

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: March 27, 2009
10:03 A.M.

LOCATION: Brownsburg Fire Territory Headquarters and
Training Center
Brownsburg, Indiana

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Miller (Private Ambulance)
Charles Valentine (Municipal Fire)
Myron Mackey (EMTs)
Terri Hamilton (Volunteer EMS)
G. Lee Turpin II (Paramedics)
Michael Olinger, MD (Trauma Physicians)
Ed Gordon (Volunteer Fire)
Sue Dunham (Emergency Nurses)
William Rutherford, MD (Emergency Physicians)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Craigin (Hospital EMS)

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Garvey, Chief of Staff, Indiana Department
Homeland Security

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Miller. Rebecca Blagrave called the roll and advised the chairman that a quorum was present. Chairman Miller expressed appreciation for the use of the facility.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Michael Olinger offered a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Myron Mackey. The minutes were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:**EMS PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION**

John Buckman reported that the agency has implemented on-line recertification at the First Responder level on a voluntary basis. He urged people to recertify early. Mr. Buckman also asked the commission for permission to create a test review committee. **Dr. Olinger offered a motion to endorse the creation of a test review committee. The motion was seconded by Lee Turpin. The motion passed.**

Mr. Buckman offered a proposed rule change to address the issue of renewal applications that are filed late. Proposed language includes: **Initial certification as an emergency medical technician shall be valid for a period of two (2) years plus the number of calendar days from the date the application is approved by the commission staff to the first day of the next succeeding calendar quarter, i.e. January 1, April 1, July 1, December 1.**

If a properly completed renewal application is submitted within sixty (60) calendar days after the expiration date of the certification, together with the required documentations to show that the applicant has completed all required continuing education within the two (2) years prior to the expiration of the certification and a fifty dollar (\$50) reapplication fee, the certification will be reinstated on the date that the commission staff determines that the required application, documentation and re-application fee have been properly submitted. The expiration date will be two (2) years from the expiration of the previous, expired certification.

Agency counsel, Mara Snyder suggested a different wording for the term "reapplication fee." She also commented that the commission can not issue a recertification retroactively. Randy Seals questioned if there are liability issues if someone practices under an expired certificate during the 60 day or so period. William Rutherford reminded those present that it was not the state's responsibility to prevent lawsuits. People need to take responsibility for their own actions.

Randy Fox asked if personnel should be required to submit renewal applications prior to the expiration date to prevent a lapse in certification. Mr. Mackey asked when the best time would be for public comment. Ms. Snyder responded that we needed to get the process in place now and that the wording can be amended during a rule re-write. Mr. Buckman offered the possibility of holding a public rule meeting at a later date to allow for public comment.

Dr. Olinger offered a motion to accept the proposed rule change with the change of the word "December" to "October." The motion was seconded by Mr. Mackey. The motion passed.

EMS PROVIDER CERTIFICATION REPORT

Rescue Squad Organizations	6
Basic Life Support Non-Transport	486
Ambulance Provider Organizations	118
EMT Basic Advanced Organization	36
EMT Basic advanced Non-Transport	12
EMT Intermediate Organization	10
EMT Intermediate Non-Transport	0
Paramedic Organization	186
Paramedic Non-Transport	15
Rotorcraft Air Ambulance	20
Fixed Wing Air Ambulance	3
Total	892

EMS OPERATIONS REPORT

Vehicle Inspections	239
Provider/Hospital//Training Institution Applications	156
EMS Provider Visits	165
EMS Provider Audits	8
Hospital Visits	5
Training Institution Visits	4
Training Institution Audits	2
Hospital Audits	4

EMS Operations Director, Sherrie Crain reported that the district managers continue to deliver SMART Tags to provider organizations that have completed the training and staff is working to develop a training initiative such as Triage Tuesday to practice the use of the tags state-wide. EMS district managers have also completed training on proctoring state practical examinations.

The training and Preparedness Division conducted 3 EMS Emergency Preparedness Seminars in February which were well attended and well received. A tentative schedule for EMS Provider Forums is being developed.

Ms. Crain also reported that EMS Week is May 17-23 and the theme for this year is "A Proud Partner in Your Community." The Emergency Response Conference will be August 19 – 22 at the convention center. Anyone interested in being a speaker should contact Julia Fox. There will be no ambulance competition this year. EMS Award information can be found on the DHS website under the EMS page. Becky Blagrove has been assigned the task of making the EMS page more user-friendly.

EMS DATA REGISTRY

Mark Nelson reported that the agency is currently testing to see if the system can receive the new NEMSIS format. He is hoping to have all providers on board by this fall.

EMS TRAINING STAFF REPORT

EMS Training Manager Julia Fox presented the commission with an overview of her job responsibilities. She referenced the recent EMS Preparedness Conferences and said she was looking for personnel interested in being contractual instructors for IDHS to conduct EMS preparedness training. Ms. Fox stated that the hope is to have the Autism training on-line by May 1. She said that a list of trained autism program instructors will be placed on the IDHS webpage under the EMS Training Program. Ms. Fox stated that the current rule requires EMS personnel to complete autism training by October 1, 2010. She said that since there has been some confusion over the completion date and because there is no process to list the autism training on the in-service reports she is asking the commission to extend the deadline to complete the training to December 31, 2010.

Dr. Olinger offered a motion to extend the deadline for the completion of autism training to December 31, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turpin. The motion passed.

Ms. Fox also discussed the course approval process. An online course application process is ready to pilot. As part of the process the person submitting the application is asked to attest that the required course elements are listed in the syllabus, complete fields containing medical director and training institution official information, and upload required documents. The person would immediately receive an email confirming that the application has been submitted.

Dr. Olinger offered a motion to allow the certification office to verify that the TIO and Medical Director approve of the submitted course via email. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turpin. The motion passed

EMS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Steve Garrison presented the commission with a proposed skill validation process for First Responders on the use of spine boards. The process includes a mini-refresher training session and a skill check off performed under the supervision of a Certified Primary Instructor.

The commission approved the process.

WORKGROUP REPORTS

Trauma Protocol Workgroup

Mr. Smith reported on the activities of the Trauma Protocol Workgroup. He said that the commission is required by statute to adopt protocols for the triage, treatment, and transportation of trauma patients which are consistent with ACS guidelines. Draft protocols are on the DHS website. EMS personnel should send their comments to Jason at jsmith@dhs.in.gov.

LEGAL MATTERS

Pending Administrative Cases

A list was given to the commission for their information only.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Report

Chief of Staff Garvey reported on legislation of interest: HB1215 creating a trauma care hospital fund to be administered by the state department of health was not heard by committee, HB1455 that would require firefighter and law enforcement personnel to be trained in the management of persons with autism was assigned to committee, SB0270 which changes the current law on how the EMS Commission regulates emergency medical dispatch centers, requires the EMSC to certify just dispatch agencies, and not individual dispatchers, and removes the requirement that the centers have a medical director and adds two members to the EMS Commission has been referred to committee, and SB0464 which creates a State trauma care committee was not heard.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion Concerning EMS Education Committee and the Creation of a Technical Advisory Committee

Chief of Staff Garvey reported that statute allows for only one committee, a technical advisory committee. He presented a proposal for membership on the committee. He recommended that applications be submitted and appointees would need to be approved by the governor. He also recommended that the committee be geographically balanced, the terms be for three years which may be reappointed once, and that the terms for the first members be staggered.

Dr. Olinger suggested that the committee be comprised of technical experts rather than field personnel. Mr. Mackey suggested that all Homeland Security Districts and urban/rural areas be represented. Randy Fox agreed with Dr. Olinger and said that personnel should not make recommendations on rules. John Zartman said he was concerned that the scope of practice needs to be considered. Suzan Henke asked that BLS Training Institutions be included and Jane Stout stressed the importance of supporting the district concept by having membership from all districts.

It was decided that the make-up of the committee should include 4 EMS Training Institution Program Directors, 1 BLS and 1 First Responder Training Institution representatives, 2 EMS Chief Executive Officers, 2 EMS Chief Operating Officers, 2 Emergency Department Physician Directors, and 2 EMS Medical directors.

Mr. Mackey offered a motion to adopt the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ed Gordon. The motion passed.

Pelham Training Institution Discussion

Ms. Fox reported that Pelham Training Institution is asking for permission to teach a paramedic program in Florida under the auspices of its Indiana certification. Staff's recommendation is to deny the request due to the inability to regulate a course that far away.

William Rutherford offered a motion to accept staff's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Olinger. The motion passed.

Emergency Medical Responder Association

Information was presented to the commission regarding the hope to create an association on EMS responders.

EMS COMMISSION RULE WAIVERS:

EMS Personnel Waiver Requests

Jim Abraham presented the following waiver requests:

The commission granted waivers of reporting rules and the acceptance of in-service which was filed late to the following:

Anderson King – motion by Mr. Mackey and second by Charles Valentine

Steve Wicker – motion by Mr. Gordon and second by Terri Hamilton

Alfred Himes – motion by Mr. Valentine and second by Lee Turpin

Ryan Williams – motion by Mr. Mackey and second by Mr. Turpin

Jonathan Hallgarth – motion by Mr. Mackey and second by Mr. Turpin

Shawn Ragland – motion by Mr. Gordon and second by Mr. Valentine

Brent Bush – motion by Mr. Valentine and second by Mr. Gordon

Christopher Stall – motion by Mr. Valentine and second by Mr. Mackey

Scott DeBusk – motion by Mr. Mackey and second by Mr. Valentine

Dennis Pagni – motion by Mr. Mackey and seconded by Sue Dunham. The motion passed. Chairman Miller abstained.

The commission granted the following waiver to extend the time limit from Completion of training to test completion

Julie Smith – motion be Mr. Mackey and second by Ms. Hamilton

The commission denied the following waiver requests:

Beth Louden – requesting reinstatement of EMT certification

Mr. Gordon offered a motion to deny the request because of failure to meet all training requirements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Valentine. The motion passed.

Ray Ann Wallen – requesting reinstatement of EMT certification

Ms. Hamilton offered a motion to deny because her expiration date has exceeded six months. The motion was seconded by Mr. Turpin. The motion passed

Debra Falls – requesting continuance of inactive paramedic status

Mr. Mackey offered a motion to deny because proper documentation of in-service was not submitted. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rutherford. The motion passed.

Provider Waiver Requests

EMS District Manager Rebecca Blagrove presented the following request:

Spencer County Emergency Ambulance Service, Renewal of a waiver of IAC 836 (f) (2) administration of calcium Gluconate by EMT Basic Advanced personnel

Mr. Mackey offered a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon. The motion passed.

AMR Evansville, renewal of waiver of IAC 836 2-1 (h) (2) EMT on a paramedic response

Mr. Valentine offered a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Olinger. The motion passed. Mr. Turpin abstained.

Medic On-Site Services, requesting a waiver of 836 IAC 2-2-1, twenty-four hour coverage

Mr. Gordon offered a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Valentine. The motion passed.

Medic On-Site Services, 836 IAC 2-14-3, non-transport vehicle standards

Mr. Gordon offered a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Valentine. The motion passed. The waiver applies to all similar vehicles certified by the organization.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND DIRECTION

Chief of Staff Garvey reported that a commission meeting would not be held at this year's Emergency Response Conference.

Chief of Staff Garvey and Mr. Valentine presented a Lifetime Honorary Paramedic Certificate to Kevin Wilmouth who is retiring from Wishard Ambulance Service after a thirty-three year EMS career.

2009 EMS COMMISSION MEETINGS

The proposed dates are:

Friday, May 15

Friday, July 17

Friday, September 18

Friday, November 13

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:42P.M.

Approved May 15, 2009