

MINUTES EMS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

October 18, 2007

Wayne Township Fire Department Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

Members Present:

Steve Garrison	Ed O'Farrell
Ron Parsons	Lindi Holt
Tina Butt	Rita Herrington
Suzan Henke	Jim Christopher

Staff:

Sam Steinhilber	Tony Pagano
Bill Null	

Guests:

Mark Fair, Fayette Memorial Hospital, Connersville
Emery Garwick, Methodist Hospital, Gary
Jennifer Buchanan, Ivy Tech Region 6, Muncie

Chairman Ed O'Farrell introduced himself and thanked everyone for being in attendance. He called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Old Business

Tony explained that the Education Committee had nothing to present at the Commission meeting in September. The Education Committee was not given any new assignments or specific guidance by the Commission at this meeting. The Commission was told that the Committee would have the information on the 12-lead EKG curriculum by the next Commission meeting.

Tony asked everyone to submit their comments for the 12-lead curriculum prior to Nov 1 so they could go to the Commission at the November meeting.

Lindi Holt explained that the EMS Education in the Future committee she is chairing has met once. They have developed some objectives that they want to address and some additional items for action. They have decided that this is not going to be a quick fix; but, rather a two or three year project. They will look at specific topics such as critical thinking, skills, provider education, and the potential for PI updates. Other items may be added as they progress through the project. The next meeting is scheduled for October 24 and members will fine-tune their direction and topics. New members from the Education Committee are still being accepted. Contact Lindi or Tony for meeting time and location.

Indiana currently ranks 38th in paramedic test scores on the National Registry. This has decreased a little since the original figures were published. There doesn't appear to be any single factor that can be pinpointed as a cause for the decline. Nationwide scores are dropping. Bill

Brown, Executive Director of the National Registry said that he feels the reason for the drop in scores stems from a drop in the culture of excellence in education, not just EMS education, as a whole. Mr. Brown will be attending a meeting of the subcommittee in the near future.

Sam Steinhilber discussed the practical exam revision. On the practical exams, the group continues to meet about every other week. Twelve of the scenarios are complete and should be included in some of the new packets within the next couple of weeks. There is a question regarding cardiac and aspirin dosing. "What if the doc wants to increase the basic dose?" asked Sam. Is this something that should go to the Commission to determine or would this go against the current curriculum and require a curriculum change? Current practice is probably more in line with 2-4 tablets based on the medical director's decision. According to current curriculum standards, basic EMTs giving more than two 81 mg aspirins to a patient would be in violation of the curriculum and the Commission guidelines. However, there may be a need to go to the Commission to address the question of the additional dosage depending on the wishes of medical direction.

After discussion the issue will be turned over to the Operations staff to determine if the exact dosage is covered by the law or if the curriculum giving the basic EMT the right to administer aspirin at a dosage to be determined by the medical director as covered in their protocol..

The revised practical documents were presented by Steve Garrison to the Commission at the Emergency Response conference. They gave their approval to the revised documents. These revised documents will start appearing after January 1, 2008.

All Education Committee members should have gotten the sample curriculums on the 12-lead in their e-mail. Susan Henke has used the information and has been very pleased with the material. Susan will e-mail a copy of her program to Tony and he will forward it on to committee members and Commission members before their next meeting on November 16, 2007. We need to develop psychomotor skills for both intermediate and paramedic objectives.

Steve Garrison discussed Dr. Olinger's memo to Tony that had been forwarded to the committee members suggesting basic EMTs be allowed to do field 12-lead EKG's and to send them in to the hospital without interpretation. Steve asked what the committee wanted to do with this issue? There was a lot of discussion among those present to support this process. There is a majority of those in attendance that believe that we need to recommend to the Commission that all certifications above the level of First Responder be allowed to acquire and transmit 12-lead EKG's at their November 16th meeting and that we inform them that we will return at the following commission meeting with the education packet that would include a curriculum for all certifications above First Responder and in interpretation for paramedics.

Computer-based testing kicked off about the first of September with the exception of Evansville who is having trouble with their telephone lines. The information we are receiving is that most people are really happy with this new testing process. Additions to the availability of additional testing programs will come as some of the minor bugs are worked out.

New Business

There has been talk about the State approving refresher courses. There seems to be a constant flow of requests for these courses. Tony asked if there is a need to require folks to present a syllabus and request to offer refresher courses. There is a DOT outline for refresher courses at all levels. Requiring agencies to request permission from the state to offer such a course could create more problems than it would solve. General consensus of those present is that we don't need that at the present time.

Tony received a call about pre-hospital RN's. The caller wanted to know whether Indiana would ever use, or consider using, persons certified as a Pre-hospital RN. Recommendation from the assembled group is that the state does not want to get involved in this certification issue.

Tony also received a phone call about the possibility of allowing First Responders to use pulse oximetry. Again, the group recommended that this issue not be considered at this time.

Jim Christopher asked about having a single instructor certification to present classes to five levels of EMS certification. "Everything we do requires a PI to teach." As the same time, a doctor cannot teach by themselves in the classroom outside of the paramedic program. "Why can't we have a certification or level of individuals that are content knowledgeable that could teach an EMT class without having a PI babysitter?" Although this issue has been raised before, there has never been enough support to get it out of committee. There has been a recent rule change that would allow content knowledgeable individuals to teach specialty classes such as hazmat, driving laws, extrication, and WMD without the PI being present in the classroom. A recommendation was made to allow the sub-committee on EMS Education in the Future review this issue to allow content-knowledgeable non-PI EMTs being allowed to teach in an EMS class without PI supervision.

Today's meeting was held on Thursday, a change from the familiar Monday meeting. It was suggested that we poll the membership of the Education Committee as to the best day and the majority would rule.

The next Education Committee meeting will be held after the first of the year in January or February. It will be announced by e-mail to each member.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.