Florida Council of EMS Chiefs

July 8, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Double Tree Hotel

Orlando, FL

President Mac Kemp opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. He said it has been an active year so far. Busy - several issues to talk about but first he introduced Dr. Patty Byers who announced a program regarding severe motorcycle crash prehospital care. Motorcycle victim assessed is offering 2 CEUs. She questioned if emergency medical services (EMS) has specific motorcycle protocols. The Department of Transportation (DOT) wants to know who has motorcycle-specific protocols. Just that DOT wants to know what protocols MOI/crash criteria?

President Kemp then did a Legislative recap saying in short it was a mess; the most contentious session he's seen. He's tracked 12 different bills this year. He also said that it takes 7 years on average for a bill to make it through the legislature.

Publically funded retirement bill passed by legislature but the Governor vetoed it. Local government bill also passed that changed some of the local funding.

Senate Health Care coverage of EMS balanced billing and insurance issues. This bill was issued in 34 states – the insurance industry tries hard. House went home early so this bill died. EMS was pulled out of this bill because we are small fish; so basically wanted us to negotiate with insurance providers and they were going to do usual and customary charges. This is not dead because the insurance industry is lobbying hard to get this bill passed. The insurance industry is not going to pay us what we believe we need. Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) payments were attempted to be added onto the bill. He said that all EMS officials should call their local representatives and let them hear from them personally.

He discussed several bills and their status. The Florida Statutes bill passed – innocuous - was buried until after passed. They cut 15 percent but every single word relates to other parts. Will it cause problems - yes - rules workshop were automatic if taken out of statute.

President Kemp said this coming year a lot of legislation affecting EMS will be coming back. What he sends out in the legislative update is not just him, it is also from people in your county. He believes whether your organization is for or against a bill does not matter, it only matters that that information is out to everyone. Let your thoughts be known to legislators. Get involved in the process and know that it affects our lives and how we do our jobs.

He then opened the floor to any questions.

Corky Young addressed this topic to Steve McCoy. Mr. McCoy says it is ambiguous to transport to highest level of care. A lot has to be ironed out. What constitutes level is not well defined. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has its own and is looking and working with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons but the devil is in details. It is important for EMS and trauma communities to work together. The rule development on trauma side has slowed down a little bit. Florida has always been a home rule type of state. Federal officials tie up funding and that usually ends the discussion.

Jane Bedford then spoke on Community Paramedics. She is trying to get funding for it here in Florida. She spoke with Dr. Celeste Phillip at the Department of Health to find funding. There are programs out there doing things differently. The first thing is the education portion. Jane is trying to get a workshop together for the next meeting.

Mr. McCoy then spoke on V3 EMSTARS. There are data points. There is a survey out to determine information on EMSTARS costs, maintenance of EMSTARS, and the impact on submitting to the Department, etc. Please complete the survey if you have not already.

President Kemp the reported on data issues. The data committee has created a subcommittee. They are working on new tools. Some things are coming out soon. Please go online with EMSTARS and get a score card; 32 items and you can compare your agency to other agencies and give you feedback and thoughts. When you write that report, it becomes a data point. They are trying to connect databases to be able to turn out good reports. Contact Steve McCoy for access to EMSTARS and find out information on your system.

Discussion then opened up to the members. National EMS is looking at reimbursement. There is a Webinar series out there now but they are developing these measures and the National Quality Forum is looking at them. If they do look at measures we may be able to impact them. Florida is ahead of the curve and we can measure those curves. We must deal with these things head on including the third party payers critical for every single agency. They are also on Facebook and Linkedin.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Noreen Schramm

Secretary