

EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES –

Thursday, April 2, 2015, 1-3 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:03PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Joe Nelson, DO-EMS Program Medical Director & Chairperson
Dr. Nerina Stepanovsky, EMS Program Director
Laurie Romig, MD, Public member
David Holler, Public member
Angus Jameson, MD-Pinellas County EMS Med. Director
Aimee Downey-Jacobson, SPC EMS Alumni
Robert Angell, District Chief, Pinellas Park Fire Dept.
Jerome Ruffing, Deputy Chief, Manatee County EMS
Christopher Henderson, EMS Alumni, St. Petersburg fire rescue

GUESTS PRESENT: John Todaro, SPC EMS/CME Coordinator
John Crane, SPC/HEC Student Advisor
Kimberly Lacina, Sunstar/Paramedics Plus
Megan Holleran, Sunstar/Paramedics Plus
Ted Rogers, SPC EMT Lead Instructor
Martin VanBourgondien, SPC Paramedic Lead Instructor
Scott Pelletier, SPC EMS Support Coord.
Greg Taylor, SPC EMT Instructor (Dual enrollment)
Dawn Janusz, SPC/HEC Student Support Coord.

WELCOME:

Dr. Nelson welcomed all and asked everyone to introduce themselves, and to please sign in on the attendance roster. It was noted that Kim Lacina and Megan Holleren of Sunstar/Paramedic Plus were representing Vicki Glenn who wasn't able to attend.

The Minutes of September 9, 2014, which were emailed to all committee members, were approved.

State Bureau of EMS Updates – Drs. Nelson and Stepanovsky

The new EMS Rules package is being worked on and a public hearing will be announced. Workshops explaining the package will be scheduled by the FL Dept. of Health legal team and should be available by the end of summer 2015. April EMS State meetings were re-scheduled for July 7-9 during Clin-Con. Report from last EMS State meetings stated that Florida will adopt the National Registry paramedic exam by January 1, 2016. This will replace the State of Florida Paramedic exam.

Overall Program Report-Nerina Stepanovsky

Nerina attended the NAEMSO (Nat. Assoc. of State EMS Officials) meeting in San Antonio, TX on April 20-22. She talked to a CoAEMSP representative and asked about confirming dates for our upcoming accreditation site visit. Our program accreditation expiration date is November 18, 2015. This site visit will coincide with the DOH/OEMS visit. Our self-study has been completed and was sent to CoAEMSP by October 1, 2014. State initial applications for EMT and Paramedic programs are due to OEMS by July 18, 2015.

Enrollment in Intro to Paramedic for this spring was originally 11 students. It was actually 9 students. Spring EMT enrollment is 27 Day EMT and 24 Evening EMT students. Our next Paramedic Intro class begins at the summer session start date of May 18, 2015. We will have 11 completing Medic class students (EMS 2659) this spring.

A request came in from Eckerd College requesting an express EMT (12 wk.) program for their marine search and rescue students. Negotiations are taking place to see if it is feasible in that amount of time. If it doesn't take place, MacDill AFB is looking for an express class also. More will follow.

Previous EMT Financial Aid issues have been resolved by enrolling them as EMS-AS, as the EMT ATD and paramedic certificate are the first two occupational completion points for the degree. This allows eligible EMT students to obtain financial aid.

Damon Kuhn HEC Advising Coord., and Nerina are working on a new application for students requesting transfer to our EMS/AS degree who have attended EMT/paramedic classes at the 4 technical schools covered under the FL State Articulation Agreement. They are: Manatee Technical College., SunCoast Tech. College (formerly Sarasota County Tech. Inst.), Lake Tech., and First Coast Technical College. These students would receive credit for EMT/paramedic classes only

after completing all remaining requirements for the SPC EMS-As, including EMS Pharmacology and Human Anatomy & Physiology.

EMT Program Report – Ted Rogers

Summary of EMT Data Spring 2015

- First time pass rates are down 13.34 percent from last report and currently we are fourth in the Bay area after excluding the four closed institutions
- Retake pass rates are up 50 percent and we have the highest retake pass rate in the Bay area
- Overall pass rates are down 23.5 percent and currently we are second in the Bay area

While we still have pass rates equivalent to many other programs, the gap between us and them is narrowing in several areas.

- Data has been impacted by several students taking multiple attempts to pass the exam, including two that took four attempts (both ultimately successful)
- Some students that failed the exam had to take their EMT courses multiple times before passing, with one taking two and one taking three times to complete the program
- Lowering the passing score of the final exam from 80 to 75 may have negatively impacted NREMT pass rates, however, there is as yet no data indicating that students scoring between 75 and 79 on the final exams had a lower pass rate on the NREMT (still doing research)
- Time delay between completion of course and exam attempt may be a factor (average time gap for failing students is 2.9 months with 45 percent waiting 3 months or more and one student waiting 6 months, and 55 percent of first time passers testing in 2 months or less)

Action Plan

- Areas of weakness in the student score on the NREMT have been identified and will be addressed with more emphasis in both class and online
- Consider raising final exam scores to 80 if passing data indicate that students scoring 75 to 79 show a higher fail rate on the NREMT
- Attempting to procure funding for an on-site exam prep to be offered by an outside vendor prior to program completion
- Continue to emphasize the importance of taking exam as soon as possible
- Have initiated policy of mandatory NIP assessment after first failed course exam

Ted also suggested letting students know the possible loss in test grade for each month they delay in taking the state exam. He shared that the students are informed in the computer lab of how to apply for both the NREMT and state exam. Question was raised of any correlation to transition material being introduced in 2014 and lower test grades. Ted will investigate. He did state the information was being integrated even before the transition material was approved by the state. The transition material is in the Limmer 13th Edition, but it doesn't include the AHA information.

Paramedic Program Report – Marty VanBourgondien

Marty reported that paramedic pass rates dropped from 100 to 80%. He said state test rates at the close of a summer completion period tend to be lower. (see pass rate inserts as an attachment to the minutes)

Marty stated that despite being strongly advised to study, the students listen to medics in the field who said they didn't study and passed. Therefore, they end up not passing on the first attempt.

He wants to express his thanks to Megan at Sunstar for assistance in scheduling shifts for our medic III students. We are not getting a good response from fire agencies for preceptor scheduling. He reminded us that state of FL paramedic testing will be maintained by the Medical Quality Assurance until the end of this year. The proposed NR paramedic test is set to begin January 1, 2016.

A pilot project is in the beginning stages to provide a mirrored/shift friendly paramedic program that would involve taping all lecture classes to be viewed in students MyCourses screen. We have one student currently attending this way and he has the highest grade in the class. Paramedic instructor, Ralph Sibbio came in on Saturdays to provide the lab classes. If this pilot shows real promise we will begin to purchase the high fidelity equipment required to make this viable for all students.

Old Business

Support Coord. Report - Scott Pelletier

The following items have been approved for purchase:

- Eleven finger pulse oximeters
- Upgraded METIMan Program to allow variety of EMS Sim pkgs. used in lab/eval. settings (awaiting arrival)
- Crash Kelly for EMT & Medic labs (awaiting arrival)
- Philips MRX has been approved for trade out with 45% discount of oldest model LP12 for MRX. Loaner received till new one delivered

Grant applications are in progress - Nerina is applying for a State EMS matching grant to support the purchase of **EMW In-Situ System** to include: compact mobile workstation utilizing wired/wireless technology allowing integration into any simulation setting. Also, the cart houses the ETC Fusion HD system with scheduling, inventory management, assessment and archival software, and four superior optical cameras and tripods. If funded, it will be utilized to enhance lab/evaluation performance.

In addition, potential capabilities for webcasting of EMS courses to make lectures “shift friendly”.

An additional grant application is being written to purchase an additional METIMan. The 1999 Emergency Care simulator we have now would be replaced with a new one at a cost of approximately \$50,000.00 with a trade in value of \$6,000.00 for the old ECS. Grand total \$44,000.00. The ECS is no longer being built. If funded, it will be utilized to enhance lab/evaluation performance.

HEC has use of a portable classroom (Bldg. 206) that EMS is utilizing as a simulation lab. It is located in the corner of the parking lot by 70th Avenue. It provides a kitchen area, bedroom, bathroom, office and nursing/hospital room. It will be used for patient simulation /scenarios. The Noelle and Baby Hal (Gaumard OB/Infant) have been relocated to this lab. We have had limited use by students so far for labs and testing, but have had positive feedback on the realism this offers the students. Also, the increased sim experience w/ “dispatch” via radio and use of training ambulance allows realistic, full feature calls.

Clinical Opportunities/Innovations:

Largo Med. Ctr. – Have established new opportunities with this facility. They have a stand- alone ER in Clearwater, Psych Intake ER at Indian Rocks. (paramedic only), OR at Largo Medical Center, 2nd OR secured for intubations (paramedic only).

All Star Pediatrics – Established new Pedi clinical opportunity with a local pediatric facility. We have received positive feedback so far.

Palms of Pasadena – We are still working on an affiliation agreement for this facility that is planned for use by both EMT’s and medics.

FISDAP updates include compiling student compliance profiles to enable auto tracking and reminder for compliance, ie. physicals, certs., etc. Other benefits are system lock out options which are pending at this time. This allows the option to lock out students from scheduling/recording shifts based on compliance status. More research is pending on additional capabilities.

New Business

The EMS Program has been promoting increased student involvement in interdisciplinary scenarios and have participated with Dental Hygiene, Nursing and Respiratory Therapy students. Debriefings have reflected high student satisfaction with a request to do more of this type of education.

The SPC EMS Program has approved new uniforms for our students effective fall session beginning August 2015 consisting of blue polo shirts for medic students and maroon polo’s for EMT students. Black cargo pants will be worn by both program students. Students in progressive stages of the program have the option to continue wearing the khaki or can begin wearing the new uniforms in the fall. The new uniforms are more expensive than the Dickies/khaki, but the shirts and pants are more flexible/comfortable. Program and certification patches are no longer required as the student’s program level and program logo are embroidered on the front of the shirts (which are only available through Allways MacCafferty’s Uniform Store at this time).

An additional EMT Program has been promoted and directed by college president Dr. Law to be held at the Mid-town Campus (22nd St. So. and 13th Avenue South). This additional program is targeted to improve minority enrollment in our EMS programs and in contributing to the college’s equity plan. Chris Henderson noted that it will have a positive effect for the area/community. The addition of another program at a different campus location will require a separate site visit/approval by FL OEMS. Many issues will need to be resolved to make this project work well. Namely, we need to secure adequate classroom space for instruction, decide who will be teaching the program, equipment purchase and secured storage location.

The state must approve the site at least 120 days prior to it being offered to students. These are just a few of the issues to be worked out before the proposed start date of spring session 2016. Medical Assisting (non-credit) will be offered at Midtown as well, and we will be sharing space with them.

Round Table Discussion

Nerina was appointed as the Chair to the Military to Civilian Medic NAEMSE Board on December 20, 2014. Dr. Nelson discussed the transition from military medic to civilian paramedic field and the issues related to differences in training and working in the civilian field. There is a FL Statue clause related to the ability of putting an active Florida EMS certification on in-active status while on military duty. There are specific rules/requirements in order to complete the process and also on how to re-activate Florida EMS cert status. **Nerina, there is nothing to listen to. We have NO working tape recorder (haven't for over a yr. I took this down as Dr. Nelson spoke. You may not want to include it as no discussion or vote occurred as a result).**

Jerome asked about financial aid for EMT/Fire academy non-credit programs. How is this accomplished? Nerina stated the merging of Fire/EMT training has not met entire approval with the State at this time and is on hold for now.

Nerina requests all committee members to complete the online advisory survey that was emailed to them.

The SPC Fall Advisory Appreciation Event is scheduled for September 24th at the Seminole Campus Conference Ctr. Our program has chosen the breakfast period from 9-10:30am. Our break-out session will be 10:30am – noon.

Greg Taylor, instructor for the EMR dual enrollment course taught at Pinellas Park High School will be moving into another program this coming fall and won't be continuing as the EMR instructor. This course may be continued if we can find another credentialed, available instructor. We appreciate the influence this course has provided that encourages students to apply for the SPC EMT Program. Currently we have three EMR students who are now in our EMT Program. Suggestion was made that we expand the availability of the EMR course to other high school campuses to bring in more potential students.

We Voted to adjourn at 3:03 PM.

