EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
April 20, 2017
Burlington Building

Members Present: RJ Benth, Heidi Lako-Adamson, Curt Halmrast, Lynn Hartman, Ken Reed, Jim Restemayer, Lynette Dickson, June Herman, Kari Enget,

Members Not Present: Tim Meyer, Karin Mongeon, Chet Pollert, Jerry Jurena

DoH Representation: Tom Nehring, Kelli Sears, Kerry Krikava, Elizabeth Pihlaja, Jan Franklund, Linda Zahn, Lindsey Narloch and Kari Kuhn

Others Present: Corrie Geurts, Ron Lawler, Marcy Kuhenn, Tanya Homiston, Tyler Kientopf, Joe Lies,

Curt Halmrast welcomed the committee and introductions were made around the table.

New Council Members
RJ Benth
Heidi Lako-Adamson

Approval of Minutes:
Motion made: EMSAC approval of January 19, 2017 meeting minutes.
Motion made by Ken Reed; seconded by Lynn Hartman
No further discussion; motion carried.

Medical Director Subcommittee – Tom Nehring (for Jeff Sather)
• At the annual EMS medical director meeting at the EMS Rendezvous there was discussion regarding creation of a medical director subcommittee
• Dr Benji Kitagawa – chair
• Annual plan for meetings
  o Minimum of two face-to-face
  o Minimum of two teleconference meetings
• Major discussion will be aimed at quality improvement and medical director inclusion

Budget – State / Section / Division – Tom Nehring
• DoH has not been finalized through the legislature at this point
• Cuts coming through general funds
• Most of EPR is federally funded
  o DEMS operates on general funds
• Voluntary separation program is currently in process
• Work force reduction may follow if necessary
• Cuts have taken place in grant programs
• Question raised about EPCR funding
Web based PCR system - $250,000 start up, $60,000 annual maintenance
Possible funding sources are being looked at

NDEMNSA Legislative Update – Jim Restemayer

- HB 1105 – Relating to the definition of emergency vehicles
  - Added / changed for clarification of certain vehicles owned by ambulance services / QRUs to be considered Class A vehicles
- HB 1210 – Relating to cardiac ready community program
  - Set up a stronger system moving forward
- HB 1314 – Relating to limited liability as related to AEDs
  - Offers better protection for use of AEDs
- SB 2231 – Relating to air ambulance
  - Opposed by hospital association
  - Invalidates subscription services
  - No recent updates
  - Establish all as preferred providers
  - Insurance department bill
- SB 2312 – Relating to EMS providers working in the hospital
  - Cleaning up language defining these providers and who is designated to supervise them
  - Gives the hospital more flexibility on deciding appropriate supervision

Rules – Tom Nehring

- Final read through scheduled with Tim Wiedrich 5/11
- Will then be submitted for public comment
- EMSAC members will receive a copy of rules at that time
- Question regarding distribution of service area of closing ambulance services
  - Neighboring ambulance services do not have an option of absorbing these areas
  - Duty to act
  - State law states closest service ‘in time’ will be dispatched
  - Ambulance licensure does not designate a service area

3rd Annual National Rural EMS and Care Conference – Tom Nehring

- April 25 – 26
- Fargo, ND
- Hoping for 150 attendees and to grow annually
- Information and agenda can be found on multiple websites including the DEMS website
- Grant writing workshop preconference

EMS 3.0 – Curt Halmrast / Ken Reed

- Future of EMS reimbursement
- Innovation as a system
- EMS 1.0 = you call, we haul
- EMS 2.0 = fairly robust response component with clinical complexity and medical oversight
- EMS 3.0 = funding of healthcare moving towards innovation and patient outcome centered
o Evolving of EMS to offer a wide spectrum of services dependent upon patient need
o Better integration of health care
o Doesn’t embrace the volunteer system
o Re-imagine EMS system to meet the current needs of the community
o Creation of regionalized systems

NDEMSA Management Conference – Curt Halmrast
- June 5 – 6
- Ramada – Bismarck
- Recruitment / retention
- QA / QI
- HIPAA
- EMS system finance
- Bankruptcy / debt collection
- 16 topics to chose between
- Agenda is not completely finalized

CAH / EMS Meetings – Lynn Hartman
- Open line of communication between ambulance services and hospitals
- Discuss differences and establish solutions
- EMS 3.0 discussions
- Contact Lynn with suggested locations / topics
- Host a meeting at a CAH with a system of EMS agencies that filter in patients
- Possible exercise – envision what would happen with the loss of one or the other.
  o Establish appreciation
  o How would agencies / hospitals be impacted

Possible New Measure 2 (property tax abolishment) Movement – Curt Halmrast
- Seeking more funding and help in driving a new ‘measure 2’
- Failed in 2012 due to no answer to replacement of funds
- Something to think about coming up in the next couple years
- EMS was not previously on the ‘exception list’ of those things that would still be funded

Resuscitation Academy – Tom Nehring (for Shila Thorson)
- DEMS staff attended the resuscitation academy last fall
- Increase survivability of sudden cardiac arrest
- Evidence based medicine
- Hosting an academy in ND
  o June 26 – 27
  o June 28 – CODE-STAT training session
  o Burlington Building
  o Limited seat availability
  o Developing a list of interested parties to be invited
  o Based on similar efforts of cardiac ready community
Being put on by experts from
Hoping for an annual event

Funding Area Grant Discussion – Tom Nehring

- Funding amount not decided yet
  - Expecting $3 million / year of the biennium
- Intercepts and community paramedic activity has not been taken into account yet
  - Intercepts would end up equaling paying for the same run twice
  - Community paramedics only effects 2 services within the state – only 1 that is eligible
- Review of draft grant guidance and confidential draft of spreadsheet showing estimated funding
  - Using a 10 year run median
  - These numbers would be revisited on a regular basis
- Agencies that have not applied in the past are also eligible
- All agencies go through the same application process
- Availability of Division staff to verify compliance
  - This includes desk reviews / sub recipient monitoring
- No prescription of how to spend funds
  - Funding to be used as needed
  - Self governing system
- May push for more collaboration
- No control of waste
- Discussion of possibility of utilizing ‘left over’ funds to encourage innovation including services that were not eligible
  - Guidelines
  - Selection process
  - Slim possibility of ‘left over’ funds
- All funds still need to follow legislative intent
- Objective process
- Possible addition of an ineligibility requirement relating to operating budgets
  - i.e. 3 years of operation expenses in the bank makes a service ineligible
  - Possibility of promoting wasteful spending to get to the level of eligibility
  - Adding pieces removes objectivity
- Possibility of a scaled funding mechanism
  - 0 – 100 runs = $300
  - 101 – 200 runs = $200
  - A model to support the middle rather than the bottom or the top
- Applications out and available in May
- Funding areas need to establish a board to look at the strategic plan etc
  - Not joining of assets
  - Governance of authority
  - Allow for more innovation
  - EMS authority rather than just a funding authority
- Discussion of reverting back to old funding area design after having joined with another during previous funding cycles
• Discussion of the 10-year median
  o Should this number be the previous calendar year or two years
  o 10 years is a long time in EMS
• Possibility of requesting a letter of intent to know how many applicants there will be
  o Too late in the process for this cycle
  o Possible for next year
• State regulation of compliance is an important piece
• QA/QI information will be discussed at the management conference
• Inclusion of information regarding Rural EMS Improvement Project

Motion made: EMSAC supports the planned grant guidance and distribution methodology developed by the Division.
Motion made by Ken Reed; seconded by Diane Witteman
No further discussion; motion carried.

Other Business

June Herman –
• Movement of the cardiac ready communities program
• DoH budget actions
  o Removal of flexibility by DoH to move budget items

Tom Nehring –
• Elizabeth is working on an RFP to re-establish the leadership academy in North Dakota

Jim Restemayer –
• Randy Severson is working on online education
• Diversify offering NCCR hours

Kelli Sears –
• Instructor refresher was held at EMS Rendezvous
  o Overall reviews were good
  o Highlighted quality control
  o Discussed pass rates
  o Training institution alignment and incentives

Joe Lies –
• Letter of intent for DES grants are due tomorrow

Lindsey Narloch –
• Looking for a good way to collect medical director contact information

Upcoming Meeting Dates
July 20, 2017
October 19, 2017