



Northwest Georgia Region 1 Emergency Medical Services Council
Office of EMS & Trauma Region 1
Rome, GA

April 21, 2011

Northwest Georgia Region 1 EMS Council

Pickens County EMS – EOC Building
Jasper, GA
11A - April 21, 2011

Members Present:

Chairman: Randy Pierson (Floyd County)	Vice Chairman: Lana Duff (Catoosa County)
Paul Arnold (Walker County)	Larry Ballew (Murray County)
Kelly Buddenhagen (Gilmer County)	Jim Cutcher (At Large)
Herbert Dodd (Chattooga County)	Glen Downes (Chattooga County)
Robert Early (Floyd County)	Richard Eberhart (At Large)
Sloan Elrod (Pickens County)	Chris Elzey (Bartow County)
Mike Etheridge (Murray County)	Carlton Firestone (Haralson County)
Billy Hayes (Cherokee County)	Kevin New (Paulding County)
Lonnie Oliver (Fannin County)	Bud Owens (Gordon County)
Larry Owens (Bartow County)	Darrell Payne (Fanin County)
Darryl Prince (Pickens County)	William Pullen (Dade County)
Scott Radeker (Catoosa County)	Chad Taylor (Floyd County)
Courtney Taylor (Gordon County)	Curtis Vincent (Polk County)
Brian Walker (Haralson County)	Danny West (Cherokee County)

Staff:

David Foster (Region 1 Interim Program Director)
Monique Wheeler (Region 1 Administrative Assistant)
Sherry Peace (Council Recording Secretary)

****Meal provided today by Russell McDaniel and AirLife



Minutes

Randy Pierson welcomed everyone to the Pickens County EOC Headquarters, he then asked David Foster to take the roll call. The meeting was called to order with a quorum present. The first order of business was approval of the previous minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as circulated by Larry Owens, seconded by Robert Early and the minutes were approved.

The status of the council report was given by David Foster. David stated that there has been a change in numerous membership statuses. David advised due to the bylaw that stated a person could be removed by virtue of holding a position that there have been two new appointments made for Haralson County. Carlton Firestone with Ambucare and Chief Brian Walker with Haralson County Fire Department have been placed in those positions. Both were present and recognized.

The report of the Executive Committee was given by the Chair- Randy Pierson. The chair reported that the Executive Committee agenda has been changed as to not duplicate those items that will be discussed in the Regular EMS Council discussions. Executive Committee was updated on the Region One banquet and position changes that will be addressed in this meeting today. We also discussed starting a Not- for Profit Organization so that we may be able to accept donations for certain projects and possibly look at beginning a scholarship/educational fund. We will need to explore how to set up such an organization to become a 501-C-3 organization. The chair made a motion to approve the recommendation from the executive committee. The monies can be channeled to support our Regional Council.

Dr. McDougal gave the Medical Director report; he advised there was still a good bit of work going on to set up new system and it's going forward. The State has still not taken a position on how long the licensures for EMT-I 85 will be recertified as of yet. David Foster advised that according to Registry they will definitely not recertify EMT-I 85 after January of 2018. There will be a large amount of instructional hours mandatory for transitioning from EMT-I 85 to EMT-Advanced and this will also require taking the registry exam for the EMT-A level. We have a 6 year time frame to make this decision within the State regarding recertification of the EMT-I 85 and no ruling has been determined at this time. EMT-B will also have a small amount or required education to recertify at their level. The state is still not going to actually recognize the Emergency Medical Responder (old First Responder) Level, so there are no changes with it at this time. Dr. McDougal also advised that the state will provide the online training for transitioning the levels as needed. He also advised there are some online hours going to be mandatory for Paramedic levels also that will be made available through the state. Dr. McDougal advised there is going to be an online Broslow Tape available soon. They are still working on some technical issues. It will not require internet access at all times like proposed before, so be watching out for it. Dr. McDougal proposed a question to all services. He asked if, when the new levels of EMT's did come out, which services plan to have a different set of protocols per different certification level. It will be difficult to have 4-5 different sets of protocols to follow but please let him know if you have any different ideas to assist other services in this venture.



EMSAC Report – Bud Owens was asked to report on EMSAC. He advised they last met on February 22, 2011 at GPSTC. Large portion of meeting was about the changes in certification levels. EMSAC did vote to support the Department of Public Health on their transitions of certification levels. It was also decided that CT's will be allowed to take a bridge course to upgrade to Paramedic. It will consist of approximately 200 hours including clinical hours and then CT's may challenge the Paramedic test. CT's will be mandated to either go up to Paramedic Level or down to EMT-A level. For more information on this subject and more visit the GAEMS website. Everyone is invited to attend the next meeting. It will be May 24, 2011 to Central Ga. Medical Center in Macon.

Randy Pierson wanted to add that there is currently a committee working on online programs and some in house educational materials that will be available and easily obtainable for all levels. Dr. McDougal also wanted to add that Dr. Mabley and he wanted to mention how far ahead of the game Region One seems to be on the changes in level status. Great job!

Trauma Commission report was given by Randy Pierson. Randy relayed that the Trauma Commission received a 50% budget cut for the upcoming budget year. This will affect the Trauma Commission and the money coming to us for items such as vehicle grants, possibly uncompensated care and First Responder training. There will still be funding but not as much as before. The Trauma Commission is in the process of hiring a Director for the Trauma Communications Center in Forsyth. This will be performed through Regions 5 and 6 with their AVL and GPS tracking systems. These regions will be able to communicate with the Trauma Communications Center and they can advise the ambulances, within those regions, where to take the patients depending on location and availability of surrounding Trauma Centers. This is also being tracked within the hospitals. For example, if your patient is going to a hospital that is not a Trauma Center and the receiving hospital deems a trauma center is needed for the patient they can communicate with the center and divert the patient where they need to be.

They will also be tracking Trauma patients via the Trauma Registry in pre-hospital field, not just after arrival to the hospital. Randy stated he has seen many different models of this and it may help tremendously in more rural areas but EMS personnel should have the last say on which hospital the patient is ultimately transferred to. This is to help not hinder. The next Trauma Committee meeting is May 19, 2011 the next subcommittee meeting will be May 10, 2011 in Atlanta.

2011 Ambulance Grants applications are currently being reviewed and scored and will be ready for the EMS subcommittee at the May meeting then ready for approval by the Trauma Commission on May 19.

There has been a change in the application acceptance policy since last meeting. They were waiting on the money to be allocated and approved to begin the grant process but now they have decided to start the process in July and have it in place when the money is available to the recipient. They will not know exact amounts available, but will have it by the end of the grant process. The First Responder training grants were awarded to GA EMS by the Trauma Commission for 60 courses last year based on money awarded for 25 students per class. The classes have been done and hit under budget so there are some left over funds to allocate to more courses from the first round of grants. We are looking at about 20 more courses for the upcoming budget year.



EMS-C Report - Kelly Buddenhagen gave the report; she stated that Regions 5 and 6 are conducting a pilot program working with Dr. Broslow on an E-Broslow program. EMS can call in to an ER and advise them that the Pedi patient coming in is a certain color on the tape and the program will allow the ER staff to have access to all information for that size patient. This should lead to a coordinated standard of care throughout the patient's continuum of care. The pre-hospital providers were interested in putting a program on to a "smart phone". EMS-C met with Dr Broslow and they decided to create a pre-hospital program for "smart phones." This will include all info obtainable, even the information that was recently taken off and replaced due to lack of space. The only thing still lacking is the ability to measure color code of the patient by looking at a color coded measuring tape. Then the provider could refer to the computer program for all other information. The Pilot programs seem to be doing well at this time. Dr. McDougal advised they are looking to bridge out through trauma ER systems in the next few months. The one problem that has come to light is the different concentrations of medications. Some of the hospitals have been agreeing to stay standard with all their medications in order to make this a useful program state wide. Dr. McDougal advised he is still concerned about the requirement of keeping internet access in order to gain access to program. Kelly advised they were looking at a downloadable version that can function without internet access. She advised it was still a work in progress.

There is a Tim Peebles Pedi Award that will be going along with EMS-C conference in Gainesville this year. Nominations are being accepted at this time. The nominations are due on May 27, 2011. The award will be given out at the EMS-C conference in Gainesville which is June 8th and 9th. There will also be preconference on June 7th. This year it is a 1 day PEPP Provider/Coordinator class .Upon successful completions the new course coordinator can go back to you area and teach The PEPP Course. PEPP teaching packets will also be given out during conference

EMS-C state wide meeting is June 9th at the end of conference

GAEMS Report – Randy Pierson gave the report; he stated that on the website they have posted an executive director's job. They need someone to take Keith Wages place in heading up the many projects going on at this time. The Changes Conference was just held and the State Awards Banquet is coming up on May 19, at GSPTC. Grants for upcoming year are being considered at this time. Last year they did equipment grants. Those grants depended on how many trucks you had and went out across the state. Because of current budget cuts this year they decided not to do equipment grants. The grants will now go to two different things; ambulance reimbursements and First Responder Training as discussed earlier in Trauma Commission section. Also, they have applied for an ASPR grant through the Office of Emergency Preparedness. The ASPR grant is a great opportunity to get training.

The Providers/Educators Conference dates are now official and will be October 22-25 in Savannah

Legislators decided that finger prints will be required for all EMS licensing but we are not sure when it will go into effect.

The Public Health Bill passed in both branches and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Under this bill Public Health will become a department of its own effective 7/1/11. How does this effect EMS? It should put the Office of EMS & Trauma in a more politically visible position.



Regional Report- Many border problems have arisen with services running calls along the bordering counties with units and personnel which are not licensed in Georgia. The excuse they use is that they are providing Mutual Aid. A service cannot provide mutual aid to itself, even from "different" bases of operations. This is a violation of the Region 1 Zoning Plan and OEMS&T Rules and Regulations. This must be approved through the Region office prior to the occurrence.

New Pharmacy policy; any medications must be behind a lock, sealed and have next out of date sticker placed on the outside in a visible location. This is for ALL MEDICATIONS

David Foster has a new cell phone number. Please call him on this work number: 404-989-4231 for business calls. He still has personal number for personal matters.

Regional Training Report- there is an excessive amount of training rosters missing from his office. David will be sending out emails to those who are not in compliance next week.

There will be an educator's update at the Rome campus of GNTC on June 13th. There is a \$5 fee to attend. All educators must obtain this course either in Savannah or the one mentioned above on June 13th.

There will be a one day Pediatric Conference sponsored by Children's at Erlanger to be held at the Catoosa County Colonade on May 6th. There will be 6.5 EMS CEU's affiliated with the course.

Please check web site for further training in the area. The Region office and Webmaster will be looking at sources for a new training calendar for the website.

Awards Banquet Report- The regional awards had the largest attendance ever this year! Thanks to all who attended.

Some changes to consider- We have had suggestions to mirror the State awards packets and categories. This should make it simpler to apply for State awards after submitting Region packets.

All region awards will be submitted electronically next year. We will only request one hard copy of the nomination for Service of the Year to display at awards banquet.

Please contact David Foster if you would like to host next year's awards and you are one of our northern most services.

At large positions- The new ones being filled will be as follows; the lowest votes received amongst the three at large positions will serve a one-time, one year term. The 2 highest votes received will serve a two year term. The one year term will then return to the normal two year term after the first year so that we have a stagger term for one at large position.



New Business- There is a bill out there that can assist your veterans in obtaining money. Kevin New stated that some of his employees fit the criteria to receive the money. Some of the criteria is as follows; employed less than 2 years with EMS or Fire service and cannot have been out of the military for more than 10 years. The employer then fills out paperwork and turns in. For more information contact Kevin New at 678-383-3427 or knew@paulding.gov

Committee assignments were given out by the Chair: They are as follows

EMSAC Representative- Bud Owens

EMSDAC Representative - Region 1 EMS Director- Dr. McDougal

EMS-C Committee- Kelly Buddenhagen

Educators Committee - Kelly Buddenhagen- Chair, Glen Downes and Jim Cutcher. Their goal is to keep all services in touch with one another and use a collaborative effort to train our services

Awards Committee – Larry Owens, Courtney Taylor, Paul Arnold (Tommy Sanders sponsor advisor)

Russ McDaniel would like to thank everyone for their support in the recent death of their pilot.

Next Meeting will be held at Ambucare in Bremen on August, 25 2011

Please contact Randy Pierson or David Foster if you are interested in hosting a council meeting

Motion to adjourn made by Larry Owens and seconded by Robert Early

Meeting adjourned at 1300

Respectfully scribed and submitted by;
Sherry Peace, Recording Secretary