



MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES & TRAUMA SYSTEM
MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 3, 2007 – 11:00A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Allen Marino, M.D., Chairman, MedicWest Ambulance
Jarrod Johnson, D.O., Mesquite Fire & Rescue
E. P. Homansky, M.D., American Medical Response
Chief Randy Howell, Henderson Fire Dept
Brian Rogers, EMT-P, MedicWest Ambulance
Bruce Evans, EMT-P, North Las Vegas Fire Dept.
Troy Tuke, EMT-P, Clark County Fire Dept. (Alt.)

Richard Henderson, M.D., Henderson Fire Dept.
David Slattery, M.D., Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
Dale Carrison, D.O., Clark County Fire Department
Tim Crowley, EMT-P, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
Chief David Petersen, Mesquite Fire & Rescue
Roy Carroll, EMT-P, American Medical Response
Walt West, EMT-P, Boulder City Fire Department

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Daitch, D.O., Boulder City Fire Dept
Chief Russ Cameron, Clark County Fire Dept.

K. Alexander Malone, M.D., North Las Vegas Fire Dept.
John Wilson, American Medical Response

SNHD STAFF PRESENT

Rory Chetelat, EMS Manager
Mary Ellen Britt, R.N., Regional Trauma Coordinator
Trish Beckwith, EMS Field Representative
Moana Hanawahine-Yamamoto, Administrative Assist

Joseph J. Heck, D.O., Operational Medical Director
John Hammond, EMS Field Representative
Judy Tabat, Recording Secretary
Jim Osti, Administrative Analyst

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Larry Johnson, EMT-P, MedicWest Ambulance
Steve Patraw, EMT-P, Boundtree
Chief Cherina Kleven, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
Ronald Tucker, EMT-P, MedicWest Ambulance
John Higley, EMT-P, Mesquite Fire & Rescue
Jackie Levy, R.N., University of Medical Center
Don Abshier, EMT-P, Clark County Fire Dept.
Davette Shea, R.N., Southern Hills Hospital
Bob Byrd, EMT-P, American Medical Response
Tricia Klein, EMT-P, NCTI
Scott Rolfe, R.N., St. Rose Siena
Nancy Harpin, R.N., UMC
James Holtz, R.N., Valley Hospital
Wade Sears, Mountain View Hospital
Mary Beth Dickinson, CSN
Melissa Mayor, Touro Student
Sue Stittsworth, Vidacare

Sandy Young, RN, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
Jennifer Adams, American Medical Response
Jason Meilleur, Sunrise Hospital
Derek Cox, EMT-P, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
Bob Valdez, Mercy Air Services
Susie Kochevar, R.N., North Las Vegas Fire Department
Mary Owens, EMT-P, Med Flight Air Ambulance
Syd Selitzky, EMT-P, Henderson Fire Department
Rodney Wright, EMT-P, American Medical Response
Frank Simone, EMT-P, North Las Vegas Fire Dept
Virginia Deleon, RN, St. Rose deLima
Camille Lombardi, R.N., UMC
Kirby Burgess, WestCare
Gail Yedinak, R.N., UMC
Nancy Cassell, CSN
Tyler Campbell, CSN
Michelle Moss, Vidacare

CALL TO ORDER - NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA

The Medical Advisory Board convened in the Clemens Conference Room at the Ravenholt Public Health Center at 11:05 a.m. on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allen Marino. He stated that the Affidavit of Posting, Mailing of Agenda, and Public Notice of the Meeting Agenda were executed in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Chairman Marino noted that a quorum was present.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Marino stated the Consent Agenda consisted of matters to be considered by the Medical Advisory Board that can be enacted by one motion. Any item may be discussed separately per Board member request. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

A motion was made for Board approval of the minutes from the September 5, 2007 Medical Advisory Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

II. REPORT/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Report from Education Committee – Dale Carrison, D.O.

Discussion of Development of Competency-Based Field Internships

Dr. Carrison noted that there was considerable discussion regarding problems with the field evaluation process, the Field Training Officer (FTO), and the evaluation forms that are currently utilized. Bruce Evans read the motion approved by the Education Committee to be put forth to the MAB as a recommendation. Mr. Evans stated that the motion was to define the scope of work to provide competency-based field internships. It was felt that it may be necessary to hire a consultant to conduct a job task analysis in this effort, with the assistance of the provider agencies and educational institutions.

Brian Rogers asked for further clarification of the problem we are attempting to address. Mr. Evans reported that the presentation at the sub-committee cited inconsistencies in the evaluation process. Dr. Carrison stated it is clear that the current process for the documentation of skills lacks uniformity. The evaluation form needs to be revised to require further evidence of documentation in skills competency.

Randy Howell inquired about who would provide consulting services, and how they were to be paid. Mr. Evans replied that Heather Davis, Dr. Resurrection, and a few others could be contacted. He explained the importance for development of specific performance criteria that can be validated so the process cannot be easily challenged. Dr. Heck stated that the Health District will need to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) for procurement of these services, but the agencies may be asked for financial assistance as well. He asked for a commitment from the agencies and educational institutions that the job task analysis completed by an outside consultant would be accepted as the standard for everybody participating within the system. Dr. Homansky replied that the motion should be stated such that the MAB has final approval to make modifications to the operational aspects. Dr. Heck stated that the expertise to do a job task analysis does not reside within the system, which is why we need to contract with a valid and reputable consultant who can do that job.

Dr. Marino stated that operational issues may arise during the paramedic internship resulting in delays because an intern does not have the adequate number of intubations, or other listed skills. Dr. Heck stated that simulation is a very valid educational methodology, and the consultant and focus groups can decide in conjunction.

Dr. Slattery commented that he is very supportive of consistency and having competency based evaluations, but he is hesitant with giving carte blanche to the consultant. He feels that the MAB should not only be involved in the development process with the consultant, but should also give the final approval.

David Peterson remarked that he is also supportive with moving forward with competency based evaluations, but would first like someone to research the cost of hiring a consultant. He asked that the motion be revised to pursue a RFP after meeting with the agencies involved to define the scope of work to provide competency-based field internships.

A motion was made for the provider agencies and educational institutions to define the scope of work for a consultant to develop a model for competency based internships which would then be presented to the MAB in a form of a RFP for approval.

B. Selection of an Adult IO Device

Dr. Marino commended the Health District on getting the prices for the IO devices out to the provider agencies, along with instructions for everyone to agree on a single device.

Mr. Rogers reported that the consensus of the Valley Wide EMS Group was to utilize the EZ I/O device system-wide. Dr. Slattery stated that he did not attend the Valley Wide EMS Group meeting. He asked whether Las Vegas Fire & Rescue could utilize the B.I.G. device as an alternative. It was felt that there should only be one device so the emergency departments can familiarize themselves with it.

Mr. Evans asked whether there was a commitment from the suppliers to provide the education for the EZ I/O device. Ms. Stittsworth from Vidacare replied that they have agreed on an internet-based system as well as a train-the-trainer. Dr. Marino asked for a timeline for the train-the-trainer education piece. Ms. Stittsworth stated that they have the appropriate personnel to conduct the training, and would just need a schedule.

Mr. Crowley asked whether the provider agencies would be bound to a single vendor. Ms. Stittsworth stated that Vidacare uses CBC Incorporated for Las Vegas, but if it becomes an issue they will work directly with the agencies.

A motion was made to accept the selection of the EZ I/O as the IO device starting January 1, 2008. Las Vegas Fire & Rescue opposed the motion. Boulder City Fire and North Las Vegas Fire Departments both abstained. The motion passed 5-3.

C. Report from SB244 Committee – Rory Chetelat

Mr. Chetelat advised the Board that the Health District's legal staff had some issues with the language that was voted on at the previous month's meeting. The Health District will be holding another workshop with some minor language changes to incorporate into EMS Regulations with regard to SB244. He asked Randy Howell to report on the findings of the group that is working independently of the SB244 Committee.

Mr. Howell stated that the biggest issue is trying to figure out a way to train personnel so there is a consistent process at every hospital. He added that they are creating an educational program to send out to everybody once they get the Roam IT software updated.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/DISCUSSION ONLY

A. Recognition of Service Award for David Daitch, D.O.

Dr. Slattery stated that last month it was decided to recognize Dr. Daitch for all his work and dedication to EMS over the years. Dr. Daitch was unable to attend the MAB meeting so Chief Crowley, Sandy Young and Dr. Slattery went to his house & delivered the award. He was very pleased to get the award and expressed his gratitude. Dr. Slattery stated that they had a good conversation with Dr. Daitch during this very difficult time for him and his family.

B. Revised Protocol Manual Rollout

Dr. Heck reported that the protocol manual rollout workshop was held last week. For those who couldn't attend, a CD-Rom is available to facilitate in protocol education. The protocol manual is also posted on the SNHD website in a PDF version, and will include hyper-links in the near future.

C. CPI Update

Ms. Beckwith reported that she has had several meetings with Kirby Burgess, Senior VP of WestCare. He was very receptive to discussing complaints that were brought forward to him, and has assured the Health District that he is having educational meetings with his staff. She added that WestCare fully understands the issue at hand and is committed to making sure the process goes smoothly and that the reception improves when EMS crews bring in patients. Ms. Beckwith stated that Michelle from WestCare would like to schedule

a meeting with each agency to answer questions and reestablish an amicable relationship between WestCare and the EMS field providers.

Mr. Carroll remarked that there is a growing list of individuals who have not been allowed to go to WestCare and questioned if that will still be the case. Mr. Burgess stated that WestCare will take referrals and if any issues arise he will personally sit down and talk with the agencies. He added that he values their partnership and he is open for any discussion after today's meeting.

D. Legal 2000 Data Report

Mr. Chetelat stated there was no new information to report to date.

E. Nurse Managers L2K Report

Davette Shea thanked the Board for the opportunity to present information in reference to the continued problem of emergency department overcrowding, L2K medical clearance and the Roam IT initiative. She expressed concern that the potential removal of the L2K Guidelines due to hospitals misrepresenting the actual number of patients being held for Las Vegas Mental Health will have a huge impact on certain core hospitals with patients needing medical clearance and psychiatric care. If these five or six core hospitals that provide critical services to the community are overloaded with L2K patients, the outlying smaller hospitals will be obligated to take patients who may then require a transfer which will delay critical life saving care. She added that on December 31, 2007, the community will lose the existing 25 beds at the WestCare Mental Health Facility as well as the transportation services that have been provided free of charge because "there is no real problem since the new psych hospital opening," which has proven to be a falsehood. Ms. Shea stated that their efforts today are to state that there has to be a guideline for delivery of these patients because she believes the hospitals are not abusing the EMSsystem screen and they will continue to work with that and asked that a task force be formed to talk about equitable distribution.

Jim Osti, Administrative Analyst for the Health District, presented a comparison from July 9, 2004 and where the system is today. He stated that in 2004 it was estimated there were between 9,000 and 10,000 individuals who were placed on L2K compared to the estimated 13,000 plus individuals this year. While there were substantial improvements since 2004 including an increase in emergency department beds, public psych beds and a decrease in length of stay, he felt if any type of interruption in services occurs, such as the loss of 25 beds, we will immediately climb back up to the numbers and possibly exceed those in 2004.

Mr. Rolfe, Director of the Emergency Room at St. Rose Siena did a L2K collaborative study presentation on the EMSsystem utilization and accuracy for a 3 week period from 9/10/07 to 9/28/07. He stated that 7 hospitals participated and that the data was collected on weekdays, for a total of 15 days. He advised the Board that 91% of the time data collected matched EMSsystem and 70% of the time data collected matched community reported patients waiting for SNAMHS placement. Mr. Rolfe added that the nursing leadership is opposed to eliminating the current even distribution of mental health patients and is committed to bring the accuracy of EMSsystem closer to 100%.

Dr. Heck stated that this community owes a debt of gratitude to Ms. Shea for being such a champion on this issue for so long. He checked the EMSsystem and noted that all hospitals are up to date with reporting but stated that the day before 2 hospitals hadn't updated their numbers in 24 hours so there continues to be that issue and we have to strive to ensure the numbers are updated on a daily basis. He added that the community is not losing those 25 beds, they are supposed to be open at the hospital come January 1st but still 242 beds for this valley is not enough. He thanked WestCare for stepping in when they did.

Dr. Heck thanked everybody who undertook the letter writing campaign and felt that Ms. Perez's letter was much more forceful than anticipated. He reported that Dr. Brandenburg has moved up his retirement date to January 2008 so the next phase is trying to see who will be the next administrator of SNAMHS. He is working with Dr. Gertner and others to see what can be done to move the medical clearance exams out of the hospitals and felt that Dr. Gertner is not adverse to medical clearance exams at SNAMHS which makes the horizon look much more promising.

F. Call Volume Statistics

Dr. Heck advised the Board that the EMSTS Office is reinstating the collection of call volume statistics which includes the total number of 911 EMS dispatches, EMS transports, and the hospital breakdown.

Mr. Rogers expressed concern that the hospitals have been trying to get that information for years and felt that this would open up an unforeseen problem.

Dr. Heck stated that it is important to see the distribution of the patients that we take on 911 calls and as a system we need to track the data.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCE/CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Ms. Beckwith reported that the Southern Nevada Health District's EMS website has been updated. She encouraged all EMS providers to utilize it for information and upcoming calendar of events.

V. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Chairman Marino called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn at 12:23 p.m.