

MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Brown Building
Dorothea Dix Campus
801 Biggs Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina

February 11, 2020
11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Mr. Graham Pervier
Mr. Robert Poe
Mr. John Grindstaff
Dr. Kim Askew
Dr. Bill Atkinson
Mr. Donnie Loftis
Dr. R. Darrell Nelson
Dr. Jeff Williams
Dr. Douglas Swanson
Mr. Jim Albright
Dr. L. Lee Isley
Mr. Todd Baker
Mr. Chuck Elledge
Mr. Matt Peeler
Dr. Roberto Portela
Dr. Kimberly McDonald
Mr. Andrew Baird

Members Absent

Mr. Jim Gusler
Mr. Edward Wilson
Ms. Viola Harris
Dr. Edward St. Bernard
Dr. Jay Wyatt
Mrs. Carolyn Creech
Mr. David Garrison
Dr. Pascal Udekwu

Staff Members Present

Mr. Tom Mitchell
Ms. Susan Rogers
Dr. James “Tripp” Winslow
Ms. Melynda Swindells
Ms. Amy Douglas
Ms. Toshiba Oates
Mr. Chuck Lewis
Mr. Wally Ainsworth
Mr. Todd Messer
Ms. McKenzie Beamer
Mr. Dale Sutphin

Others Present

Ms. Joyce Winstead, NC Board of Nursing
Mr. Anthony Sequoyah, Tribal EMS
Mr. Andrew Boyles, Mecklenburg EMS Agency

(1) **Purpose of the Meeting:** The NC EMS Advisory Council met to hear reports from the Injury Committee, the Compliance and Education Committee and receive updates from the Healthcare Preparedness Response & Recovery program. In addition, the Council met to consider UNC Hospital’s Level I trauma center designation renewal, Atrium Health Cleveland’s Level III trauma center designation renewal and Atrium Health Carolina Medical Center’s Level I designation renewal. The Council also held annual elections for Chair and co-Chair.

(2) **Actions of the Council:**

Mr. Pervier, chairman of the Council, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

a) Motion was made by Mr. Loftis and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: The EMS Advisory Council minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting be approved as submitted

b) Motion was made to elect the Chair nominee by Mr. Todd Baker and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Mr. Graham Pervier be reelected chairman of the North Carolina EMS Advisory Council

Explanation: Mr. Pervier opened the floor for nominations for the office of chairman of the EMS Advisory Council. No other names were submitted. Mr. Pervier expressed his appreciation to the council for their confidence in him.

- c) Motion was made by Mr. Robert Poe and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Dr. Kim Askew be re-elected as vice chairman of the North Carolina EMS Advisory Committee.

Explanation: Mr. Pervier opened the floor for nominations for the office of vice chairman of the EMS Advisory Council. No other names were submitted. Dr. Askew thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve as vice chair of the Council again.

- d) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Mr. Pervier, with one abstention-Dr. Isley, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: UNC Hospitals Level I Trauma Center designation be renewed for one year

Explanation: UNC Hospitals was reviewed in a joint visit with the State and ACS. A deficiency was cited due to not all surgeons on the call panel meeting the 50% attendance requirements for multidisciplinary trauma PI meetings. Due to this deficiency, it was determined the center should receive a 1 year designation. Prior to the end of the year, the above documentation must be submitted and reviewed as satisfactory before receiving the remaining 2 years of the designation

- e) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Mr. Pervier and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Atrium Health Cleveland Level III Trauma Center designation be renewed for one year

Explanation: Atrium Health Cleveland was reviewed on 11/13/19. Many strengths were found; however, there were five cited deficiencies. The hospital will receive a 1 year designation after which time if review of documentation is satisfactory the designation will be extended for the additional 3 years for a full 4 year designation

- f) On behalf of the Injury Committee, motion was made by Mr. Pervier, with one abstention-Dr. Swanson, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center Level I Trauma Center designation be renewed effective through February 28, 2023.

Explanation: Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center was reviewed in a joint visit by the State and ACS on 12/3-4/2019. Many strengths were found and there were no deficiencies.

(3) Other Actions of the Council:

- (a) Mr. Pervier welcomed guests to the Council meeting and announced to the Council and guests the following appointments and reappointments:
- Andrew Baird, representing the North Carolina House, is a new appointee. He has been in EMS since his college days when he became an EMT. He later received an appointment to training center faculty in BLS, ACLS and PALS at the Southern Regional AHEC. He launched the state's first operationally independent licensed fixed wing critical care service and is an agency delegate to the North Carolina Air Medical Association and CAPRAC.
 - Matt Peeler representing North Carolina House was reappointed.
 - David Garrison representing the American Red Cross has been reappointed.
 - Dr. Doug Swanson and Dr. Jeff Williams, both representing the NC College of Emergency Physicians have been reappointed.
 - Todd Baker representing the American Heart Association has been reappointed.
 - Jim Gusler representing the NC Senate has been reappointed

Mr. Pervier re-appointed, without objection, Mr. Robert Poe as Chairman of the Compliance and Education Committee and Dr. Kim Askew was re-appointed as the Chairman of the Injury Committee.

- (b) On behalf of the Injury Committee, Dr. Kim Askew reported the following:
- UNC Hospitals was reviewed on 10/7-8/2019 in a joint visit by the State and ACS. There was one deficiency being that not all trauma surgeons on the call panel met the 50% required attendance to multidisciplinary trauma PI meetings. There were also weaknesses requiring follow up:
 1. No pediatric-specific resuscitation equipment immediately available in the peds ED; documentation will need to be provided to show that equipment is available in the Peds ED and that Peds staff have received training
 2. Decontaminations are currently being done by the fire department due to facility issues and no equipment immediately available in the ambulance bay; documentation needs to show evidence that facility repairs to enable decontamination not dependent on an outside source has been made a priority and EM staff have been trained on the use of decontamination equipment
 - Atrium Health Cleveland was reviewed on 11/13/2019 for trauma center level I re-designation. There were five cited deficiencies:
 1. The trauma medical director did not participate in trauma call for the reporting year

2. Two general surgeons did not meet the 50% attendance requirement for multidisciplinary PI meetings
3. The orthopaedic and ICU liaison also did not meet the 50% meeting requirement threshold
4. There is no surgeon serving as director or co-director of the ICU

Recommendation is that Atrium Health Cleveland receive a 1 year designation with the following documentation due by 7/31/2020:

- ✓ Documentation that the new TMD remains in this position and is taking trauma call and is serving as co-director of the ICU
- ✓ Documentation, signed by the TMD, that all trauma surgeons and required liaisons have met at least the required 50% meeting attendance
- Atrium Health Carolina was reviewed on 12/3-4/2019 in a joint visit by the State and ACS. There were no deficiencies cited
- Vidant Medical Center in Greenville was reviewed on 1/29-30/2020 in a joint visit by the State and ACS. The review was also for verification as a level II Peds trauma center. The report should be presented at the May council meeting

(c) On behalf of the Compliance and Education Committee, Mr. Robert Poe report the following:

Compliance Update

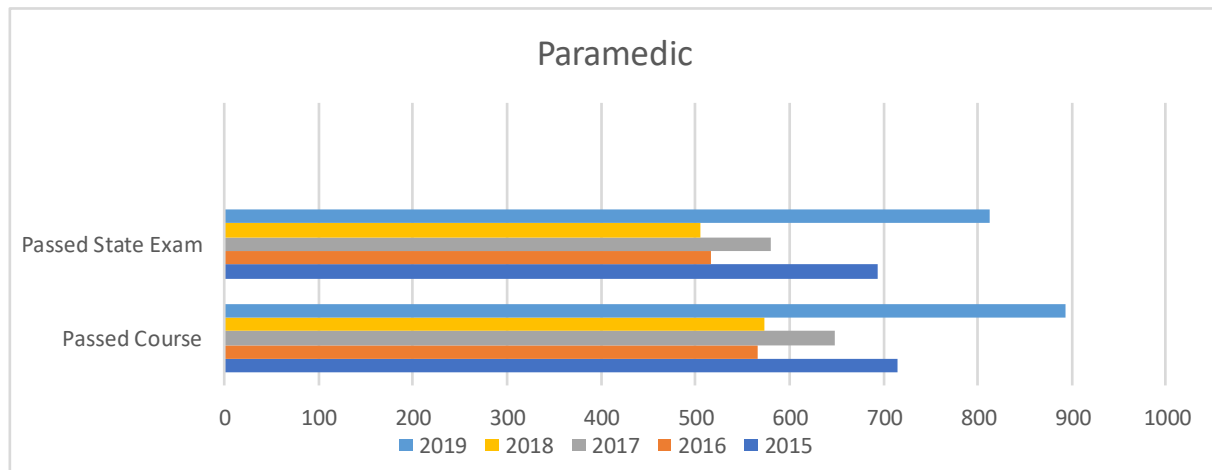
- Stats for time period November 2019 thru January 2020:
 - ✓ Case Review Panel heard sixty cases (including investigations and criminal records) Average of 36% were for violent offenses, 0% patient care issues. Fifty-eight percent were referred to the Disciplinary Committee
 - ✓ Disciplinary Committee heard sixty-five cases; no patient care issues/offenses
- The OEMS Ethics class is almost completed. Presenters have submitted their content and they are being reviewed by San Juan Timmons and Tonja Pool, OEMS Education Specialists. The first class will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 2 and 3, 2020 at the Judicial Center in Raleigh
- The Compliance Workgroup met on January 16, 2020. Goals for 2020 are:
 - ✓ Implementation of a notification system to inform EMS systems of action taken against a credential. Attorney General's office has reviewed the concept and found no legal barriers; however, further research and approval by Chief Mitchell is necessary. Examining how the information in the National Practitioner Data Bank can be utilized for this purpose
 - ✓ Review of the Chief 101 course
 - ✓ Develop procedures/guidelines on how the Compliance and Education Specialists investigate complaints against education institutions
- The office has been conducting case studies at each of their quarterly meetings. Each investigator will present a case from recent past and

discussion will be made on what was done well, what could have been one better and strategies that can ensure improvements in future investigations.

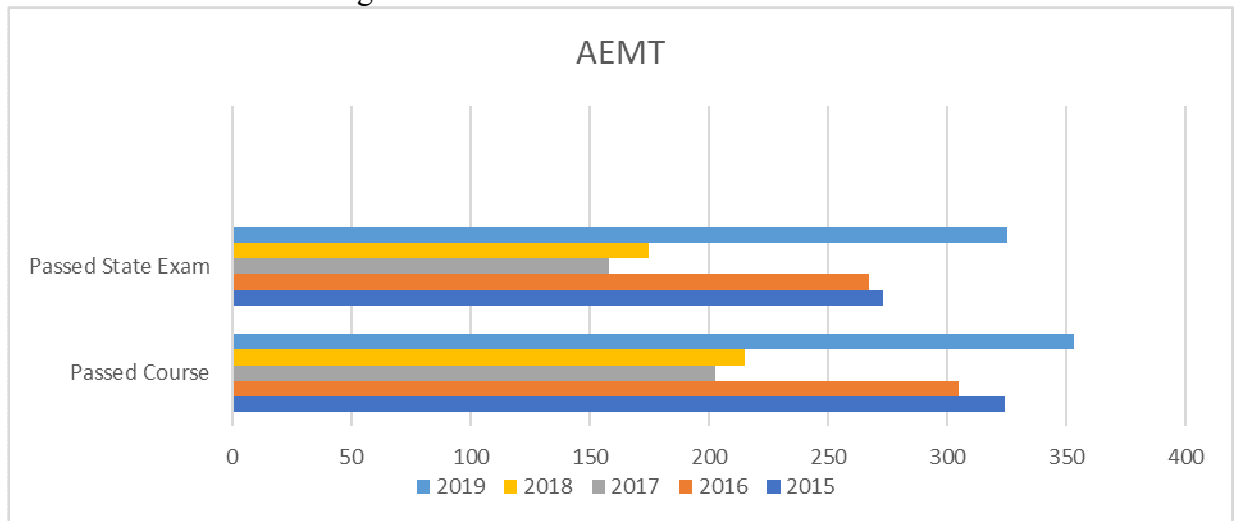
- We have experienced longer wait times for background checks due to the SBI processor shortage.
- Debra Nichols retired on January 31, 2020 and, currently, her duties have been absorbed by existing OEMS staff.
- Falsifying information on an applicant statement requires automatic referral to the Disciplinary Committee; this is a violation of 10A NCAC 13P .1507(b)(2). There were six automatic referrals on the January 28, 2020 Disciplinary Committee meeting.

Education Update

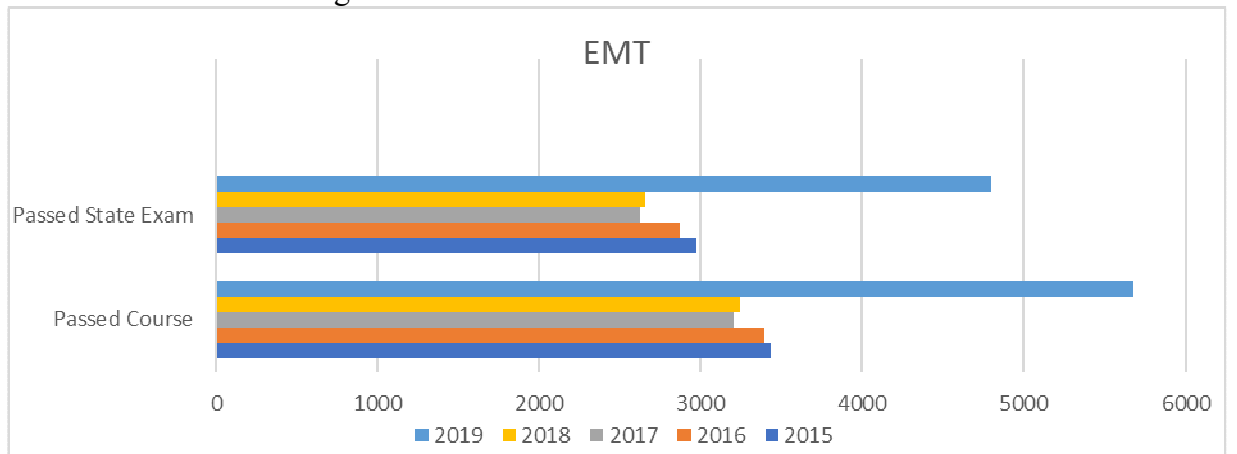
- NC EMS Expo will be held on October 2-7, 2020. Call for presentations is presently open and will close on March 9th. Faculty will be notified by April 30th
- OEMS Education staff will be attending the North Carolina Community College EMS Summit Sustainability Committee Meeting to create a successful relationship between the teaching institutions and EMS agencies
- OEMS Education staff will be conducting an Instructor Workshop and EMS Program Coordinators Workshop at the NC EMS Administrators Winter Symposium
- OEMS Education staff has developed an Ethics Course at the request of the EMS Disciplinary Committee. First offering of this course is slated for the beginning of April
- OEMS Student completion and exam pass rate trends:
 - ✓ Paramedic – largest influx n last decade



✓ AEMT – Largest influx since 2014



✓ EMT – Largest influx in last decade



(d) Dale Sutphin presented the following HPP program update:

- The NC Office of EMS has been activated as part of the Division of Public Health Incident Management Team in response to the Coronavirus Outbreak to support efforts specifically related to Healthcare Stakeholders. These efforts include developing guidance, providing situational awareness, information sharing and ensuring that concerns of the healthcare community are considered and addressed by the Incident Management Team. Staff have been busy providing support to include weekly coordination calls with Healthcare Coalition Leadership, EMS and Hospital Emergency Management partners, Local Health Departments and Emergency Management partners. A number of guidance documents have been created and are posted on DHHS' website to include a preparedness checklist for EMS Agencies and also Prehospital Provider Guidance specific to the Coronavirus.
- In early January we received a request to help with statewide coordination for better awareness of Hospital Medical Surge related to many different issues but primarily flu season. A workgroup from five of the Coalitions was put together to develop, test and vet the medical surge survey. One of

the main requests from the workgroup was that the reports be daily and that some feedback on the regional medical surge be provided back to anyone that requested it. A small team within HPP has been working on this medical surge report and we have been encouraging all hospitals to report their daily surge information.

- Grady Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia experienced a major wateline break impacting three floors of the hospital on December 7, 2019. North Carolina provided several assets of the Mobile Disaster Hospital through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) during the week of December 16-20, 2019. Staff from the OEMS, Division of EM and regional HPP Coalitions participated in this event. It is anticipated that the mobile hospital assets will be in place for several months.
- The Hurricane Dorian and Operation Wesley after-action reports are undergoing final review and should be released some time in February.
- We are still awaiting on continuation funding guidance from ASPR HPP; they indicated that it would be released middle of January but has been delayed due to unknown reasons. Unknown details on funding/requirements for next grant year but we do not expect that they will differ much from the initial 5-year grant requirements

e) Dr. Tripp Winslow gave the Medical Director update

- Medication assisted bridge program is being piloted in two counties; the visit 5-7 days while individual is getting set up in a treatment program
- Visited Medical Board to present Ketamine data and they were very supportive
- Presently, there are no cases of the Coronavirus in North Carolina. There are 12 cases in the US and 0 deaths; HHS website to update. Globally, there are 40,787 cases of the virus
- Dr. Nelson and Kimberly Clement are working on protocol for the Coronavirus
- Symptoms of the virus to watch for are fever, cough, tiredness and shortness of breath. The incubation period is thought to be approximately 14 days.

(f) Tom Mitchell gave the following agency update

- There is still no budget in place; we are functioning on the same budget from FY2018-19. Pilot programs funding has stopped. However, we were given approval last week to fill one vacant position. We will be working with HR to get the position posted in the coming weeks.
- Baskin Strategies has presented its report to the Department on space needs for the relocation of the Dix Campus within the next five years. They are working to determine the next steps to prepare for this move.
- We have been working with the EMS Administrators meeting with the Division of Medicaid, and their Medicaid Transformation Team on ensuring equitable reimbursement for EMS Agencies after Medicaid reform. Good participation, good conversation and are making strides to allow EMS to have a seat at the table. Thanks to the EMS Administrators for including us in these conversations.

- EMS Administrators Symposium is scheduled for March 10 -13 at Hotel Ballast in Wilmington. Encourage participation by EMS Agencies.
- Duke Endowment Community Paramedicine Discovery Meeting with NC & SC on January 28th. Stakeholders were NC/SC Offices of Rural Health, and NC/SC Healthcare Associations. Thanks to Bill Atkinson for attending with Chuck, David and myself. Great opportunity to get additional funding for CP, and seek ways that we can partner with SC on funding opportunities.
- The office has “cleaned up” trauma and education rules and we plan on bringing them to the Advisory Council for review in May before they go to the Medical Care Commission in August. These do not include the degree rule; we are still meeting with stakeholders
- For the May Advisory Council meeting we may pilot a new location, the Wright building. The Council will be updated on that at a later date.

Other Business:

- Dr. McDonald commented on Dr. Winslow’s Coronavirus report that the incubation period may be longer than 14 days, they are finding it can be up to 20-24 days.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:49 am.

Minutes submitted by Susan Rogers