

**DRAFT**  
**Statewide EMS Advisory Meeting**  
**Las Cruces, New Mexico**  
**November 6, 2013**

Committee Attendees:

Pete Bellows, NM EMT Association, Chair  
Jim Stover, NM Hospital Association  
Gregg Kotila, EMS Region 1  
Nate Lay, Emergency Services Council/SAR  
Joaquin Graham, Region 2  
Linda Warren, EMS for Children  
Marc Nason, NM Firefighters Association  
Art Rios, NENA

Absent:

Mike Richards, MD, UNM Health Sciences  
James Williams, EMS Region 3  
Mick Leo, MD, ACEP, Medical Society  
Chad Hamill, NM Fire Chiefs, Vice chair  
Brent Hamilton, NMAMTAC  
BJ Brunt-Palmer, NM Nurses Association  
Vacant, Consumer Advocate  
Vacant, NM Ambulance Association  
Vacant, NM Public Safety/Emergency Preparedness

Pete Bellows called the meeting to order at 1:44 PM.

Pete Bellows requested introductions and asked for changes to the agenda. Introductions were made and there were no changes to the agenda.

Linda Warren held Mick Leo's proxy. Pete Bellows held proxies for Chad Hamill and James Williams.

**A quorum was in not in attendance.** Since there is not a quorum in attendance, there will be no formal actions taken.

Doug Campion made opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the EMS Region 2 Conference.

Pete Bellows welcomed Marc Nason of the NM Firefighters Association to the EMS Statewide Advisory Committee (SWAC).

**The minutes from the July 24, 2013 meeting were not reviewed at this November meeting and will need to be posted to the agenda in February 2014.**

Committee Reports:

Air Medical Transport Advisory Committee:

There was no report given.

### Medical Direction Committee:

Dr. Moore stated that the Committee is adding highlights regarding Community EMS language to the EMS Scopes of Practice (SOP) that will mirror the Wilderness format within the rule. The Committee has had a second meeting to further define a Critical Care Transport language to the rule. Kyle stated that we are looking at what is appropriate medical direction, training and quality service for that level of service. We will be putting in language into the SOP about over the counter medications for all levels of EMS, with input from the NM Board of Pharmacy. Over-the-Counter (OTC) language will show that it's use will be for pre-arranged events (scheduled stand-by) and not be applied to 911 response. The MDC will also add tourniquet use to all levels of EMT, clarifying the language in the SOP.

EMS First Responder Scope of Practice changes included the removal of traction splint, added hemostatic dressings and narcan nasal administration, removal of the subcutaneous route, acupressure was removed only from the First Responder scope, and LMA was removed; the data has shown that First Responders do not insert LMA's. First Responders can also give narcan in the patient's own auto-injector.

Other highlights in the SOP included removing MAST for treatment of shock and Point-of-Care testing was expanded to include BGL. Changes to the Intermediate Scope of Practice included adding of sublingual nitroglycerin for pulmonary edema and CHF. Intermediates can transport with antibiotics with infusion pump already started.

The changes in the SOP Paramedics included the removal of pediatric intubation ages 12 and under; special skills are available, if there is found to be a need for a service. Vagel maneuvers was clarified. Dopamine was removed from the scope, however but vasopressor agents were included as a drug class. Administration of the patient's own pulmonary hypotension drugs. The scope clarified types of ventilators that are allowed to be carried by the Basic and Intermediate levels. CPAP would be approved for all levels, CPAP and BiPAP for Paramedics.

Recommendations will be made to the Sec. of Health, followed by a public hearing to promulgate the rules. Realistic to get the rule promulgated about 3-4 months out. Serum lactate will be placed as a general category for Point-of-Care at all levels, Critical Care Transport (CCT) services will have their employees attend a Bureau approved course and take a third-party national exam, as part of their training program. It will be up to the EMS Agencies in regards to what they want to include in their CCT menu (ie: iStat, etc.).

The next MDC meeting will be Friday, January 10, 2014 at 0930 hrs in Albuquerque.

### Joint Organization on Education (JOE) Committee Report:

Rob McDaniel, Chair-elect will present the report. The next JOE will meet on December 5, 2013 at 0900 hrs. The EMS Academy website will post JOE material on a JOE link. The last meeting was fairly short, the JOE retreat will revolve around curriculum development at the Ruidoso conference. The JOE voted to approve the EMS Educators Association as far as taking the role of training initial and renewal of instructors in-state and taking on organization role of notifying instructor coordinators (I/C) of the continuing education responsibilities. The JOE did not give over their responsibilities for the personnel actions and monitoring of instructor coordinators (I/C).

Pete Bellows shared a concern regarding a perceived redundancy between JOE and the Educator's Association and that the Statewide EMS Advisory is not in the loop regarding these changes. Joaquin Graham asked if this would remove the obligation from the training schools to verify I/C credentials; as mentioned, this was not the case.

The JOE feels that this organization is important for I/C's to have as a resource and to network. Membership dues are needed to keep this group going. The EMS Academy pays their I/C dues for them.

Greg Kotila shared a concern regarding fees for volunteers including instructors in the rural areas. All instructors are required to be affiliated with a training institution and be a member of this Educator's Association. It is Rob McDaniels hope that the other training schools would assist their employees.

#### EMS for Children Committee:

Linda Warren stated at that the meeting today, the Pediatric Readiness Project closed in June, the results for NM as compared to the rest of the United States were distributed to Committee members. It will also be available on the pedsready.org website. The EMS Agencies surveys closed last night with a 60% response rate. The Child Ready Program has completed four assessments in the Silver City, Zuni, Clayton, and Gallup areas. Once the reports are completed, she can distribute the results to the SWAC. The next meeting of the EMS for Children will be in Ruidoso on April 23, 2014 at 1100 hrs. We are the first state in the nation to remove pediatric intubation from our EMS Scopes of Practice (of those states that have an EMS Scope of Practice). However, there are large population areas that do not allow that skill in the first place. Regarding the National Resource Center performance measures; Dr. Moore will address that pediatric intubations are no longer in the Scopes for NM, so that NM will not be dinged for funding.

#### Trauma Advisory Systems Stakeholder Committee (Trauma Advisory Committee):

Liana Lujan sent out information regarding the meeting in November 20, 2013 at 1300 hrs, she will confirm the location. The Trauma Performance Improvement Committee meeting prior to that is finalizing a trauma plan that will be distributed to the retracs. The Trauma Systems Fund Authority (TSFA) will meet on December 4, 2013. The Trauma Systems Development application is on the EMS Bureau website.

#### Public Regulation Commission:

The Commission has approved American Medical Response (AMR) to operate in Valencia and Eddy County. Two tariff changes are before the commission. Moving forward for rulemaking meetings will be held throughout the state and the PRC has approved the Ambulance Advisory Committee who had their first meeting this morning.

#### EMS Bureau Update:

Renewal Licensing: Regarding renewal applications, please don't wait to send in your paperwork. As of January 1st, AJ Romero will release a list of individuals who will be audited, the list will be posted on the EMS Bureau website.

EMS Fund Act: Ann Martinez presented information for the Fund Act. Regarding old business; Torreon EMS was at the last meeting, they were looking for start up funds but did not have personnel available on a 24-7 basis. Mr. Aaron is here to answer questions for the Committee, Torreon EMS is compliant with NMEMSTARS. They have had 690 runs and they are a paid service affiliated through the Navajo Nation. Torreon has backup EMS from Sandoval County, Pueblo Pintado or Cuba EMS. They are in the process of getting their own building, they are currently housed in a Sandoval County building. Art Rios would like to table the issue to the next meeting, since there was not a quorum of the members. Ken Hoffman confirms that they have 24-7 service and has written a letter to that effect. Kyle Thornton wondered if we could do an e-mail vote, in the next couple of weeks. This has been done for appeals in the past. The issue remains tabled until the next meeting, funding would ultimately be done in July 2014, if approved.

Funding went out in August 15 including Special Projects and Fund Act. Fund Act applications and annual service reports have been revised. The Special Projects due date is November 12, 2013 and the deadline for carryover is October 31, 2013. Ann thanked the Regions for their review and help.

There is approximately \$90,000 of carry over money, 1/2 is encumbered money. The carry over amount has come down \$40,000 since last year. Services are spending their money. Staff is trying to identify ways that would make the Bureau more approachable with outreach. AJ is laminating cards and taking renewals at the EMS Bureau booth. Ann Martinez and Stuart Castle will present on the EMS Fund Act and NMEMSTARS, attendees will receive 4 hours CE. Art Rios stated that APCO is going to give free workshops at BCFD communications, this is primarily for EMD.

The Operations Report was presented. Rule changes are in process (SOP, Stroke/STEMI, Licensing, Air Ambulance). The EMS Communications position was filled on November 12, 2013, his name is Shannon Talent. The Licensing/Data Coordinator position will be interviewed next week. The JOE meeting December 5, 2013 at 0930 hrs. The next Medical Direction Committee meeting is on January 10, 2013 at 0930 hrs.

Licensing: Ute Fennicks gave the report for EMS testing, pass rates for Paramedics are above the national average for a NREMT-P.

The EMS Licensing Commission is seeking a rural physician to fill a vacancy on the Commission.

NMEMSTARS update: Stuart Castle stated that we have nearly 100% of EMS services now reporting data to the state. Albuquerque Fire Department is dumping into the NMEMSTARS system and we are at a point now where we can begin to use data and be useful in identifying trends. A safety engineer from the NM DOT will be presenting on crash data later in the meeting.

Legislative Update: The Bureau was on track to revise the EMS Fund Act, by changing of the statute during the legislative session. This has been trumped the Governor. The Bureau has been informed that we will be placing "Background Checks for EMS Caregivers" back on the docket during the session and the Department is trying to find a legislator to carry the bill. The EMS Bureau is exploring the idea of EMS compacts, but background checks are needed to participate in this multistate initiative.

Other EMS Bureau Updates:

Stroke/STEMI have been approved for two FTE, primarily for obtain hospital support to become Stroke / STEMI designated. The first step is to submit data; two separate rules are being reviewed at the Division level. A small amount of money could be distributed for stroke education or other initiatives.

The Association of Counties is interested in finding sustainable funding for EMS. They are making a serious effort toward this topic. The Association of Counties have designated a special committee to look into this issue.

The EMS Bureau is looking forward to working and sharing data with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, our efforts may involve into funding for an updated licensing system.

There is still lots of buzz nationally regarding Community EMS, we are trying to figure out how to make it work best for our state.

Critical Care Transport (air and ground) is a growing area of business; we must look into this topic in an ethical and system building way. Hot topics at the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) meeting included Community EMS, CCT EMS, air services, and wildland fire issues.

Jim Stover asked a question for funding background checks for volunteers. Background checks will be an individual charge, the billing will not go through the EMS Bureau. Jim asked if the individual costs could be defrayed. Could the Association of Counties address this as part of the additional funding needs? Certainly, the Association of Counties could look into this along with the other issues. Donnie Roberts brought up the fact that he had a clear report from when he received his concealed carry license and that his report should be able to be used for other uses. Rob McDaniels stated that all training schools needed to have students background checked for their clinical courses. The background checks will not be a single time at initial licensing, but the proposal is for background checks at every other renewal cycle (every 4 years). The PRC is requiring an annual driving history for each municipal government. Community Health Workers through Public Health Division complete background checks. EMS is not viewed as a healthcare provider through the DOH, Division of Health Improvement(DHI). The DHI has a disqualifying list of convictions, that is more stringent that what the Bureau is considering. DHI does have an appeals process.

#### Regional updates:

##### EMS Region 3:

Donnie Roberts stated that they have been reviewing Fund Act requests, handling NMEMSTARS requests and giving technical assistance. The Region has also been reviewing TSFA applications. A reminder that the EMS Region 3 conference is in its 17th year. The Conference will be April 21-27, 2014. The meeting day will be on April 23, 2014.

##### EMS Region 2:

The Region 2 Conference is in full swing - thanks to all for attending, they have been reviewing EMS Fund Act applications and working on general deliverables.

##### EMS Region 1:

The report was read by Kyle Thornton for Jerome Haskie. Region 1 has been giving training on NMEMSTARS, giving EMS Fund Act advice, attending trauma retrac meetings. The Region 1 is busy conference planning. The conference will be moving to the Santa Fe Convention Center.

Since the regional contracts are from CDC money, due to the government shutdown the regional contracts have not been not executed yet. Kyle thanked the Regions for their professionalism during this trying time.

##### EMS Training Schools:

The EMS Academy has officially added the Community Paramedic to their Bachelors program. An EMS Masters program survey has been sent out to the EMS Community for their feedback. Rob McDaniels states that the parking lot problem at the EMS Academy has been fixed. The "M" lot is ok to park at, do not park in patient parking.

Jim Stover asked if it was a requirement to hold an Associate's degree for graduation; this is wrong information. The EMS Academy still offers certificate programs. Karen Burns stated that Texas requires a Bachelors degree for a Paramedic license.

Steve Egan Head Safety Project Engineer for the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) gave a presentation on the Highway Safety Improvement Program through response data from vehicle fatalities information. They are allocated \$20 million in federal funds for federal fiscal year 2014/15.

The Highway Safety Improvement Program includes three phases: 1) planning, 2) implementation and 3) evaluation. This is a data-driven and evidence-based traffic conflict study. The New Mexico Strategic

Highway Safety Plan (NMSHSP) project management team hired consultants and invited stakeholders to a launch workshop. The first step was to obtain safety partner input in Albuquerque on December 3, 2013. The NMDOT and partners shared education in an effort to build an informative and collaborative environment.

Focus group meetings will be held statewide. The NMSHSP project management team will further develop and define strategies for the implementation of the plan. The project goal is to save New Mexico lives and reduce serious injuries through partnership collaboration.

Other Business:

Started looking at the EMS Fund Act rule, we will meet 3 to 4 times to come up with a re-write of the rule, prior to bringing it back to the SWAC. The next meeting is scheduled in January prior to the next SWAC meeting. The goal for completion is by the April SWAC meeting.

The next Statewide EMS Advisory Committee meeting will be February 6, 2014 at 1330 hrs. at the State Library in Santa Fe.

The meeting was adjourned by Pete Bellows at ~ 4:15pm.