



SCOPE OF PRACTICE AD HOC COMMITTEE

STATE BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL, FIRE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MEETING MINUTES

July 25, 2019

Committee Meeting Date and Location: Thursday, July 25, 2019 at the ODPS Shipley Building, Conference Room 1102, 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223

Committee Members Present: Karen Beavers, Geoff Dutton, Mark Resanovich, and Kevin Uhl

Committee Members Absent: Kent Appelhans, Dr. Hamilton Schwartz, and Dudley Wright

DPS and EMS Staff Members Present: Beverly Cooper, Ellen Owens, Kris Patalita, and Rob Wagoner

Public Present: Dr. Thomas Charlton and Rob Martin

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was brought to order at 10:40 a.m. Kevin Uhl welcomed the group. Quorum was attained.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Uhl briefly described his concern with the August meeting date. He is afraid some committee members may not want to attend as they will be attending the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board) meeting and associated committee meetings on the two prior days. There was a brief group discussion. This meeting will remain scheduled for August 22, 2019.

Addition of New Members

Mr. Uhl wanted to clarify the process for adding new members. There was a brief discussion about three new members to present to the EMFTS Board at the August meeting. The new members to be added are Dr. Thomas Charlton, Rob Martin, and Rachel Velasquez.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Uhl will present new committee members to the EMFTS Board at the August 21st meeting for approval

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Patalita asked the chair to add an item to the agenda that was inadvertently omitted. Mr. Uhl acknowledged that approving the meeting minutes needed to be added. Mr. Uhl requested a motion to approve the minutes.

ACTION: Motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 19, 2019. Ms. Beavers – First; Mr. Dutton – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

Overview of this Committee

Mr. Uhl provided his vision for the committee as well defining the goals of the strategic plan. The most important items are analyzing and bridging the gap between the national scope of practice and Ohio's scope of practice, additions to be made regarding mobile integrated healthcare, and dealing with the fallout of the various changes, including the ripple effects. He mentioned utilizing workgroups and technology to facilitate progress.

Dr. Thomas Charlton briefly discussed the aspect of ripple effects and whether a rule change would need to be made regarding changes to the scope of practice and the subsequent education associated with it. Deputy Director Rob Wagoner asked Geoff Dutton if he had been working on a checklist regarding the impact of changes in the scope of practice. Mr. Dutton advised that it was discussed at a medical oversight committee (MOC) meeting. They proposed developing a form or checklist of factors to consider when contemplating making a change to the scope of practice. There was some additional discussion regarding this topic. Mr. Dutton volunteered to develop a flowchart/checklist for dissemination and discussion at the August meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Dutton will develop a flowchart/checklist for items to consider when changing the scope of practice. This will then be disseminated and discussed at the August meeting.

Dr. Cunningham's Gap Analysis

Mr. Wagoner described the presentation that Dr. Cunningham gave at the EMFTS Board retreat in February. He provided further information about how the national EMS scope of practice model was published by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 2005. The EMFTS Board approved utilizing this model as the floor for the Ohio EMS scope of practice. Since it was first adopted, changes have been made. The NHTSA published a new version in 2019 and numerous gaps between it and Ohio's scope of practice were identified. Mr. Wagoner then displayed Dr. Cunningham's gap analysis PowerPoint presentation in the room and provided commentary on the same. The gaps were described separately for each level: emergency medical responder (EMR), emergency medical technician (EMT), and paramedic. There were no new gaps identified for the advanced emergency medical technician (AEMT). The presentation also covered deletions and amended language/terminology in the national model. There was a lengthy group discussion regarding the gaps identified and the potential impact.

Mr. Wagoner then utilized a handout entitled Ohio EMS Scope of Practice vs. National EMS Scope of Practice Model 2019 Gap Analysis that was provided to all committee members. Mr. Wagoner went through it, delineating what the various colors represent. There was a lengthy group discussion regarding the gap analysis document.

Mr. Resanovich left the meeting during the aforementioned discussion.

Mr. Wagoner further discussed other elements of the gap analysis and his interpretation of what needs to be incorporated into Ohio's scope of practice in order to be in line with the national model.

Dr. Charlton left the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

There was some group discussion about possibly streamlining the process for updating rules in the future to make them more broad-based in order to more easily incorporate changes in technology. Ms. Owens warned the group about making the rules too generic, which could lead to a misunderstanding or misuse of certain devices. She advised that this could make it difficult to enforce discipline if the information was not clear enough for everyone to understand. There was some discussion about what providers are misinterpreting now with the current way the rules are written. Ms. Owens gave some examples of questions that the DEMS has received in the past. Ms. Owens advised that she would compile some examples of Ask EMS questions that have been received before the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Owens will compile examples of Ask EMS questions regarding the scope of practice to be discussed at the August 22nd meeting

Mr. Uhl asked if there is anything in the national scope of practice model that does not need to be in Ohio's scope of practice. There was a discussion about how removing items from Ohio's scope of practice is accomplished. Ms. Owens advised that removing something from the scope of practice would require a rule change if it is in the scope of practice rules. She further explained the process and the variables to consider. There was a group discussion regarding some of the language and the risks of adding too much to the scope of practice.

Mr. Dutton asked if there was a list of scope of practice frequently asked questions (FAQs). Ms. Owens advised that there is an area on the DEMS website where FAQs are answered.

Mr. Uhl suggested that the committee review the current Ohio scope of practice matrix and Dr. Cunningham's gap analysis. They could determine what skills, if any, should be removed, including the list of suggested deletions in the gap analysis. Ms. Owens stated that anything that they want to strike from the scope of practice matrix would then have to be reviewed to determine if it is currently in the national education guidelines that the schools have to teach, which are referenced in the rules. The only items that can be removed by just a vote are the ones that are in the matrix only; otherwise, it will need to go through the complete rule amendment process.

Mr. Uhl formally requested that the committee members review the documents before the next meeting and determine what, if any, deletions should be made. They should be prepared to discuss their findings at the next meeting. Ms. Cooper asked if he wanted the language/terminology changes dealt with in the same way as the deletions. It was decided they should be. There was some further review and discussion on the scope of practice matrix, the gap analysis, and what should be revised.

ACTION ITEM: Committee will review the gap analysis information as well as the current Ohio scope of practice documents and prepare to provide comments and/or suggestions at the August meeting for items to be amended/deleted

Ms. Owens suggested that this committee review the items that were added to the final curriculum that are not in the national education standards. They will then need to determine whether they should continue to be in Ohio's scope of practice. She further explained that there are things that Ohio has added to the scope of practice on various levels that are not part of the national education guidelines. Mr. Dutton asked if a list of just those items could be generated. Ms. Owens said that she would make a list and provide it at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Owens will compile a list of items that are not in the national education guidelines but are in Ohio's scope of practice to be discussed at the August 22nd meeting

A discussion ensued regarding when to present changes to the EMFTS Board for approval. Ms. Owens explained that once a rule change process has begun, a new rule cannot be filed until the first rule has gone into effect. The rules that are being processed right now will not go into effect until April of 2020. There was a lengthy group discussion concerning the process and the various stakeholders involved. Ms. Cooper explained some of the additional steps in the process regarding rule changes. She emphasized that any issues with the associated stakeholders should be worked out prior to filing.

Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)

Mr. Wagoner suggested that the topics of mobile integrated healthcare (MIH) and Agenda 2050 need to remain on this committee's agenda for future discussions. He further explained how these topics could affect the scope of practice in the future. The EMS Agenda 2050 was provided as a handout and Mr. Wagoner recommended the committee members review the components involved.

Mr. Uhl reminded the group of the assignment to be completed before the next meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

ACTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Beavers – First; Mr. Dutton – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Next meeting:

August 22, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. in the ODPS conference room 1102.