

EMS Education Committee Minutes of January 21, 2010

Meeting called to order at 0910 hrs. Attending are Scott Bolleter, John Creech, Lance Villers, Jeff Hayes, Scott Mitchell, Greg LeMay, Tim Hardy, Lorie Lefevers acting as Chair. Jodie Harbert, Joe Hamilton and Sam Carter absent. Welcome extended to Greg LeMay by full membership in attendance.

Motion to approve minutes from November mtg, as sent to members by Jodie Harbert, made by Scott Bolleter, second by Scott Mitchell; unanimously approved.

Review and discussion of National Registry Impact Survey results

Survey sent to EMS Education programs which are authorized to administer paramedic exams. Kevin Veal stated ~80-90 such programs exist; it was noted that 61 responses were collected making the response to this survey significant. Items recognized as noteworthy:

- *Education preparation* – majority responders [>78%] hold Bachelor or higher degrees.
- *Achieving accreditation* – 4.2% have no intention of becoming accredited [there is an asterisk in the report, but no reference is included, can that be clarified for us?], and nearly 20% have not yet decided whether to seek accreditation.
- *Rural or frontier* - ~13% identify community as rural or small town
- *Understanding the accreditation standards* - ~85% or more have an understanding; with ~70% or more rating understanding at “much” or “very much”
- *Accuracy in understanding the standards and guidelines* – still a significant misunderstanding that sponsoring program must be a college or university as well as the standards and guidelines regarding live patient intubation
- *Barriers to obtaining accreditation* – institutional cost [initial and ongoing], cost to students, institutional administrative support, patient contact requirements [intubations, pediatrics]
- *If help were available, would you use it* – 92% responded “yes”

National Accreditation Workshop update

Jeff MacDonald continues to be an advocate, available at any time, in any place. 100% of audience members attended this meeting in hopes of gaining insight through Jeff’s workshop. Concern is expressed that we are still not getting the “we’re available and willing to help” message to everyone.

Discussion, both committee and public comment, identified continued efforts using these methods:

- John Creech’s letter would be sent to Maxie Bishop with request to forward to all coordinators via e-mail, and John will revise this letter for distribution to institution, college and university administrators.
- Renew efforts to publish self-study process in article series in Texas EMS; concern was voiced that readership is low.
- Contact other states who have been through the process for “best practices” in getting the message out; Jeff Hayes and Scott Bolleter have contacts that they will engage.
- Stronger presence with medical directors to gain their support.
- Facilitate mentoring – collect a list of mentors, request mentors to make contact with programs first [do not wait for them to come to us], continuous mentoring, follow-up and follow through, shadow mock site visits, partner with accredited programs to overcome intimidation factors, be open during a site visit
 - Jeff Hayes will package, for the February meeting, a presentation regarding mentoring, resources to assist programs in accreditation.

Research in EMS Education

Lance reported that contact with Kelly regarding the Conference 2010 has been made and discussions are continuing. All ideas are on the table; research track, poster presentations, lectures, etc. Lance will be asking for committee assistance when needed; confirmed that he will not hesitate to do so. Scott

Bolleter and Jeff Hayes have research contacts that they will engage to assist Lance and Joe with the process.

EMS Education and Training Manual

Confirmed that committee members had received the most recent version in MS Word and updated by Phil Lockwood. Changes noted during Corpus meeting were not incorporated. Motion to continue review at the next work group meeting was made by Tim Hardy, seconded by John Creech, unanimously approved. Committee charged with reviewing manual in current form so as to be prepared for work. Request was made to make Corpus revisions available as soon as possible so that individual work is not redundant. [Can this be done without violation of open meetings act?]

Remarks from DSHS [Kevin Veal]

- FBI fingerprint law affects first-time Texas certificants only; that is, ECAs and EMTs. Paramedic candidates who are already certified in Texas as EMT, or EMT-I, are not required to fingerprint at this time. [This has been the most confusing issue and DSHS interpretation has been made.]
- Town Hall meetings have been well-attended and well-received. There has been no issue brought forth concerning accreditation, or other issues that might be addressed by this committee.

No general public comment.

Adjournment at 1100 hrs; motion made by Jeff Hayes, second Lance Villers.

Suggested agenda for February meeting:

- National Registry Rural and Frontier Impact Survey results [tools we will use to address remaining concerns]
- National Accreditation Facilitation
- Jeff Hayes presentation
- John Creech letter to institution administrators [previously approved for coordinators, was approval granted by Maxie for distribution?]
- Research in EMS Education update
- EMS Education and Training Manual review update
- EMS National Education Standards update

Respectfully submitted,

Lorie L. Lefevers