

**EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
January 21, 2021
Virtual Attendance Via Teams**

Members Present: Tim Meyer, Jeff Sather, Heidi Lako-Adamson, Kelly Dollinger, Curt Halmrast, RJ Benth, Kari Enget, Adam Parker

Members Not Present: Lynette Dickson, Karin Mongeon, Theo Stoller, Tim Blasl

DoH Representation: Christine Greff, Sam Harrison, Kerry Krikava, Chris Price, Deb Dutchuk, Yolanda Karas, Rocksanne Peterson

Others Present: Lindsey Narloch, Corrie Geurts, Ken Rensch, PJ Ringdahl, Ron Lawler, Chris Montera, Patricia Hardy, Sandra O'Connor, Cheryl Flick, Heather Christianson, Jeremy Mattison

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were made for all present.

Approval of Minutes: October 15, 2020

Discussion/Update: There was a discussion as to whether there was a quorum to hold a meeting.

Action: Upon reviewing the bylaws, it was decided there was enough members present to move forward with the meeting.

Motion was made: Approve minutes from October 15, 2020 as written.

Motion made by Adam Parker; second by Kelly Dollinger.

No further discussion: motion carried.

Council Membership

Discussion/Update: The council had several discussions regarding council memberships. One discussion being the vacant positions and if they affect the bylaws. Another discussion related to the vacant positions was the approval of the appointed members by the state health officer.

Action: The group recommended Jody Ward replace Lynette Dickson and the NDEMSEA appointed PJ Ringdahl to the council pending approval of SHO.

Motion was made: to approve appointments.

Motion by Adam Parker; second by Kelly Dollinger. Motion carried.

Governance Document

Discussion/Update 1: The council discussed the length of time a member is on the council and setting term limits. They also discussed how the term limits would affect the membership since many of the members came on the council about the same time.

Action 1: It was felt a 4-year voting membership rotation would best. This would apply to everyone and the intent that it would kick in when the bylaws were adopted.

Motion was made: Approve a 4-year voting membership rotation.

Motion by Kelly Dollinger; second by Heidi Lako-Adamson. Motion failed.

Action 2: It was recommended to have those over 4 year term limit to have additional two years after the adoption of bylaws, this would apply to Tim Meyer, Curt Halmrast, Kari Enget, Karin Mongeon, Dr. Sather; those who have less than 4 years would be on the 4-year rotation. July 1, 2021 would be the effective date.

Motion was made: Those over 4-year term limit to have additional two years and those who have less than 4 years would be on the 4-year rotation after the adoption of the bylaws.

Motion by Adam Parker, second by Curt Halmrast. Motion carried.

Discussion/Update 2: The council discussed changes to the bylaws.

Action: It was recommended to move forward with the changes regarding the term limits in the bylaws.

Motion was made: To move forward with the changes discussed.
Motion by Adam Parker, second Kelly Dollinger. Motion carried.

NDEMSA Legislative Initiatives

Discussion/Update: Adam Parker gave update on the legislative initiatives. Kelly Dollinger provided testimony regarding the budget. They have some concerns with HB1493. County auditors must provide the property tax value information and there is not a deadline for when this information is to be supplied. They also testified on the community paramedic bill; trying to increase the scope and amended the bill to define the EMS transportation and point of care testing. They talked about the bill regarding 911 and ambulance boundaries. The Department of Health has the final say or authority to determine the boundaries through rules and regulation. Adam also spoke about HB1463 EMS personnel able to conceal and carry while on duty. Adam was asked about the new format of providing testimony. You can provide in person or via remote. Remote does work well. A very limited number of people many can attend in person.

Other Legislative Updates

Discussion/Update: Chris reported on the House and Senate bills Health Resources and Response is currently tracking during the legislative session. One bill in particular is SB 2121: this bill amends and repeals sections of the ND Century Code relating to statutory fees, safety belt usage and secondary enforcement of safety belt requirements.

Rules (Title 33-11)

Discussion/Update: Chris Price gave an update on the changes of the rules in title 33-11. He also spoke about the timeline for the rules and after today the next step is for them to be reviewed by the Attorney General's office. They will make sure the language will follow statute of the supreme court. If there are any changes, it will be brought back to the council. Most of the things the council has done has been within the century code.

Discussion: The council discussed the definition of #24 "Service Area". There were a lot of recommendations regarding the verbiage of the definition.

Action: Change the word obligated to designated.

Discussion: The council discussed the changes to #3 of 33-11-01.2-11 Transporting of patients. This would allow EMS personnel to take an individual to an alternate destination.

Action: None

Discussion: The council discussed changes to 33-11-01.2-14. At the request of the council, the difference between urban, rural and frontier was removed. They also discussed the verbiage of interfacility transport, this was discussed and agreed upon at previous meetings.

Action: The council will review it again after the Attorney General's office has a chance review it.

Motion was made: To adopt as written.

Motion by Kelly Dollinger, second Adam Parker. Motion carried.

Discussion: The council discussed 33-11-02-03 Staffing requirements.

Action: The ambulance can leave the bay with only the driver and an EMT; other EMT's are to arrive on site.

Motion was made: to approve the change as written.

Motion by Kelly Dollinger, second Curt Halmrast. Motion carried.

One last change, the equivalency regarding the PA, NP or NA was removed at the request of the council in 33-11-03-02.

Tim thanked Chris for his work on the Ambulance rules.

Process for Determining Service Areas

Discussion/Update: The council discussed the need to put a process in place for determining the needs of a service area, especially if one area closes their ambulance service and another area wants to establish a service where a service already exists. We currently we don't have a process. There is a fine line of balancing the needs of the public and someone just setting up service in between two other services in a certain area. There is a need to evaluate the economic, competitive and community impact.

Action: Resurrect a subcommittee to address the process and feedback from service area from public comment process get. The subcommittee to work on the process is Ken Rensch, Chris Price, Dr. Jeffery Sather, Lynn.

HRR/DEMS Update

DEMS Update: Kerry Krikava gave an update on the EMT licensure for 2021 as well as the requirements for 2022. National registry will meet the end of the month. The license provisional will end December 31, 2021 but may be extended. There has been a rush for responder license plates. The instructor coordinator's license expired as of June 30, 2020 but has been extended to June 30, 2021. Pediatric Mental Health will be the focus at the upcoming March, EMS Symposium.

Stroke/Cardiac Update: Money has been granted to EMS to for stroke and cardiac videos. No site visits have been done for designations because of COVID and the executive orders. Designations will start again when executive orders have been rescinded. We currently have 27 letters of intent for designation. The Helmsley training has been pushed back until February; more information will be available.

Trauma Update: Chris talked about the integration with Health Resources and EPR and staff. Mary Waldo has been hired as the Trauma Coordinator. Chris Price gave an update on the amount of money allocated to the EMS community for COVID \$4.4 million as well as the agencies that helped with COVID. There has been some frustration regarding the EMS website not being updated. Some of that is because of COVID and some is on us. We are in the process of updating the existing website and developing a new website. Chris also gave an update on the Big Picture EMT licensure database and the possibility of merging it with the Nurse Aide Registry database. It will be a much friendlier database. We have a deadline of June 30, 2021, to spend the funding for the updating the database. At this time, it is unclear whether we will continue to print badges; it is a possibility.

Grant Update

Chris gave an update on the EMS grants. There is about \$2.9 million that will need to be spent by the end of the year; it cannot be carried over. Deb Dutchuk will be working with the services to spend the money.

Other Business

Discussion/Update: The council discussed the possibility of getting the minutes and agenda out to them prior the meeting.

Action: The chair and the vice-chair are to meet with Chris Price to put the agenda together so that it can be sent out one week prior to the meeting.

Motion was made: to have the Chair and Vice-Chair to meet with Chris to put the agenda together to send out a week prior to the meeting. The council's next meeting is April 15, 2021, at 10:00 – 3:00 pm. Motion by Kari Enget; second Dr. Jeff Sather. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Motion was made: to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 pm.

Motion by Kelly Dollinger.