

Governor's Advisory Council

May 19, 2004

Minutes

Member's Present

Dr. Marvin Leibovich
Michelle Staggs
Kenneth Starnes
Kenny Shaw
Tim Tackett
William Seaton
Dr. Ted Landcaster
Dr. Schmidt
Jamin Snarr
Leonard Krout
Dr. Callicott
Tony Hickerson
Todd Freeman

ADH Staff

David Taylor
Sonya Sampson
Harry Ringler
Gary Ragen
Bill Plunk

Visitors

Renee Mallory
Andy Goldthorpe
Jimmy Jones
Judy Taylor

Carl Mason
Day Bess
Kyle T. Roach
KC Jones

Member's Absent

Fran Hickman
Larry Freeman
Malvin Jones
Mike Williamson
Dan Johnson

George Odom
Kelly McCauley
Mack Hutchison

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Marvin Leibovich called the Governor's Advisory Council to order on May 19, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. at the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems.

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

The Governor's Advisory Council Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Marvin Leibovich called the meeting to order. Members and guests introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The floor was open for discussion/approval of the February 24, 2004 Minutes. A motion was made by Kenneth Starnes to approve the Minutes and seconded by Dr. Ted Lancaster. The motion was passed by the Council.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Director's Update

I. Needs Assessment Survey

The assessment was completed May 3, 2004. The Office of EMS & Trauma Systems would like to express gratitude to the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care and Greg Potts with Health Statistics for time and expertise with this project. The purpose of conducting the survey was to gather data to better understand the needs and viewpoints of Arkansas' EMS providers. Results from the survey will be used to help allocate staff resources and federal and state funding to improve the level of service.

II. Training Site Software Purchase

The Office has purchased 40 copies of Key Data Training Modules to distribute to Arkansas EMS approved training sites. The software will help instructors prepare students to become proficient in the proper medical/legal documentation of EMS encounters.

III. Health Alert Network

Ambulance Service contact information has been submitted to the Agencies Health Alert Network Coordinator. The system will provide rapid communication via email, fax, telephone, or pagers. The Office sent a request to all licensed EMS services requesting contact information. Approximately 25% of the services responded to the request. The Office will continue to gather necessary information when ambulance inspections are conducted by obtaining contact information from renewal applications.

IV. EMS Community Meetings

The Arkansas Ambulance Association and the Arkansas EMT Association has been meeting with the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems to address questions or concerns expressed by the EMS community. The meetings have been extremely productive and the three entities are working together to improve service and relationship with the EMS Community.

1. Certification Update- presented in writing by Bill Plunk **Recertification**

June 30, 2004 (in process)

Recertification packets sent-	1370
Recertification packets received-	541
Recertified-	541
Pending- (missing required documentation)	***
Elected not to recertify-	***

January 1, 2004

Recertification packets sent-	1339
Recertification packets received-	1069
Recertified-	1036
Pending- (missing required documentation)	33
Elected not to recertify-	285

Testing/Certification

This section deferred until July meeting due to the number of upcoming examinations. Between now and July meeting there are 14 Basic and 5 Advanced examinations scheduled.

Scheduled EMT Classes

Basic- Full EMT Classes-

23- Classes scheduled for completion- 19 May to 31 Dec 2004

Basic Refresher Classes-

11- Classes scheduled for completion- 19 May to 31 Dec 2004

Intermediate-

3- Classes scheduled for completion- 19 May to 31 Dec 2004

Paramedic-

17- Classes scheduled for completion- 19 May to 31 Dec 2004

Paramedic Refresher Classes-

5- Classes scheduled for completion-19 May to 31 Dec 2004

Reciprocity (since 25 Feb meeting)

Advance Reciprocity candidates

Office waiting on required documents-	14
Active candidates	7

(One candidate recently completed in 5 days!)

Basic Reciprocity candidates

Office waiting on required documents-	50
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Active candidates	10
Completed reciprocity requirements for 2004-	22

2. Regulatory Update – Inspected the North Central (February), Northeast (April) and West Central (May) Service Licenses 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 9084 individuals.

3. Trauma Systems Update - Gary Ragen presented the Council with the 2003 Annual Arkansas Prehospital Care Report. The report contained key indicators from the Arkansas EMScan Prehospital Data Collection System for the year 2003.

A. Committee Reports:

1. EMSC – No report.

2. Training Committee – Report given by Jamin Snarr. The EMS Training Committee met on May 12, 2004. Jamin reported that the National Registry of EMT’s will no longer permit/administer the written exam for First Responders within the State of Arkansas. The committee has been working on a certification level concerning medical first responders. The Office of EMS & Trauma Systems and Training Committee are working together concerning the project. Paramedic licensure is still a topic of discussion; several ideas and plans are being worked on by the committee. If Arkansas moves to licensure, there is a possibility of establishing a regulatory/medical board to assist. The committee discussed the possibility to request a degree (associates) to be licensed. A survey will be conducted to field personnel to obtain input on the effect of licensure. EMT practical results are still holding strong; however, written results are still down.

3. Air Ambulance Committee – Report given by Michelle Staggs. Notice of meeting was sent to all licensed air ambulance services. There was no representation from a fixed wing ambulance service. During the meeting the committee reviewed the training requirements for the crewmembers. Concerns were expressed regarding training requirements for nurses prior to hire. The committee discussed the possibility of permitting nurses to obtain their EMT certification within six months after hire. Motion made by William Seaton-Nursing EMT training to remain the same with no changes. Nurses must have EMT certification prior to hire. Motion seconded by Dr. Lancaster. Discussion followed by Council members. Dr. Leibovich, Chairman, requested a hand vote by the Council. The motion was passed with five yeas and four nays.

The Air Ambulance Committee discussed problems concerning diversion of Air Ambulances. Discussion revolved around the difficulty of contacting receiving facilities and receiving responses from the Arkansas Department of Health’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Concerns expressed related to which facilities were open to receive patients. Dr. Leibovich expressed his concerns with the response and attitude of the EOC. The staff’s lack of assistance

concerning incoming ambulances is a concern and needs to be addressed. The Council discussed the issue for some time; David Taylor is to meet with the EOC Director to try to work on a plan to assist incoming ambulances when hospitals are placed on diversion. A report will be given at the next Council meeting.

4. Rules & Regulation Committee- Report given by Tim Tackett

The Rules & Regulations Committee met on April 29, 2004 to discuss the planning stages to start the revision of the Rules & Regulations. EMS Rules and Regulations need to set limits and give more latitude to medical directors of ambulance services. The Do Not Resuscitate Rules & Regulations Committee met on May 25, 2004 to discuss changes. Several individuals attended the meeting including the legal department from the Arkansas Department of Health. The EMS Rules & Regulations Committee will conduct a meeting after the next Council meeting held in Hot Springs. This meeting will allow individuals to express their ideas and concerns related to the current Rules & Regulations. This session will last about one hour.

Dr. Leibovich expressed that he would like information to be obtained concerning courses available for ambulance service medical directors. David Taylor will try to obtain information that is available and present at next meeting.

5. Revolving Fund Update – Harry gave Revolving fund update. Received 44 applicants, 21 of which were either paid or in process for payment. A letter was sent on May 7, 2004 reminding facilities of the upcoming deadline stating that all invoices and paperwork had to be in the office of EMS & Trauma Systems on or before May 21, 2004 or funds may not be awarded.

6. St. Johns Health System Med List – No report given by representative from St. John's due to a family emergency.

7. Hospital Staffing Concerning Paramedics – In good shape, would request everyone to monitor the next legislative session.

8. EMS Career Survey – Bill Plunk gave career survey of recertification as of beginning of year. (Attachment #1)

9. Ambulance Mandatory Equipment Review – (Attachment #2). The Office will look over the equipment survey and will make recommended changes to the Council. Report back to Council the revised survey and Council will review recommendations made by the Office. Michelle Staggs suggested that EMSC look over information regarding infant/child equipment.

10. EMS Needs Assessment Survey Results – Greg Potts discussed the EMS Needs Assessment Survey result via power point presentation. (Copy of survey presented to all Council members at meeting) Information provided by the survey will be helpful for the next legislative session and will assist the Ambulance Association, EMT Association, and Office of EMS to present data concerning Arkansas EMS.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Training facility/equipment – Garry Odom made a presentation on available patient care equipment available for interested training facilities and attendees. He gave a demonstration on several life saving items. He also discussed facility for military and civilian EMS population to come together and hold practices/ training exercises. The GAC gave verbal support to Mr. Odom and agreed to assist by sending letter if needed. Tim Tackett made motion for Dr. Leibovich to talk to Governor Huckabee concerning the development of such a facility. Motion seconded by Dr. Callicott, motion passed by Council.

B. Special Purpose Ambulance – Sedley Tomlinson addressed the Council concerning non-minimal standards for special purpose ambulances. Federal grant money cannot be obtained with lack of equipment standards. Mr. Tomlinson asked the Council to create a subcommittee to set minimal equipment standards for special purpose services. No motion was made concerning special purpose ambulance services.

C. EMS Data Collection System – some services will not meet the July 1, 2004 deadline concerning EMS Data Collection System. They are taking steps towards transition, but will not be done by July 1, 2004. The Office of EMS & Trauma Systems advised the Council of assisting as much as possible to move these services to software and away from paper. All services have been provided the opportunity to obtain software free of charge from the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems.

D. Open Session - Several Council members expressed the lack of participation from the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems regarding homeland security and responses to disasters within the State of Arkansas. The Office has not been contacted concerning funding regarding radio upgrades and planning stages regarding responses. Tim Tackett made motion for Council to draft letter, with Dr. Leibovich's signature, to the Governor expressing the Council's concerns for the lack of involvement. The letter will be drafted and sent and a copy provided at next meeting.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Governor's EMS Advisory Council will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs, Arkansas, July 22, 2004 at 1:30 p.m., room to be announced.

VII. ADJOURN

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