

ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

EMS Forum
Meeting – September 14, 2006

Minutes

The EMS Forum sponsored by the Illinois College of Emergency Physicians (ICEP) met in regular session at Rush North Shore Hospital, Skokie, on September 14, 2006. EMS Committee Chair Walter Bradley, MD, MBA, FACEP, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Participants in attendance were Sue Surane, RN, Patricia Murphy, RN, Darryl Haefner, Randy Price, RN, David Curtis, Brian Sobek, RN, Rosemary McGinnis, RN, Julie Brumley, RN, Edwin Huellstounk, RN, Steve Holtsford, MD, FACEP, Russ Glass, Cathie Donahue, RN, Melissa Powers, RN, Jack Taxis, RN, Chris Millard, Michael Hansen, Douglas Sears, RN, Lisa Wax, RN, George Madland, Sonia Winandy, RN, Annie Moy, RN, Ann Faragoi, RN, Sue Hecht, RN, Pam Pauly, RN, Martha Pettineo, RN, Alicia Pufundt, RN, MSN, Susan Wood, RN, Scott French, RN, Mary Ann Miller, RN, Kent Bailey, Debbie Semenek, RN, Pat Finnegan, RN, Todd Ellingson, MD, Laura Eggers, RN, Donald Walsh, RN, Steve Mella, Susanne Gray, RN, Anna Polyak, RN, Jennifer Flanagan, RN, Lynette Hemphill, RN, Art Miller, Ken Borre, J. Thomas Willis, RN, Peggy Jones, RN, L. Bill Wood, Kevin Hack, John Landis, Randy Faxon, RN, George Hevesy, MD, FACEP, Joy Davis, RN, Connie Mattera, RN, and Eva Sinkovits, RN.

ICEP staff present was Ginny Kennedy Palys.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Bradley welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked everyone for their continued interest in Illinois EMS.

II. Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the June 29, 2006 EMS Forum were approved.

III. IDPH Report

In the absence of IDPH Medical Director Sam Gaines, MD, FACEP, the IDPH report was deferred.

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IV. Medical Directors' Meeting with IDPH

Dr. Bradley updated the group on the actions taken during the recent meeting of the Illinois EMS medical directors. At that meeting, it was agreed that the directors would seek a meeting with Eric Whitaker, MD, MPH, and Quinn Golden from IDPH to discuss pending issues. It was also agreed that additional persons representing other EMS stakeholders be invited to join in the meeting.

Dr. Bradley explained that the number of persons invited to participate in the meeting was limited by space in Dr. Whitaker's office. In addition, a smaller working group was deemed to be more effective for discussion. He pointed out that no person or group was excluded from the meeting until the contingent was full.

V. Communications within the EMS Community

Dr. Bradley discussed how communication by stakeholders may be perceived by IDPH and others. He asked that persons who are involved in EMS negotiations speak with one voice, allowing that personal opinion should be expressed as such.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Testing Update

Ms. Mattera updated the participants on the status of EMT testing. She relayed the following:

- There will be an Illinois state exam developed and accepted for licensure
- The National Registry exam will continue to be available as an option for testing
- All level of state tests will be ready by January 1, 2007
- The paramedic exam is still functioning and work on it will continue
- IDPH has received a draft EMT-B exam blueprint and comments are being solicited to send to the vendor who is developing the exam. The vendor will build a bank of questions which will be reviewed by state experts prior to January 1, 2007 implementation
- Questions in the IO bank will be rehabbed and integrated into the new questions
- Experts are currently looking at the EMT-P questions to be ready for January 1, 2007 implementation
- The TNS exam is also under revision and should be ready by November
- The dates, times, and locations for the spring exams will be confirmed by IDPH soon

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Ms. Mattera also noted that the testing crisis allows the opportunity for the state and stakeholders to examine the state's plan for EMS education.

B. IDPH Appointments

Dr. Aldinger informed the group that he had been informed by IDPH that all state level appointments would be confirmed soon. In the interim, the nominated individuals can serve on the boards to which they are to be appointed.

VII Other Business

Several general topics were discussed briefly:

- It was suggested that legislation be sought to remove EMS medical director oversight from public access AED's
- More funds should be allocated to the EMS Assistance Fund
- Better coordination is needed of EMT students testing and records by IDPH
- Statewide protocols should begin to be developed
- Testing fees should go back to the organizations testing the students
- New sources of funding needed to be found for EMS
- A stakeholders' meeting for EMS should be planned
- An electronic bulletin board for the EMS Forum should be established

In addition, Ms. Gray reported on the recent stakeholders meeting for trauma and the ACS trauma survey of Illinois. The findings would be discussed in more depth at the EMS Council meeting.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2006 at the ICEP office with videoconferencing to Springfield.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Kennedy Palys