Minutes of Meeting of Florida Council of EMS Chiefs

Caribé Royale Hotel

Orlando, FL

July 11, 2017

President Mac Kemp called the meeting started at 8:04 on July 11, 2017.

First order of business was the approval of minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting. On motion made and seconded the minutes were unanimously approved.

President's report - Advisory Council voting on State plan tomorrow morning; if you want changes you have till 4 PM today to get them in. This is a guidance document for Council. Also a survey going out, please look at it to make sure we’re asking the right questions. Administrator Steve McCoy said if there is an issue that needs to be in the plan to please let us know today and get it validated by the Council tomorrow. He said the survey feeds Plan.

Chief Mac Kemp said that he has been appointed by the Surgeon General as the new Chair of the Advisory Council. He would like a collaborative approach and wants to hear from everyone including people who disagree with him because it makes him think. He is depending on us in the next few years and said there are about 50 people run EMS in FL. Our focus is on good patient care and this is the group that guides it.

Two strengths, both in statute, are the EMS grants program this program has funded millions and millions of dollars for all different types of things such as chest compression devices and power gurneys. The second thing is the EMS Advisory Council that represents of all groups in FL. We are only one of two states that have this type of organization on the State level. Hurricanes have help pull us together and develop plans that many states do not have. We are fortunate here and would like to hear from you all on collaborative issues.

Legislature Past and Pending - special session did not affect us. The Legislature is getting together in January, so by October we need to be ready for them for their committee hearings will be starting. Projections on elections are that they will be solidly Republican. Mac mentioned various names currently running for governor. It will be an interesting race. Mr. McCoy said when we bring an issue come up, he would like us to have a position paper to present on it. President Kemp said his vision is for the Council can come to consensus as it is collaborative group that speaks on issues. He will continue to send out legislative updates to us as he gets a lot of information from people.

He was tracking over 20 bills and only 5 passed. They are:

Health Care Practioner 829. PRN is state contractor for impaired practitioner. If you have a program such as an EAP, If not you have to send them through PRN rather than referring them to PRM which tracks them for 5 years and cost a lot of money. We need to continue to watch that in the future we do not get switched over to PRN because we can’t come close to their costs for an impaired practitioner. Good side is that the impaired paramedic gets to keep his license while undergoing treatment.

SB/HB 249 Drug Overdose – requires certain information not about the patient but data info is needed. The bill mirrored child abuse when it was put together and finally they took out the putative parts of this bill. Mac saw a demonstration of a product yesterday at the Data Committee meeting that can do the surveillance and is a possible answer to the time constraints of this bill. Please note that this is statute and it has to be done.

CSCSCSE Tax Exemption for spouses of first responders killed in line of duty for not having to pay property taxes.

CSCSHB 785 on stroke centers - looking for bona fide strokes that they can only get from ERs not EMS. EMS data is not the piece they need. Stroke data is important to us will help us to see if there is a connection on a geospatial map.

SR 1776 - passed and adopted by legislature, the state officially recognizes EMS as first responders on 9/11 week.

Rickey Stone brought up HB 941 – for the military as well as other EMTs and Paramedics moving into Florida must be nationally registered to get license here. In addition it extends out the time period to renew licenses from 180 days to two years without having to retest again.

President Kemp then mentioned a list of bills that did not pass. He said that 2600 plus bills were submitted and only 500 passed. He asked if there was anything anyone wanted to discuss about state legislation and said he would be speaking more about this in the Legislative session this afternoon?

On Federal level - SB967 is a 33 month Medicare extension that expires in December and is asking us to lobby for it by contacting our federal Senators and we want they to co-sponsor bill.

Old Buisness

Mac said it was time to replace himself and the Secretary and he looking for nominations either here today or thru email to Noreen Schramm. Mac then opened the floor for nominates and nominated Mike Hall to be president for the next 3 years. There were no other nominations for President. Jane Bedford nominated Noreen Schramm for an additional term but she declined because of what she termed the need for succession planning. Mac said it nominations would be open for 30 days and then a ballot would be sent out to the membership so the results could be announced at the October meeting.

Other Business

Jane Bedford brought up increase funding for EMS objectives especially how the EMS grant fund is funded perhaps by putting a tax on license plates and Mac this would be very hard to do based on Republican legislature. He said the number of people receiving tickets in FL is way down and the state is cutting jobs every year. Troopers are concentrating on accidents rather than writing tickets. A license plate is a tag and a tag is a tax. That’s not to say we can't ask but the EMS trust fund is looking creatively for things like drinking and boating issues. Also trying to double the money we are getting however it seems all is decreasing. We need other ideas for raising money for EMS and we will add it to the list of things to do.

New Business

Palm Beach County held a MCI and treated 247 patients using a deployed field hospital for special event. Corky Young said that law enforcement in the Bay area is carrying 4 oz of narcon nasal spray in their cars to combat the drug overdose epidemic. DOJ can reach into their coffers and equip law enforcement with this medication they should be able to do so for EMS.

Drug shortage problem is a bad as it was in 2012 if not worse and needs to be brought up at the Council which Mac said he would do.

There being no further business to come before the meeting it was adjourned at 9:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen Schramm

Secretary

FCEMSC