



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Council
December 8, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: December 8, 2021, 10:07 a.m. – Daniel Kazar

Roll Call – Daniel Kazar

Chairperson Pro Tempore Vote – Neither Chair nor Vice Chair were present for this meeting. Daniel Kazar conducted a roll call vote under Robert’s Rules of Order 58:7, as no provision for this situation is present in council by-laws

- Andy Lovell was nominated by Michael Bascom, seconded by Barbara Schreiberman.
Motion passed Y: 13 N: 0 Abstain: 1

Approval of Previous Minutes – Motion passed Y: 13 N: 0 A: 0

Legislative Update – Andy Lovell

- The legislative report was sent to council members last week
- Notes Senate bill S4140, proposed by Sen. Vitale, is in committee and addresses the extension of EMS staffing waivers
 - Greg Scott provided more information
 - Passed Senate Health Committee on Monday, with an Assembly companion bill
 - “Goal is to get it through so we can catch our breath”
 - “Even with the waiver in place, we’ve got diminished capacity”
 - Advised that the bill would provide at least a year to allow agencies to determine “what else we could possibly do to move staffing in the right direction.”
 - Andy Lovell requested Gregory Scott forward the bill to the Office of Emergency Medical Services for dissemination to the council
 - Andy Lovell clarified that the bill does not mandate agencies to utilize the crewmember requirements
 - Gregory Scott stated that the bill is supported by the New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs and defined the sunset date of the bill as January 1, 2023. Stated that they wanted to move crewmember requirements from OEMS waiver into legislation because it avoids “risking leaving it to chance” that waivers would expire
 - Conversation regarding council’s hesitation to move waivers into legislation

- Michael Bascom initiated discussion of “volunteer paramedic bill.”
 - General concerns about “loose” language of bill
 - Barbara Schreiber expressed concerns about same
 - Mark Bober questioned the need to legislate volunteer paramedics in this method

Air Medical - Gerard Carroll

- No Report

BLS Subcommittee – Gerard Carroll

- Discussed need to advance EMS as an essential service
- BLS iGel (supraglottic airway) discussion
 - Stated that several medical directors would be willing to pilot iGel for BLS for cardiac arrest
- Andy Lovell discussed EMS bringing patients directly to triage “rather than straight to a bed”

Training Fund – Barbara Platt

- Approved \$15 reimbursement per continuing education unit for the EMS Council of New Jersey symposium
- Next meeting is scheduled on March 2, 2022
- Recruitment & Retention – Eric Hicken
 - Discussion of increasing number of initial EMT classes
 - Conducting a survey to determine why new applicants are entering EMS
 - Discussion of 1-and-1 waivers
 - How to recruit new businesses to provide EMS services across the state
 - Recruitment drives at high schools and votech schools
- Discussion began again about EMS as a “third service” legislation by Barbara Schreiber, resulting in determination to write letters of support and disseminate contact information

Communications - Joseph Burlew

- E911 bid was returned, unsure of contents at this time
- Several Public Safety Answering Points, statewide, have been experiencing issues with traditional phone lines, particularly Verizon

EMS for Children (EMSC) – Eric Hicken

- Next meeting January 12, 2022
- 2021
 - Strong partnerships for car seats in South Jersey
 - Distributed over 300 seats, will order over 500 more for 2022
 - State partnership grants still in place
 - Car seat testing with National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) is progressing, involving physical testing of seats. The test bed is currently being tested.
- Will be rebuilding EMSC newsletter for continuing education units

Trauma Center Council - Vacant

MICU Advisory Council (MAC) – Barbara Schreibman

- Will vote on the New Jersey State Protocols during MAC meeting on December 13, 2022
- Updating mandatory vs. optional medications list

SCTU Committee - Vacant

- No Report

OEMS – Candace Gardner

- Promotions within department and explanation of new roles for Candace Gardner, Daniel Kazar, Victoria Holmes, Robert Karch
- Opening of new vaccine megasites
- EMS Conference was successful, with good attendance despite COVID restrictions
- Some agencies remain noncompliant with electronic patient care report submission requirements
 - Lincoln Park
 - Roxbury Fire Co. 1 & 3
 - Teaneck Ambulance Corps
- Daniel Kazar noted that no certification extensions will be granted
- All course approvals go through Victoria Holmes
- Updates on EMT-Instructor Candidates
 - 7 screenings for candidates, 20 certified instructors with 35 more in process, 7 of those 35 are only waiting on teaching hours to complete the certification requirements
 - Additional screening dates are scheduled on Saturday February 5th in Gloucester, Saturday March 5th in Bergen County, and Saturday March 26th at the East Brunswick EMS building
- A virtual meeting for all program coordinators will be held in early 2022
- Robert Karch will handle EMT reciprocity

EMS Education - Candace Gardner

- Education unusual occurrences should be reported through nj.gov/health/ems
- All other unusual occurrences should use Imagetrend
- All medical directors should have accounts in Imagetrend
- Andy Lovell reminded all present that PPE waivers are still in place, and commended NJOEMS on a good job with the annual conference

New Jersey EMS Task Force – Michael Bascom

- Still working on vaccine distribution, moved at least 400,000 units to-date
- Working on mobile vaccine program to get better penetration into the public
- Obtaining new radio system as recommended by Joseph Burlew
- Will be providing funeral support for two fallen members of service, in the near future

Public Comment

- None

New Business

- None

Old Business

- None

Vice Chairman Vote – Stephen Vetrano, affirmed by unanimous consent via motion for secretary to cast a single ballot. Dr. Stephen Vetrano is the only nominee

Motion to adjourn: 11:12 a.m.

- Motion: **Gerard Carroll** Seconded: **Barbara Schreibman**
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept: **Yea: 14 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**