

EMS Training Committee Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2005
Hot Springs Convention Center

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Monte Gagliardi at 10:10 a.m.

Committee members present: Monte Gagliardi, Danny Bercher, Robert Chastain, Capt. Mike Davidson, & Wesley Gay

Seven guests were present

Committee members absent: Janie Kennedy, Jerry Hutchison, Mack Hutchison, Jimmy Jones, Dr. Charles Mabry, Tim Porter, Lisa Robles, Jamin Snarr, & Brenda Stewart.

Motion to accept minutes of previous meeting by Wesley Gay with second and passed.

Medical First Responder Discussion

There were 132 fire chiefs who responded to the medical first responder survey which was mailed to all of the fire departments in Arkansas which was a 12% response rate. Those fire chiefs who responded to the survey indicated an average of 12 first responders in each department representing 1511 individuals with some medical training and 1145 first responders in the survey response group. The chiefs who responded to the survey also indicated that they had approximately 789 individuals interested in medical first responder training. The majority of the medical first responders indicated a willingness to pay for initial certification fees from \$10-\$50, that they would be willing to pay for training fees from 0-\$50, and willing to pay for continuing education fees from 0-\$50 per year.

The committee members discussed the need to further explore a needs assessment by inviting potential stakeholders in a voluntary statewide medical emergency responder certification system to the next EMS training committee meeting. Garry Odom, who was a guest at the meeting asked to be invited as a local volunteer firefighter with medical emergency responders. Danny Bercher suggested that the fire department mailing list be utilized again to send invitations to all fire departments with a request for RSVP. Dwayne Aalseth requested that the AEMTA First Responder Society be invited, and that an announcement be placed on the AEMTA web site. Ken Kelley, a guest at the meeting voiced concern over the medical liability and the duty to act. Danny Bercher made a motion to invite all interested stakeholder discussed to the next EMS Training Committee Meeting on August 17 at 10:00 am at Freeway Medical in Little Rock. Motion seconded by Capt. Davidson and passed.

Scope of Practice

David Taylor stated that a common document was drafted by the EMS Training Committee, the Governor's Advisory Council on EMS, and the Office of EMS and Trauma Systems of the Dept. of Health, to submit letters of support. The training committee questioned the use of the term "Intermediate" in the document.

Computer Based Testing (CBT)

Phil Dickison with National Registry of EMTs made a presentation about his organization's transition from pencil and paper written examinations to computer based testing at all levels. Mr. Dickison said that all states need to make the decision whether or not they were "on board"

with National Registry by September of 2005. Mr. Dickison also stated that states could not pick certain levels to adopt CBT. He said that states were required to either participate 100% at all levels or not at all. The implementation date for CBT would be January of 2007. Phil suggested that the states should consider performing practical examinations before the end of training and that students can then sit for the National Registry CBT after the training program has completed and there has been verification that the practical examination has been completed successfully. Mr. Dickison stated that one of the obvious advantages of CBT would be that turn around results could occur within three business days. Phil stated that the suggested fee structure for CBT would be:

First Responder: \$65
EMT-B: \$85
Intermediate-85: \$100
Paramedic: \$110

David Taylor made a presentation about specific and potential CBT testing sites around Arkansas. Mr. Taylor stated that no testing candidate would be more than 60 minutes from a testing site at any level. Danny Bercher made a motion for Arkansas accept CBT with National Registry and to promote Arkansas as a potential candidate as a beta testing state. Motion was seconded by Robert Chastain and passed.

Little Rock Fire Department EMT Training

JT Cantrell requested that Little Rock Fire Department Training Site be allowed to expand their original definition which restricted their students to "city employees" so to provide EMT training to career fire service personnel in the surrounding communities. Danny Bercher made a motion to allow Little Rock Fire Department to provide EMT-B training for "students who are career fire service personnel associated with fire department districts in the contiguous areas of Little Rock Fire Department." The motion was seconded by Rob Chastain and passed.

Professional Bridging Options

Danny Bercher asked to set up a subcommittee to explore bridging options for other non-EMS healthcare professionals who are certified or licensed to transition to EMT and paramedic education. The subcommittee would help identify potential healthcare professionals and to recommend training guidelines for advanced placement in EMT and paramedic education. The initial groups to work with include combat medics to become paramedics, registered nurses to become paramedics, and respiratory therapists to become paramedics. The committee agreed to allow Mr. Bercher to proceed with the subcommittee. Mr. Bercher stated that he would attempt to recruit subcommittee members and to conduct initial business via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 17, 2005 at 10:00 am at Freeway Medical Building in Little Rock.

These minutes were respectfully submitted by Danny Bercher, secretary.

