OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 22, 2002

Members Present:
James Cooper
John Grolich
Jim Rosenau
Ed Gordon
Chuck Ford
Debi Butturi
Dennis Rose
Tom Kitchens
Steve Davison
Gregg Harris
Members Absent:
Paul Beal
Ralph Hollenbeck
Ron Wark
Michael Keever
Don Amber (excused)
Alan McCoy
Staff Present:
Mike Garvey
Rebecca Blagrave
Sherrie Crain
Others Present:
Stephen Garrison
Jackie Richey
Lewie-Bob Hiatt
Lee Turpen
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Rosenau.
Dennis Rose offered a motion to approve the minutes. Second by Tom Kitchens. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Specialty Care Transports
Mr. Rosenau introduced Lee Turpen, AMR of Evansville. Mr. Turpen addressed the topic of Specialty Care Transports and how the state can meet the specialty care transport needs of ambulance service providers.

The federal government allows providers to bill for transportation on three levels: BLS, ALS, and Specialty Care Transport (SCT). The government ruled in October of 2002 that to qualify for the SCT rate, the paramedic must be "specially trained." Since Indiana

has no scope of practice cap for paramedics, it is now impossible for any provider to qualify for the SCT rate.

Prior to the October 2002 ruling, AMR was providing training and certifying its personnel as "Critical Care Transport Providers" in a in-house designed training course. Such training does not comply with the new rule.

To allow Indiana providers to collect fees at the SCT rate, Indiana needs to define what a "normal" paramedic can do. Mr. Turpen suggested that the State EMS Commission define the scope of practice at the current curriculum level then allow for the approval of additional skills to be taught on an individual basis. This would allow providers to qualify to bill at the SCT rate while effectively allowing paramedics to perform any skill based on medical director approval.

The fear is that if paramedic providers can not recoup the costs of critical care transports they will simply refuse to make the transport. The projected loss of revenue to paramedic providers if the state does not define the skills of the "normal" paramedic is over $3 million in 3 years.

Deb Richey offered that paramedics make such transfers routinely. Patients suffer because there is no uniform training due to the current curriculum. Stephen Garrison suggested that perhaps it is tome to cap the scope of practice for paramedics in Indiana. Mr. Rose offered that if the commission accepts Mr. Turpen's recommendation providers can still trains their paramedics over the curriculum. The scope of training would become and individual provider issue.

Deputy Director Garvey stated that the statute is very specific in that a paramedic is only a paramedic when he is under the control of the provider's medical director. He suggested that the committee meet jointly with the Education Committee, look at statute and current rules, and then determine a recommendation to offer to the commission.

EMS Plan
Deputy Director Garvey stated that the state and its committees need to communicate better with provider organizations. They also need to research the impact of decisions they make. He suggested a joint meeting where the committees could set goals and make plans for the future. A joint meeting will be scheduled for after the first of the coming year.

OLD BUSINESS
Accident Reporting Database
Steve Davis demonstrated the Accident Report Database he had developed. He suggested some changes in the reporting form to make the data input easier. Sherrie Crain will update the form and e-mail it to the committee.

IHERN Waivers
Deputy Director Garvey was asked if the commission will begin approving waivers for

IHERN. He responded that in Indianapolis, IHERN is of little use because of the volume of traffic. It is also of little use elsewhere in a disaster for similar reasons. There is agreement that Indiana EMS providers need a backup radio system, there is also agreement that that system may not be IHERN.

Deputy Director Garvey also reported that the agency was preparing draft statute language regarding EMD that will better define the role of EMS.

John Grolich passed out materials concerning legislation to cover heart attack and stroke in line-of-duty deaths for public safety officers.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Education Committee. The date and location have yet to be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.