

**EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
October 20, 2022
Virtual Attendance Teams**

Members Present: Tim Meyer, Kari Enget, PJ Ringdahl Adam Parker, Tim Blasl, Kylie Nissen, Cheryl Flick, Ron Lawler

Members Not Present: Bert Anderson, Curt Halmrast, RJ Benth, Theo Stoller

DoH Representation: Christine Greff, Kerry Krikava, Chris Price, Deb Dutchuk, Rocksanne Peterson

Others Present: Lindsey Narloch, Corrie Geurts, Lynn Hartman, Joe Lies, Jeff Sather

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were made for all present via Teams.

Approval of Minutes: April 21, 2022

Motion was made: Approve minutes from April 21, 2022, as written.

Motion was made by PJ Ringdal; second by Kari Enget.

No further discussion: Motion carried.

Council Membership

Discussion/Update: The council discussed the number of members on the council. The council is authorized for 14 members but has been operating for several years with 13. Recently, the council has only had 11 members. Dr. English has expressed that he is not interested in being on the council at this time. Chris suggested reaching out to the ambulance medical directors. Dr. Kenney, Chris Boe, and a few others. The other positions not filled are the unaffiliated or ad-hoc and a hospital administrator. Marcus Lewis was a suggestion as well as Ryan Mickelsen. Tim Blasl felt both were good candidates. Lynn Hartman suggested Carol Enderle. Jacob Keller would also be interest in the council. Adam suggested sending out an email to the EMS providers regarding the open positions giving everyone an opportunity to join or apply the council. There has never been a solicitation for a member before.

Action: Chris Price will reach out to all the individuals that were mentioned. He will bring forth the prospective members at the next meeting. The commissioner of Health and Human Services will be the one who will appoint the council member.

Motion was made:

Motion by _____; second _____. Motion carried.

NDEMSEA Legislative Overview

Discussion/Update: Adam Parker gave an update on the rural assistant grant and possible legislative bills or issues that may be identified in the upcoming legislative session. Adam stated there have always been issues with how the rural assistant grant is formulated. It has a base budget of \$60,000. It is being recommended that a dollar amount be set for the grant. Adam spoke about the cost per call and how a run call would be calculated. The total appropriation for rural assistant grant is \$6.8 million; will ask for increase.

The Volunteer benefits with NDPERS will not be addressed this year. The definitions may be expanded to include EMS to the fire and safety plan.

Language may be to taxing district administrative rules and mandating districts for rural ambulances in some fashion. Lindsey Narloch felt that ND should look to use ARPA funds. Chris stated we tried to propose use of those funds but were denied. Tim Blasl also submitted a proposal for funds and did not receive.

Tim Blasl gave a legislative update as: Top three legislative items are the Department of human services budget, Roe vs. Wade (abortion bills), and Behavioral Health. Other legislative items concerning the ND Hospital Association are telehealth and workforce. Hospital Association supports higher term limits of 12-16 years.

Rules

Discussion/Update: Chris Price gave an update on the rules; 33-11 Licensing of Emergency Medical Services. The rules are ready to go to public comment and will probably take place later this year. The Department of Health and Human Services has legal team will be managing the rule making.

Rural EMS Counts – Lindsey Narloch

The Rural EMS Counts project will be continued for another 2 years. The following links provide information regarding the key areas of focus, toolkits, townhalls, statics and other vital information.

<https://www.ndemsa.org/Rural-EMS-Counts>

<https://www.ndemsa.org/resources/Documents/2022-ND-EMS-Index-Infographic-3-2.pdf>

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. The course is approved for 6.5 AMA category 1 credits.

Chute Time – Chris Price

Discussion/Update: Chris Price is asking for advice from the council. A survey regarding ambulance chute times was done, 45 of 99 ambulances were not in compliance or did not meet the requirements. On the ALS side only one ambulance was not in compliance. This should be only the emergent or 911 calls. This is all self-report data, the only way to get clean data is to identify whether if it is an emergent call. Any thoughts from the council, and whether staffing and workforce impacted this.

Kari Enget asked when the PPE should be put on. 9 minutes is an arrival time. Tim Meyer stated PPE should be put on when you arrive. Adam Parker stated nothing is going to make these in compliance. PJ Ringdahl stated this will be setting a precedence in looking into why they are falling out and what are they going to do to get back into compliance. This is a complex issue; ambulances need to be aware of their chute time and be proactive on their issues. The recommendation is to have ambulance(s) come up with a performance improvement plan or plan of correction. Chris stated that is how EMS will proceed and report back to the council at the January meeting regarding the outcome.

HRR/DEMS Update – DEMS Staff

DEMS – Human Services Merger Update: Chris Price gave an update on the September 1, 2022, Department of Health merger with the Department of Human Services. This may benefit us budget wise, our budget process was more in depth. Our requests were approved at the department level. He spoke about the ESO contract ending but including it to EHR for no cost and recommended to include it in the budget. Chris asked for 2 positions, was only approved for one. He is hoping it makes through governor and legislature. It has been proposed to pay for the trauma registry access. Chris also talked about the cardiac/stroke registry.

Chris spoke about the updating licensing management database (Big Picture). All of EMS's licensure would go online. Health Facilities annual facility license renewal went live on October 17, 2022. EMS had to do a paper application this time around. Emergency Responder license plate was to be online as well, but it is not ready, possibly by the end of the year. Do not FBI background checks yet. They have been issues with the compact language.

Chris spoke about the Ebola outbreak being limited to Uganda. Currently, there are about 140 people entering the US per day. The US is implementing health screenings upon entrance at five domestic airports for travelers who have visited Uganda in the last 21 days. We have four ambulances willing to transport Ebola patients.

Stroke and Cardiac Task Force Update: Christine Greff/Chris Price gave an update on the Cardiac and Stroke Task Force.

- Educational stroke videos and BEFAST/FAST-ED algorithm was distributed statewide. Continuing to work on a stroke dashboard for a performance improvement process. A Dysphagia Screen Webinar was held on October 19, 2022, presented by Speech Language pathologist for critical access hospital education.
- October ASRH site visits: Rolla October 13, 2022, and Bottineau October 25, 2022
- The Cardiac Task Force met on October 5, 2022.
- Cardiac Community Readiness Program guidelines are updated. The Fort Ransom Community Center was provided with CRC AED. EMS is assisting Facilities Management with a Cardiac Ready Campus project for the Capitol grounds.
- The full three-year Acute Cardiac Ready Hospital designation was granted to CHI Mercy Health-Valley City. The first Acute Cardiac Ready Hospital designated in North Dakota! Information regarding the North Dakota Cardiac System of Care Hospital Designation is available on our website at <https://www.health.nd.gov/north-dakota-cardiac-system-care-hospital-designation>.
- Helmsley – We are working on First Hearts on Duty program recipient in Divide Co. for cardiac arrest save August 2022.

EMS Children:

- It is impossible to recruit an EMS Children coordinator. We have not had any applicants. We are in the midst of writing the grant for the position. Chris has put in to make this a full-time position.

Trauma Update:

- The State Trauma Conference was held on September 27-29, 2022. There were 225 people were at the conference. The 2023 State Trauma Conference will be held in Grand Forks on October 4-5, 2023.

Workforce

North Dakota (ND) does not have enough people in the EMS profession. However, ND does better than other states. Ron Lawler stated that EMT and paramedics are getting their certificates and working in other areas such as hospitals and clinics. Tim Meyer wonders if there should be a focus group to look into the reasoning for this. Many feel a lot of it comes back to money and work life balance. People want to make a difference, but they don't want to give up their time and money.

Grant Update – Chris Price/Deb Dutchuk

Rural EMS Assistance Grant: It was reported that 69% of the Rural EMS Assistance Grant has been spent for the year. In the past, we have not had turn back any of the funds.

Training Grant: It was reported that about half of the Training Grant has been spent, we have turned back some of the funds. Money is available and we are encouraging people to spend their educational funds. Deb Dutchuk would like to know the best way to get the word out regarding the grants. It has been suggested that EMS be the one to provide and send the information out regarding how to apply for grants and other information, whether it is a newsletter, Facebook, email, etc. It was asked if educational funding could be provided to sponsor a speaker. There was a workgroup that was supposed to look at this, but they have not been able to meet. It may need to go to someone else to look at and work on. Jacob Keller asked if it would be possible to for an individual could be reimbursed for required education from the training grant.

Other Business

The council next meeting is January 19, 2023, at 10:00 – 4:00 pm.

Adjourn

Motion was made: Kari Enget to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 pm. Motion carried