person | Voting | Present |
| Mac Kemp, EMS Administrator (Non-Fire) | Voting | Present |
| Tracy Yacobellis, Department of Education | Non-Voting | Present |
| Charles Hagan, III, Office of the Governor, Emergency Management | Non-Voting | Not present |
| Captain Todd Carter, 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 | Present |
| Joe Nelson, D.O., State EMS Medical Director | Non-Voting | Present |
| Julie Bacon, EMSC Liaison | Non-Voting | Present |
| Bethany Lowe, Meeting Coordinator | 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**

A call to order was conducted at 10:00 a.m. and a roll call was taken. A total of nine voting members were present, therefore a quorum was met.

**EMS Section Report**

Steve McCoy stated that House Bill 941 was passed. This effects the EMS industry in two ways. The first is the time frame for when a license expires went from 180 days to four years. Within the first two years, a person has the decision of completing the education and getting a medical director to sign off on it. During the last two years they would have to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exam. The bill also allows a person from out of state who has already completed the NREMT exam will not have to take that test over if they moved to Florida. They just have to pay the application fee.

After bills are passed, they go through an implementation phase. The EMS office will not really be affected, most of the changes will affect the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA).They will have to tweak a few things within their system.

The EMS Section will hold a rule hearing on March 25. A bill requiring them to change their EMT/paramedic application process is in place, which is a part of the package they had been working on for over a year. It was placed on hold until after the legislative session. As a result, an additional hearing needed to take place.

The EMS Section has worked on a small change to the air crew curriculum. There was a huge change from 1988 to 2015. Mr. McCoy wants to add a grandfather clause in at the next hearing so it could help the EMS Section finish the package within the next couple of months.

The matching grant period closed on March 9. A grant review team has been assembled to review the grant applications. Nominations for EMS State Awards went out in February and Steve would like to accept nominations on a more on-going basis. Participation has been down and he would like to get more nominations because the office does not want to get rid of the program.

The state office has recently completed a rule workshop for their trauma triage rules, receiving feedback from both the EMS and trauma constituents. The department took the feedback given to help formulate their notice of proposal in order to help move forward. The other rule was the triple k ambulance specifications. They are not completed with the rule yet; about 90 percent is finished but they did enter the analysis phase in order to get a draft of statement of regulatory costs.

Mr. McCoy stated that they have good received feedback from providers on topics to use in BEMOcomm and encouraged the council to continue sending Bethany their ideas.

Dr. Moreland then encouraged members to submit more nominations for the EMS Awards because only a few departments have been participating. Additionally, Chief Orly Stolts has recently retired. There are now two vacant positions on the council, as well as three upcoming openings due to those members terming out in June.

**Medical Director’s Report**

Dr. Nelson reported on two major activities that were going on around the state. Local medical director groups have worked on improving their cardiac vascular resuscitation rates. The medical directors will discuss this more at their upcoming meeting in Orlando on April 18from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Also, a lot of progress has been made in the treatment of stroke victims throughout the state of Florida. Dr. Nelson stated that he will attend a stroke meeting in Broward County after today’s conference call to expand his knowledge on the stroke programs and the model stroke form—how it is affecting Florida and what they need to work on to properly give the right care for their patients.

**New Business**

Mr. McCoy stated the stroke form has been vetted by the medical directors, as well as updated and looked at across the state. Everyone has agreed that is the best form. He hopes to get it approved to become an official designated model form. He is looking forward to the feedback and making it the official form.

**Old Business**

Mr. McCoy stated he would like to have an actual team within the sub-committees. Committees usually consist of a chair and co-chair. He wants to created membership in the sub-committee to cover more progress with the goals they are assigned. It would all help feed into the strategic plan and to create more progress within that project.

**Council Member’s Reports**

Tracy Yacobellis, Department of Education (DOE):

Ms. Yacobellis reported that the NREMT selected 25 educators to be trained as NREMT representative/proctors for the Practical Cycle Motor Exam. The training is available in St. Petersburg on August 12-13 and in Ft. Lauderdale on December 2-3.

Several program directors attended the NREMT Scenario Validation Workshop last month. The workshop was facilitated by David Page and sponsored by FISDAP. The FAEMSE Board has requested additional workshops be held for those program directors who were unable to attend last month. The workshop is vital for program directors in preparation for the 2017 NREMT PM Psychomotor Assessment exam.

The curriculum framework for EMS—due to some rule changes last year, EMT and paramedics have undergone a few major changes to comply with the national standards. EMTs had to increase their time. New programs have been created and will be presented to the Board of Education for approval on March 29.

**Committee Reports**

PIER / EMS Strategic Visions Committee:

Cory Richter is working on getting the toolkit for developing the EMS State Plan wrapped up. It took longer than expected but it would be worth the while in the end. He hopes that everyone would be able to benefit from the finished product.

An EMS State Plan Summit will take place on May 4-5 in Tallahassee and it is important for council members to attend. The major mile stones are to present the toolkit, members will review it, and everyone will have 30 days to go over the kit. Please provide your feedback on it so that it can be discussed at the summit. They are pushing to incorporate the feedback into a final draft form for the council to vote on in July 2016.

Legislative Committee:

Alan Skavroneck reported on two recent events: The COPCN bill did not pass but the balance bill did. EMS was removed and exempt from any legislative impacts. Other bills that have been passed are: permanent property tax exemption for disabled first responders and discount fees for first responders.

Data Committee:

Chief Donatto extended his thanks to Brenda Clotfelter who helped a lot by using the EMS Strategic Plan as a guideline to keep everyone on track. She scheduled conference calls to discuss the Data Committee’s assigned goals. They took place on February 9 (Goal 2.1), February 11(Goal 2.2) and February 17(Goal 2.4). There had been a lot of back work looking into information that the state office contained, pertaining to who was providing programs to providers. Only 48 percent of runs were being reported through providers who had an application, less than half have an application in to be verified for version 3. A survey has been distributed to see which agencies are transitioning by the cut-off date. If they are not going to transition by December 31, 2016, they must indicate why and when they would transition, or if they were not doing it at all.

There will be a Data Committee conference call on March 24 at 1:30 p.m., to incorporate all the information that Brenda has been working on, as well as to come up with new work plan activities so they can push that out into the people.

Access to Care Committee:

Jane Bedford reported that Bari Conte agreed to take ownership of goal 8 of the strategic plan alongside with Dr. Nelson. As for goal 9, they were working with their leagues on the objectives defined by the plan. They are excited to get a start on that process and are ready to move forward.

EMS Communications Committee:

Carlton Wells stated he was not able to attend their last two meetings but in the meantime, he had made use of the EMS Google groups to get news out to the other members. The things that relate to them are the EMS Communications Committee and the National Public Telecommunications Council. When their meetings take place, Florida would have a voice at the national level. As FloridaNet news comes along, he would try to pass that along to the EMS Google groups, as well as any other communication centers that have something to do with EMS.

EMS for Children Committee:

Julie reported that they were happy to have received their 2017 grant award, which helped them set up their programming for March 1. Their main focus is EMS week in May during which a few large initiatives will take place. One is a partnership with PIER and the Pedestrians Bicycles Committee through a webinar. There will also be an opportunity for EMS providers to visit schools (primarily preschool-early elementary aged children) and read a book titled “Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim” to help promote drowning prevention and to show the proper safety precautions that should be taken.

**Additional Comments:**

Mr. McCoy stated that since the stroke form has has been out for 30 days for review, it was time for the council to make their final decision about it. Dr. Nelson stated that the form is flexible that is to be used primarily as a guideline but other forms do not have to match it 100 percent.

Jane Bedford made the motion to adopt the stroke form and it was seconded. All were in favor and the stroke assessment form was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.