

EMS Education Committee Meeting – October 20, 2008

Members Present: Ed O'Farrell, Ron Parsons, Steve Garrison. Tina Butt, Suzan Henke, Hugh Garner, Lindi Holt, John Zartman, and Jim Christopher.

Staff: Tony Pagano, Julia Fox (EMS Education Manager), Sherrie Crain, and Amy Lindsey

Guests: Myron Mackey, Chuck Valentine, Terri Hamilton (EMS Commission members), Tony Hartman (Elkhart Gen'l), Emory Garwick (Methodist Hosp., Gary), Virginia Scherer and Garth Kagels (Fountain Co. EMS), Sylvia Trulick and Murray Stout (Spencer Co. EMS), Duaine Ashcraft (Grant Co. EMS), and Chad Abel (Fishers Fire).

Chairman Ed O'Farrell introduced himself and thanked everyone for being in attendance. He called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m.

Old Business

Julia made a report from the September EMS Commission meeting held at the Emergency Response Conference. The Education Committee had nothing to report to the Commission; however, the Commission chair did ask the Education Committee to look into developing an informational presentation to inform EMS students: of the process for obtaining certification, how to renew their certification once they obtain it and any situations that would hinder them from obtaining/maintaining certification (i.e. convictions, etc). Julia was nominated to create the presentation.

The normal order of business was interrupted to allow Chad Abel, Training Chief of the Fishers Fire Department and President of the Indiana Fire Instructors Association (IFIA), to make a presentation to the group on the IFIA. He gave a brief history of the organization and their goals and purposes. Chief Abel explained the need for the IFIA to attempt to encourage Primary Instructors from the field of EMS to join with the fire instructors to improve the working relationship between the two entities. Chief Abel turned the discussion over to the group to solicit comments from the group about the possibility of incorporating EMS instructors into their organization. The subject of encompassing a new group of instructors into the IFIA is currently a primary focus of the IFIA.

The regular order of business was resumed with Lindi Holt who spoke about the Future of IN EMS Education. Lindi discussed the options available to the state: 1) accept the changes as presented by NHTSA, 2) refuse to accept the changes as presented; and 3) develop a hybrid program that would gradually phase in the new program over a period of time. There were several things brought up at the sub-committee meeting in Schnellville. The 40+ folks that showed up for the meeting had mixed emotions involved in loss of skills, loss of current levels of certification, and cost of training to move to the next level in order to maintain their skill levels. Recommendations that came from the meeting were to continue to work on a hybrid changeover to ensure as much of the current skills levels could be retained. Also to work on a bridge program for EMT-I's that would encourage current EMT-I's to make the transition to Paramedic. This would encourage working to make the bridge course a reasonable training program.

Julia passed out copies of the article by Bill Brown that appeared in the September 08 issue of JEMS entitled "From Fragmentation to Unity." This article seems to lie to rest several concerns of folks with regards to this new scope of practice model.

The committee's time line has not yet been established; however, communications between the Education Committee and other principals is on-going.

Julia discussed updated information regarding the IDHS EMS Advisory Committee. Their next meeting is December 16, 2008 at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

At the July Commission meeting the Commission approved the staff looking at alternative training for autism. That program is currently in the works and is on-going. At the current time autism training is

required for all EMS personnel. In order to teach autism in-service, you must have participated in a train-the-trainer program for autism. Plans are currently for those folks that participate in the train-the-trainer for the SMART triage tags will be piggy-backed onto the autism training program and will be eligible for training both classes. If you are having problems getting help with an autism in-service, contact Julia at JFox@dhs.IN.gov.

New Business

Julia spoke of her meeting with Bill Brown regarding NREMT first-time pass rate statistics. Julia has another meeting with him coming up on the same subject. Julia is going to publish statistics in the Hoosier Responder beginning in January 2008 for paramedic. This should give us a look at what has been happening in Indiana regarding paramedic testing. John Zartman requested information regarding the other states and how they are doing compared with Indiana. John would like to have the information broken down by state, region, and by topic area. Steve Garrison stated that it appeared that the decline in past rates began years ago when they changed the test and that the test may be the problem. Another variable may be that the first time student never finished the testing process.

Bill Brown has asked to meet with the Education Committee and ALS Training Institution Officials to discuss the NREMT pass rates and answer any questions regarding the IN Scope of Practice. The tentative date is December 8, 2008. Julia will check and see what she can find and what venue is available that would seat a large number of individuals. She will also attempt to see if he would be interested in November 21 at Brownsburg. This would be the same date as the next Commission meeting. This would allow a much larger audience if we could accommodate the change with Mr. Brown.

The next discussion was on the district level ambulance competition. It appears that the state might be able to work with five competitions rather than having ten separate ones. Having ten would certainly tax the resources of the state. The state is looking to sweeten the pot by finding funding that would be available in each district for additional training along this line. A question was raised as to whether the state could recreate the intensity and quality of the current program. It was suggested that there needs to be a significant push to increase the quality of services rendered to the folks needing the care to insure the best quality possible. This is all about tying the competition and training opportunities together.

The online course approval process for the fire service has had a lot changes to make it more user friendly for the fire instructor. Currently, Julia is in charge of the course approval process for EMS training. She recently was reviewing the process and wondered why this process wasn't an online process. So, work has been started to make this an online process. The IT folks at the state are working to make this a reality.

Tony's exercise function is currently heavily involved in working with the up-coming Pan Flu training to be held November 14-15, 2008 at Muscatatuck. Openings are still available for volunteers who will serve as victims. You need to do this right away to be included in the program. Day One involves Bird Flu. The second day will involve the hospital aspect of the Pan Flu. They need your help.

A question was asked concerning the new PSID numbers. Julia answered that anyone having questions regarding PSID should contact psidquestions@dhs.IN.gov or call 317-234-6558 and someone will talk with you from certifications. On a side note, Jim Abraham has been appointed as the new Certification Section Chief for IDHS.

Lindi would like to try to have a sub-committee meeting on November 18 at 1:00 p.m. at Decatur Twp. Or we could meet on December the 11th. The next Education Committee meeting will be announced as soon as the January Commission meeting is established.

A question was offered up regarding the waiver that the Commission granted at the last commission meeting for St. Anthony's of Crown Point as to whether that was a precedent for anyone in the future or it was an ordinary process. The answer was that the Commission has granted waivers in the near past for Certified ALS Training Programs offering Paramedic training to be able to conduct an on-going course so

as to be evaluated by CoAEMSP/CAAHEP in order to seek accreditation of their paramedic training program. Typically, the waivers have been granted for 12 -18 months so that the requesting program can conduct a course and submit their self-study to CoAEMSP for review.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting will be announced.