

# EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 4, 2011

9:00 – 10:30 am

**CALL TO ORDER:** 9:05 AM by Dr. Nelson

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Nelson, DO-EMS Program Medical Director & Chairperson  
Nerina J. Stepanovsky, Ph.D., EMS Program Director  
Dave Holler, Pinellas Pk. Fire Dept.  
Mark Maddalena, Pasadena Fire Dept.  
Laurie Romig, MD, Pinellas County Med. Dir.  
Christopher Henderson, Alumni Representative  
Steve Girk, St. Pete Fire Rescue  
Vicki Glenn, ParamedicsPlus/Sunstar

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Ted Rogers, Lead EMT Instr.  
Phil Borum, Lead Paramedic Instr.  
Ralph Sibbio, EMS Support Coord.  
Phil Nicotera, Provost-Health Education Ctr., SPC-Ex-Officio Member

## **WELCOME:**

Dr. Nelson greeted everyone, acknowledged that everyone knew each other and thus opened the meeting at 9:05 AM.

Dr. Nelson requested a motion to approve the **Minutes of June 2, 2011**. Motion was made and **Minutes were approved**.

## **Faculty/Staff Updates**

Nerina shared that the EMS Program recently hired Dr. Jeff Lindsey to fill our 5<sup>th</sup>, open, full time faculty position. Jeff has previously worked for the EMS Program at SPC and returns to the program with high qualifications. He will begin his position January 6, 2012.

## **Overall Program Report-Dr. Stepanovsky**

Nerina discussed the variance from the FL statute 401 allowing only 20% of paramedic field internship being completed on an ALS engine. She stated that an application has been sent in multiple draft forms. She shared with Senator Jones the difficulties she has had with the DOH attorney's office in trying to get this variance completed in proper form and submitted for approval. She received an email from the DOH recently stating that a certified letter of approval for our variance should arrive from the State by next week. Nerina expressed thanks to Sen. Jones for his assistance with this issue.

The need for additional preceptors was brought up again. They are especially needed from Sunstar due to rule regarding team leads for paramedic students and ride-ins for EMT students. Discussion ensued on how to draw more preceptors and it was noted that SPC already offers tuition credits. It was stated that this information be reiterated as often as possible to all agencies. Vicki Glenn suggested we send this reminder of available hours via agency newsletters/announcements on a regular basis. It should also be noted that the tuition hours have no expiration date but that they should be used while tuition rates are lower. Nerina also stated that this information is in our preceptor training power-point. Ralph Sibbio, our EMS Program Support Coordinator sends quarterly reports to participating agencies a breakdown of how many hours have accrued per agency. Dr. Romig suggested a FAQ sheet be developed listing this information and posting on our website for agencies as a reminder.

The question was also raised on how students and preceptors contact each other. Nerina stated that we mainly encourage email unless a preceptor has no problem allowing a student to call him/her on station phone or cell phone.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> off-site, dual enrollment Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) class is taking place at Manatee High School in Bradenton. The two students who took the NREMT test from last year's class were both successful.

We will also plan to hold another class at Pinellas Park High School's Public Safety Magnet starting January 2013 for seniors.

### **Lead Paramedic Instructor & Paramedic Pass Rate Report-Phil Borum**

Fall 2010 graduating class pass rates weren't as high as normal for SPC because of repeaters and delays in taking the state test. Phil stated that the summer 2011 Paramedic graduating class showed a 100% first time pass rate with State of FL. Dr. Nicotera asked if there was breakdown on specific areas of weakness in test results. Phil shared the following: Airway Management results – 91%; Medical – 85 %; Operations - 86%; Patient Assessment 90%; Preparatory - 86%; Special Considerations -91%; Trauma – 86%. Medical breakdown for OB & Peds rates have increased over time. This has been a weakness in the past.

Vicki asked if we compare instructors' from session to session state scores to see what, if any difference there may be in success rates. Nerina stated that yes we do compare scores, but she emphasized that each class has their own unique personality and that affects outcomes on end of program and state exam scores. Full time faculty and lead instructors discuss this after each session. Phil also shared that often repeat students, who take longer to complete and have to complete more hours, don't really study during the time frame they have to take the state test. Each time student s must retake the state test it pulls our scores down.

Dr. Nicotera also noted that each session students are asked to complete the Student Survey of Instruction. He noted that this is from the students' point of view on content of course as well as the instructor and any comments they may have. PD's and Provosts review these results. If there is a specific problem with a class or instructor the evidence will appear in a repeated manner in the overall survey results.

New Paramedic classes will begin January & May 2012 and January 2013. The next graduating class will be this coming May 2012. Phil will email announcement to agencies. This is a large class of 22 students. He foresees all of them being successful during their last session of Field Internship.

Caroline updated Paramedic textbook should be available next spring, but we are asked to continue using the current one for now. When the current one is available the current students can receive them at no charge.

He believes they have added 4-5 more chapters to the version 7. Dr. Nelson **asked** that the **committee state** their **approval of continued use of updated Paramedic Caroline book**. Committee had **no objections** to the use of Version 7, Caroline Paramedic text. Phil is also awaiting the new Bledsoe EMS Pharmacology text, and the instructor toolkit that comes with it. After instructors review the book a decision will be made on using the new publication.

FISDAP- new clinical tracking system used by students seems to be working out well after a few problems that arose while getting used to the system. Nerina gave a brief demonstration of current FISDAP entries by students. Clinical instructors do a 100% review of all entries as well as site visits. Cost per paramedic student is \$80 for entire length of program, and is paid out of lab fees.

Dr. Nelson asks that we publicize the next Paramedic Case Studies on November 15, 2011 in the teaching Auditorium at the Health Education Center. There will be six teams of students making presentations. It is important to have EMS community support. This is being held the same day as the PALS meeting and it was discussed about moving the meeting to HEC so that more EMS agencies reps could attend the Case Studies.

### **Lead EMT Instructor & Pass Rate Report – Ted Rogers**

Ted began the report by discussing the delay of the State Legislature in passing the new national curriculum changes. There were no objections in the Senate, just not enough time to pass it. Hopefully, the next session will pass these updates. Ted hopes we will be able to put into place the updates by fall of 2012.

This affects the SPC Curriculum & Instruction requirements and the timeline when they are presented to the Board of Trustees. We need to keep aware of the date of Legislature passage as well as our own C & I schedule.

Ted explained that this has caused a problem in the sense that National Registry has already adopted these new curriculum standards and they are now in the NREMT exam which is also the FL State EMT exam. We are giving our students access to the updated information as well as the present curriculum, though we aren't teaching the new standards.

Our Pass Rates: 2010 - 73.3%; 6/2011 – 82.5%; 10/2011 -86%. The National average as of this calendar year is 74%. He stated that we are starting to see improved outcomes as a result of lecture and lab being extended throughout the entire session (16 weeks for the Day Program) closer to end of session final testing. Also, new preceptor forms are being used that include affective domain ratings as well as skills. Instructions on the rating process is on the reverse side of the form for preceptors, as well as a checklist of what each student is to complete before leaving the site. Dr. Nicotera asked if there are specific objectives students are given in regards to the affective domain, and how do instructors rate them? Ted stated it is a Likert scale. Preceptor scores represent 40% of their grade, with the balance being instructor input and on-line content.

Dr. Nelson announced he had to excuse himself due to a business emergency and that Dr. Stepanovsky would continue the meeting.

Ted shared that our next EMT dates for both day and evening classes begins January & May (evening only) 2013. He also introduced that the admissions process for EMS students has changed to an application period for each session. Completed applications submitted during the application period are reviewed & approved based on selective criteria. Once available spots have been filled, those applicants remaining will be sent a communication to re-apply for the next available program start date.

Putting in application deadlines provides better qualified students as opposed to admitting last minute applicants who are not as well prepared to begin the program with more dedication to complete successfully. Incoming students are referred to the advisors at HEC as well as the program website for information on the application requirements and process. Every effort is made to inform students of the application process and who to contact for more information and application status.

EMT students are also using the Fisdap Clinical Tracking system at a cost of \$30 per student for entire length of program and paid out of lab fees. Data is collected in essentially the same way as for medic students, but EMT specific information. Nerina asked if agencies want a student schedule for each agency of what student are riding on what vehicles. The consensus was yes. Ted also added that students can access and enter data on student Smartphones.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

As already discussed, the 2008 Education Standards-bills have been written and sponsored by both the Senate and House of Representatives and should be introduced this next legislative session. Because it is the same bill as submitted last session it therefore doesn't have to go through committees again. Hopefully, it will pass expeditiously.

Ralph shared that we have a signed contract now with TransCare Medical Transportation (BLS only) in Tampa and will meet with them this week to get their system engaged and set up in Fisdap so EMT students have that availability for clinicals. He is also in contact with Manatee Memorial Hospital in Bradenton (contract in place) to set up a meeting allowing a rotations there for our EMS clinical students. The proposed contract with Blake Medical Center has been sent to our legal department. Blake is scheduled to become a Level II Trauma Center sometime in 2012. Also, we have communicated with Chief Ron Koper of Manatee County EMS who is interested in setting up an agreement for field internship between SPC and their agency. Because we draw some students from south of the Skyway, this would allow those students to complete ride time in an area closer to their home. Chief Koper is also interested in serving on our advisory committee but was unable to attend this meeting. Further communication and planning is in the works.

Steve Girk, SPFR, shared information regarding MTI students using his agency for ride times. He stated that at present only 4 students were using SPFR for clinical ride time and they were all Pinellas County

EMS employees from his agency and Sunstar. He also said that because MTI is a CoAEMSP accredited training center SPFR had no issue with allowing their student's preceptor ride time. Every effort is made not to bump SPC students already on the schedule.

Dr. Romig stated she was not sure there was a contract between the Office of the Medical Director and MTI. Steve said he wasn't aware either but would check on this and contact Jeff Barnard on his return to OMD.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Nerina stated the EMS Program has been given \$40,000 to replace the 1997 Human Patient Simulator, which is obsolete, with a newer version that meets the program needs. A meeting with METI (Medical Education Technology, Inc.), now CAE Healthcare, is planned to see a demo of current simulators before deciding on a product, and to determine what amount will be allowed on a trade-in. Nerina asked for a Motion to approve proceeding with purchase. **Motion seconded and approved to follow through with trade-in of old simulator, demo by METI and purchase of new simulator for instruction of EMS students.**

Our Program received approval from the State of Florida Bureau of EMS following our state visit, this past Wednesday, November 3. No discrepancies were noted and our programs lab book was cited as a benchmark for all FL EMS programs.

Lead Paramedic Instructor, Phil Borum, received the FAEMSE Paramedic Instructor of the Year for 2011, and Nerina Stepanovsky received the FL Air and Transport Nurses' Transport Nurse of the Year for 2011. Congratulations were extended to both.

### **Round Table Discussion:**

Vicki shared that at past meetings the subject of emphasizing more student documentation being implemented into Paramedic instruction was discussed. She said that she has noted on new employee orientation and testing an improved scoring on scenarios for both EMT & Paramedic. Also, she almost has a 100% pass rate for new employees who come from SPC for both written and scenario tests. She doesn't see this from any other college. She really appreciates this. Nerina expressed her thanks at hearing this and stated that our job is to present a "work ready" employee to any hiring agency.

Nerina said that at a recent fulltime faculty meeting the possibility of having an evening paramedic program was discussed. She asked if anyone has opinions or ideas on this subject. It was asked if this was more geared to older students. Nerina stated it was for any student who desires this because of daytime work issues. The length of the program would be the same, with hours per week adjusted to meet course requirements. The possible problems are student burn out because of usually working all day and then attending and studying a highly demanding course. It was agreed this would be extremely challenging and only those who are extremely motivated would be successful. Also noted, was that some clinical hours would need to be done during the day when they are available at the hospitals.

Textbooks will be updated when new standards are passed by the legislature.

Nerina also has been investigating Community Paramedic Program for a paramedic bachelors or masters for those with a minimum of 5 years of field experience. Dr. Nicotera stated a needs assessment would need to be performed, followed by a review of the national curriculum. Once that is done, permission for Dr. Law and the FL University System would be required before this degree could be offered.

Steve Girk asked to be the permanent replacement of Steve Knight as the representative from St. Pete Fire Rescue. Nerina agreed.

A possible meeting date for spring was discussed with the consensus that Friday was the most convenient day for members. A proposed date and time would be sent during the spring before being set.

Nerina thanked everyone for attending and expressed her thanks for their interest and support of our program.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

