

MEDICAL DIRECTION COMMITTEE
Office of Emergency Medical Services
ODEMSA Office
Oct 2, 2024
10:30 AM

Members Present:

Stewart Martin, M.D.
Charles Lane, M.D.
John Morgan, M. D.
Kayla Long, D.O.
George Lindbeck, M.D.
Samuel Bartle, M.D
Asher Brand, M.D.
Christopher Turnbull, M.D.
Paul Phillips, D. O.
Tania White, M.D.
E. Reed Smith, M.D. Scott
Weir, M.D.
Amir Louka M.D.

Members Absent:

Allen Yee, M.D., Chair
Benjamin Palachick, MD
Chief Eddie Ferguson

Staff:

Debbie Akers
Cam Crittenden
Scott Winston
Karen Owens
Ron Passmore
Mohamed Abbamin
Daisy Banta
Michael Berg
Amanda Loreti

Others:

Michael Player
Gary Samuels
Heidi M Hooker
Ryan Scarbrough
Tarsha Robinson
Megan Middleton
Chris Christensen
Michelle Ludeman
Neha Sullivan, MD
Peppy Winchel
Jeff Ferguson, MD
Monty Dixon

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Welcome	Dr. Reed Smith filling in for Dr. Yee who is deployed to the Hurricane relief effort	
II. Introductions	Performed as usual – no special guests	
III. Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve: Louka. Second: Martin. Approved unanimous voice vote.	
IIIa. Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve: Louka. Second: Martin. Approved unanimous voice vote.	
IV. Epidemiologist report	State Epidemiologist Report by Daisy Banta Concern expressed that STEMI data may be muddled by inclusion of EKG findings that are not specific to STEMI. Concern expressed that the pain management numbers are not believable. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee asked that BLS transports be removed from the pain numbers Discussion regarding Dexamethasone for Bronchospasm – Discussion regarding increased use of ORAL DEXAMETHASONE. A lot of discussion regarding Steroids for children and adults and the use of ORAL STEROIDS.	Action- Epi to change pain totals to exclude BLS transports.

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V. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) & Board of Pharmacy (BOP) Compliance Issues	<p>AMIR Louka discussed FDA letter: Apparently there is no problem with VA EMS Drug system according to a letter from the DEA. George Lindbeck thinks that the letter referenced from the DEA might not really mean what it says, he also points out that the Hospitals are likely done with the Drug Box Programs.</p> <p>Dr. Louka asked what the effort is to move the “artificial” deadline out to a more realistic timeline. What is OEMS doing to help agencies with this effort? There was no response from any OEMS official in the room.</p> <p>Dr. Reed asked for a unified response from OEMS on extending the “deadline” for drug box change over. Mr. Passmore said that OEMS did advocate to maintain the Drug Box system – he says that he cannot really do anything.</p> <p>Dr. Turnbull asked for a letter from OEMS supporting Drug Box changeover deadline delays. Mr. Passmore said that because of the climate in OEMS he cannot do anything. He pointed out that grants are available through RSAF.</p> <p>Michael Player spoke at the podium to give an update on Peninsula’s EMS Council effort and referred to letters between congressional representative the DEA and FDA. He is asking for an effort to move the deadline forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Morgan asked for help from the State’s Executive Branch on this issue. • Dr. Louka pointed out that Southwest Virginia is in a very bad position given a hurricane related emergency to deal with replacing the drug box system. • Ron Passmore suggested that the Governor might not have the authority to address this issue. And added that Southwest Virginia does not rely on Hospital Drug Boxes. • Chief Ferguson asked again for help form OEMS in terms of a letter or help on pushing the deadline out. No response from any OEMS official in the room. <p>Motion: Amir Louka, second by Charles Lane – Dr Louka to draft a letter from MDC to many groups that might be involved in this issue. Motion approved by show of hands.</p>	<p>Dr. Louka to write a letter.</p>
VI. Ron Passmore	<p>Rules and Regs has received a request for an exemption from PHI AirMedical. Current regs require a Flight Nurse to be an RN for two years. They have an Flight Paramedic who has been licensed as a RN and they would like to have that person become a flight nurse based on hours of flight crew experience.</p> <p>George Lindbeck second by Scott Weir to support the request for an exception.</p>	
VII. Special Reports		
VIII. Unfinished Business	<p>Neha Sullivan working on a white paper for recommendations regarding protections document for OMDS. The paper is going to be an MDC work product. Goas are to develop a best practice document. She spoke to responsibility/authority disconnect that is well known in EMS with respect to quality-of-care oversight. There</p>	

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	was a discussion about a Fire Department requiring Chief approval before credentialing action by the OMD where practice privileges are being removed. Mr. Passmore said that would violate VA Regulations.	
IX. New Business	Charles Lane: Joint task force with Training and Certification Committee. Concerns regarding final check offs at the end of EMS classes. Also, pressure on trainers to cut standards of education. Meetings and recommendations to follow.	
X. Research Requests	None	
XI. State OMD Issues – Dr. George Lindbeck	Cam Crittenden: State OMD contract was with UVA. Plan to change the contract. Currently, no state medical director.	
XII. Office of EMS Division Reports	<p>Debbie Akers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keep an eye out for new EC's. Soon we will have 1000+ ECs in the State. • National registry requires medical director check offs. <p>Chief Ferguson thanked Debbie Directly for her work with National Registry and with Education in Virginia.</p> <p>Karen Owens: Discussion about Baxter's North Cove, NC facility going offline because of the hurricane. Likely interruption of the availability of IV fluids.</p> <p>Mike Berg: Update on the Grant Application process. 202 items requested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Berg asked for a motion to support EMS System initiative Award for ePCR. The motion was made by Charles Lane, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amir Louka asked what the cost was. Cam Crittenden said difficult to quantify a total cost as it depends on the volume of the agencies. Base State contract was 2.4M dollars per year previously. ○ Asher Brand opposed the motion because of effect on EMS agencies. ○ Charles Lane withdrew the motion because of insufficient information • Chris Christiansen representing Western Virginia EMS would like to oppose the defending of Virginia's ePCR. He proposed an alternative motion. He proposed language for a motion: "The Medical Direction Committee assert that the Virginia Office of EMS and the Virginia Department of Health must maintain funding for the EPCR program to prevent placing an unfunded mandate on EMS agencies and to ensure they have the necessary resources to fulfill regulatory requirements." No Committee Action taken. <p>Mohammed Abbamin discussed FOYA guidelines for public meeting. OEMS feels that any subordinate to the EMS Advisory Board must follow FOYA laws.</p> <p>Charles Lane looking for support for Training and Certification to provide in a public portal the data provided by Fitch and Associates regarding the recent review of OEMS. Motion Charles Lane, second by Amir Lucka: MDC</p>	DR. Yee to bring forward motion to the EMS Advisory Board

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	<p>recommend to Advisory Board that the Fitch and Associates raw data be made public on an internet portal so that it is available to the public. PASSED BY UNANIMOUS vote</p> <p>Amir Louka – discussed the Fitch Report especially the new number of Council Regions. Karen Owens pointed out that they are just recommendations.</p>	
XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT	NOPE	
XIV. Future Quarterly Meeting Dates	January meeting is updated to January 16 th	
XV. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:39 p.m.	

