Florida Ambulance Association (FAA)

Meeting Minutes | January 20, 2016 | Daytona Beach, Florida

# Review & Approval of Minutes

* [Minutes from the previous FAA meeting on December 15, 2015](https://faa.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Meeting%20Minutes,%20Agendas,%20Rosters/2015.12.15%20-%20FAA%20Minutes.docx) were distributed and approved.

# President’s Update

* President Skavroneck recapped the very productive December 15 FAA-Agency for Healthcare Administration meeting held at Sunstar Paramedics ([minutes](http://the-faa.org/resources/Documents/Meeting%20Minutes,%20Agendas,%20Rosters/2015.12.15%20-%20FAA%20AHCA%20MMA%20Meeting%20Minutes.docx)).
* In October, the FAA had $7,200 in the bank. We now have more than $40,000.
* Renewal invoices have been emailed several times. Please contact [faa@the-aaa.org](mailto:faa@the-aaa.org) if you have not received yours.

# Advocacy

## Representation

Dean Mead has begun representing FAA. Our primary contact is Cari Roth ([CRoth@deanmead.com](mailto:CRoth@deanmead.com)).

### Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN)

* [Florida statute 401.25](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0401/Sections/0401.25.html) governs the issuance of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCNs).
* The FAA’s position is that no changes should be made to the current statutory language governing COPCN issuance as the current system has worked well, with only minor tweaks, for decades.
* The requests to make changes to the COPCN process are being driven by a small number of fire districts. COPCNs are being denied in these areas, and private providers can’t follow the same track as other providers to appeal these denials. (Members are advised to check their local ordinances as these vary greatly.)
* Advocating for the FAA on the COPCN process issue is a moving target.
  + To date, there have been several different amendments and changes proposed that are in various stages of review.
    - There was even a new proposal entered January 15, just days before the current FAA meeting.
    - Effective the day of our meeting (1/20), one set of proposed changes has passed committee. Regrettably, not all information presented to the committee was factual.
    - FAA will consult with Dean Mead on a “hail Mary.” The issue is not closed until signed by the Governor.
  + The Florida Fire Chiefs board of directors has not taken an official position. However, their legislative committee has publically recommended support of the changes.
  + It is challenging to drive time and attention to the COPCN issue as is not perceived to have budget impact.
* The FAA emailed members on January 18 a request from Dean Mead’s Cari Roth that members contact their legislators to discuss this issue. Talking points were included. Going forward, Dean Mead will continue to develop communications that can then be disseminated to members via email. (Email [faa@the-aaa.org](mailto:faa@the-aaa.org) if you did not receive this message.)

## Balance Billing

* Balance billing impacts providers working in a hospital setting who may not be covered by insurance that does cover a patient’s hospital stay (ex: emergency rooms, anesthesiologists, and ambulance services). This is typically an issue with non-HMO commercial policies, especially PPOs.
  + For ambulance, if a patient has an ambulance bill of $1000 and insurance covers $350, an ambulance service can balance bill $650. (Your contract may vary, if there is a contract.)
  + PIP and workers comp are separate, unrelated issues. PIP, for example, pays of 80% of 200% of Medicare allowable.
* [Carlos Trujillo (R-150th District)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Trujillo) is sponsoring [CS/HB 221 – Health Insurance Coverage for Emergency Services](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/0221/Category) covering balance billing.
* At this point, there is a shortfall and 911 services will eventually need to either increase taxes or decrease services.

# Steve McCoy of the Florida Department of Health

* Steve McCoy was recently appointed as Administrator of Emergency Medical Services within the Florida Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight. He stopped by the FAA meeting to greet ambulance leaders and offer brief, informal comments on a few topics.
* Triple K Standards (see section below for additional detail)
  + This rule has been workshopped twice.
  + Whenever a rule is developed that has a $200k budget impact in the first year, or $1m over 5 years, it must go through the legislature
    - If we’d like to remove the Triple K standard, we need to prepare to submit the proposed change for 2017.
    - A cost survey has been sent to ambulance services consisting of just two questions. Please respond!
      * If you hold multiple licenses, you can submit information for all at the same time.
      * Staff may call to clarify, if they have questions about your cost data.
  + Rule Reduction Package
    - A Notice of Change will be submitted based on your feedback.
    - The requested sentence will be stricken from 014.
  + EMSAC is looking at trauma triage and EMS education grants.

# 401 “Triple K” Standards

* The GSA created the “Triple K” ambulance standards, KKK-A-1822, many decades ago as specifications for the federal government’s ambulance purchases. Over time, many states adopted “Triple K” as state requirements. Currently, the standard is on version “F”— KKK-A-1822F.
* Fire departments are not bound to the same color schemes, etc., specified in the standards. Non-fire departments are supposed to comply with these rules, but many areas do not currently enforce this.
* Recently private ambulance providers were informed that no more exceptions will be granted, per a state attorney.
* It was suggested that FAA make time in 2016 to provide recommendations to Steve McCoy’s team about Triple K. Some members advocated to change the rule to tie standards to GVS or NFPA instead.
* It may be logistically simplest to handle this as a rule change, once the KKK specification is removed from Chapter 401, Florida Statutes.

# AHCA MMA Reimbursement ([Minutes](https://faa.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Meeting%20Minutes,%20Agendas,%20Rosters/2015.12.15%20-%20FAA%20AHCA%20MMA%20Meeting%20Minutes.docx))

* On December 15, 2015 the FAA met with AHCA and representatives from all major carriers and brokers to discuss the ongoing MMA reimbursement issues. In total, approximately 80–100 people were in attendance.
* The overview was presented by David Rogers of AHCA. David Rogers and President Skavroneck facilitated the discussion.
* It became evident that there is a disconnect in understanding of the ambulance process between transportation brokers and the carriers that employ them.
* An attendance list was compiled and distributed to all present to allow for individual follow-up, which has produced mixed results.
* Mary Pat Moore of the Florida Association of Health Plans (FAHP) is working with President Skavroneck and her members to set a follow-up meeting for the end of February.

# AHCA Policy Book

* Revisions are in progress to the AHCA policy book that covers ambulance transportation.
* Walt Eismann of American Ambulance and Bryan Andrews of Lake EMS substantially edited a proposed draft, and have been invited to collaborate on its replacement.
* Walt and Bryan are advocating for the creation of separate Ambulance and Non-Medical Transport policies, as there are separate funding mechanisms for these types of runs.
* A follow-up meeting on the draft was set for the week of January 25. Walt and Bryan will report back.

# Administrative Updates

* The American Ambulance Association is now the official back-office administrator for the FAA, handling billing, invoices, meeting documents, website updates, financial record-keeping, and customer relationship management.
* If you are not receiving FAA emails, please add [faa@the-aaa.org](mailto:faa@the-aaa.org) to your safe senders list.
* All renewal invoices have been sent, twice, via email. Please contact [faa@the-aaa.org](mailto:faa@the-aaa.org) should you need these resent, or if you prefer to pay on a quarterly basis.
* The new [www.the-faa.org](http://www.the-faa.org) website is live.
  + Please login using your email address and chosen password. Need to reset your password? Visit <http://bit.ly/PWforFAA> to reset it.
  + Add your headshot to your profile so that it appears in our member directory.
  + Post photos of your service to our member Forum, [www.the-faa.org/forum](http://www.the-faa.org/forum), for inclusion on the FAA site.
  + Meeting times, agendas, and minutes are all posted online as they become available. (Click on an upcoming or past event to access them.)

# Elections

* There will be several FAA leadership seats open midyear as both the President and the Secretary/Treasurer are ready to step down, and there is an existing open at-large seat.
* President Skavroneck will work with back-office staff to make updates to the bylaws, then have them placed on the FAA site as the bylaws state candidate eligibility requirements.
* Previously, FAA had a nominating committee. However, to streamline the process this year, after bylaws are posted to the site, members will receive an email from FAA inviting them to state their interest in running.
* Elections will be conducted in July.

# Next Meeting

The next face-to-face FAA meeting is tentatively set for July, as the April meetings are typically cancelled by EMSAC.

# Adjourn