



Community Paramedicine Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

April 16, 2013 – 3:00 PM ODPS – Conf Rm 4-8

Final Approved Minutes

Attendance:

Committee Members – Carol Cunningham, Geoff Dutton, Deanna Harris, Pam Bradshaw, Brian Springer, Gary Redd, and Daryl McNutt

Division of EMS Staff – Ellen Owens

Guests – None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:25PM by Mr. Shade.

Selection of Committee Chair:

Motion made by Mr. Shade. Second by Dr. Springer to appoint Ms. Harris as committee chairperson. Motion passed.

Reports:

Ms. Harris reported on an educational program provided by Mr. Larry Bennett (Cincinnati) and various speakers dealing with “frequent flyers” – those patients that call EMS frequently for non-emergent issues. Mr. Bennett will be holding another educational session on July 12th and is trying to secure national speakers. Ms. Harris also indicated she had sent out a JEMS article on the subject to the committee members the previous week.

Mr. Shade distributed draft goal and action items for the committee to review. Mr. Shade advised the first item, selection of a chairperson, was complete.

The committee discussed thoughts, concerns and issues pertaining to community paramedicine including the following:

- Funding issues
- Billing
- Legality of paramedicine under current law
- A need to change the mind set of paramedics –
 - many do not understand the important role they play in the health care system
 - they see things in the home environment that is not available to hospital personnel
- A list of stakeholders will need to be established, including medical directors, nursing personnel and home health
- There is a need to groom new paramedics to the new mind set
- Older paramedics may be more community oriented and more apt to get involved in the program

Dr. Cunningham suggested there is a need for the committee to define community paramedicine. She shared the definition included in the document “Feasibility and Role of Community Paramedics in Nebraska.” There is also a definition in the HRSA document: *Community Paramedicine Evaluation Tool*, March, 2012. A definition of community paramedicine should be established before delving further down into specifics.

It was discussed that funding for a community paramedicine program will be a local issue.

The following agencies/groups were discussed as possible stakeholders:

- Ohio Department of Health and local health departments
- Hospitals (discharge)
- Social Workers
- Department of Aging
- Home Health
- Mental Health
- Children’s Services
- Medical Directors
- Ohio Fire Chiefs’ Association

- Private EMS services
- EMS in general
- Ohio Nurses Association and Emergency Nurses Association

Other issues discussed including:

- Is the intent that EMS providers will be working on an ambulance or working as individuals in the role of community paramedic?
- Liability issues will need to be considered, i.e., if an EMS provider is injured by a patient or injured while responding, and EMS provider that steals from a patient
- Is this going to increase the burden on EMS rather than decrease the burden - particularly in the rural areas with limited EMS resources?

For the next meeting:

- Look at the definition of community paramedicine provided by Dr. Cunningham and create a definition for Ohio.
- Discuss legislative needs.
- Invite ODPS legal counsel, Anna Firestone to attend the next meeting (will ask for Department of Health representative at the third meeting)
 - Question for legal as to whether Mr. Bennett is stepping over any legal boundaries in the course offerings in the area community paramedicine under current law
- Review what other states are working on or have already established in this arena - do any have laws and rules already in place for community paramedicine?

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2013.