



Kent Appelhans, Chair
Mark Marchetta, Sr., Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

MEDICAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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

MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2021

Committee Meeting Date and Location: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, The Charles Shipley Building located at 1970 W. Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43223 in Conference Room 1101 from 09:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Geoffrey Dutton, Chair, Mark Resanovich, Vice-Chair, Dr. Deanna Dahl-Grove, Martin Fuller, Mark Marchetta, Dr. Amy Raubenolt, Cody Shetler, Allen Young, Dr. Paul Zeeb

Committee Members Absent: Dr. Thomas Charlton, Dr. Eric Cortez, Daniel Heuchert, Scott McCloud, Jason Waltmire

DPS and EMS Staff Members Present: Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director, Ellen Owens, EMS Liaison, Telina Fields, EMS Support Staff, Michael Wise, ODPS Legal Services

Public Present: Chris Montero, Government Director, ESO, Michael Wise, ODPS Legal Services, Regina Yatkey, EMS fellow at University Hospitals of Cleveland, Lance Zeli, State Representative, ESO

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Dutton welcomed everyone. A brief discussion began about the start time of the meeting and asked members if they would like to continue meeting at 9:00 a.m. Due to discrepancy with the meeting schedules listed on the Division of EMS (DEMS) Calendar and the DEMS website, the committee members were notified that today's meeting would begin at 9:00 a.m. The members collectively agreed to continue meeting at 9:30 a.m. as posted on the DEMS website. Mr. Dutton introduced the committee's newest member, Mr. Cody Shelter. Each member introduced themselves. Also present was Mr. Lance Zeli, state representative for ESO who introduced himself to the group and gave a brief description of his role along with Mr. Chris Montero. Mr. Michael Wise, ODPS Legal services, also introduced himself.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting were reviewed.

ACTION: Motion to approve the 08/17/2021 Minutes. – First. Mr. Marchetta. Second. Dr. Raubenolt.
None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

New Business

Stroke Bill (SB 21)

Mr. Dutton began discussion about the Senate Bill 21, the recent law regarding acute stroke care. Dr. Cunningham reported that the final draft of the revised acute stroke guideline will be presented to the EMFTS Board tomorrow and the revision has to be posted to the DEMS website, as required by the law, by December 20. The draft acute stroke guideline has been distributed to the Board members for review. Dr. Cunningham reported that local medical directors are required to meet with their stakeholders and networks to review and revise their stroke protocol and all local acute stroke protocols must be submitted to the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board), Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and the Regional Physician Advisory Board (RPAB) by March 20, 2022, and annually beginning on July 1, 2023. Dr. Cunningham said the EMFTS Board is hoping to streamline the submission process by distributing any acute stroke protocol submitted by the local medical director to the DEMS and the other parties such as RPAB and ODH. Mr. Dutton inquired about the significance of the current stroke bill. He noted that a stroke bill has been presented every year and has not made much progress. Dr. Cunningham was under the understanding that a legislator's relative had a bad outcome following a stroke and this facilitated the bill. She noted that the bill does not mandate adoption of the acute stroke guideline approved by the EMFTS Board and that medical directors continue to retain the authority over their protocols. Dr. Cunningham also noted that medical directors should be aware of their protocols submitted because they will be posted publicly. Mr. Resanovich had voiced he read the bill and recognized there is no granted authority. Ms. Owens responded that DEMS has no authority to review the submitted protocols and guidelines. She continued by saying the protocols and guidelines can only be received and then posted. Mr. Dutton asked about the presence of written protocols for all EMS agencies. Dr. Cunningham noted that this is not always the case and referenced the DEMS' experience during "The *Burden of Stroke*" study in which EMS agencies were selected by transport times of greater than 45 minutes and counties that did not have hospitals in their area. At that time, she discovered that some medical directors or EMS agencies did not have an acute stroke protocol. Dr. Cunningham advised that all agencies should have a stroke protocol and include best practices depending on the resources available in the community.

Action Item: Mr. Dutton will follow up.

Vaccine Bill (HB218, formerly HB 435)

Mr. Dutton proceeded with discussions on the vaccine bill which is still pending. He provided a brief description of the vaccine bill and stated it will allow EMTs to perform COVID-19 tests. Mr. Dutton followed by noting that this psychomotor skill is included in the National EMS Scope of Practice Model, but it has not yet been added to Ohio's EMS scope of practice. Mr. Resanovich added if COVID-19 testing is added to Ohio's scope of practice then it will have to be taught in the curriculum for initial EMS certification and would affect all EMS schools. Mr. Resanovich suggested reviewing alternatives to adding the vaccine bill to the scope of practice due to the restraints of how the Ohio Revised Code is written which current mandates that all elements of the Ohio EMS scope of practice is included in the curricula of Ohio EMS education institutions.

Action Item: MOC will discuss at a later meeting.

Ohio EMS Grant Priorities

AED/Waveform Capnography

Mr. Dutton voiced that the Board has identified two priorities for grant purposes and asked the members their thoughts on priority grant funding. Mr. Resanovich discussed the history of waveform capnography and how its important role in patient care and safety led it to be added as a grant priority. He stated that the data reflecting the number of EMS agencies applying for funding for waveform capnography would be helpful in deciding if this should remain a grant priority. Dr. Cunningham asked MOC members to consider adding high flow oxygen via nasal cannula to grant priority funding when the technology is developed to increase the oxygen delivery capacity of EMS transport vehicles. With the current transport vehicle equipment, the amount of oxygen required for this airway management adjunct depletes the oxygen supplies within minutes during EMS transports. Despite the current gap in oxygen carrying capacity, she reiterated that high flow oxygen via nasal cannula has been added to the National EMS Scope of Practice Model and should be supported via grant funding for EMS agencies.

Pediatric Simulation Training

Dr. Cunningham stated that pediatric simulation training should remain a grant priority, and Dr. Raubenolt agreed. Dr. Raubenolt added that all agencies should be surveyed on what they feel is a need and what should be prioritized for grant purposes.

Action Item: Mr. Dutton will follow up with Johanna Burgess – EMS Grants.

American Rescue Act Plan Funding for First Responders

Mr. Dutton stated he and Director Wagoner had a discussion and are interested to know how EMS would benefit from this funding. Mr. Marchetta informed the members that the portion available for EMS and Fire is 75 million and that agencies will have to go through Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to obtain the funds. Mr. Resanovich added that the Governor spoke at a briefing and stated this funding would be designated more for resilience than for sustainability. He voiced his concerns surrounding staff shortages and the effects it has on communities and expressed how important it is to retain EMS and Fire providers. Dr. Zeeb agreed, stating that the workforce sustainability is a major issue and the money should be used to develop a means to keep the

people working right now. Dr. Cunningham followed by saying there needs to be a foundation of support for the current workers paired with recruitment. She suggested that funding should be set aside for a scholarship program for future EMS providers and not used to increase salaries. Dr. Cunningham noted that EMS and Fire providers are being trained then leaving for hospitals, and larger entities and non-medical professions for more pay which leaves her concerned about future leadership.

Increased Staffing Shortages

Mr. Dutton stated that Julie Rose and Kent Applehan from the EMFTS Board reached out for input and ideas regarding staff shortages. Dr. Cunningham informed MOC members that CMS are in the process of creating a Ground Ambulance Billing Advisory Committee and that an individual from the state of Ohio has been nominated. Dr. Raubenolt inquired about the reason why EMS is not considered an essential service and how this mission can be established. Mr. Resanovich noted that there are less people available and agencies are constantly looking for ways to cover their operations. A discussion was led by Dr. Dahl-Grove regarding the reason for the shortage of providers in which she stated was an issue prior to the pandemic. Mr. Resanovich added that the demand for EMS and Fire providers is too great and the jobs require too much commitment and time away their families. Mr. Young stated that the communities have been unable to pay for EMS services due to outspoken individuals who are against paying taxes and the rural areas are having difficulties paying for services due to the amount of people in their areas. Mr. Dutton asked about the accuracy in a recent news article citing the number of EMS and Fire providers currently employed. Ms. Owens expressed the numbers are not accurate and they have remained about the same the past few years. This led to a discussion about the number of EMS education institutions by Mr. Young who stated potential students are being turned away because the classes are full. Dr. Dahl-Grove suggested reaching out to elementary school students to begin speaking to that age group about the EMS and Fire professions because not everyone can afford college. Mr. Shelter shared a plan he has implemented in dealing with the staff shortages which provided additional help with assistance for calls. He detailed an agreement with local businesses who are allowing their EMTs and AEMTs to assist with calls.

Action Item: Mr. Dutton will draft responses to Julie Rose and Kent Applehan. He suggested that MOC members reach out to them if they have additional input to the discussion.

RPAB

Mr. Dutton mentioned that during a previous MOC meeting, Dr. Cunningham was to discuss the EMS medical director requirements for specialty critical care transport agencies. Dr. Cunningham stated the topic was presented at the previous RPAB meeting and the membership felt that the current waiver process provided the EMFTS Board sufficient flexibility to provide waivers to serve as the medical directors of these agencies. She advised the MOC that the EMFTS Board has never declined a waiver request from specialty critical care transport agencies who were not board eligible or board certified in emergency medicine. Dr. Zeeb inquired if a regulatory amendment would be needed to approve the newly created online National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) EMS medical director course as an option or an alternative to the Ohio ACEP program. Dr. Cunningham informed the members the current language in the regulation approves the completion of the EMS medical director courses provided by NAEMSP or Ohio ACEP and does not place any limitations or parameters on the format in which the course is delivered. As such, completion of the NAEMSP online course can be used to fulfill this requirement for physicians applying for a waiver to serve as a medical director of an Ohio EMS agency.

Action Item: MOC will discuss at a later meeting.

Old Business

Medical Director Conference

The Ohio EMS Medical Director Conference plans and progress were addressed by Mr. Dutton. Dr. Zeeb voiced that a date needs to be chosen especially for those who have other course options pending. Dr. Zeeb also advised the members that ODOT reservations have to be made six months prior to an event and Dr. Dahl-Grove suggested the committee consider tentatively choosing a date for summer or fall 2022 due to the patterns of the variants.

Action Item: Mr. Dutton will contact ODOT regarding reservations.

Identifying Goals/Issues

Mr. Dutton reminded the group to email him with any issues they would like discussed at the Board meeting.

Adjourn

ACTION: Motion to adjourn at 10:31 a.m. Dr. Dutton – First. Mr. Resanovich– Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

Next meeting:

February 15, 2022