

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Office of EMS & Trauma Systems

FEBRUARY 25, 2004

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Marvin Leibovich
Dr. Timothy Calicott
Jamin Snarr
William Seaton
Dr. David Schmidt
Tony Hickerson
Kenneth Starnes
Timothy Tackett
Dr. David Schmidt
Kenny Shaw
Dr. Lancaster

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Malvin Jones
Fran Hickman
Larry Freeman
Michelle Staggs
Leonard Krout
Mike Williamson

OFFICE OF EMS & TRAUMA SYSTEMS PRESENT:

David Taylor	Gary Ragen
Sonya Sampson	Stella Nelson
Harry Ringler	Dawn Dutcher
Norajean Miles	

GUESTS:

Carl Mason	George Odom	Andy Goldthorpe	Day Bess
Kelly McCauley	Jimmy Jones	Kyle T. Roach	Mack Hutchison

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Governor's Advisory Council was called to order on February 25, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. by Dr. Marvin Leibovich.

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Leibovich welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Floor was open for approval of the August 21, 2003 Minutes. Michelle Staggs (via email) requested that the Air Ambulance Sub-committee discussion be added to the minutes. Air Ambulance sub-committee will reconvene with representation from each Arkansas licensed air service. Members will consist of two members from each licensed air service. Mike Williamson made this recommendation during the August 2003 council meeting. Kenneth Starnes made motion to accept minutes with addition. William Seaton second motion. Minutes approved by Council with the amendment.

Dr. Leibovich changed order of business to begin with Dr. Mason.

Dr. Mason presented his concerns to the Council regarding the use of paramedics within the emergency room setting. Some hospitals are not permitting paramedics to perform their skills within their scope of practice. Several hospitals have removed them from the ER or have realigned their job functions until the situation is resolved. A letter has been sent to the Arkansas Attorney General Office concerning his interpretation of the current EMS Rules and Regulations and ACT 666 of 1999 concerning criminal background checks for EMS personnel. Once the opinion from the Attorney General's Office is received, the Office will forward the response to the council members. The Office of EMS & Trauma Systems and the EMS Training Committee are working together as a team to resolve this issue before the next legislative session. Dr. Leibovich suggested that the council and EMS providers contact their legislators to express their concerns. This issue will be on the agenda for each meeting to keep up on the progress concerning the use of paramedics within a hospital setting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Director's Update – Bill Plunk has accepted the Certification Administrator position for the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems. Mr. Plunk is a retired Battalion Chief from Jacksonville Fire Department. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Management and Master in Business Administration. He has been a Paramedic for over twenty-one years.

EMS Website. The following is listed on the EMS Website: full EMT courses and refreshers, training sites, ambulance services, Rules and Regulations, continuing education manual/catalog, reciprocity manual, and EMS service codes manual for prehospital collection. Suggested that GAC Members names and contact information be listed on website.

The Office of Rural Health and Primary Care and the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems have joined together to form a partnership to conduct a needs assessment of all emergency medical services in Arkansas. The purpose of conducting this survey is to gather data to better understand the needs and viewpoints of Arkansas' EMS providers.

1. Certification Update – Bill Plunk gave Certification Update (see attachment). There was a concern of the fail rate of Paramedic testing. Norajean Miles has filled the vacant position for EMS Specialist.
2. Regulatory Update – Since August 2003 meeting, the regulatory team has inspected the Southwest, West and North Central service areas. Visited Basic EMT classes to instruct the students on the proper completion of the paperwork necessary for certification. Maintained criminal history background files on over 8700 individuals.
3. Trauma Systems Review – Gary Ragen gave Trauma Systems Review (see attachment II).

B. Committee Reports

1. EMSC – No Report
2. Training Committee report made by Jamin Snarr. The Council has met twice since the last GAC meetings.
3. There was a discussion concerning not having a monopoly on educational materials and to allow other agencies to set up CPR & ACLS courses as long as they follow the same or similar standards as required by our certifying agency. Each agency/company that has a set program would first gain approval through the EMS Division and the GAC prior to having it allowed toward recertification.

Jamin Snarr made a motion to accept these recommendations. The motion was seconded by William Seaton and passed by Council.

First Responder – The committee has been working on ways to address the cost of program. It was suggested that First Responders recertify every four years to help maintain cost. Medical First

Responder is the title the committee has been discussing. The Training Committee is working with Office of EMS to establish guidelines concerning certification and recertification.

There is a new written Basic EMT exam. It was suggested that the fail rate has increased due to the new exam. David Taylor stated the Office will monitor test results and report to the committee concerning pass/fail rates of basic EMT's.

The committee elected a new Vice-Chair due to the current Vice-Chair, Norajeon Miles, resigning. Mack Hutchinson was elected Vice-Chair. Two new members have been added to the committee, Tim Porter and Mike Davidson. Mr. Porter will represent Hospitals/Intermediate Training Sites and Mike Davidson will represent Fire Based EMS Training.

Next committee meeting scheduled for May 19, 2004.

4. Revolving Fund Update – The Office received forty-four (44) applicants for the EMS Revolving Fund Grant. Thirty-one (31) have been approved and notified to purchase. Thirteen (13) are currently in process and eight (8) are awaiting vendor numbers in AASIS or application corrections. Five (5) have been approved for agency signature - these should be out by March 5, 2004.
5. DNR – Draft of proposal of DNR form was presented to Council (see attachment III). Dr. Schmidt made motion to accept the draft DNR. Tim Tackett seconded the motion. After discussion Dr. Leibovich suggested that we get with the Health Department Lawyers to determine what happens outside the hospital or add a living will. Council approved the motion.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. St. Johns Health Systems – Requested to carry the following medications on their ambulances: Hydralazine, Solu-Medrol, Racemic Epinephrine and Etomidate. There was not a representative from St. Johns Health Systems present; therefore council postponed the discussion until next meeting. A discussion addressed on the use of over-the-counter medication. It was suggested that over-the-counter drugs be removed from the optional drug list.
- B. Dr. Leibovich presented the council with army used “Quick Clot” that’s used for hemorrhaging be added to optional drug list. Dr. Schmidt made motion that the prescription external clotting agent be added. Kenneth Starnes seconded the motion. Motion passed by Council.

- C. Hospital Staffing Concerning Paramedics – moved to beginning of meeting.
- D. Nominations/Elections – Dr. Schmidt nominated Dr. Leibovich as chairman. Second by William Seaton. Passed by the Council. Kenny Shaw made motion to reinstate all other officers. The motion was second by Kenneth Starnes. Motion passed.
- E. Use of Mast Trousers – Mack Hutchison addressed the council concerning Mast Trousers. Mr. Hutchison requested that the trousers to be removed from the mandatory equipment list. The Office provided a data summary concerning the use of the equipment over the last five years. (See Attachment IV) After review and discussion a motion was made by Kenneth Starnes to remove Mast Trousers from the required equipment list. The motion was seconded by William Seaton and passed by the Council.

Kenneth Starnes made motion to the council to removes Contact Removal Kits from the required equipment list. Seconded by Dr. Schmidt. Motion passed by the Council.

Dr. Leibovich suggested that the Office conduct a survey concerning the current equipment list to all ambulance services.

- F. Rod Barrett, Arkansas EMT Association President expressed concerns about Mike Williamson’s vacant position on the Council due to Mr. Williamson’s military obligations. The Association would like to name a proxy for representation on the council. Dr. Leibovich/David Taylor will look into this and report to the Association concerning appointment of a proxy for the EMS Association.
- G. Will add GAC members to EMS webpage. Address and work phone number.
- H. EMSAC Meeting Dates for 2004

May 19, 2004, July 22, 2004, and November 17, 2004

- I. The council gave applause to the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems for Office improvements.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Next meeting of the Governor’s Advisory Council will be May 19, 2004. Place and time to be announced. Other dates are July 22, 2004 at Hot Springs Convention Center and November 17, 2004 at the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems.

VII. ADJOURN

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned.