

**Emergency Medical Service
Advisory Council
June 28, 2005
Minutes**

Member's Present

Michelle Staggs
Dr. Timothy Calicott
Tim Tackett
Tony Hickerson
Kenneth Starnes
Monte Gagliardi
Rod Barrett
Doug Duerr
Dr. David Schmidt
Todd Freeman

Member's Absent

Dr. Marvin Leibovich
William Seaton
Dan Johnson
Fran Hickman
Jamin Snarr
Delois Sykes
Dr. Ted Lancaster
Billy Artis

ADH Staff

David Taylor
Norajean Miles

Brian Nation
Larry New

Sonya Sampson
Detrich Smith

Visitors

Cathee Terrell
Debe Newton
Michael Smith
Saniel Sweeza
Pam Rolens
Laura Guthrie
Kim Hall
Don Johnson
Denise Carson

Keith Edmonds
J.T. Cantrell
James Launius
Ben Blankenship
Judy Boland, MD
Tray Files
Jim Vaughan
Janet Jordan, MD
Donna Ward

Becky Stewart
John C. Luther
Edward Smith
Garry W. Odom
Alyce M. Wagner
Gary Ragen
Greg Bartlett
Bob Patterson
Sidney Ward

Ed Rippel
Chuck Domiguez
Jeremy Bright
Dwayne Aalseth
Tracy Gregg
Harry Ringler
Anne Roberts
Ken Kelly
Keith Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council was called to order By Michelle Staggs on June 28, 2005, 1:45 p.m. at the Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Michelle Staggs welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members and guest introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The floor was open for approval of November 17, 2004 Minutes. A Motion was made by Dr. Calicott to approve the minutes. Kenneth Starnes pointed out that his name was left off of the November 17, 2004 minutes as being present. A motion was made to approve the minutes with the correction of adding Kenneth Starnes as present. Dr. Schmidt seconded the motion; the Council with the corrections passed the minutes.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Director's Update – David Taylor provided the Director's update. The following was handed out for review and discussed:

New Hires -

Certification Administrator

Ms. Norajean Miles has been hired as the Certification Administrator effective April 25, 2005. Ms. Miles has been in the EMS field for over 10 years and is currently certified as a paramedic. Ms. Miles served as the EMT Instructor at Ouachita County Medical Center, Camden, AR. She has been employed with the Department of Health for the last 18 months as an EMS Specialist.

Regulatory Administrator

Mr. Larry New has been hired as the Regulatory Administrator effective April 11, 2005. Mr. New has been in the EMS field for over 27 years and is currently certified as a paramedic. Mr. New has past experience as the EMS Director for Ouachita County Medical Center, Camden, AR and was an EMT Instructor with South Arkansas Community College.

Trauma Systems Administrator

Mr. Brian Nation has been hired as the Trauma Systems Administrator effective January 30, 2005. Mr. Nation previously held the EMSC position with the Department for the

last 8 years. He holds a Masters of Public Administration. Mr. Nation was with the Department of Education prior to coming to the Office of EMS.

David Taylor welcomed all three new hires.

Vacancies - EMS Specialist and EMSC Coordinator

Interviews have been conducted for the EMS Specialist position. Interviews for the EMSC Coordinator will begin during the month of July. Hopefully by the next regularly scheduled council meeting, both positions will be filled

Rural Access to Emergency Devices

The Office of EMS & Trauma Systems received a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to purchase and place Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) with emergency response teams and basic life support ambulance services. On July 20, 2005 at 10 A.M. at the Rotunda of the Capital a press conference will be held to announce the placement of 356 AEDs to approved applicants. Four ambulance services applied this grant period and six AEDs will be placed. Distribution will occur on July 20, 21, & 22, 2005. The Office received funding in the amount of \$363,509.00.

During the month of November 2004 the Office conducted a survey to assess current utilization of AED's by basic life support ambulance services. The following information was obtained during the survey:

Number	Action Taken
75	Ambulance services contacted during survey
109	BLS units identified in survey
58	BLS units are equipped with AEDs
44	BLS units are not equipped and would like to obtain an AED
6	6 BLS/Special Purpose ambulances do not desire placement of AEDs
1	BLS unit – Availability of AED unknown – Not available for contact

On June 1, 2005 the Office was notified by HRSA of a new grant award of \$188,521 to continue to place AEDs with first response teams and ambulance services throughout rural communities. The application process will be distributed during the month of October 2005.

Paramedic Scholarship/Equipment Program

The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care & the Office of EMS have distributed sub-recipient agreements to fourteen paramedic-training sites. To date, six training sites have received approval to purchase and award scholarships to students. The deadline to complete the award agreement is August 31, 2005. If schools have not submitted appropriate documents and complete requirements by August 31, 2005, they will have to

forfeit the award. The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care has requested an additional \$60,000 of funding for the state fiscal year 2006 for equipment and scholarships to paramedic training sites.

Paul Halverson, DrPH, MHSA

On May 5, 2005 Governor Mike Huckabee named Paul Halverson, DrPH, MHSA as the Interim Director of the Arkansas Department of Health and State Health Director. Dr. Halverson joined the Dr. Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in June 2004 as a professor and the chairman of the Department of Health Policy and Management. Prior to his move to Arkansas, he served for nearly seven years as a member of the Senior Biomedical Research Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The Office of EMS and Trauma Systems colleagues would like to welcome Dr. Halverson to the Department and look forward to working with him.

Merger ADH & DHS

Effective August 11, 2005 the Arkansas Department of Health and the Department of Human Service will merge and create the Department of Health and Human Services.

A-1 Certification Update – Norajean Miles gave the following certification report:

Recertification

June 30, 2005 (in process) numbers current 6/20/05

Recertification packets sent-	158
Recertification packets received-	78
Recertified-	76
Pending- (missing required documentation)	2
Per cent successfully recertified	48.1%

January 1, 2005

Recertification packets sent-	1377
Recertified- (as of 1/31/05)	1064
Per cent successfully recertified	77.2%

Initial Certification/ Testing January through May 31, 2005

Basic Written exams administered:	28
# students tested	355
# students successful	177
# students unsuccessful	155
awaiting results for	23

Advanced Written exams administered	9
# Paramedic students tested	61
# Paramedic students successful	31
# Paramedic students unsuccessful	30

# Intermediate students tested	20
# Intermediate students successful	7
# Intermediate students unsuccessful	13
awaiting results for	29

Scheduled EMT Classes

Basic- Full EMT Classes-

14- Classes scheduled for completion- 01 Jul to 31 Dec 2005

Basic Refresher Classes-

4- Classes scheduled for completion- 01 Jul to 31 Dec 2005

Intermediate-

1- Classes scheduled for completion- 01 Jul to 31 Dec 2005

Paramedic-

10- Classes scheduled for completion- 01 Jul to 31 Dec 2005

Paramedic Refresher Classes-

3 - Class scheduled for completion- 01 Jul to 31 Dec 2005

Reciprocity

Advance Reciprocity candidates

Total for January to December, 2004 43

Since January, 2005

Complete: 15

Office waiting on required documents- 15

Waiting to purge 2

Active candidates 13

Basic Reciprocity candidates

Total for January to December, 2004 12

Since January, 2005:

Complete 3

1 took over a year (incomplete information)

1 took 3 months (3 attempts at practical)

1 took 2 months

Scheduled to test Practical 06/24/2005 6

Inactive or waiting on required documents 36

Continuing Education

CEU classes approved January through December, 2004 2322

CEU classes approved January through May, 2005 1184

(Data for the above reports reflect information for January 1 - May 31, 2005)

Training Site Accreditation Report

Arkansas Advanced Training Sites that have obtained full accreditation status:

Northwest Arkansas Community College
UAMS
*ASU Technical Center
*Arkansas Northeastern College
*ATU-Ozark Campus
*U of A Monticello
*East Arkansas Community College
*National Park Community College

Arkansas Advanced Training Sites working on the initial accreditation process:

ASU-Searcy
South Arkansas Community College
University of Arkansas Community College Batesville
North Arkansas College
Southeast Arkansas Community College
Black River Technical College

(* Attained at the May 20, 2005 CoAEMSP quarterly meeting)

A-2 Regulatory Update- Larry New gave regulatory update. As of November 2004, the regulatory division inspected 99 Services and 260 Trucks.

A-3. Trauma Systems Update - Brian Nation gave Trauma Systems Update. There was a meeting held to train hospital personnel for trauma centers to establish trauma designated hospitals.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. EMSC – NO REPORT - in process of hiring an EMSC Coordinator.

2. Training Committee –

- a. Scope of Practice** – Monte Gagliardi gave the report on EMS Scope of Practice. He stated that three letters were sent in response to Draft One and Two. Copies were enclosed for Council review. Stated that most of the concerns the Council and Training Committee voiced regarding Draft One was addressed in Draft Two. The Training Committee will monitor progress and keep the Council informed.
- b. EMS Career Survey** – The Office of EMS and Trauma Systems in cooperation with the Arkansas EMS Training Committee developed a brief survey in attempt to begin to gather information that can assist the Office and training sites in long-range educational planning. The survey has been very helpful. David Taylor stated the top five areas of concerns in the 2004 EMS

Needs Assessment were also reflected in the EMT survey. A complete report will be provided by the end of the year by the Office of Rural Health.

- c. **First Responder Survey** – The Arkansas EMS Training Committee is assessing the status of emergency medical first responders in Arkansas by providing a survey to all emergency medical first responders. Dr. Calicott inquired why First Responders were not certified or regulated by the state. David Taylor stated that there is no definition of a First Responder in current legislation and there are no Rules and Regulation that govern them. The Training Committee will hold a meeting to discuss First Responder issues and will extend an invitation to the President of the First Responder Society.

3. Rules & Regulations Committee –

- a. DNR – Kenneth Starnes gave report on the DNR Rules and Regulations. The DNR Rules and Regulations have gone through the public hearing process. Under the new format any legal DNR could be recognized by EMS. On July 28, 2005 the revised Rules & Regulations will be presented to the Board of Health for adoption. If approved, they will be sent for signature from the Secretary of the Board of Health and Governor.

Todd Freeman asked the progress the Rules and Regulations Committee was making. Answers included the formation of a Mission Statement to guide their proceedings and looking at the Rules and Regulations of the surrounding States for comparison.

4. Air Ambulance Subcommittee –

Ms. Staggs gave the Air Ambulance Subcommittee report. She reported that the committee has not met in several years except the one meeting held last year. A concern came up about the gap between the Rules and Regulations of the Nursing Practice Act governing nurses and the Rules and Regulations regarding EMS. When an air ambulance is called there is a presumption of a higher level of care from the public. She suggested that flight paramedics might need additional certification along the line of Air Ambulance Flight Crews so they can perform additional procedures. CAAS has a good certification program for flight crews and the National Flight Paramedic Association has an additional written test to provide a “certificate” for flight paramedics. A number of questions have been raised that a nurse can do different procedures than a paramedic in Arkansas. Example: Paramedic in Arkansas cannot push RSI medications. That procedure is reserved for nurses or physicians with air ambulances. Ken Starnes stated that flight paramedics are not trained differently from ground paramedics and that both should be qualified to do the same procedures and use the same medications. A general discussion about RSI medications and tibial-IO was held. Dr. Callicot moved that the Air Ambulance Committee should meet quarterly; the motion was

seconded by Dr. Schmidt and passed by Council. Michelle Staggs and David Taylor will notify air ambulance services of meeting dates.

Tim Tackett made a motion that a request is made to the Board of Health to allow Arkansas Paramedics with Medical Director approval and oversight to perform RSI (Rapid Sequence Intubation) using appropriate drug interventions. Motion seconded by Kenneth Starnes. Restated by Michelle Skaggs: Dr. Callicott will take the lead regarding the RSI request and will include active Medical Director oversight when presenting procedure to the Board of Health.

- C. **IO Clinical Investigation** – Dr. Calicott provided update. On April 28, 2005 Dr. Calicott appeared before the Board of Health to request permission to grant a clinical investigation of adult IO device. A one-year study was granted and it will be conducted with the Little Rock Ambulance Authority- Metropolitan Emergency Medical Service (MEMS). Dr. Calicott will continue to provide updates to the Council on the advancement of the study.
- D. **ECC** – This issue was tabled and will remain on agenda.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Public Health & Preparedness - ADH Bioterrorism** – Alyce Wagner from the Office of Public Health & Preparedness handed out Medical Visual Language Translator to Council members. The translator is very effective for pre-hospital care when a language barrier exist between the caregiver and patient. The Office Public Health & Preparedness has provided two translators per registered ambulance in the state. The costs of the translators were \$16 each. Contact Alyce Wagner for any additional translators if needed. The Council thanked Ms. Wagner for her assistance and generosity to the ambulance services.
- B. **Continuous Positive airway pressure (CPAP)** – Dr. Judy Borland provided a brief presentation over CPAP. Council members were provided a copy of Dr. Borland’s letter to appear before the Council (Attachment #1). Dr. Schmidt made a motion to add CPAP to the current equipment list as an optional device. This request would be made to the Board of Health and if the Board of Health is hesitant to approve, then Dr. Calicott and Dr. Borland would request a study to be performed. The participants in the study would include. St. John’s and St. Joseph’s to work together to develop protocols and outline procedures to conduct the study if necessary. Dr. Calicott seconded motion, motion passed by Council.
- C. **Little Rock Fire Department Training** – Assistant Chief J.T Cantrell with the Little Rock Fire Department requested a modification to the Little Rock Fire Department’s Training Site agreement currently on file with the Office of EMS (Attachment #2). He requested that the Fire Department be eligible to train, “All students shall be paid fire service personnel.” It is not the desire of the department to train civilians or other persons, which might negatively impact student loads for other training sites.

Currently Little Rock Fire Department can only train city employees. Monte Gagliardi reviewed the Training Committees recommendation stating the following modification to their training site agreement with the Office, replace “All students must be employed by the city of Little Rock” to “Students who are career fire service personnel in the contiguous areas of Little Rock Fire Department.” Dr. Calicott moved to accept the training committee recommendation; Todd Freeman seconded it, motion passed by the Council.

- D. Computer Based Testing – David Taylor and Phil Dickerson with National Registry of EMT’s presented a power point presentation (Attachment #3) regarding computer based testing, the impact on the state, and proposed implementation plan. Computer based testing will be offered in the state on January 1, 2007. National Registry has requested that the state notify them by Oct 1, 2005 if the state will continue to utilize them for written examinations at all levels. Dr. Schmidt made a motion that the State of Arkansas adopt the use of computer based testing offered by National Registry of EMTs and to provide a letter to the National Registry of EMTs that the State of Arkansas will continue to utilize the testing services provided by them. The motion was seconded by Dr. Callicot, and passed by the Council. David Taylor will submit a letter to National Registry regarding the use of computer based testing within the state of Arkansas.
- E. Huber Needles – Tracy Gregg from Central EMS presented to the council a request to perform a joint trial for six months to one year for the use of Huber Needles on paramedic ambulances in the state of Arkansas (Attachment #4). Central EMS and Bella Vista Fire Department would head the trial study. Tracy Gregg stated that Dr. Brad Johnson would head the study and would be able to attend the Board of Health meeting to make the request. It was mentioned that venous access is listed in the current paramedic curriculum, but the actual Huber Needle procedure is not. After discussion, Tony Hickerson made a motion to add Huber Needles to the current equipment list as an optional device. This request would be made to the Board of Health and if the Board of Health is hesitant to approve, then Dr. Brad Johnson would request a study to be performed. Both proposals are to be reviewed by Council’s physicians before the request is sent to the Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Dr. Calicott and passed by the Council.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATES

A motion was made by Tim Tackett and seconded by Dr. Tim Calicott to meet August 17, 2005. The next meeting of the Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council will be held at the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems at 1:30 p.m. Motion passed by Council.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

St. John’s presented the Council with the following list of medications to add to optional medications list for advanced level services: Fenanyl, Zofran, Rapid Sequence intubation medications – Etomidate, Succinylcholine, Norcuron; Nitroglycerin drip (Attachment

#5). The Council decided to table the request until the Council's physicians had a chance to review the list. A brief discussion revolved around the need for ambulance service medical director's to obtain additional training and the possibility of revising the Rules and Regulations to reflect the training. In discussing the optional drug list and medical director involvement, a suggestion was made to consider listing optional drugs allowed by classifications instead of trade and/or generic names so that a medical director can choose the specific drug within the classification that his service should use. Dr. Tim Calicott made motion to categorize the optional medication list so the list can be changed without having to bring a request to the Council or Board of Health each time a new drug is to be added. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Starnes and passed by Council.

Medical Sub-Committee- Tim Tackett made motion to enlarge medical subcommittee to increase representation. Motion seconded by Kenneth Starnes and passed by the Council. Council will include all serving physicians and the following: Michelle Staggs, Tim Tackett, Kenneth Starnes, and Monte Gagliardi.

VII. ADJOURN

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion was passed and the meeting of the Emergency Medical Advisory Council was adjourned at 1645 hours.