August 2009 Education Committee Report

The Education Committee of the EMS Board met on August 6, 2009 to review and discuss: 1) the Education Subcommittees curriculum updates and 2) the process for implementing EMS law changes included in Amend. Sub HB 1. Dan Beil reported that the first responder curriculum has been revised and the subcommittee's recommendations will be ready for the October Education Committee meeting. In response to the revision of ORC 4765.43, the first responder curriculum now includes a driving component.

Pam Bradshaw reported that the revisions to the EMT-B curriculum are being reviewed by the subcommittee members. P. Bradshaw expressed concerns by the subcommittee over the intubation objectives in the EMT-B curriculum. Only South Carolina and Ohio allow EMT-Basics to intubate. Given the more successful airway options such as C-PAP and the rarity for an EMT-B to intubate, the subcommittee is recommending that the advanced airway objectives be removed from the EMT-B curriculum. Following discussion, the Education Committee will recommend that the advanced airway objectives be removed from the EMT-B curriculum and the oratracheal intubation with pulseless and apneic patients be removed from the EMT-Basic scope of practice.

Kevin Edmond reported that the revisions to the EMT-P curriculum are being reviewed by the subcommittee members. K. Edmonds has completed some research on course contact hours and told the Education Committee that no other state requires less than 1000 contact hours. Most states require didactic and laboratory hours and clinical competencies. The subcommittee will recommend that the Paramedic curriculum increase to a minimum 1000 hours.

Linda Mirarchi provided the committee with the language changes in HB 1 impacting EMS certificates of accreditation, certificates to practice and certificates to teach as well as worksheets to begin planning for the implementation of those changes. The process will include writing rules that establish the standards for both current holders of certificates as well as those obtaining additional certifications in the future. L. Mirarchi noted that HB 1 directs the EMS Board to establish a common expiration for holders of certificates issued by the Board and approved by the Executive Director.

John Kennington, presented a process that a provider holding a certificate to practice, fire service certificates and a certificate to teach EMS might follow. J. Kennington explained that the complications with combining the EMS certificates are: 1) certificate expiration dates are already in place and 2) continuing education requirements vary between the EMS levels of practice. After lengthy discussion it was decided that a separate meeting dedicated to implementation issues was necessary. A subcommittee for HB 1 Implementation Planning will meet in the EMS conference room at 9:30 AM on September 1, 2009.