

**EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 10, 2004
TELECONFERENCE**

Members Present: Tim Meyer, Neil Frame, Rod Gilmore, Dan Ehlen, Donna Pretzer, Janelle Pepple, Nancy Capes, Cheryl Flick, Darleen Bartz, Debbie Weber, and Edgar Hintz.

Others Present: Michele Keller, Shelly Arnold, Todd Porter, Dean Lampe, and Linda Zahn

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meetings were sent prior to this meeting for review by the committee. At the last meeting there were not enough members present to approve minutes. Janelle Pepple made a motion to approve all the minutes, Nancy Capes seconded. With no opposition, the minutes were approved.

Election of Officers

Tim asked for volunteers for chair or vice-chair of the committee. Tim feels it would be beneficial to have a chair outside of the Health Department, but left it up to the committee to decide. Janelle Pepple motioned to not elect officers for the committee. Neil seconded the motion. With no opposition it was decided to not have officers for the committee. Tim reminds all committee members to feel free at any time to bring issues to his attention and they will be put on the agenda for discussion.

There was discussion about the modeling of this committee after the State Trauma Committee. They define a quorum as whoever is at the meeting instead of one over half. There was discussion about the difficulties of getting everybody together and the need to keep business moving. Tim stated that in the future there will be technology to allow more business to be done via the web. Neil suggested that email be utilized in the meantime. Shelly briefly discussed the way the trauma committee works. The trauma committee meetings are advertised so everybody has a chance to attend the meeting. If there aren't very many people at the meeting, they do not make voting decisions on controversial issues. They utilize email with motions made by people attending the meeting. If there is a quorum of one over half (11), the committee will vote on issues. If there is not a quorum at a meeting, motions will be emailed to all committee members to be voted on by a deadline.

Air Ambulance Rules Update

Rep. Todd Porter led discussion about the minimum requirements that should be set for air ambulances. He believes that the market should drive the service provided. A service utilizing two providers for ALS transport would get utilized more. Todd says the ground ambulance rules should be transformed into the air ambulance rules. Shelly stated that the Health Department is to serve the general public, therefore a two provider minimum to respond to an unknown emergency situation is best. A specialized license might be issued for an air ambulance with one provider that is called for transfers between facilities. There was discussion about the differences between having one provider in the back of a ground rig or on an air ambulance. A ground service can stop at any time and get assistance from the driver while waiting for an ALS intercept if necessary.

There was discussion about the committee's interest in a third level of licensure. Representative Porter will introduce it to legislation if that's the committee's decision, or it can go through the rules process. It would not get through the rules until the end of 2005.

Darleen stated that with the committee's recommendation and Representative Porter's support, they could take it to Dr. Dwelle and Arvy soon. It would take probably 9 – 10 months to complete the process.

A motion was made by Rod Gilmore to begin the rules change process as soon as is practical to incorporate another level of licensure for air ambulance called critical care ambulance. The motion was seconded by Dan Ehlen. The motion passed with no opposition.

Once the rules are opened for change any other issues can be addressed, including cleaning up the explanation of state licensing of personnel. This would probably require a subcommittee. Darleen explained the rules changing process. The Department goes to the Health Council and asks for permission. It then goes up for public hearing. There's normally a month before the public hearing for the notice to be out and then a month after the hearing for public comments to come in. Once all comments are in, the revisions are made and a review is done by the Attorney General's office for legality. Then it's filed with the legislative council. They would go into effect, but also go to the legislative rules committee. It takes a while to go through the process. Specific subsections can be opened for change. That would be one of the decisions to be made by the subcommittee.

Neil made a motion to put together a subcommittee to consider changes to all EMS rules which includes licensing of ambulance services and EMS personnel testing and training and certification. The motion was seconded by Janelle Pepple. There will be five committee members and some outside people. Everything will come back to the committee for review and approval. Tim will appoint the committee members. With no opposition, the motion passed.

Scope of National EMS Scope of Practice Model

North Dakota received more comments than any other state. The group discussed Tim's draft response to the National EMS Scope of Practice Model. All the legislators got a letter from New Rockford as well. Tim feels there would be a legislative block if this was put into effect. Neil made a motion that the advisory committee put their name on Tim's response in support as written. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no further discussion.

CISM Program Funding

NHTSA has decided that they will no longer fund CISM activities. The State DOT gets money from NHTSA and DEMS gets the money from them to support this program. ND spends about \$10,000 / year on the CISM program. Most of the expense is travel and training. Tim Weidrich will fund the program this year. This will be a decision made on a yearly basis. Other funding options are being looked at.

Other Business

No other business was brought forward.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 3, 2005. Tim would like to do a face to face meeting in April in connection with the EMS conference.

Rod moved to adjourn the meeting. Neil seconded the motion. With no opposition the meeting was adjourned.