



**Tactical EMS Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2008**

Committee Members Present: Mark Resanovich, Chair, Dr. Thomas Collins, Dr. Carol Cunningham, Dr. Donald Locasto, Dr. Howard Mell, Bob Neidhart, Dr. Pakiela, Lt. Steve Rosta and Dr. Drew Stephens.

ODPS/Division of EMS Staff Present: Heather Reed Frient, Chuck Milam, Ellen Owens, Robert Ruetenik, John Sands.

Others Present: Chief Mark Burgess, EMS Board Chair, Matt Ruth Ohio State Highway Patrol

Call To Order:

The regular meeting of the Tactical EMS (TEMS) Committee was called to order at 3:07 PM by Mr. Resanovich.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Dr. Collins, second by Dr. Stephens to accept the minutes of the July 15, 2008 meeting. Minutes accepted as written.

Information Updates / General Discussion Points:

Lt. Rosta advised the committee that there would be a terrorist exercise conducted at Gahanna Lincoln High School on July 18th. All were invited to attend.

Dr. Collins provided information on the addition of Firefighter/Paramedics from Cleveland EMS and Fire on the Cleveland SWAT team. 1 Paramedic is always assigned to the team. The assignment rotates every two weeks.

Dr. Locasto added that Cincinnati had tried that, but stopped due to payment issues.

Lt. Rosta advised he would need to leave, and introduced Trooper Matt Ruth who is an EMT-Intermediate with the Ohio State Patrol SRT team.

Legislative Needs to establish TEMS:

Mrs. Frient presented a general outline of TEMS issues to be decided before legislation could be written. Issues included those pertaining to certification, schooling, discipline, standards of conduct, and liability. Mrs. Frient also presented an overview of possible Revised Code changes that would need to be made. A handout was provided.

Group discussion followed Mrs. Frient' presentation including the possibility of legislation to allow TEMS to care for a team member when the perpetrator or other victim may need medical care; concern over legislating medical decisions when the public is involved; and

circumstances where law enforcement operations may take precedence over medical operations.

Mr. Resanovich stated the first draft of issues has generated a lot of discussion and differences of opinions within the committee. Adding in the large number of EMTs, law enforcement agencies and other interested parties, and it was clear that this isn't an easy task. There isn't something already in place some where that we can use for establishing TEMS in Ohio. The committee needed to take all the issues outlined in Mrs. Frient' handout and turn it into a road map to offering good medicine in bad places.

Mr. Resanovich asked the committee to determine the issues that really needed addressed. The following issues were brought forward:

- Certification issues
- School issues
- Liability issues
- Scope of practice issues
- Certification vs. Endorsement
- Standards of conduct
- Definition of TEMS

Mrs. Frient reported that Ohio hasn't had an endorsement in EMS in the past (do have it in other areas, such as a motorcycle endorsement on the driver's license). She will research the legal differences. For example "license" vs. "certification" - they are technically different, however, in Ohio an EMT certification is really a license.

It was suggested the committee start by defining TEMS since that will determine the direction to go in other areas. It was suggested the definition of a TEMS provider should include the following aspects:

- Operating with a law enforcement activity
- Certified as TEMS provider by the EMS Board
- Operating under the authority/guidance of a tactical commander and TEMS medical director
- Operating under a specialized scope of practice
- Must have a base certification (EMT-B, EMT-I, EMT-P)
- Provider of medical care and support during tactical operations

Mr. Resanovich asked that the committee look at the questions raised in Mrs. Frient' presentation and begin developing a road map. Individual thoughts on the issues will be brought together at next months meeting. Each of the categories will then be assigned to specific members for further development.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Next meeting: August 19, 2008 - 3:00 pm - ODPS Rm 134