

**DRAFT**  
**Statewide EMS Advisory Meeting**  
**NM State Library, Santa Fe**  
**February 3, 2016**

Committee Attendees:

Pete Bellows, NM EMT Association, Chair  
Gregg Kotila, EMS Region 1  
Jim Stover, NM Hospital Association  
Chad Hamill, NM Fire Chiefs, Vice-Chair  
Joaquin Graham, Region 2  
Kurt Krumperman, NM Ambulance Association  
BJ Brunt-Palmer, NM Nurses Association  
Nate Lay, Emergency Services Council/SAR  
Brent Hamilton, NMAMTAC  
Kathie Schaffer, EMSC

Absent:

Mick Leo, MD, ACEP, Medical Society  
Mike Richards, MD, UNM Health Sciences  
Art Rios, NENA  
James Williams, EMS Region 3  
Marc Nason, NM Firefighters Association  
Vacant, Consumer Advocate  
Vacant, NM Public Safety Representative

**Pete Bellows called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m. and introductions were made.**  
There was a quorum in attendance.

Additions to Agenda:

There were no additions or deletions to be made to the agenda.

Proxies:

Jim Stover held Mick Leo's proxy  
Chad Hamill held proxies for James Williams and Marc Nason  
Joaquin Graham held the proxy for Art Rios

Approval of Minutes:

**The minutes from the October 28, 2015 meeting were approved, as moved by Chad Hamill and seconded by Gregg Kotila. All approved.**

Committee Reports:

Air Medical Transport Advisory Committee:

The Air Medical Advisory Committee sent the streamlined Critical Care Special Skills Application form to the Medical Direction Committee (MDC) for approval. The form was passed by the MDC.

Medical Direction Committee (MDC):

There are currently 3 vacancies on the Medical Direction Committee. Dr. Phil Froman is moving to California, Ed Horvat is spending time in Durango, CO., and the Bureau is still waiting for information related to the EMS Region 3 physician position.

The MDC is accepting recommendations for EMS Scope of Practice updates. The MDC will review the recommendations at their next meeting, then will vote on the changes at the following meeting. The recommendation form on the EMS Bureau website.

There was some discussion regarding the Drug Enforcement Agency and the national issue surrounding EMS agencies carrying narcotics. The EMS Bureau has not heard of the issue in New Mexico.

The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) will be holding their national meeting in New Mexico in September 2016. NASEMSO has representation by all US states and territories, and is separated by various councils (Licensing, Data, Medical direction, EMSC, Trauma, etc.). At the last meeting in Louisville, KY, the state EMS office was all but invisible. Kyle Thornton would like to show off the NM EMS system.

Dr. Moore is a representative for NM for the EMS Compass initiative. EMS Compass looks at national performance standards in EMS, best practices and evidenced based methodologies.

The next MDC meeting is on March 4, 2016.

Joint Organization on Education (JOE) Committee Report:

The JOE's last meeting was on December 18, 2015. The next meeting will be the JOE retreat on March 2-3, 2016 and the Instructor Coordinator conference on March 4-5. They will go over the approval process for training institutions, review performance of each school, approve Instructor Coordinators, and identify a better way to assess student standards.

Elections were held for the JOE and the results are as follows:

Jessica Medrano, Chair

Sahaj Khalsa, Chair Elect

Donna McHenry, Secretary/Treasurer

Pete Bellows requested the pass/fail rates for the NREMT, so they can be compared with EMS Licensing numbers in order to look at the retention rates of EMT's in our system.

The JOE meeting schedule for the rest of 2016 is:

June 24; 1:30pm CNM, WTC

September 9; 1:30pm CNM, WTC

December 9; 1:30pm CNM, WTC

EMS for Children (EMSC) Report:

Kathie Schafer stated that she is working with the trauma program on pediatric readiness standards. She would like to incorporate her visits with the Trauma program. Dr. Moore is working with producing enhancements to the pediatric guidelines. Kathie is on the EMS for Children NASEMSO Pediatric Council. The EMSC program continues to produce new continuing education modules, the latest is: Safe Transport of Pediatrics on Ground Ambulances.

Trauma Advisory Systems Stakeholder Committee (Trauma Advisory Committee):

Liana Lujan would like to report on the TASCC when she makes her Bureau report.

Public Regulation Commission:

Amanda Grey gave an update on the statewide tariff. She stated that she was stumped on how to get more data and testimonies from the Ambulance Agencies. Joaquin Graham stated that maybe the focus should be on increasing the EMS Medicaid rate, he would like to start a discussion regarding this recommendation with the Public Regulation Commission. Amanda mentioned that she sees a big gap regarding the need for increased rates. She stated that the Medicare rates decreased in 2016. Donnie Roberts stated that many EMS Agencies are not willing to collect and wait for the state to fund them. An increase is needed.

EMS Bureau Updates:

Martin Moulton, EMS Licensing Manager presented some numbers of interest to the Committee: There are currently 7925 total active EMT's in NM. With attrition and initial licensees, the Bureau typically sees a consistent amount of 7000-8000 licensed EMT's.

The following are NREMT initial pass rates for the 2015 calendar year:

EMSFR 80%

EMT-Basic 64%

EMT-Intermediate (AEMT) 57%

EMT-Paramedic 89%

The Bureau has processed 1022 initial licenses for all levels in the past year, of those 141 were at the Paramedic level.

The Bureau is in peak renewal season, we had 3444 licensees that were due to expire on 3/31/2016. 2085 licensees still need to renew.

Background check screening has not been an issue, impacts have appeared minimal.

Joaquin Graham gave kudos to Ann Martinez by providing a benchmark survey in the Annual Service Reports.

Martin Moulton gave additional data regarding pass rates:

EMSFR within 3 attempts 83%

EMT-Basic within 3 attempts 73%

EMT-Intermediate within 3 attempts 73%

EMT-Paramedic within 3 attempts 94%

Many students take EMS courses as a pre-requisite to other healthcare classes.

Jim Stover reiterated that the rural and frontier areas are having a difficult time finding volunteers to put the hours into an EMS course. The educational components may be there, but the community does not have any more disposable time.

Charles Schroeder, EMS Program Manager presented the Bureau operations report:

From the Licensing Commission Meeting of November 10, 2015:

Impaired Practitioner Program; 7 participants

Investigations; 1

Background Check Violations; 1

Suspensions; 0

Revocations; 1

Letter of Censure: 0  
Denial of Licensure; 1  
No Action: 0

Parental Responsibility Act:

Suspension; 1  
Denial; 0  
Warned; 1  
Reinstated; 0

1 applications for licensure approval  
0 applications denied  
1 waiver request approved  
0 waiver request denied

The next EMS Licensing Commission meeting will be held on February 9, 2016 in Albuquerque.

EMS Program:

The Bureau has the list of applicants for the Epidemiologist position and we are pending interviews. A Project Manager has been hired for the new EMS Licensing System project, we are waiting to hear back regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP). There is currently a moratorium on any IT projects using an online payment system, therefore the project may be placed on hold until we can resolve that issue.

Important meeting dates:

Air Ambulance, Atlantic Aviation: 3/1/2016  
Medical Direction Committee, CNM/Abq: 3/4/2016  
Joint Organization on Education, Ruidoso: 3/2-3/2016  
SWAC, Ruidoso Convention Center: 4/27/2016

EMS Statistics as of 02/02/2016:

Dispatcher 577  
Dispatch Instructor 18  
EMT-Basic 3269  
EMT-Intermediate 1758  
EMT-Paramedic 1792  
EMS First Responder 511  
Total: 7925

Trauma Program Report:

Liana Lujan presented the Trauma update:  
University Medical Center of El Paso (UMC) sends complete trauma data to the EMS Bureau. Las Palmas Del Sol, El Paso is a Level 2 Trauma Center, they are currently not giving full data due to conversion issues, and only NM patients are being reported.

- Mountain View Regional Medical Center is in their 1<sup>st</sup> year as a developing as a Level 3 Trauma Center with funding by the TSFA.
- Memorial Medical Center
- Lovelace in Roswell is a Level 4 Trauma Center

The above hospitals have all put in letters of intent to become Trauma Centers and have identified trauma coordinators; there is no medical director designated at this time.

The following hospitals are coming to the EMS Bureau for Trauma Center verification training, with the intent to begin the process of verification.

- Lea Regional Medical Center, Hobbs
- Alta Vista Regional Hospital, Las Vegas

Eastern New Mexico Medical Center is pursuing verification as Level 3 Trauma Center, they are scheduled for a site visit on May 26, 2006.

The Bureau will be doing 6 verification site visits in April, May and June, utilizing New Mexico trained site surveyors that have received training. Using trained site visitors decreases the cost significantly from around \$10,000 to \$5,000 working with the EMS for Children program to evaluate for pediatric readiness at same time.

The next trauma meetings are February 24 and 25, in conjunction with NMPIP

Next meeting for the Trauma System Fund Authority (TSFA) is tentatively scheduled for April 6th barring any funding issues, allocations are to be made at that time.

The Trauma Registry contract will go out for RFP posting on February 4, 2016.

The Trauma Performance Improvement Committee (TPIC) letter will be sent out to all Level 3 Trauma Centers indicating that it is expected that they keep (appropriately) a majority of their patients.

The Trauma Advisory System and Stakeholders Committee (TASSC) was well attended meeting by EMS nurses and physicians.

#### Communications Report:

Shannon Talent reported that he is completing radio checks every other Thursday at the State Communications offices. The updated air to ground frequencies are currently at the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) getting approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Shannon is also verifying communications equipment in hospitals to make sure that DOH is being billed appropriately.

Stroke/STEMI Report: Kyle Thornton gave the report for Alyssa Patterson.

Alyssa attended a Stroke /Stemi meeting in Las Cruces recently. The hospitals in that area are interested in incorporating Stemi as a system in their area.

She is working on making recommendations on protocols (guidelines) for Stemi patients and has been tracking the identification of patients using zip codes to identify Stemi rates.

Alyssa has been attending Stroke meetings in Albuquerque. They need to work on creating guidelines for stroke centers. In the last year and a half the stroke program has grown from 3 to 6 Primary Stroke Centers, they are:

1. Mountain View Medical Center
2. Lea Regional Medical Center
3. University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH)
4. Lovelace Medical Center
5. San Juan Regional Medical Center
6. Presbyterian Hospital

- The Stroke and Stemi program is planning an educational event with the American Heart Association in July, 2016. Stroke and Stemi information will be provided.
- We are looking to provide some small updates to the Stroke and Stemi rules.
- Regarding the AED Rule, the medical director requirement has been removed from the state rule.

NMEMSTARS report: Kyle Thornton gave the report for Charles Becvarik.

Charles Becvarik has been designated as the in-house NMEMSTARS Data Coordinator and is working with the 3 EMS Regions in updating the NMEMSTARS data collection system.

The EMS Bureau's NMEMSTARS Program is in the process of working with ImageTrend (our data contractor) to configure our NMEMSTARS site for the migration of the version 2 EMS Reporting system (NMEMSTARS) to the ImageTrend Elite Platform, upgrading to NEMSIS Version 3. Version 3 is a more user-friendly format and offers an easier ePCR flow-through for completing patient care reports. The updated version will also have a better-defined data dictionary, which allows/offers more accurate reporting options within the ePCR program format.

EMS Fund Act report:

The report was presented by Ann Martinez. Special Projects are currently underway. EMS Regions 1 & 3 have completed their review of the applications. EMS Region 2 will complete their review next week.

The EMS Bureau has received 48 applications that include 8 Statewide Projects, 9 Vehicle Purchases and 31 Systems Improvement applications.

EMS Fund Act and Annual Service Report extensions are due on February 8, 2016. There was a mix up on the EMS Region 1 website, where an old version of the Fund Act and Annual Service reports were posted. An updated version has been placed on their website. Next year's Fund Act and Annual Service reports applications should be a fillable pdf document.

EMS Region 1 Update:

Carlton Albert stated that Retrac meetings have been going well, they are busy revamping bylaws, and reviewing communications. They have completed Special Projects review. EMS Region 1 will hold their annual conference at the Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid on July 25-30, 2016. They have a call for presentations on their website. They would like to schedule for the EMS Business meetings to be held on Wednesday or Thursday at their conference.

EMS Region 2:

Joaquin Graham reported for Doug Campion. The October Region 2 conference went well and they are looking forward to next year's conference in Las Cruces. Their Retrac continues to have good membership. They will be doing a community CPR event with Memorial Medical Center.

EMS Region 3:

Donnie Roberts reported that they have completed the cycle for the recertification of 30 medical rescue agencies. They have completed their special project reviews and continue to stay busy completing reports for the NMEMSTARS program. Region 3 continues with their Megacall, video loan and AHA activities. They are active with their area Retrac attending quarterly meetings. They have submitted 8 TSFA applications (2 EMS Agencies and 6 hospitals). Their 2016 conference will be held in Ruidoso on April 23-25. The conference will showcase 8 national speakers.

### EMS Training Schools:

Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) - Jessica Medrano stated that they are excited to get a bond passed that will allow CNM to update classrooms. They are looking forward to having summer courses in Community EMS/Community Paramedic – they must have 6 students at a minimum to run the course. CNM is also doing contract refresher courses locally and in Gallup. Jessica thanked Albuquerque Ambulance for their donation of ambulance “boxes” that will help student practice in a lifelike environment. Their current courses are:

- 1 EMSFR (in-house) and 1 EMSFR (dual credit that will begin in March).
- 2 Paramedic courses
- 2 AEMT courses per term
- 1 AEMT in Gallup
- 6 Basic EMT classes per term

Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) – Sahaj Khalsa stated that they will receive a Tact Grant worth \$15 million that targets allied health professions (EMS is 1 of 3). SFCC is looking to ease student transfer between schools and looking at ways to get credit for military service. SFCC is currently scheduled for 20 refresher courses statewide. They do not have any EMSFR courses scheduled. SFCC’s current EMS courses are 2 EMT-Basic, 1 AEMT, and 1 Paramedic.

UNM EMS Academy (EMSA) – Lyndsey Eakes stated that the EMS Academy has had 2400 students in refresher courses, a successful 68 Whiskey transition course, 28 EMT courses, 8 Paramedic scheduled, and 5 Wilderness EMSFR courses. The EMS Academy is collaborating with the EMS Consortium to conduct rural courses. They are current looking to make up an advisory committee for the UNM West Campus.

San Juan Community College (SJCC) – Mike Buldra stated that SJCC cancelled their Paramedic class due to lack of interest.

### Other Business:

Legislative Issues – The following are legislative actions we are tracking:

HB186 - \$300,000 is to be appropriated from the general fund to the NMDOH expenditure in fiscal year 2017 for the EMS Bureau of to conduct a study in collaboration with the state fire marshal to determine how best to support emergency services statewide.

SB66 - By October 1, 2016, the secretary of health shall provide for enhanced training in behavioral health services for emergency medical technicians statewide. \$100,000.00 is appropriated from the general fund to the NMDOH for expenditure in fiscal year 2017 to fund enhanced behavioral health services training for EMT’s statewide.

SB1 – Relating to Public Education; adjusting the course units required for high school graduation by including ½ unit in administration of CPR and AED use and reducing the required number of elective units to 7.

SB38 - By September 1, 2016, the secretary of public education shall establish a program pursuant to which a local school district or state-chartered charter school may apply for funding to offer to students in grades 7 through 12 training in psychomotor skills-based CPR and the use of an AED. The training shall include an instructional program that is nationally recognized and that is based on the most current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for psychomotor skills-based cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator.

SB185 - \$360,000.00 is appropriated from the general fund to the higher education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2017 for Mesalands community college to create an emergency medical technician certificate program.

HM78 - Requesting the Office of Superintendent of Insurance, the Department of Health, the Risk Management Division of the General Services Department and the Workers' Compensation Administration to study the impacts and costs of air ambulance transports on consumers, beneficiaries and payors in New Mexico.

The 2016 budget for the EMS Bureau is looking horrible, we are currently looking for savings opportunities, but may need to look at cutting spending as the picture looks clearer.

The NM Educators Association conference will be held on March 2-5, 2016 in Ruidoso, NM.

Jim Stover and Dr. Mike Richards have both resigned from the Statewide EMS Advisory Committee.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date will be April 27, 2016 at 1:30 p.m., in Ruidoso, NM.

**Brent Hamilton moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chad Hamill. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.**