

IDAHO EMSPC MEETING MINUTES

February 9, 2007

A meeting of the Idaho Emergency Medical Services Physician Commission was held on this date in the Idaho Room of the Oxford Inn and Suites at 1426 S. Entertainment Avenue, Boise Idaho. Chairman Kim called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members Present:

Bat Masterson
Cay Berg, M.D.
Curtis Sandy, M.D.
David Kim, M.D.
Debra McKinnon, D.O.
Hon. Elmer Martinez
Keith Sivertson, M.D.*
Murry Sturkie, D.O.

Member's Position:

Citizen Representative
Idaho EMS Bureau
State Board of Medicine
Idaho Medical Association
Idaho Fire Chiefs Association
Citizen Representative
Idaho Hospital Association
American College of Emergency Physicians, Idaho Chapter

*Participated in meeting remotely via teleconference and web conferencing.

Members Absent:

Adam Deutchman, M.D.
Kenny Bramwell, M.D.
Scott French, M.D.

Member's Position:

American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma
American Academy of Pediatrics, Idaho Chapter
Idaho Association of Counties

Vacant Seats:

N/A

Others Present:

Andy Edgar
Barbara Pyle
Barry Smith, M.D.
Bart Hanson
Bill Arsenault
Bill Spencer*
Cameo Fox
Darby Weston
Dean Neufeld
Denise Gill
Dia Gainor
Forrest Muthersbaugh
Greg Owen
Jim Kozak
Julie Erickson*

Other's Position:

Idaho EMS Bureau Regional Consultant
Donnelly Fire Department
Gem County EMS
Emergency Response
Wildland Fire Control Rescue Services
Syringa Hospital Ambulance
Ada County Paramedics
Ada County Paramedics
Idaho EMS Bureau Regional Consultant
Gooding County EMS
Idaho EMS Bureau Chief

Canyon County Ambulance District
Idaho EMS Bureau Regional Consultant
Idaho EMS Bureau Administrative Assistant

Ken Schwab	Teton Valley Ambulance
Les Eaves*	Clearwater County Ambulance
Mark Niemeyer	Meridian Fire Department
Mary Lou Davis	Fremont County EMS
Mary Stockham	Gooding County EMS
Michele Carreras	Idaho EMS Bureau State Comm Manger
Nick Nudell	Idaho EMS Bureau Regional Operations Manager
Patricia Bowen*	Idaho EMS Bureau Administrative Assistant
Rodney Willis	Emergency Response
Roy Allen	Pocatello Fire
Russ Pierson	Idaho EMS Bureau Regional Consultant
Scott Long	EMSAC/ IFCA
Scott Packer, M.D.*	Challis Volunteer Ambulance District & Clark County Ambulance
Steve Johnson, M.D.	Oneida County Ambulance
Todd Jaynes	Lincoln County EMS
Valerie Fend-Boehm	Idaho EMS Bureau Administrative Assistant
Vicki Armbruster	EMASC/ Challis Ambulance
Wayne Denny	Idaho EMS Bureau System Development Manager

*Participated in meeting remotely from EMS Bureau Regional Offices via teleconference and web conferencing.

Approval of Minutes:

**Commissioner Berg, Idaho EMS Bureau, moved and Commissioner Masterson, Citizen Representative, seconded to accept the draft minutes as amended.
Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting Time Adjustments

**Commissioner McKinnon, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, moved and Commissioner Sturkie, American College of Emergency Physician, Idaho Chapter, seconded to amend prior meeting motion to adjust future EMSPC meeting times to 09:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. beginning with the March meeting.
Motion passed unanimously.**

EMS Bureau Budget Report

Dia Gainor, Idaho EMS Bureau Chief, provided an overview of the EMS Bureau budget. Ms. Gainor introduced the EMSPC to Bureau funding sources, distribution, and the legislative process for funding changes. Several Commissioners questioned Ms. Gainor and Commissioner Sivertson inquired specifically into Bureau funding of Poison Control. The EMSPC took action after a discussion expressing the EMSPC's support for Poison Control, concern over the financial impacts legally mandated funding levels incur, and review of Senate Bill 1076.

Commissioner Sturkie, American College of Emergency Physicians, Idaho Chapter, moved and Commissioner Sandy, State Board of Medicine, seconded to support 1) Continued access to poison control services, and 2) Senate Bill 1076. The current funding mechanism for poison control is depleting dedicated funds for emergency medical services and is thereby impacting the ability of the EMS Bureau to support the Idaho EMS system. Motion passed unanimously.

EMS Disciplinary Process Update

Chairman Kim informed the EMSPC that Senate Bill 1078 regarding the transfer of EMS Advisory Committee (EMSAC) Disciplinary Subcommittee review responsibilities to the EMSPC was approved by the Senate Health and Welfare Committee on February 7, 2007.

State Interagency Coordination/Task Force Report

Commissioner Sandy provided a report on the task force meeting, held January 24, 2007. The task force is composed of seven agencies: the Idaho State Fire Commissioners Association, EMSPC, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association and the Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Association of Counties, Idaho Hospital Association and the Idaho EMS Bureau. Each agency is allocated two representatives to discuss creation of legislation determining EMS jurisdiction, funding, and medical quality and oversight. The next meeting will be March 1, 2007. Commissioner Sivertson made a motion to clarify the EMSPC position in regard to EMS medical oversight. Discussion of the motion included supporting testimony by Greg Owen, Canyon County Ambulance, and backing from Commissioners Sandy and Martinez.

Commissioner Sivertson, Idaho Hospital Association, moved and Commissioner Sandy, State Board of Medicine, seconded that emergency medical services in Idaho is a practice of medicine and will be directed by Idaho licensed physicians knowledgeable in the delivery of emergency medical services. Motion passed unanimously.

Wildland Fire Limited Request for Recognition Sub-Committee Report

Commissioner Sivertson reported the sub-committee was forming and establishing contact with Kim Christenson of the National Wildfire Coordination Group. Bill Arsenault, Wildland Fire Control and Rescue Services, testified regarding his communications with Ms. Christenson and expressed interest in assisting the subcommittee.

Scope of Practice for EMS Providers

Commissioner Berg opened the Scope of Practice (SoP) discussion by reviewing the impact that individual SoP changes will have on the broader EMS system; and specifically the time, funding, manpower, and liability affects on the Bureau and Commission when it deviates from the National Scope of Practice Model. Variances from the National Scope of Practice Model that make sense for Idaho EMS, Commissioner Berg continued, should be carefully considered and evidence driven.

Discussion of the future Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) SoP included testimony in support of expanding the Scope to include extrication skills by Bill Spencer, Syringa Hospital, Mary Lou Davis, Freemont County EMS, and Greg Owen, Canyon County Paramedics. Chairman Kim reminded the Commission and audience members of prior testimony by Bruce Allcott, Burley Fire Department, in support of expanding the EMR scope from the last EMSPC meeting. Bart Hanson, Emergency Response, spoke in support of Commissioner Berg's concerns and addressed the questions of the EMSPC. Roy Allen, Pocatello Fire testified at Commissioner Masterson's request to address questions regarding training, recruitment, and retention of EMRs and EMTs in consideration of possible changes to the SoP.

The EMSPC discussed the demonstrated need for EMRs to practice extrication and the consequences of adding the skills on the length of training time and testing, the impacts of this additional time on a shrinking volunteer population, and the overall implications for the Bureau in deviating from the National SoP. Commissioners Martinez, Kim, Sturkie, and Masterson all expressed concern specific to the impacts on recruiting volunteers to the EMS system with the addition of training hour requirements. Commissioner McKinnon reminded the Commission that the discussed SoP represents the ceiling of skills and would not limit local medical direction.

Commissioners Masterson, Berg, and Sandy emphasized that if some First Responders are currently using these skills, they need to be formally trained, tested and supervised. Discussion concluded in a vote on Commissioner Berg's motion and an approval to discuss the minimum SoP skills requirement, the maximum skills allowed within the EMSPC Scope, and the possibility of additional state approved skill modules to be added locally.

Commissioner Berg, Idaho EMS Bureau, moved and Commissioner Masterson, Citizen Representative, seconded that long board immobilization, KED immobilization, and c-collar immobilization be removed from the EMSPC EMR SoP.

Motion Passed

In Favor: Commissioners Berg, Martinez, Masterson, and Sturkie

Opposed: Commissioner Kim, McKinnon, and Sandy

Commissioner Sturkie, American College of Emergency Physicians, Idaho Chapter moved and Commissioner McKinnon, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association, seconded to have a discussion of floor versus ceiling of SoP. Motion passed unanimously.

EMT-Advanced Intubation Standards:

Chairman Kim began discussion of the Advanced Intubation Standards by inviting testimony from audience members to describe their training and protocol requirement specific to intubation. Steve Johnson, M.D., Oneida County Ambulance, provided a description for the EMSPC of the agency's detailed training and protocol standards and responded to Commissioners' questions. Dr. Johnson also carried concerns from Oneida's Advanced EMTs to the EMSPC regarding removing intubation from the Advanced SoP. Chairman Kim emphasized Advanced EMTs will be allowed intubation under the new SoP as long as specific standards are met. Forest Muthersbaugh, an EMT-Paramedic in North Idaho, also provided an account of review and training requirements specific to intubation that he follows.

EMSPC discussion resulted in the following list of standards and time structures for consideration:

1. Statewide protocol addressing patient selection, techniques for placement, limit number of attempts per provider per patient
2. Patient Selection: Adults only vs. pediatric, awake vs. unconscious vs. cardiac arrest?
3. Equipment: Ensure blades to fit adult and pediatric patients? Different types of blades? Use of ETCO₂? Esophageal detector? Pulse oximetry (continuously)? Rescue device (combitube, LMA, Bougie, etc)?
4. Training: How many hours? How often? Mannequin vs. cadaver vs. hi-fidelity? Real patients?
5. Quality improvement/data collection: 100% chart review, statistics on first attempt success rate for individual and agency. Complication rates? Reporting mechanism?
 - a. Complications include: airway trauma, esophageal intubation, hyperventilation, pneumothorax, aspiration pnemo, hypoxia, bradycardia during intubation.
6. Remediation: threshold for and how/where?
7. Initial training
8. Monitoring success rates and complications
9. Ongoing or refresher training.

EMT-Intermediate

Chairman Kim asked whether the EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I) would still be an appropriate level for Idaho EMS providers given the enhancements to the Advanced EMT SoP. Ken Schwab, Teton Valley Ambulance, and Denise Gill, Gooding County EMS, testified that the Advanced EMT SoP being discussed by the EMSPC would include many of the necessary skills not currently allowed by the Advanced EMT-A scope, but allowed in the EMT-I. Based on testimony and EMSPC discussion, the commission voted to eliminate the EMT-I. Commissioner Sturkie volunteered to review the EMT-I scope in comparison with the draft AEMT scope and bring any discrepancies to the EMSPC at the March meeting.

Commissioner Masterson, Citizen Representative, moved and Commissioner Berg, Idaho EMS Bureau, seconded to eliminate the EMT-I level Scope of Practice. Motion passed unanimously.

Scope of Practice Grid Review:

The EMSPC discussed the SoP for the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) and EMT Paramedic levels.

Ken Schwab, Teton Valley Ambulance, requested the EMSPC to consider alternatives for Nitrous Oxide for AEMT use at high elevations where Nitrous Oxide has been proven ineffective. Commissioner Masterson volunteered to research possible alternatives for the EMSPC meeting in March.

Skills the EMSPC added to the draft Advanced EMT and EMT Paramedic SoP, and Paramedic CCT Guide and motions are below. The EMSPC will continue discussion of the EMSPC SoP at the March 9, 2007 meeting.

Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)

Skills added to the AEMT EMSPC Approved SoP

- Suctioning – Tracheobronchial as a 2,3*
- Intraosseous – Adult
- Venous Blood Sampling – Obtaining

Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic

Skills added to the EMT Paramedic EMSPC Approved SoP

- Suctioning – Tracheobronchial

Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic CCT Guide

Skills added to the EMT Paramedic CCT Guide

- BiPAP
- Ventilators, Automated – Enhanced Assessment and Management
- Pacing – Transvenous and Epicardial – monitoring and management
- Arterial Line – Monitoring and Access Only

Commissioner Sturkie, American College of Emergency Physicians, Idaho Chapter, moved and Commissioner Masterson, Citizen Representative, seconded that a paramedic may opt to complete any one or more of the CCT modules and provide that level of care under the direction of the EMS medical director.

Motion passed unanimously.

*2: Requires specific training and offline medical direction before performing; 3:Requires additional standards as defined by the EMSPC

Future Meeting Schedule

The EMSPC will meet monthly through May, and then bi-monthly. Future meeting dates are March 9th, April 13th, May 11th, July 13th, and September 14th with the option of cancellation. Meeting time will be 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The April 13th EMSPC meeting will be held in Idaho Falls in conjunction with a town hall meeting. Public remote participation at the Idaho EMS Bureau Regional Offices is currently still available. Please contact the EMS Bureau if interested in participating remotely or for more information.

Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Masterson, Citizen Representative, and Commissioner Sturkie, American College of Emergency Physicians, Idaho Chapter, seconded to adjourn the February 9, 2007 Idaho Emergency Medical Services Physician Commission meeting at 5:08 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

David Kim, M.D., Chairman
Idaho EMS Physician Commission