

**EMS Advisory Council
November 7, 2013
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702**

Call to Order—Mike Hansen at 11:00am

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes—Mike Hansen

Council Members Present: Stephen Holtsford, George Madland, Connie Mattera, Doug Sears, Ralph Graul, Mike Hansen, Tom Willis, Leslee Stein-Spencer, Jim Rutledge, Dave Loria, Greg Scott, Randy Faxon, Brad Robinson, Kevin Bernard, Herb Sutherland, Don Davids, Jack Whitney, and Ken Pearlman

Absent: Glenn Aldinger (proxy given to Mike Hansen), Richard Fantus, Melissa Dunning, and Lawrence Miller
Mike Hansen announces there is a quorum.

*A **motion** is made by Ralph Graul to approve the Minutes from the September 12, 2013 meeting. A second motion is made by Don Davids; no oppositions; no abstentions; minutes are approved.

Illinois Department of Public Health Report—Jack Fleeharty

IDPH is working to draft a guidance document to help EMS systems develop their own policies regarding the passage of the Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) legislation. IDPH met with the Illinois State Police (ISP) in the recent past and voiced concerns for EMS personnel. A future meeting will be scheduled with ISP's legal staff who'll be writing the Rules for this legislation, with the hopes that they'll work with IDPH to address these concerns.

IDPH is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to create a curriculum to assist veterans with integrating back into the work force using some of the medical training they've received toward EMT-I and EMT-P education requirements. Illinois was picked as a pilot state with EMS staff participating in meetings and conferences.

EMS Grant and Heartsaver AED Grant applications will be available in February using the new EGrAMS system. Stroke Rules and Stretcher Van amendments passed JCAR and are going to be filed with the Secretary of State this month.

Rules are before the Council today for fee waivers, decrease in CE hours for EMTs, EMT bridge program for military, 4 year ambulance license renewal, employers to verify an employee's license and technical clean-up. If approved, the draft rules will go to JCAR for approval and publishing.

IDPH continues to work with the Department of Aeronautics in revising the Specialized Emergency Medical Services Vehicle Rules and once a draft is completed they'll go before the Illinois Association of Air and Critical Care Transport (IAACCT), legal, and the Governor's Office; should go before the Council at the next meeting. HB 2778 passed both houses and is at the Governor's Office for signature. This allows for ambulances to upgrade for the level of personnel on board and limits advertising to the level that runs 24 hours a day. Rules will be drafted and should go before the Council at the next meeting.

There was great hospital participation in the National Pediatric Readiness Project Survey in which IDPH's Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program; the EMSC program wishes to thank them. Illinois received the 3rd highest score in the nation. Evelyn Lyons will distribute results in the near future.

The federal EMSC program is conducting an assessment currently of pediatric equipment on ambulances; 66% of EMS agencies have responded thus far with a goal of 80%—ongoing participation is encouraged.

Pediatric Recognition site visits are underway.

The Burn Surge Annex project in which the EMSC program is involved has included meetings between many healthcare affiliates from a variety of disciplines; a workgroup has been formed and the Annex must be

completed by the end of FY 2014. This Annex will be a component to the State's Emergency Disaster Plan when it is finalized and approved.

IDPH is waiting for finalization of a contract to move to Version 3 for the Pre-Hospital Data system; when approved the vendor will upgrade the system.

IDPH has implemented enhancements to the By-Pass system so that reports may be electronically transmitted seamlessly to the federal government using the HaVbed system. GIS staff have been working to implement a better mapping tool to provide further enhancements to the By-Pass system.

Computer/Electronic testing began for EMT exams on October 1, 2013 and the results are reflecting higher than normal failure rates. There also have been complaints regarding unfavorable conditions at kiosks, but they've closed those and re-opened others to resolve this. Jack Fleeharty notes this topic is on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting, but continues. Jack provides statistics on pass rates of paper-based and then computer-based exams and explains how the test questions were written and by whom, and that study guides are provided on two websites. When enough data is collected, IDPH will evaluate the results and assess whether corrective action is necessary. Jack reminds everyone to encourage students to not share material they've seen on the exam questions with other students. Jack reports that everyone has the choice to take the National Registry exam, yet now the Paramedic courses they've taken must be CoAEMSP accredited, or they can't take the National Registry exam. Jack reports that National Registry will no longer offer the EMT-I exam beginning January 1, 2014. Discussion ensues regarding the release of a sample test and how it should be created, study guide deficiencies, areas of exams where failures are surprising and not surprising, the complete old DOT blueprint incorporated into the new exam questions (instead of just parts, as in the old State exam), high percentage of failures testing in under two hours (not being careful with content), inexperience with the computer-based exams overall, etc. A question is asked whether IDPH will allow someone who's failed the computer-based testing, *while the failure rate issue is being analyzed/addressed*, to take the National Registry exam? Jack replies yes, if a waiver letter or request to switch is submitted requesting it. More discussion ensues about test writing, failures by exceptional students, whether National Registry would allow the State to use their exam(s) to which Jack states they will not, how the analysis is completed and what criteria will be used, the responsibility of EMS Systems to inform the students in Paramedic programs whether they are in a CoAEMSP accredited program, etc. Mike Hansen reports that this discussion will serve as the topic originally slated on the agenda for later in the meeting.

Trauma Registry version 6.1 deployment is very close; should be out in the next 30-45 days; IDPH will go to RFP to seek a new trauma vendor capable of working with the National Trauma Registry and NEMSIS data requirement guidelines.

The Trauma Program is currently responding to multiple data requests.

Trauma Site Surveys are underway and more are being scheduled.

Trauma plans are being reviewed as they come in.

Committee Reports

Legislative and Planning: No report.

EMS Protocols: No report.

Mobile Integrated Healthcare—George Madland: For the August 22nd and September 26th meetings, the minutes are approved and were distributed to the Council. The minutes from the October 24th meeting are not yet approved. IDPH is working on getting subcommittee members registration on the HAN so info/documents can be shared. The subcommittee is working within the Scopes of Practice under Non-Emergency Services to create protocols and an application to be used by the systems that will be completed after a needs-assessment is done, which will be given to IDPH for approval. They are looking at legislation from other states regarding scope of practice definitions, etc. They have great support from the private and

public sector. George will send out the National Association of EMTs survey on 11/8/13. Their next meeting is on December 12, 2013 at ICEP, 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

State EMS Protocols—Annie Moy: No report.

EMS Data—Mike Hansen: There was a meeting in September and October with the next scheduled as a teleconference on November 14, 2013. The new chair is Mike Neris (Loyola EMS) and the vice chair is Pat Sennett (Good Samaritan EMS). They're looking at version 3 NEMSIS data, specifically data elements from the State of Illinois. Anyone who'd like to join and work on the subcommittee, let him know.

EMS Education—Connie Mattera: Their last meeting (10/28/13) centered on testing. The Scopes of Practice survey is almost complete. It's assumed that Illinois will adopt the current model, plus the EMS Medical Directors can move from a higher column of practitioner to a lower column. Connie distributed handout at that meeting for those interested in this. This survey will help us see what our education curricula will look like when we move to the national education standards. Connie has hand outs for anyone who has questions and desires the information. This is the time to provide new feedback and would like the survey to be completed by February. The National Pediatric Workgroup met and Connie has a report if you'd like it. The Medical Director Clinical Guidelines Project is on track—by next summer the model protocols will be finalized to address the new scopes of practice models. The Emergency Medical Workforce and Planning and Development Guidelines were circulated to system coordinators....ask her to send it if necessary. Connie lists some other materials she has available. On November 1, 2013, The National EMS Advisory Council sent out a letter looking for requested changes and/or revisions to the education agenda; Connie will send it out electronically if you request it.

Jack Fleeharty adds that while IDPH is writing the concealed carry guidance, IDPH is also trying to identify a four-hour firearm safety program to offer education on the issue.

EMS Recruitment and Retention—Greg Scott: The minutes from the July meeting have been distributed; the minutes from the September meeting are not yet approved. The July meeting involved review of what the Lieutenant Governor Rural Affairs Council had been working on, such as planning for the October 8, 2013 EMS Summit. Discussions are underway regarding the next Summit in 2014. Rural EMS legislation topics were already mentioned by Jack Fleeharty. The next meeting is on November 14, 2013, 10:00am to 11:am.

Tactical EMS: No report, but Mike Hansen states there will be a bill presented by a few doctors in the spring session involving tactical EMS; Mike has given a copy of the draft to Greg Scott.

Emerging Issues—George Madland: The August 27th minutes were distributed and the October 28th meeting was held. The next meeting is on December 23, 2013, 10:00am to 1:00pm. Concealed carry was discussed between regions/systems and with Jack Fleeharty; the guidance will be helpful. Computer-based testing discussed; some felt the State should go to National Registry testing only. Since the last EMS Advisory meeting, DuPage County police have moved forward with developing a program to allow NARCAN to be administered to heroin users. There are pilot communities in favor of this program. There were meetings between fire departments and law enforcement about this and still continue. There is a law that gives law enforcement the ability to administer NARCAN, but this program was modeled from a Quincy, Massachusetts program where there is no EMS. Chris Vandenberg assisted hospitals with new Medicaid forms, which assisted with getting EMS providers paid.

EMS Medical Directors—Jack Whitney: No report.

State Stroke Advisory Subcommittee—Kevin Bernard: The administrative rules passed JCAR and the public comment periods; they are anticipating them to be in effect next month. IDPH hired a Stroke Coordinator as a "gatekeeper" for designations. The subcommittee is working to discuss potential addendums to legislation to include several topics. Next meeting is November 12, 2013 at Carle Hospital, 11:00am to 3:00pm.

EMS Alliance—Alex Meixner (Illinois Heart Association)

Mr. Meixner reports that the purpose of the EMS Alliance is to serve as a lobbying body for all EMS services—to give EMS a voice. A month and a half ago they had their first meetings with 15 or so organizations present.

The Alliance will work to make it easy for legislators to know there will not be opposition on specific legislation. The fact that HB 2778 was successful shows that the Alliance was heard. Mr. Meixner discussed Alliance's plans to work on dedicated funding issue and announced their By-Laws are in place. Mary Ann Miller has been selected as the EMS Alliance chair and Mike Hansen stated he'll share the minutes with the Council. There is a January 9th, 2014 meeting and a February 10th, 2014 meeting scheduled.

Old Business—Mike Hansen

Jack Fleeharty discusses the Flag Act; information will be sent out in the near future and administrative rules must be written. IDPH will be requesting a policy from all of the EMS systems to uphold the reporting of in-the-line-of-duty deaths. Jack suggests IDPH is notified within 24-36 hours and the notice is faxed to EMS.

EMS Legislative Initiatives—Mike Hansen: There is a letter included in the packets to support the Illinois Poison Center; looking at its continuation as being a benefit to EMS. Mike reiterates the success of the EMS Alliance and Greg Scott's relationship with the Governor's Office responsible for the passing of HB 2778 with no opposition.

Illinois EMS Summit—Mike Hansen: The Summit was great and they're looking for expanding its size for next year.

New Business—Mike Hansen

Approval of Rules & Regulation (Section 515 changes): George Madland makes a motion to approve the Rule changes and Connie Mattera seconds the motion. Greg Scott requests a revision to the language involving the KKK standards and granting a waiver...Jack Fleeharty states this oversight will be corrected. Jack asks the Council if they'd recommend 15 years as a retirement of vehicle service age maximum? Discussion ensues. Greg Scott recommends the D-Specifications and Jack says he'll revise it.

Greg Scott has question about current licensure requirements and responsibility by the employer. Discussion ensues. Leslee Stein-Spencer agrees that the responsibility should be shared equally between the system and provider. Jack states it's in the law that the provider is supposed to notify the EMS system when an employee is added to their staff roster.

Greg Scott has last question about critical care transport plan; Jack addresses that Tier I is not considered critical care transport; Jack needs to evaluate whether it needs to be written as separated in this language. The goal of this section is to disallow a provider to advertise as a critical care transport provider when they are merely Tier I; to differentiate between the Tier I and Tier II and Tier III providers. Jack agrees to add language to dispel this confusion, but noting it must be run by Legal first.

All in favor with modifications reported; all in favor; no oppositions; no abstentions.

EMT Testing Results: (already discussed earlier in the meeting during the IDPH Report presented by Jack Fleeharty)

Mike Hansen reports he'd like to discuss the use of videoconferencing as an option for meeting participation. He recommends an early January videoconference meeting to see how it works out. Jack Fleeharty announces that they have to modify their By-Laws to allow videoconferencing as a forum.

Future Meetings—Mike Hansen

- March 4, 2014

Wrap Up & Call for Public Comment—Mike Hansen

None

Adjourn

Meeting is adjourned via a motion by Greg Scott and seconded by Kevin Bernard at 1:23pm.