

MINUTES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MARCH 7, 2001--6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Davidson, M.D., Chairman.
Philis Beilfuss, R.N.
Paul Fischer, M.D.
Deputy Chief Steve Hanson
Donald Reisch, M.D.
E. P. Homansky, M.D.
Richard Henderson, M.D.
Brian Lungo, M.D.
Jeff Greenlee, D.O.
Michael Walsh, FAB Representative

Steve Kramer
Division Chief Randy Howell
Deputy Chief Ken Riddle
Nicholas Han, M.D.
Pam Turner, R.N.
David Daitch, D.O.
Karen Laauwe, M.D.
David Slattery, M.D.
Allen Marino, M.D.
Donald Kwalick, M.D.

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Fildes, M.D.

CCHD STAFF PRESENT

Jane Shunney, R.N.
Mary Ellen Britt, R.N.
Ellen Wilfong, Recording Secretary

LaRue Scull
Jean Folk

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

NAME

Anthony Jennings, D.O.
Chris Blackburn
Batt. Chief Henry Clinton
Bill Zanhar
J.L. Netski
Derek Cox
Jon Kingma
Todd Jaynes
Aspen Scharff
Chad Manning
Pete Carlo
Mary Levy, R.N.
Barbara Teel

ASSOCIATED WITH

UMC/AMR/Southwest CCT
Clark County Fire Department
Las Vegas Fire & Rescue
American Medical Response
American Medical Response
American Medical Response
Boulder City Fire Department
Mesquite Fire & Rescue
Southwest Ambulance
Southwest Ambulance
Southwest Ambulance
University Medical Center
Montevista Hospital

Virginia Deleon, R.N.
Mike Griffiths, R.N.
Scott Rolfe, R.N.
Connie Clemmons-Brown, R.N.
Dennis Lemon, D.O.
John Wilson
Don Hales
Nancy Cassell
Michelle Orr
Michael Zbiegien, M.D.
Patti Glavan, R.N.
Joe Calise, R.N.

St. Rose Dominican Hospital
AIRLIFE
University Medical Center
University Medical Center
Mountain View Hospital
Southwest Ambulance
American Medical Response
Community College of So. NV
AMR/CCSN
Sunrise Hospital
Boulder City Hospital
Summerlin Hospital

CALL TO ORDER-NOTICE OF POSTING OF AGENDA

The EMS Medical Advisory Board convened at 6:05 p.m., on Wednesday, March 7, 2001 in the Clemens Conference Room at the Otto H. Ravenholt, M.D. Public Health Center. Chairman Jeff Davidson, M.D called the meeting to order. He affirmed 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. Dr. Davidson noted that a quorum was present.

Dr. Davidson introduced new Medical Advisory Board members Nicholas Han, M.D. and Brian Lungo, M.D. Dr. Han will serve as the Emergency Department Physician representative from Summerlin Hospital and Dr. Lungo will serve as the Pediatric Emergency Department Physician representative from University Medical Center.

LaRue Scull announced that Ellen Wilfong is transferring from Emergency Medical Services to the District's Environmental Health Division. Mr. Scull presented her with a plant and thanked her for the thirteen years of service in the EMS office and for the recording secretary duties she performed for the Medical Advisory Board, Facilities Advisory Board and various committees. Dr. Davidson, on behalf of the MAB, also thanked Mrs. Wilfong for her service to the Board and wished her well in her new position.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion for Board approval of the following items on the Consent Agenda was made, seconded, and unanimously carried.

- A. Minutes Medical Advisory Board Meeting February 7, 2000**
- B. Proposed Referral to Education Committee: Revision of Rating System for Clark County Paramedic Field Performance Evaluation Standards**
- C. Proposed Referral to Drug Committee: Draft Etomidate Protocol**

II. REPORT/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Proposed Revisions to ACLS Dysrhythmia, Procedure and Drug Protocols

Dr. Slattery reported the Combined Drug, Education and Equipment Committee met earlier in the day to finalize the proposed revisions to the ACLS Dysrhythmia, Procedure and Drug protocols (part of MAB packet). He stated that the Calcium protocol would not be presented at this time, as the dosage needs fine-tuning. Some physicians on the committee said they give the drug at a higher dose than is recommended by ACLS. It was felt that the matter needs further research before the draft protocol can be presented to the Board next month. Dr. Slattery made a motion for Medical Advisory Board endorsement of the packet of proposed draft revisions to the ACLS Dysrhythmia, Procedure and Drug Protocols (excluding the Calcium protocol). Dr. Laauwe seconded the motion. Dr. Davidson called for discussion on the motion. Philis Beilfuss remarked that an addition was made to the Cardiac Dysrhythmia Ventricular Tachycardia protocol on page 43 of the draft packet. Dr. Slattery explained that a note would be added to the protocol stating that Magnesium Sulfate is to be administered only for suspected hypomagnemesic state or Torsades de Pointes. As there was no further discussion, Dr. Davidson called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Divert Task Force Update

1. Final Presentation--Draft EMS Procedure for Hospital Divert Protocol

Dr. Davidson referred the Board members to the draft EMS Procedure for Hospital Divert (part of MAB packet) and stated the Divert Task Force made the following revision to the E.D. Divert category: "Hospitals on E.D. Divert cannot accept patients into their facility by EMS (see exceptions)." The Divert Task Force will meet again in two weeks (prior to 3/21/01 FAB meeting) to make any last minute changes to the language of the revised protocol. He reminded everyone that the regional divert plan was already approved by the Facilities Advisory Board and the Medical Advisory Board.

2. RDMX Screen Presentation

No presentation was given. Dr. Davidson stated the E.D. Nurse Manager's met on March 6th to view a presentation on the RDMX communications system. The consensus of the group was that they did not wish to use this system. Rather than use a beta site testing system or wait for a microwave system that may take a long time to become viable, the group wanted to investigate other types of communications systems.

3. RDMX Training Personnel Completion Date

This item was not discussed.

4. Date for Conversion from Old to New System

Dr. Davidson stated that, presently, there is no definite start date for the RDMX system. The Divert Task Force created a work group, to be chaired by Randy Howell, (other members include Mike Myers, Pam Turner, and Don Hales) which is charged with looking at a communications system similar to RDMX. The work group will investigate different types of communication systems and report their findings. No time line was set for the work group as it is unknown how long it will take them to compile information on other systems. Dr. Davidson remarked that, in the short term, if the current monitor CAD system can provide data to begin regionalization tracking and communication,

it might be utilized. If so, everyone will be notified in advance of the start date for regionalization. He also reminded everyone that when a patient's life may be in jeopardy if an ambulance bypasses a facility, the patient will be taken to the closest facility in time regardless of its divert status.

Dr. Davidson stated the Divert Task Force also discussed Henderson Fire Department's rotation of patients between St. Rose Dominican Hospital--Rose de Lima Campus and St. Rose Dominican Hospital--Siena Campus. The rotations are based on each facility's patient volume and how quickly the patients can be off-loaded. Dr. Slattery commented that both campuses are not in the current Las Vegas Valley divert system but are included in the new regional divert system as Region C. He stated that, in the meantime, St. Rose is more than willing to help unload the system and take patients from hospitals that are being inundated. As all parties involved in making this decision were not available, Dr. Slattery suggested they meet separately to sort it out as to whether de Lima and Siena campuses will be considered part of the current divert rotation system. Dr. Davidson said this would be short-term as the regionalization divert plan will include the two facilities when it goes into effect. Dr. Homansky commented that the reason St. Rose Dominican Hospital and Henderson Fire Department were not part of the original divert rotation was because the City of Henderson had its own EMS Advisory Board, independent of the Health District's EMS Medical Advisory Board, and chose not to participate in the rotation system. He felt that times have changed with the increased population in the valley and both Henderson hospitals should definitely be part of the new regional divert plan. Dr. Davidson stated that the parties involved will meet to discuss the issue and until the new regional divert system is in place, a letter will be sent out to all the facilities and provider agencies notifying them that both St. Rose campuses are to be included in the current divert rotation.

C. Airway Committee Report

1. Draft Etomidate Protocol

Dr. Slattery thanked Dr. Watson for developing the draft Etomidate protocol (part of MAB packet) to be reviewed by the Drug Committee. The Airway Committee has discussed the proposed use of Etomidate for intubation purposes. They felt it is a superior field induction agent and much safer than

Versed. Dr. Slattery remarked that Etomidate may not be the answer to all the airway problems, but it will provide safer care for those patients that need induction.

2. Gum Elastic Bougie

Dr. Slattery that the gum elastic bougie was a "FYI" item for the Airway Committee to review as an airway adjunct.

3. Airway Education Project

Dr. Slattery stated the airway education project is still in development and will not be completed for several months. It will be made available as a CD rom and/or put on the Internet.

D. Legislative Issues Update

Jane Shunney reported that Kelly Quinn is in Carson City attending state legislative meetings. He was at the presentation of the DNR bill and told her that it was held over and it will be put into a work group session. He said some of the legislators were concerned and wanted physicians who have terminally ill patients and parents who have terminally ill children to testify regarding the fact that the current DNR statute does not address do-not-resuscitate orders for terminally ill children under the age of 18. They are looking for interested parties to attend the work group next week (no time or date set as yet) and hoped to make it a video conference-type format which would allow people from Clark County to participate without having to go to Carson City. The other EMS bills Mr. Quinn outlined at last month's MAB meeting are pending and haven't been discussed by the legislators as they are still looking at the proposed DNR statute revisions.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS/DISCUSSION ONLY

A. E.D. Nurse Managers Meeting

Pam Turner reported the E.D. Nurse Managers met on February 23rd at Desert Springs Hospital. Linda Tripoli presented information on the Internet-based RDMX communications system and beta testing. Drs. Northrup and Rosin reported there are new processes in place for mental health patient intake at Las Vegas Mental Health including an internal medical screen designed to reduce the number of ambulance transfers to hospital emergency departments. Dr. McCourt's modified medical clearance tool being tested at UMC is now available for all facilities to use. Davette Shea gave an update on the Chronic Public Inebriate program. They are still looking at two candidates for the nurse practitioner positions. Divert pagers went out to all the E.D.'s. The group also discussed EMTALA issues and Ms. Turner distributed new EMTALA updates as well as copies of Valley Hospital's transfer forms. Ms. Turner stated the E.D. Nurse Managers met again on March 6th to further discuss beta testing of the RDMX system.

B. Southwest Ambulance 911 Update

John Wilson reported Southwest Ambulance will begin Alpha level 911 calls on March 18th and plan to go to full 911 implementation on April 15th. They are working on a transition plan with American Medical Response. The CAD interface is up and operational. It has been tested by Tri-Tech. A full test between Southwest Ambulance, AMR and the Fire Alarm Office is tentatively scheduled for March 12th. The GPS system went on line on March 2nd so that ambulances can be tracked. When SWA begins full 911 implementation, AMR and Las Vegas Fire & Rescue will be the primary providers for City of Las Vegas and the western side of the valley. Southwest Ambulance and North Las Vegas Fire Department will be the primary providers for the City of North Las Vegas and SWA will cover the east side of the valley along with Clark County Fire Department.

C. Hospital Divert Statistics

Dr. Davidson noted the hospital divert statistics for the month of January were included in the MAB packets. The statistics for February were not available at this time.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCE/CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Deputy Chief Ken Riddle distributed brochures for the International Association of Fire Chiefs "2001 Fire-Rescue Med" conference at the Orleans Hotel April 9-11.

Don Hales, from AMR, reported that on March 8th, the new divert pagers given to the E.D. Nurse Managers will be included into a group paging system. This will allow for mass communication of any divert problems to all emergency departments. Mr. Hales also requested that the new Pro QA Version of the Emergency Medical Dispatch system be put on the April MAB agenda for discussion. He stated that it replaces the Medical Priority Dispatch system approved by the MAB eight years ago. The Board agreed to have this item added to the consent agenda for referral to the appropriate committee. It was suggested that perhaps the ad hoc Dispatch Committee that reviewed the original Priority Dispatch System could be reinstated or a new ad hoc committee formed. Dr. Davidson appointed Dr. Han as chairman of the ad hoc Priority Dispatch Committee.

Dr. Homansky commented that he had recently read an article about 1,000 consecutive extremity fractures.. Out of the 1,000 injuries, only 18 of the patients received pain medicine in the field. Of the 18 patients who received pain medication, 16 received nitrous oxide and 2 received Demerol. He felt that even though it is more work to give narcotics, it should not stop E.D. physicians and paramedics from trying to give pain relief in the field. Deputy Riddle stated he has had a company approach Las Vegas Fire & Rescue about using a new nitrous system. He has literature available if anyone is interested in pursuing the use of this medication. Dr. Homansky remarked that nitrous is used in England almost exclusively for analgesia in the field. Dr. Davidson stated that if there is interest, the item could be referred to the Drug Committee for discussion.

Dr. Kwalick complimented Pam Turner and her staff at Valley Hospital for their quick reporting to the Health District of a gastroenteritis outbreak. It is currently under

investigation as to possible causes. Dr. Kwalick asked that anyone suspecting a communicable disease outbreak report it to the Health District as soon as possible.

V. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Dr. Davidson called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.