

GETAC EMS Committee

1-29-2009 Meeting Minutes

Members Present; K. Deramus, M. Farris, A. Johnson, L. Maes, B. Petrilla, L. Squires, D. Wait, Chairman P. Wolf (8/17)

Members Absent; L. Charpentier, B. Coghlan, A. Garcia, M. Miriovsky, L. Mitchell, D. Owen, K. Price-Grant, K. Roles, C. Smith (9/17)

DSHS Staff; M. Bishop, B. Hart, I. Hernandez (all had to leave prior to the end of the meeting due to other commitments, but answered questions prior to departure.)

Chairman P. Wolf opened the meeting at 0915 and noted that a quorum was not present, thus no official business could be conducted. The group decided to proceed with agenda and discuss all the topics listed without taking action on any agenda item.

Discussion Items;

1. Pre-hospital Intubation and/or Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) Issues; There was quite a bit of discussion regarding our need to address this issue since it has been in the news recently and the legislative session. Dr Moriber (GETAC MD Committee) was present and distributed a copy of the White Paper he put together and presented to the GETAC Medical Director's Committee recently. He discussed his thoughts and what he feels needs to be done to protect our ability to continue to perform this skill. The discussion included the 'Gathering of the Eagles' Conference coming up in Feb in the DFW Metroplex. It was decided to try to arrange a meeting or informal discussion in conjunction with that conference and try to include several of the attendees that would champion our cause. The Chair will investigate the possibility of arranging a gathering/discussion group in conjunction with their conference and notify the committee. (Pete has spoken to Dudley in regards to following up on this charge.)

2. Discussion on 157.37 Certification or Licensure of Persons with Criminal Backgrounds; Several committee members updated the group on what is currently being done in the Legislature, including 2 bills (or potential bills) that have been introduced.

3. EMS as an Essential Service; This difficult topic was again discussed at length. It was believed that a statewide attempt (legislative) to mandate EMS or certain levels of service in cities or counties would meet certain resistance due to those requests being unfunded and causing a potential financial drain on the local governments. The discussion evolved to the possibility of making it a local initiative by educating residents and ensuring they know what to expect if they need EMS. It was decided that M. Farris would address the RAC Chairs Committee on Feb. 25th in Austin and hopefully get them involved.

4. EMS Scope of Practice; No discussion

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5. 157.11 EMS Provider Rule: Prior to the discussion, the Chair was asked if the Committee is wasting it's time even discussing this topic or if DSHS would be willing to open the Rule. Chairman Wolf stated he wouldn't speak for DSHS, but felt like they wouldn't immediately open the Rule, but we should proceed with our discussions. That way when the Rule is opened, the Committee can have their recommendations ready for presentation and expedite the process. With that being said, several committee members presented their ideas concerning possible revisions,

- A. including developing a better system or method of updating current information on Providers (and their managers and medical directors),
- B. including the MOA as part of the Provider Application,
- C. EMS lettering on pre-hospital ambulances only,
- D. addressing interoperability,
- E. subscription rule changes (after recent OAG opinion),
- F. DSHS required lettering on units.

The other attendees were included in the discussions throughout the meeting.

There were no other discussions or announcements and the meeting was adjourned at 1315 by Chairman P. Wolf.