



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

EMSC NARCOTICS Subcommittee Work Group

Minutes

DATE: October 6, 2013

TIME: 1:58 P.M.

LOCATION: Indiana Government Center South Building
302 West Washington Street Conference Room 17
Indianapolis, IN 46221

INDIVIDUALS PRESENT:

Commissioner, John Zartman - Chairman, State EMS Director-Mike Garvey, Commissioner, Chuck Valentine, Robin Stump, Don Watson, Candice Hilton, Al Verbish, Dr. Michael Gamble- TAC member, Leon Bell-TAC Chairman, two representatives from DEA.

MEMBERS INVITED, NOT PRESENT: Dr. Sara Brown-TAC member.

Meeting called to order at 1:58 pm by Commissioner John Zartman and a brief history of a needs assessment was presented. Mr. Zartman stated that this committee was formed by the recommendation of the EMS Commission to review current process, rules, regulations, and the lack of consistency among EMS providers in the use, storage and purchasing of narcotics.

Introductions were made around the room. Commissioner Zartman started off by asking if there were any other stake holders that should be invited that were not at this first meeting. It was suggested that the following groups be invited to the next meeting: 1- a representative from Lilly or a drug manufacturer, 2- a hospital representative that makes the operating procedures for in house

narcotics distribution, 3- a representative from a hospital that works with distribution to an outside service providers. Commissioner Valentine volunteered to contact Dr. Kauffman, which serves as the Decatur Fire Department's EMS Medical Director, 4- a representative from the Indiana Ambulance Association.

The representatives from the DEA forwarded a copy of the DEA Practitioner's Manuel to Commissioner Zartman for reference material. Commissioner Zartman distributed copies to those in attendance for review. There have been, what seem to be a major increase in incidents of narcotic abuse in EMS over the last year, so in response to this increase the EMS Commission has voted to form this sub-committee/working group to review current practice, help tighten up regulations and better define the current rules. The rule currently reads that "all scheduled drugs have to be in a locked container within a locked compartment and that all drug storage has to be approved in writing by the EMS Medical Director".

The definition for locked container is different among staff so that needs to be better defined. No one ALS ambulance service seems to do the same processes in ordering, distributing, holding, or accountability. The representative from the DEA stated that they divide security into two categories, one is for non-practitioner like drug manufacturers and distributors who have to have huge storage vaults and security systems in place, the other is for practitioners for which the DEA looks to the states to set the standard for security. Security regulations need to be tightened up within the Indiana State rules.

Commissioner Zartman stated that the "Goal is to protect our EMS Medical Directors and to bring an organized system into play so that every ALS provider can meet DEA, State, Local rules, and to assure security and administration." These physicians are putting their livelihood on the line by allowing us the privilege to purchase these narcotics on their license and we need to assure they are protected from misuse.

Discussion followed regarding different security measures that exist now within the state of Indiana and the chain of command or the lack of chain of command in some cases. The DEA representatives are going to forward to Commissioner

Zartman the forms they use for chain of command, forms for reverse custody for destroying narcotics, and CFR on how to destroy narcotics. The DEA representatives are also going to send the web address to Commissioner Zartman that will track what law enforcement is pickup around the US, they also stated that they would check with other agencies to see if there are any other states with a system that works really well. They will send the contact information for that state so we can talk to them for ideas, as well as sending the CFR for storage of narcotics on boats as this seems to fit our classification on mobile storage. They also suggested possibly using self sealing bags to put the narcotics in so it has to be cut opened to take anything out of them.

The following are points of discussion and items that need to be looked at:

1. Better define what is a double lock
2. Develop procedures for purchase, quality control, and waste
3. Develop procedures for chain of command
4. Standardize processes to assure QA events, reporting, notifications
5. Other items that may be identified from this committee

The DEA stated that they are willing to offer assistance when needed. The committee will continue to work on the assignments, form additional membership stakeholders, form additional working groups to finalize the overall needs assessment, produce a working document to develop an action plan for any changes and submit to the EMS Commission for consideration and process.

The next meeting will be held on **November 12, 2013 at 2:00 pm** at the Government Center South Building, room to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John R. Zartman,

EMS Commission Member
Subcommittee Chairman