

DRAFT
Statewide EMS Advisory Meeting
Albuquerque, New Mexico
July 24, 2013

Committee Attendees:

Pete Bellows, NM EMT Association, Chair
James Williams, EMS Region 3
Mick Leo, MD, ACEP, Medical Society
Jim Stover, NM Hospital Association
Greg Kotila, EMS Region 1
Nate Lay, Emergency Services Council/SAR
Chad Hamill, NM Fire Chiefs, Vice chair
Brent Hamilton, NMAMTAC
Joaquin Graham, Region 2
Linda Warren, EMS for Children
BJ Brunt-Palmer, NM Nurses Association

Absent:

Art Rios, NENA
Mike Richards, MD, UNM Health Sciences
Vacant, Consumer Advocate
Vacant, NM Ambulance Association
Vacant, NM Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness
Vacant, NM Firefighters Association

Pete Bellows called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.

Jerome Haskie made opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the Region 1 EMS Conference.

Pete Bellows requested introductions and asked for changes to the agenda. There were no changes to the agenda. Pete Bellows held a proxy for Art Rios. A quorum was in attendance.

James Williams motioned to approve the April 24, 2013 minutes as amended, seconded by Chad Hamill. The minutes were approved.

Committee Reports:

Air Medical Transport Advisory Committee:

Pending is a list of air ambulance location and services. There was a discussion of Meteorological Evaluation Towers (MET) towers, it was requested that Pete Bellows sign a letter to the Secretary of Health stating a concern of these towers. The Department of Health is reviewing air ambulance rules and looking at changes to the rule the EMS Bureau will be pulling out all reference to the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transportation Systems (CAMTS) due to the potential for lawsuit liability. The Bureau is taking comments and input from air medical providers. Inspection processes have not been worked out at this time.

Medical Direction Committee:

Dr. Moore stated that the Committee has reviewed new special skill applications and renewals, this past meeting the Committee discussed a preliminary review of scope of practice changes.

During the September 27 meeting there will be discussions and recommendations to the Department of Health to among other things, remove pediatric intubation from the Paramedic scope of practice; pediatric intubations would be a special skill if a service felt that it was necessary.

There has been some scope creep related to EMS First Responder and so we are looking at limiting their Scope of Practice in order to reduce the amount of training necessary for the EMSFR. Defining Critical Care in Community EMS have been big topics and we are looking at including these topics into our EMS Scopes of Practice, as well.

Joint Organization on Education (JOE) Committee Report:

Jessica Medrano from Central New Mexico Community College stated that UNM has discussed a paramedic program curriculum throughout the state. The New Mexico EMS Educators Association will be taking over Instructor Coordinator (I/C) recertification from each training school. The Scopes of Practice and Community EMS curriculum was also discussed at the last meeting.

Chad Hamill asked what the rationale was behind the EMS Educators Committee allowing them the apparent ability to hire and fire Instructor Coordinator's throughout the state. Jessica believed that the JOE came to the idea that the educational institutions having to monitor the Instructor Coordinators can vary from school to school and that they are trying to be more consistent and transparent with the process. This will also allow the Educators Association to generate a revenue stream. An I/C would still have to go through the schools hiring process.

NCEE certification a national certification examination was not discussed at the JOE.

The New Mexico Educators Association has 1 representative from each region and 1 from each training school, the EMS Bureau is not involved. Pete Bellows asked if the Bureau was good with an outside agency being responsible for the approval of Instructor Coordinators?

The training schools wants a streamlined process to maintain the credentialing of I/C's.

JOE wants to use the Educators Association to approve Instructor Coordinator continuing education and credential individual's responsibility to maintain their credentials; the concern is having a third-party administer and credential Instructor Coordinators. Kyle Thornton pulled up the minutes from the last JOE meeting; the JOE has the authority to set requirements for instructors; not the Bureau. The JOE voted to approve this process unanimously.

Linda Warren stated her concerns of continuing education (CE) for instructors; the Bureau approves CE for licensure only, although some CE could be the same. The JOE wants the IC to get instructor continuing education. Jim Stover believes that the JOE needs to approve Instructor CE. It is an individual's responsibility to maintain the credentials they need to be effective in their position. The consensus concern is that that we are asking a third party to assure those credentials, and an additional fee assessed to an instructor. Brent Hamilton stated that the approval process was vague and would like the JOE to submit the credentialing process and appeal process in writing to the Statewide Advisory. Kyle Thornton is sending out an email to the JOE for clarification.

EMS for Children Committee:

Pediatric Readiness Program Assessment of hospitals has closed. There was a 56% response rate in the state, with three weeks of phone calls. With half of our hospitals reporting, NM did rate in the 72nd percentile for pediatric readiness, 70% is the national average. The aggregate data is available through Linda.

The next big project is to survey the certificated transport ambulance services, letters will be going out on July 31, 2013. Linda Warren asked if there was a transport agency that has not received a letter, please let her know so that she can help you participate in the survey. The goal is to provide funding streams for services that are lacking in pediatric equipment, that they may provide funding for them.

Child Ready Program grant is in three communities: Clayton, Silver City, and Gallup. Trying to determine how prepared are they to deal with childhood trauma. They are letting the communities complete self assessments and provide equipment and training. Utilizing pediatric telehealth is part of this program. Started the second year of a four-year project.

There is new training on the EMSC website modules, this is free training/CE for EMS practitioners. The new modules include car seat on ambulances and restraints. There is a webinar from the National Resource Center on Hospital Preparedness for Pediatrics on August 8 at 1:00 PM Mountain Standard Time. The link is pending.

Trauma Advisory Systems Stakeholder Committee (Trauma Advisory Committee):

Patty Anello reported that there is a state regulation to put together a PI program and they have been working with TASSC to put this together.

Would like to appoint 2 members, one from Air Medical and the other from EMS to get further buy in for this PI program.

The McKinley County EMS destination protocol was handed out, they are looking for approval for the for transport protocol guidelines. Pete Bellows doesn't remember approving individual protocols for transport. This is new to the group.

Linda Warren moved to table to the next Statewide Advisory Committee meeting so everyone has an opportunity to review the document; the motion died with no second.

Pete Bellows supports the TAC group, but has never seen protocol approvals go before the Statewide Advisory. Approvals should go to service directors and services. TAC has authority to approve the Regional Trauma Plan is part of the guidelines. The Western Retrac has existed for approximately 5 years. We do have a new trauma center in Gallup, this has restarted the conversation as more participants start participating. Within the past 2 years the area now has helicopter based in their area and GIMC just went up to a Level III trauma center. The confusion was how to use the helicopter services appropriately.

There was no action taken by the Statewide Advisory on the provided protocols.

The next meetings are August 20 at the New Mexico Hospital Association. The PI process meeting will be from 9am to 12pm and the TAC will be from 1pm to 4pm.

Art Rios asked a question regarding the TSFA; if there was leftover funding from hospitals, are they rolled back into the fund and redistributed. Yes, currently 15 applications have been approved for funding this year.

Public Regulation Commission:

PRC recently approved new application legislation for temporary authority; this process is currently being implemented; it will be more difficult for new ambulances to gain authority. PRC will be taking a more active role in enforcing service standards.

PRC Ambulance Advisory Committee is a good asset. Please let the PRC know if there is any interest in serving on the Committee. Donnie stated that the previous Committee structure worked fine. Joaquin Graham would like to see the final Committee structure draft before it is approved.

Linda Warren gave her appreciation to PRC staff for their assistance in obtaining addresses for her program initiatives.

EMS Bureau Update:

EMS Fund Act:

Ann Martinez gave her update as follows: Fund Act applications are pending approval for Fiscal Year 14. Fiscal Year 15 Special Projects applications that will go out on August 19 are due on November 15. If services need an extension, please call Ann Martinez prior to the deadline. Deadline dates are up on the EMS Bureau website. Noncompliance with NMEMSTARS will result in a "no funding" determination. Notices have gone out that any carryovers still need a request and approval through Ann; October 31 is the deadline for these requests.

Regarding Torreon EMS; Ann has not heard back from their Chief regarding the information that was requested. Greg Kotila stated that Aaron Begay asked to table the decision to November's meeting - they will be going to 24-hour coverage on Saturday.

Chad Hamill moved to table this issue to the November meeting in Las Cruces, James Williams seconded the motion there was no discussion and the motion was approved.

Joaquin Graham would like to see the state move toward a benchmark for compliance with NMEMSTARS, reaching at least 90%. This is a fantastic program and NM is doing better than other states. The SWAC invited Stuart Castle to the next meeting to address more compliance for discussion. Linda Warren asked if Joaquin could send Stuart an e-mail with questions and the invitation.

Ann states that services are confused on what the fiscal agent can spend money on. She will be in the Southwest NM area to do audits and education. Pete Bellows asked for a Fund Act status (carryovers, etc.) at the November meeting.

Kyle Thornton thanks the group for looking at appeal and denial of a village that did not have an active EMS service.

Licensing:

Chad Hamill noted that our pass rate is moving up. Ute Fennicks stated that EMS was approached by the Veterans Affairs office regarding employment transition coordination how to best transition from an Army "68 Whiskey" medical specialty. The EMS Academy will do a gap analysis between this specialty that has an NREMT Basic Certification. The EMS Academy has developed a transition course to EMT I that will cut our EMT-Intermediate class in half and will assist bringing additional veterans back into workforce. NASEMSO is looking at the Academy curriculum.

EMS Communications

Charles Schroeder read Jerry Keene's update. Discussion was held regarding Emergency Medical Communications posting.

We will wait until the EMS Communications position has been filled to begin looking at revitalizing the EMD Subcommittee. The EMD Subcommittee's primary goal is to transition to narrow banding, working with all players. Discussion can be held later, perhaps at the November meeting if the EMD Committee is still needed.

Linda Warren asked if an EMS Agency list is available at the EMS Bureau. The EMS agency certification section is working with the Regions and will assure that there is an adequate list to put on the EMS Bureau website.

Linda also appreciates Stuart and Ann for their efforts in obtaining service contact information.

Trauma Program

GIMC designated to a Level III trauma center. Rehoboth McKinley withdrew their application for Level III and is trying to designate as a Level IV trauma center. St. Vincent's Level III will have their designation survey on Monday and withdrew as a Level II, due to administrative issues. Sierra Vista passed their Level IV and is waiting on the final report for designation. Union is a Level IV, Sandoval is a Level III, Miners Colfax passed designation as a Level IV.

Renewal Licensing

Kyle stated that AJ has been busy with renewals, 4000 folks are renewing their licenses, 20% are being audited. Stuart e-mails 240 services to noncompliant services for Fund Act purposes.

The Bureau has received funding for the Stroke/STEMI program. There was a law passed to recognize hospitals as STEMI / Stroke centers. Funding is provided to assist and encourage designations and obtaining data to national data reporting for stroke and cardiac care. Some funds will go into the regional contracts. Funds may be increased, but the amounts are not approved yet but have been submitted to DOH leadership.

NMEMSTARS update

Vijay Ummadi was to start on Monday, however he had a change of heart and did not take the job. It has been a disappointment but he decided to stay with the Public Education Department.

Budget Update

Block Grant for Fiscal Year 13 went up some nationally and it seems like the grant funding has stabilized, we are seeing no detriment from the sequestration. Stuart Castle is anticipating some funding through NMDOT that may be coming to the Bureau.

Ann Martinez anticipates with carryover funds that a bigger pot for each service that has not "maxed out" will receive an additional \$200 for equipment.

Kyle Thornton stated that transition was complete from all testing method to NREMT testing, Ute appreciates Region 2 and Region 3 for their assistance with testing out-of-state candidates.

Regional updates:

EMS Region 1:

Greg Kotila stated that all deliverables have been completed and they are waiting for new contracts.

EMS Region 2:

Joaquin Graham stated that Region 2 completed 12 of 13 deliverables and is preparing for the November 5-10 regional conference. This will be Region 2's 30 year anniversary.

EMS Region 3:

Donnie Roberts stated that Region 3 has finished all deliverables. Their American Heart Association training center issued 4500 cards in January alone, business has been strong.

EMS Training Schools:

Central New Mexico Community College (CNM); Jessica Medrano stated that they have 4 EMT Basic programs and 2 EMT Intermediate programs per term. They put out 40 Paramedic students per year and are working on a highbred Paramedic Associates program. Each EMT student at each level are required to do clinical work and CNM is partnering with all hospitals in the area.

Physical fitness readiness was determined to be needed, so they are working with CNM's fitness program during the paramedic program to offer an additional course of study. The CNM NREMT paramedic pass rate is at 99%. Basic and Intermediate pass rates are climbing.

CNM was granted 40 iPads for students to utilize in preparing clinical documentation, preceptor feedback is given on FSDAP, and students can complete electronic charting on the iPads.

Other Business:

Pete Bellows has been approached to look at the modernization of Fund Act Statute and Rule updates. He would like to appoint a subcommittee to rewrite the Fund Act statute and to look at Fund Act rules. Pete would like to present the drafts for the April SWAC meeting in Ruidoso. he was thinking that the Committee would be composed of approximately 10-12 people; 3 from SWAC, each of the 3 regions, 1 volunteer ambulance service, 1 career EMS department, 1 volunteer fire department 1 career fire department plus Kyle Thornton and Ann Martinez. Members of the SWAC would include Pete Bellows, James Williams, and Brent Hamilton. Rural EMS; Sallie Mayeux, and Walter Kuykendahl from Career EMS. Pete asks the SWAC to put forth candidates for the other remaining positions. Pete Bellows recommends getting the names of the subcommittee in 20 days, then meet in the next 50 days to begin the discussions.

Pete Bellows stated he was open to all ideas on the table, Donnie Roberts said that he would look if Hobbs Fire Department would opt for different tariff rates.

Statute changes are the priority first, but that they would still look at rule changes. Ryan Jerman stated that it is much easier for individuals and companies to have their own tariffs.

The next JOE meeting on September 27 in the afternoon.

In regards to open positions on the SWAC; submissions include State Firefighters Association: Capt. Mark Nason from Artesia, and for State Police: Maj. Mark Umprovich. There was no idea of who would be a good match for the Consumer Representative.

There are positions open for the Ambulance Association, please send names to Jim Stover, if there is interest. The PRC Ambulance Advisory may use the Ambulance Association as an advocacy group.

The next Statewide EMS Advisory Meeting will be at the Region 2 EMS conference at the Las Cruces Convention Center, November 6th, 2013 at 1:30 PM

Chad Hamill moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 PM, Jim Stover seconded the motion and it was approved.