

**EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 19, 2023
Virtual / In-Person Attendance**

Members Present: RJ Benth, Tim Blasl, Cheryl Flick, Ron Lawler, Kylie Nissen, Adam Parker, PJ Ringdahl

Members Not Present: Bert Anderson, Kari Enget, Tim Meyer

DoH Representation: Deb Dutchuk, Chettie Greer, Christine Greff, Kerry Krikava, Chris Price, Mary Waldo, Kari Kuhn

Others Present: Corrie Geurts, Lynn Hartman, Jake Keller, Tyler Kientopf, Joe Lies, Lindsey Narloch, Ken Rensch, Jeff Sather, Sherm Syverson

Appoint a chair for this meeting

No chair present, therefore, a chair for the meeting must be appointed to carry on business. As the only EMSAC member in physical attendance, Adam Parker volunteered to act as chair. This was agreed by all in attendance.

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were made for all present in person as well as via Teams.

Approval of Minutes: October 20, 2022

Motion was made: Approve minutes from October 20, 2022, as written.

Motion by Ron Lawler; second PJ Ringdahl.

No further discussion: motion carried.

Council Membership

Discussion/Update: Since the recent resignation of Curt Halmrast, there are currently four open positions within the Council. Previous discussion had included a suggestion of an application process to cast a wider net of applicants.

Current requirements in statute are:

- 3 appointed by an EMS organization
- 1 BLS representative
- 1 ALS representative

Chris Price discussed the ongoing desire to have a physician as a council member. He also feels there would be a benefit to extending the invite to a member from the PSAP/911 Association.

Suggestions were also made to include representation from the insurance commission/payer side of EMS, fire, a QRU rep as the fire rep, an EMS educator, and tribal EMS.

The suggestion was made to look at the mission of the group and collect the right stakeholders to accomplish that mission.

Motion was made: Direct HHS to amend EMSAC bylaws to outline membership to the following:

1. 3 NDEMSA appointees (recommendations)
2. ALS
3. BLS
4. Air medical
5. Educator

6. QRU
7. Legislator
8. NDHA
9. NDMA
10. 911 association
11. Insurance Commissioner representative
12. ND Rural health representative

HHS will also Solicit applications for the open positions prior to the next board meeting

Motion by PJ Rindgahl; second by Cheryl Flick
No further discussion: motion carried.

Chris asked that any further changes or recommendations to the bylaws be submitted to him prior to the April meeting to allow all changes to be made at once.

NDEMSA Legislative Update

Discussion/Update: Adam Parker gave an update on the rural assistance grant funding formula discussions. There is an ask for an amendment to the funding formula and service closures. (HB 1162)

The EMS rural assistance grant is included in the DOH Budget. Adam testifying on this.

Other bills regarding ambulance services include:

- Language of taxing districts and budget submissions.
- Prohibiting sending money outside of your own district.
- Limiting grant funding for the rural EMS assistance grant to ambulance services that receive a local match specifically by property taxes.
- Excluding ambulance services from audit fees from the state auditor – this bill was withdrawn but may come back.

Bills regarding ambulance services and funding can be found here:

<https://www.ndlegis.gov/assembly/68-2023/regular/subject-index/ambulances.html>

Rules

Discussion/Update: Chris Price stated that we are looking at a timeline of late spring/summer for public comment and summer hearings with the administrative rules committee.

Rural EMS Counts – Lindsey Narloch

Discussion/Update: Lindsey is working with ambulances that have signed on and looking at a recognition program to encourage services come on board.

National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP®) Foundations of Medical Oversight will be held at the Bismarck Event Center on Saturday, April 15, 2023, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. This will be in collaboration with the EMS Rendezvous. The course is approved for 6.5 AMA category 1 credits. LCCR hours will be granted also.

HRL/DEMS Update – DEMS Staff

Discussion/Update:

EMS for Children Program Update: Chris Price and Chettie Greer gave an update on the staff and activities of the EMSC program.

- Chettie Greer has recently started as the new EMSC Coordinator. Chettie has a nursing background.
- Chettie has sent out the ambulance survey and is recently at a 24% response rate.

- Chettie is very open to suggestions and asks anybody who would like to discuss the program to give her a call.
- Chris Price discussed that this position has once again been put into the budget as an FTE. An FTE would encourage consistency in staffing.

EMS System Update: Chris Price and Kerry Krikava gave an update on the EMS System activities.

- There was brief discussion regarding the proposed budget for (DoH) HHS.
- Chris stated an optimistic timeline of having the new database system update ready in June for personnel licensure renewal. Chris is hopeful that the personnel and QRU relicensure process will be done online in June of 2023.
- Wing ambulance is closing the end of January and their service area is being divided between various agencies. There will be discussion regarding grant distribution with changing service areas.
- Kerry Krikava mentioned the new website. Be sure to bookmark this new site as the legacy site is now a dead link. An email was sent to all agencies 12/29/2022. Also note: Joe Trauma is gone when looking for the link to Big Picture.

Stroke and Cardiac System Update: Christine Greff gave an update on the Cardiac and Stroke System activities

Stroke-

- PI Projects for 2022: BEFAST badge guide, BEFAST/FAST-ED algorithm, dysphagia screen
- PI Projects for 2023
 - Door to IV thrombolytic <60 minutes
 - Door-in door-out time
- ND Acute Stroke Treatment Guidelines have been updated to include an option for Tenecteplase. The new guidelines will be distributed with a resource to help facilities that are choosing to transition to Tenecteplase. The State will not recommend Alteplase or Tenecteplase this is a facility or organization wide decision
- Continuing ASRH site visits-the plan is to update/revise the 2021 designation criteria for site visits this year
- International Stroke Conference February 7-10, 2023

Cardiac-

- Cardiac Coordinator Orientation Manual
- Please spread awareness about our new Acute Cardiac Ready Hospital Designation Program
- Statewide registry selected: GWTG: CAD
- AHA Rural Health Care Outcomes Accelerator Program makes registry free through June 30, 2025, for all rural hospitals which includes Trinity
- SB 2085-remove ACTION registry that no longer exists from Century Code

CRC-

- AEDs available, awaiting order of pads to arrive, delays due to supply chain, once received AEDs will be distributed first-come first-serve. I am keeping a list of requests and I haven't forgotten about you.
- Cardiac Ready Community Advisory Committee meeting February 2, 2023-looking for a few new members to join our group and support our cardiac ready efforts. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a committee member

Helmsley-

- 2022 Hearts on Duty Donations working to recognize saves in Divide County, Towner County, Watford City, and Grand Forks

Trauma System Update: Mary Waldo gave an update on the Trauma System activities:

- Working through site visits
- ND Trauma activation guidelines have been issued
- Trauma conference will be held October 4 – 5, 2023.

- Sunday February 5, trauma tactics (Sanford Fargo)

Integrated EMS Plan

Discussion/Update: EMSAC is intended to advise the Department. There are three goals listed in statute one of which is *assisting the Department in the creation of an integrated EMS plan for each biennium.*

Chris stated that the last plan he has seen is from 2007 and we need to work on meeting this goal on a timely and regular basis. These efforts include:

- Identifying funding areas
- Recommending distribution plan of funding to ensure a reasonable level of EMS
 - The funding formula has tied us down to an outlined process
- Design a plan to ensure North Dakotans have access to EMS
- Direct funding if a service is determined necessary in the system, etc.
- Lindsey suggested an external statewide assessment
 - This takes funding and time to accomplish

Motion was made: Create a work group to work on the integrated EMS plan.

Motion by PJ Ringdahl; second Cheryl Flick

PJ will act as the chair for this work group; motion carried.

Virtual Learning

Discussion/Update: There was brief discussion regarding the changes in virtual learning opportunities and allowances. NREMT has permitted virtual learning for basically everything. This has created some issues with reimbursements and revealed a need for the reevaluation of reimbursement amounts.

A work group will be put into place to work on the reevaluation of reimbursement amounts.

- Ron Lawler; chair
- Jake Keller assist

Feedback will be brought to the next meeting.

Grant Update

Discussion/Update: Chris Price and Deb Dutchuk gave a brief update on the status of the current grants and grant funding.

REMSA: The grand spending is ahead of normal. This is a good thing to avoid any cutting of funding.

Other Business

Vice-Chair: Due to Curt's resignation it is necessary to elect a vice-chair for the remainder of 2023.

Cheryl Flick nominated Adam Parker.

Adam accepted and was voted in as vice-chair for the remainder of 2023.

The next council next meeting is April 20, 2023, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Adjourn

Motion was made: RJ Benth to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried