MINUTES
NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Raleigh, North Carolina

August 9, 2011
9:30 a.m.

Members Present
Mr. Terry Barber
Dr. Nicholas Benson
Ms. Carolyn Hughes
Dr. Elizabeth Kanof
Mr. Robert Poe
Dr. Dennis Taylor
Dr. Douglas Swanson

Members Absent
Mr. R. Keith Lovin
Ms. Susan Safran, Chair
Mr. Stephen Taylor
The Honorable William Wainwright

Staff Members Present
Ms. Alesia Hester
Mr. Tom Mitchell
Mr. Donnie Sides
Ms. Kimberly Sides
Ms. Jessica Trembly
Dr. Tripp Winslow

Others Present
Ms. Renee Godwin Batts
Mr. Robert Bednar
Mr. Greg Chapman
Mr. Joel Faircloth
Mr. Eric Hawkins
Ms. Lora Nock
Mr. Chuck Owens
Mr. Chris Parker
Mr. Kent Spitler
Mr. Danny West

(1) Purpose of the Meeting: The Committee met to receive updates on OEMS activities of the Education and Compliance Sections.

(2) Actions of the Committee:

Dr. Dennis Taylor called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

(a) Motion was made by Dr. Kanof, seconded by Mr. Poe and approved that:

RESOLVED: The Compliance and Education Committee minutes of the May 10, 2011, meeting be approved.

(b) Motion was made by Mr. Barber, seconded by Ms. Hughes and approved that:

RESOLVED: The Compliance and Education Committee recommend to the NC EMS Advisory Council that the Education Task Force's recommendations be considered for implementation.

Explanation: The Education Task Force was formed to review National Education standards and develop recommendations for North Carolina's EMS education standards. After review, the Task Force made four recommendations:

1. Adopt national EMS Education for the Future recommended credentialing levels and terminology, and maintain four year credentialing cycle.
2. Initiate a process towards accreditation of initial Paramedic programs. (Advanced Education Institutions offering initial Paramedic education must enter the accreditation process through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs or its relevant arm, the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professional by January 1, 2013 and achieve initial accreditation by January 1, 2015.)
3. Change the Continuing Education requirement to 48 hours bi-annually (96 hours per credentialing cycle), and allow local Medical Directors to determine the amount of Continuing Education that may be obtained from any one mechanism.
4. Change the NC Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) credentialing cycle to two years. Consider giving EMD centers control of re-credentialing their EMD's. Accept same Continuing Education requirements as Priority Dispatch and APCO (if classes are approved by the local Medical Director). Discontinue NC EMD credentialing classes and NC EMD Instructor credential. Implement rule requiring all PSAPs that process medical calls for service to be an EMD center (OEMS work with 911 Board to identify funding opportunities to implement this recommendation). Standardize EMD by using research-based and protocol-driven system to be used state-wide.

Create QA/IP standards that follow nationally recognized accreditation program standards for EMD. OEMS create EMD Liaison position. Work to implement legislature to modify EMS Advisory Council and EMS Disciplinary Committee membership to include EMD/PSAP representative.

(3) Other Actions of the Committee:

(a) Ms. Sides gave the OEMS Education and Compliance Update. She noted the EM Today and DMPC conferences will be held October 1 – 5, 2011. Online registration for these conferences opened August 1st. Ms. Sides further stated that education reports for Education Institutions were released on July 15, 2011. The purpose of these reports is to give institutions more information about the success of their students in various topics on the state exam in a format that allows them to evaluate individual courses within the institutions. Also, the Education workgroup has begun working with EMS educators and stakeholders to discuss incorporating the Department of Transportation's EMS Agenda for the Future curriculum guidelines. Ms. Sides informed the committee that a Case Review Panel has been developed within the agency to provide the mechanism for reviewing all agency enforcement issues. She explained that this Panel helps align the EMS Disciplinary Committee with its original intent and further provides individuals with due process. Lastly, Ms. Sides stated that a brochure is being developed explaining the Chemical Dependency program. This brochure will be distributed at EM Today.

(b) Mr. Sides provided an update of EMS rules. He stated that Executive Order 70 continues to affect rulemaking which could result in a longer processing period for new rules. The agency is unsure as to how rules currently in the process will be affected. The status of these rules is listed below:

- 10A NCAC 13P .0217 (Bus Vehicle), .0218 (Pediatric SCT Vehicle), .0219 (Bus Staffing) and .0220 (Pediatric SCT Staffing) are being codified with a July 1, 2011 effective date.
- 10A NCAC 13P .0900 (Trauma) rules are under review by DHHS.
- 10A NCAC 13P .0700 (Enforcement) repeal and .1500 (Enforcement) rules are being held until after the November 2011 Medical Care Commission meeting.
- 10A NCAC 13P .0221 (Transport of patients between hospitals) has been approved by the Department and is being sent to the Office of State Budget and Management prior to publication. Proposed effective date will be April 1, 2012.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Jessica Trembly.