

EMS REGIONALIZATION PHYSICIANS ADVISORY BOARD

~ REGION 8 ~

April 24th, 2008, 1:00 p.m.; Akron, Ohio

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Drs. Campensa, Gradisek, Mencl, Lutes, Kyriakedes, and Steer

Board Members Absent: Drs. Bartkowski, Baumgardner, Fallon, and Bulgrin

Guests Present: Dr. Carol Cunningham, Jon Zalewski, Jeff Funai, Vicki Broadway, Anne Moss, Susan Forgacs, Chief Dale Evans, Rita Chambers, Jim Willoughby, Joshua Thomas, Chris Bower, Greg McCamish, John Mason, Kobe Brooks, and Ellen Owens.

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order by Ross Campensa, M.D., FACEP, at 1308 and introductions were made.

REVIEW and APPROVE OLD MINUTES:

The January 24th, 2008 minutes were amended to include the missing contact information for Dr. Hatch, and then were approved by voice vote after Dr. Gradisek moved for approval and the motion was seconded by Dr. Lutes.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

DEA Licenses for EMS: Dr. Campensa reported that as was previously discussed in late 2004 and early 2005 the Drug Enforcement Agency changed their rules in December of 2004 and began requiring EMS agencies to obtain their own DEA license. EMS agencies are no longer permitted to operate under the DEA license of their Medical Director. Recently, a routine inspection turned up an agency that had not complied, therefore, spread the word. Help to make sure that all agencies and their Medical Directors understand the change and comply. EMS agencies should obtain a "mid-level practitioner" license. They are free to governmental service providers. Dr. Cunningham's original memo addressing the subject was redistributed as well.

Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for EMS Professionals:

There was a discussion held lead by Dr. Campensa and supplemented by Dr. Cunningham regarding an update on CoAEMSP activity. This is the group that will be accrediting EMS training programs and combined with the National Scope of Practice changes are the current driving force in EMS training. There have been a few recent concerns with their activity. One is that the Medical Directors were unaware of the need for local Medical Directors to be trained to serve as site reviewers and they have petitioned the CoAEMSP for more time to recruit qualified reviewers. Also, national education standards are being developed that reflect the changes and agenda outlined by the National Education Standards and the National Scope of Practice. In conjunction with this the National Registry is planning that as of 2012 all those sitting for testing will have to have graduated from an accredited course. There will be a public forum in June regarding the National Registry and requirements for sitting for testing. Watch the Ohio EMS website for more information. Ohio is seeking more information and input into National Accreditation and /or any equivalent standards. Dr. Cunningham then talked about the draft scope of practice and noted that she had a major concern (on behalf of Ohio) with the framework of the scope in that it was a "ceiling" type protocol that

limited the scope and did not allow local Medical Directors to exceed the National scope without opening themselves up to major liability. She pointed out that the National Scope of Practice should be a “floor” type standard, a minimum standard. That way, if a local Medical Director, based on local conditions / factors, chooses to go above and beyond the minimum standard, the risk of increased liability is greatly decreased. She reported that she was successful in petitioning for the National Scope of Practice to be changed to reflect a minimum and not a maximum standard. Dr. Lutes asked if there was a pediatric component included in the National Education Standards and Dr. Cunningham reported that there is. Dr. Campensa ended the discussion by thanking Dr. Cunningham for representing Ohio.

HB 375: Currently, the RPAB regions are different from the Homeland Security Regions in the State and this causes some confusion. Part of this bill is looking to unify regions and foster increased participation in some of the RPABs. As it stands now, there is a review under way to look at reorganizing the roles and responsibilities of the RPAB and then they may move on to redrawing the regions. Dr. Cunningham added that the RPABs are supposed to function as a regional workhorse for the State EMS Board. An example of the work that they have assisted in is the trauma triage rules. Right now, there are no proposed changes to the direction of the group.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Dr. Campensa noted again that there is an effort underway to revise the subcommittee assignments. He would like to keep the subcommittees that are still functioning and relevant, prune off the un-needed and / or obsolete subcommittees, and establish any new subcommittees that are needed to address current concerns.

Data Collection – Dr. Campensa

No report. Dr. Campensa looking for someone to take over this committee.

Performance Improvement – Dr. Bartkowski

No report.

Medical Protocols – Dr. Campensa

Dr. Campensa asked that the Board re-review the Region VIII protocol and ensure that it is up to date. He asked that if you have any interest in helping with the review or in leading the review of any particular section, please contact him via e-mail. He requested that Children’s Hospital lead the review of the Pediatric portion of the protocol.

EMS Training and Continuing Education – Dr. Lutes

Dr. Lutes will continue to forward any items she has to the State so they can post it on their website.

EMS Equipment – Dr. Gradisek

No report. Dr. Mencl made a motion to eliminate this committee and it was seconded by Dr. Gradisek. The discussion included that the work of this committee has been performed numerous times and is now maintained by the Summit County Fire Chiefs and the Summit / Portage County EMAs. The committee was eliminated by voice vote.

Medical Directors -

No report. The Committee will be preserved in the event one of the Region VIII squads loses its Medical Director; this committee will function as the Medical Director until the squad can secure a new one. A question was raised concerning who has the liability if this group steps up to provide medical direction. Dr. Cunningham reported that the Attorney General of Ohio would provide liability coverage; however, she acknowledged there is still some gray area. Of note, Medical Directors in General are in a better position than ever before with Medical Director specific liability coverage. Dr. Cunningham advised the doctors to check with their employer group because they may or may not provide the liability coverage needed and that standard malpractice liability coverage does not cover you for the administrative duties of a Medical Director. Two examples were mentioned by Dr. Cunningham (though neither she nor the RPAB makes any specific recommendation or endorsement):

A product offered by the Thomas James Insurance Company which is based in New Mexico. Their product is also being underwritten by the Lapre Scali & Company. They base their fees on a number of factors, especially run volume. Any EMS medical director is welcomed to apply for their product.

The Director Shield product was created and is offered by NAEMSP, and NAEMSP membership is required to apply for this policy.

Two further notes from Dr. Cunningham are that caution is recommended with the Director Shield product as their flyer advertised defense and legal fee reimbursement rather than the traditional primary pay with which you are most likely familiar. Also the Lapre Scali & Company (Thomas James product) had a higher insurance industry ranking than the Director Shield product when she last compared them in January 2008.

Research and Experimental Procedures – Dr. Kyriakedes

Just some notes of interest. It has been difficult to perform research as the hospitals often put up institutional roadblocks because they do not want to share what they consider to be proprietary information, Summa has an EMS research and Education Fellow for the next year, and there are now three years of trauma data collected and available through the NORTN group.

Restocking – Dr. Campensa

Dr. Campensa reported that he attended the Akron Regional Hospital Association Re-stocking Committee meeting and asked if they would add an RPAB member from each region that ARHA covers to their group. They agreed. It was also noted that the re-stocking committee does not have a strong EMS presence in the make-up of the committee.

Homeland Security - Unassigned

Dr. Campensa announced that he is calling for the formation of a new subcommittee to address natural disaster, terrorism, WMD, and pandemic type events. The goal is planning and integration with other allied professionals already undertaking such health crisis planning. Jon Mason renewed his call for an RPAB presence at the quarterly NECO meetings which have multidiscipline membership and share these same goals.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pediamate: Vicki Broadway presented the group with a demonstration and information concerning the pediamate pediatric transport device. It is the recommendation of Dr. Lutes and Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron that non-trauma pediatric patients between 10 and 40 pounds be transported in the ambulance secured to the cot with one of these devices. Car seats are not acceptable for transport of this patient population; there are too many problems and unknowns with the condition of the child's seat, the ability to secure it to the cot in a manner that meets the manufacturers specifications, and the ability of the crew to manage the patient when they are in a car seat.

CPAP: Dr. Campensa led a discussion involving an in-depth review of the three main versions of EMS CPAP available. He covered the specifications, pluses, and minuses of all three. It was noted that the ARHA re-stocking committee is willing to re-stock one of the CPAP versions but not all and they are looking to the RPAB to make a regional recommendation as to which one to offer for EMS re-stocking. After the discussion Dr. Gradisek made a motion to recommend a generic single use type CPAP device. The motion was seconded by Dr. Mencl and carried by voice vote. Dr. Campensa will follow up with the ARHA.

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business was brought forward.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

It was noted that there will be a regional town meeting on May 8th at the Canton Civic Center sponsored by the State EMS Board covering EMS and Fire issues.

It was also announced that there is a Committee of the State EMS Board being set up concerning recruitment and retention issues. They are looking for members. Please contact Ellen Owens EOwens@dps.state.oh.us or Joe Stack if you are interested. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14th at 0900.

It was also announced to watch for upcoming Basic Disaster Life Support and Advanced Disaster Life Support classes, they are free of charge.

ADJOURNMENT:

After a motion made by Dr. Kyriakedes and Seconded by Dr. Mencl, the meeting was adjourned at 1452 hours.

Next meeting information – *July 24th, 2008 at 1330*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Funai

Reminder: You may reach Dr. Campensa by

e-mail: deross@raex.com

Phone: (330) 615-3940