



Tactical EMS Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2008

Committee Members Present: Mark Resanovich, Chair; Dr. Thomas Collins; Dr. Carol Cunningham; Dr. Jong Kim; John Kubincanek; Dr. Donald Locasto; Dr. Howard Mell; Lt. Steve Rosta

ODPS / Division of EMS Staff Present: Heather Reed Frient; Chuck Milam; Ellen Owens; Richard Rucker; Robert Ruetenik; Tonia Fritos; Nancy Crespo

Others Present: Chief Mark Burgess, EMS Board Chair; Matt Ruth, Ohio State Highway Patrol; David Gerstner, Dayton Fire Dept.

Call To Order:

The regular meeting of the Tactical EMS (TEMS) Committee was called to order at 3:05 PM by Mr. Resanovich.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Dr. Mell, second by Dr. Locasto to accept the minutes of the July 15th, 2008 meeting. Minutes accepted as written.

Mr. Resanovich provided an overview of discussions that took place at the July meeting.

Mrs. Frient voiced concern that all committee members may not have the same concept of the direction the committee is heading with TEMS. There is concern that the committee may be looking too broadly for the initial steps of creating TEMS in Ohio. It may be easier to get legislation passed that has a more narrow focus – i.e. perhaps limit TEMS to Paramedic level initially, then once established, look at how it is being used and pursue expansion as needed.

Following a lengthy discussion of the potential problems associated with seeking broad legislation regarding TEMS certification, Dr. Mell recommended the committee move forward with plans for a single level of TEMS provider, with that level being Paramedic. This was seconded by Mr. Kubincanek. Motion carried.

Mr. Kubincanek stated the training programs are currently offering TEMS training to all levels and the restriction to Paramedics could be an issue. Mrs. Frient advised that if the programs were currently offering the training when there isn't any type of certification, they could continue to allow the lower levels to complete the course, it just wouldn't lead to certification.

Dr. Collins asked if an EMT-Basic who took the TEMS course when certification was limited to Paramedics, could receive credit for the course once legislation was passed expanding certification eligibility to the EMT-Basic level. Mrs. Frient advised this could be written into the legislation.

Mr. Resanovich moved the discussion on to certification issues, asking about pre-requisites to a TEMS course? Should Paramedics seeking TEMS training be sponsored by a law enforcement entity?

Concern was expressed that this might be too limiting. Law enforcement might require certification prior to hiring. It was suggested that it could be used for recertification rather than initial certification. It was also suggested that it could be a criteria to obtain certification, but not to take the course. Some felt an affiliation could provide a level of control. It was suggested a sign-off by medical direction would be needed as well as law enforcement. Some felt the requirement to have medical director authorization to perform skills should be sufficient.

Motion by Richard Rucker, second by Dr. Mell, that anyone can complete the training, but to be certified a signature of a tactical team medical director will be required. Motion carried. It was noted that there may be difficulty in determining who those medical directors are.

Mr. Resanovich asked that the committee come to the next meeting prepared to discuss continuing education requirements and the scope of practice. If time permits, the issue of grandfathering will also be discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Next meeting: September 16, 2008 – 3:00 pm – ODPS Rm 134