

GETAC EMS Committee

11-23-2008 meeting minutes

Committee Members Present; L. Charpentier, K. Deramus, M. Farris, A. Garcia, A. Johnson, L. Maes, L. Mitchell, B. Petrilla, K. Price-Grant, C. Smith, L. Squires, D. Wait, P. Wolf, (13-all current committee members were present)

Committee Members Absent; A. Aaron (removed), C. Callsen (removed), B. Coghlan (resigned), M. Miriovsky (removed), D. Owen (removed), K. Roles (removed), (6-no longer serving)

Meeting called to order at 1pm by Chairman Pete Wolf. Committee attendance was recorded with all 13 current members present. The 6 absent had resigned or had been removed prior to the meeting.

Discussion and possible action items;

1. EMS as an essential service; A short discussion on the current status of activities. Now that the elections are over and the Legislative Session is about to start, it is important to identify key legislators to educate and solicit support. The audience was encouraged to contact committee members with known (or possible) supporters in the legislature. TAA will be working with their lobbyist and drafting language for a bill to present this session and would like input. Anyone with ideas is encouraged to contact GK.

2. Pre-hospital intubation and Rapid Sequence Intubation issues; D. Wait reported there is a panel discussion concerning this topic at the EMS Conference and encouraged everyone to listen and participate. He still working on putting together a "Summit" to bring together leaders from across the state and from many different facets of the industry to work through the issues. The Medical Directors Committee is also working on this issue and may partner with the EMS Committee in arranging a "Summit".

3. 157.37, Certification or Licensure of Persons with Criminal Backgrounds; A. Johnson reported progress on his proposal to strengthen DSHS's authority to concerning initial certification and recertification of individuals with criminal backgrounds. After a discussion and some Q/A, the following motion was made, seconded and passed (unanimously) to be forwarded to GETAC for their support;

For GETAC to support legislation to strengthen DSHS's ability to use criminal background as a determinant for initial and continued certification to include exempting EMS from Chapter 53 of the Occupations Code and inserting appropriate language in Chapter 773 of the Health Safety Code.

4. 157.11, EMS Provider Licensing Rule; A lengthy discussion concerning the need to reopen the rule was held. Several committee members wanted to readdress the requirement to have 2" letter on all the units and add language addressing needs identified by the Disaster Preparedness Task Force. The following motion was made, seconded and passed (split vote) to be forwarded to GETAC for their support;

For GETAC to support the EMS Committee, asking DSHS to allow them to open 157.11; EMS Provider Licensure Rule, to work on some possible revisions.

The discussion continued on this agenda item, specifically concerning the 2” lettering requirement. Since the rule can’t be changed (to remove the verbiage) without opening it and going through the complete process, and enforcement will start Jan. 1, 2009, the following motion was made, seconded and passed (split vote) to be forwarded to GETAC for their support;

For GETAC to ask DSHS to place a moratorium on enforcement of the particular section of 157.11, Provider Licensure Rule, concerning the placement of the provider’s license number in 2” tall letters on both sides of all ambulances.

5. EMS Disaster Response and Preparedness; D. Wait gave an overview of the EMS response during the hurricane season, stating we are learning more each time and getting better with every activation. M. Bishop (DSHS) echoed those sentiments. Everyone was encouraged to submit their request for reimbursement as soon as possible.

Public Comment on Action Items;

Public comments were solicited during each of the discussion/action items above. Several individuals spoke up and shared their opinions

Action Items;

The motions above (in bold print) were passes and will be presented to GETAC at their meeting on Monday evening.

General Public Comment;

L. Charpentier asked why DSHS doesn’t recognize the Texas Commission on Fire Protection’s instructors as equivalent and allow them to get their EMS Instructor License through reciprocity. M. Bishop stated that at this time neither agency accepts the others instructor status. L. Charpentier asked that 157.44, EMS Instructor Certification be placed on the agenda for the Feb 09 meeting.

Summary for GETAC meeting;

A summation of the meeting, with the 3 motions was read.

Announcements;

Dr Racht was recognized by the committee for his hard work and dedication as the GETAC Chairman. He was wished the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Next Meeting Dates;

Wed, Feb. 25th through Fri. Feb. 27th at the Omni South in Austin

Adjournment;

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35PM.