

EMS Advisory Council
June 6, 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 11:03am

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes—Mike Hansen

Present: Stephen Holtsford, George Madland, Connie Mattera, Mike Hansen, Tom Willis, Jim Rutledge, David Loria, Greg Scott, Randy Faxon, Kathleen Schmidt, Brad Robinson, Kevin Bernard, Herb Sutherland, Don Davids, Jack Whitney, and Kenneth Pearlman

Absent: Glenn Aldinger (proxy to Greg Scott), Richard Fantus (proxy to Mike Hansen), Ralph Graul (proxy to Brad Robinson), Lawrence Miller (proxy to Jack Whitney), Doug Sears, Melissa Dunning, and Leslee Stein-Spencer

Mike announces there is a quorum.

Motion made to approve the meeting minutes from March 12, 2013 by Kevin Bernard, motion seconded by Don Davids; no opposition; no abstentions; minutes are approved.

Illinois Department of Public Health Report—Jack Fleearty

EMS Week and Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day (22nd) was May 19-25; 2,000 years-of-service certificates sent out; awardees announced.

EMS Assistance Fund Grant FY2014 Application sent out; due back by June 30, 2013.

Legislative updates include the completion and review of the draft State Stroke rules, which were approved to move to the EMS Advisory Council for review; and Stretcher Van Rules changes, which were also submitted to the EMS Advisory Council for review. Additionally, rules have been adopted regarding Alternate Rural Staffing, Alternate Response staffing, definition changes with regard to MD, RN, NP and PA having an unencumbered license in the State in which they practice, Administrative Hearings, Bypass reporting, VA Facility requirements to participate in EMS Systems, VA Facility requirements for maintaining two way radios and participating in disaster and bypass situations, and the requirement of EMT candidates to take a refresher course instead of the entire training program if he or she fails the exam three times.

Other legislative updates include the Provisional First Responder amendments, which will go before JCAR on June 12th and the submission by the Illinois Association of Air and Critical Care Transport of proposed rule changes in the SEMSV language to IDPH for review. IDPH will also be working with a Trauma Advisory Council (TAC) subcommittee in the development of criteria for level two and level three trauma center services recommendations. IDPH provided language to State Representative Sullivan to move to a multi-tiered trauma system with the support of the TAC and Dr. Hasbrouck (HB 625). The bill has been held in committee while IDPH tries to answer some questions for the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) and the Illinois Hospital Association (IHA). This bill did not make it out of committee during this spring session. SB 2778, which allows for in-field upgrades of the level of a BLS ambulance, was not called for a floor vote before session ended.

HB 3186 passed, which reduces the overall number of education hours for EMT's. This bill addresses recognition of military experience and training and also provides free State testing examinations to the Illinois State Police, Illinois National Guard, and volunteers who serve for governmental or private not-for-profit organizations who serve exclusively as volunteers with populations of less than 5,000 persons. HB2777 passed, which will move ambulance vehicle licenses to a four year license with annual inspections. Both will go to the Governor's Office for signing. IDPH was unsuccessful at getting legislators to pick up or amend another bill that was being carried regarding the language for the New Education Standards.

The National Pediatric Readiness Project is a federal EMSC initiative to assess all hospitals across the country regarding their emergency capabilities and resources to meet the needs of children. Illinois hospitals have from April through June to complete this online assessment. If your hospital has not yet participated, please encourage your ED Manager to do so. Hospitals receive immediate results and the ability to benchmark with similar size hospitals after completion of the assessment. Contact Evelyn Lyons with questions.

Regions 1 and 10 hospitals are beginning to undergo their renewal pediatric facility recognition site visits. Hospitals in Regions 9 are working on their renewal applications and will undergo site surveys in fall/winter 2013.

The Illinois EMSC Advisory Board has an open position for an EMS System Coordinator to replace Martha Pettineo. If interested, please contact Evelyn Lyons.

IDPH will coordinate a statewide reporting drill of the State Bypass System this month, working with the federal HAvBed team (this is a grant requirement and is tied to ASPR funding). Also, IDPH has been able to hire a contractual software developer to work with our IT staff on some Bypass enhancements.

Regarding the prehospital System, automated (versus manual) feedback to data submitters will be phased in this month; IDPH has applied for federal funding through the Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee for conversion from NEMSIS 2 to NEMSIS 3 in 2014, and to link prehospital and trauma registry data into one EMS System, on a pilot project basis. The success of the applications will be reported.

Enforcement of the EMS Act reporting requirements are expected to pick up within the next year. Therefore we encourage all licensed transport vehicle providers currently not reporting to actively move toward compliance, including submission of any prior period data that was not previously provided to the state.

A team of lead instructors and some of the State Education Subcommittee members have completed the process of reviewing and updating the data bank of test questions for the EMT Basic exams and the Paramedic exams. If the New Education Standards are adopted, we will be ready to test. The team will convene to write the AEMT questions once the standards are adopted. IDPH has also completed the reviews of the RFP's for a new testing contract that will implement computer-based testing.

IDPH has begun work with Jack Whitney on the development of a survey tool that will allow us to adopt the New Education Standards scope of practice for entry level EMS personnel. Once the survey is completed it will be submitted to all of the EMS Medical Directors in the State for their input and then IDPH will request the State Education Subcommittee to assist in developing the curricula requirements that will be associated with the approved scope of practice criteria.

IDPH, in a joint effort with the Department of Veterans Affairs, has completed review (and is working on five others) of three curricula programs of the armed services and compared them against the EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic curricula. The goal is to develop training courses that will help veterans who are returning to civilian life be able to get State EMS licenses to pursue gainful employment opportunities.

IDPH is currently working with the SIU School of Medicine to develop a contract to get a part-time Emergency Board Certified physician to serve in the role of Medical Director for the Office of Preparedness and Response. IDPH also has State Coordinator vacancies in Region 1 (Rockford) and in Region 8 and 9 (West Chicago), as well as vacancies in Springfield for our Ambulance Compliance Program Manager and one licensing staff position. Hiring freezes have delayed filling these positions.

IDPH continues to work on multiple investigations and has staff members engaged in the rewrite of the State Medical Disaster Plan. Staff participation in CHEMPACK and SNS programs are underway, and the IDPH trauma staff are still working with our vendor to determine if we can maintain a functioning trauma registry, as well as preparing for and conducting trauma center surveys and plan reviews.

Questions: George Madland asks about veterans who are outside of the year; Jack Fleeharty says reinstatement rule may cover him/her in most situations and IDPH will approve waivers in deployment situations. Alignment with the 36-month reinstatement policy is suggested by Jack Fleeharty.

Committee Reports

Legislative and Planning: No report.

EMS Rules and Regulations: No report.

State EMS Protocols—Annie Moy: No report; Annie called Mike and has changes but was unable to be present; she will bring to September meeting.

EMS Data—Mike Hansen: He will report under New Business.

EMS Education—Connie Mattera: Everyone passed Instructor Level II! She announces dates/locations for next classes and is taking requests for sites/dates for next year. The test writing panel still needs to address the EMT-I, then Advanced EMT. Computer testing is possible but we will have to expand test bank questions to do so. When the Medical Directors complete the surveys and scopes of practice are determined, they may discover the test bank questions are not sufficient and may need revision. The April meeting was cancelled due to floods but work continued via teleconference with the DNR-POLST Committee. Mobile learning, webinars, etc. will eventually be available to make education accessible. Email Connie if you'd like D50 to D10 percent educational materials. Connie requests everyone begins to think of a "concept-based education curriculum."

The next meeting is the 4th Monday in July.

EMS Recruitment and Retention—Greg Scott: Their last meeting included discussion regarding the Summit taking place October 8 at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC). Topics include: Stroke Care, STEMI, Medicare/Medicaid reform, best practices, House EMS Task Force Report, legislation relevant to EMS, etc. They continue to discuss the issues surrounding ambulance service in rural areas ready to close their doors. IL EMS Alliance cooperation was discussed. The next meeting is July 11, 2013 via conference call, 10-11.

Tactical EMS: Mike state he's in contact with Patti Lindemann but nothing to report at this time, although conceal carry law changes may be discussed at a later date.

Emerging Issues: Mike announces Mary Ann Miller's retirement from Superior Ambulance and the vacant Council position for Private Provider. Mike says they'll continue with meetings. Mike nominates George Madland to take chair of Emerging Issues. The motion is seconded by Jack Whitney; no opposition; no abstentions. George Madland is unanimously approved as the new Subcommittee Chair for Emerging Issues.

EMS Medical Directors—Jack Whitney: He is working with Linda Angarola and Brian Kieninger for scopes of practice survey; with the national education standards legislation not going through, they have more time to complete. Connie comments that lead instructors/educators have questions and maybe in the interim they should take a look at the old DOT and provide support regarding curricula. Mike notes that the survey is important and EMS System Coordinators will be given notice when the surveys are sent out so their Medical Director complete them.

State Stroke Advisory Subcommittee: (report given by Lesley Cranick, Secretary of State Stroke Advisory Subcommittee) The Administrative Rules were sent to IDPH in February and will be addressed by the Council today. She reports some highlights of the content.

IL Heart Rescue Project: (Eric Beck not present but Art Miller from the American Heart Association (AHA) announces the CPR event at Wrigley Field on June 10.

Old Business—Mike Hansen:

The DNR form is posted to the website. Jack Fleeaharty reports that Dr. Goldstein has requested some changes; the Spanish version in the process of being approved and posted.

EMS Legislative Initiatives: There are many EMS bills being watched--many a direct result from the IL Task Force Hearings. The IL EMS Alliance is a group somewhat identified in the strategic plan; it's a common voice in EMS. The AHA has guided them in forming this Alliance to aid in making EMS an essential service; it's made up of people who represent EMS in Illinois. He's requesting the Alliance be comprised of 12 groups of people (IL Nurses Association, IL Fire Chiefs Association, IL Hospital Association, MYCEP, IAACCT, etc.). He'd like to form the Alliance before next legislative session that starts October 22, 2013. Mike requests input to be forwarded to him or Greg Scott. Randy Faxon questions whether the purpose of the Council has any place

other than EMS Act-related issues. Discussion ensues regarding Alliance composition and EMS Advisory Council representation, with Jonathan Gunn, IDPH Legal, responding that he'll research this topic. The IL Alliance hand-out Mike Hansen distributed is referred to as a reference during the discussion. Mike lists some of the members present today as being himself, Greg Scott, Alex Misner (AHA), Dennis Presley (?), Mary Ann Miller, Peggy Jones (ICAHN).

Mike reports a list of bills that have passed both houses and are awaiting Governor's signature, veto, or no signature (if he chooses): HB 84, HB 1854, HB 2761, HB 2776, HB 2777, HB 3186, HB 3233, and HB 1847; HB 2483 and SB 1945 were opposed successfully. Greg Scott reports the unfortunate opposition/stalling of HB 1729 and HB 2778.

New Business—Mike Hansen

Correspondence was returned concerning draft Rules and opportunity for review beforehand; Mike turns the floor over to Jonathan Gunn, IDPH Legal. Jonathan explains IDPH's perspective on the rule-making process and the authority given by the EMS Act (statute). Section 200 of the Act names five bodies/seats on the board/expertise from various aspects of EMS and those positions specified so the board has a far-reaching and advisory function. IDPH is ruled by the Administrative Procedures Act and these procedures must be followed. He notes the fairness of treating every citizen of the State the same and explains how disclosing upcoming changes to some and not others gives an unfair advantage to some. The Public Comment period provides everyone the opportunity to comment at the same time.

Mike Hansen takes the floor again to request comments regarding the State Stroke Rules and Stretcher Van Rules.

Connie Mattera notes that the word "primary" might be removed, calling it strictly "designated stroke center" as we now have comprehensive stroke centers. Also, she refers to how EMS is going to assess the patient as being left to the local people to decide/choose one of the three reporting scales based on what their documentation capability is. Lesley responds to her first concern that since "comprehensive" stroke centers are not even in the law yet, they cannot address them at all; this part of the language deals with the primary. To Connie's second concern Lesley states the State Stroke Subcommittee will take it into consideration. Greg Scott questions emergent stroke-ready designation. His concern is that most of these facilities will be rural and presents the example that most will only have one dose of thrombolytics. How are the EMS providers going to know if they've already administered their dose of thrombolytics? Also, limitation of nursing staff to transfer patients presents concerns regarding designation. The Draft Rules don't mention the availability of personnel to transfer patients to the next tertiary center. Lesley responds that the "lack of services" applies in the situation wherein they'd use the last dose. Jack Fleeharty suggests this is decided at the EMS System/Region level.

Mike Hansen states EMS Data recommendations from Dan Lee, which came from NEDARC, were given to Jack Fleeharty to review. Mike states the Data Committee prepared goals and objectives for each recommendation. Jack Fleeharty states he is not done with his review.

Mike asks for a motion to accept the State Stroke Rules with comments. Motion made by George Madland to accept the Rules with comments and seconded by Greg Scott. No opposition; no abstentions; Stroke Rules are approved with comments.

A motion is made by Greg Scott to approve the Stretcher Van Rules and seconded by Jack Whitney. No opposition; no abstentions; approved.

Community Paramedics: Mike states there is much conversation is taking place; Minnesota has gotten state Medicaid funding and CMS federal funding for their community paramedics. Mike would like to set up a committee; Dr. Valerie Phillips has agreed to chair; George Madland has agreed to co-chair. Greg Scott makes a motion to set up this committee. Discussion ensues about functions, definitions, and the purpose of community paramedics. George Madland seconds the motion to set up the committee; no opposition; no abstentions.

Elections: Mike Hansen is nominated and approved as the Chair; no opposition; no abstentions. Greg Scott is nominated as Vice Chair by Mike Hansen and seconded by George Madland. No opposition; no abstentions.

Future Meetings—Mike Hansen

- September 12, 2013 (Joint with Trauma Advisory Council)
- November 7, 2013

Wrap Up & Call for Public Comment—Mike Hansen

Jack Fleeaharty expresses his availability to anyone who wants to talk to him about IDPH business.

Adjourn: Meeting is adjourned by Mike Hansen at 1:40pm.