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Emergency Medical Care Committee
Education and Research Subcommittee
Bruce Fried, Chair/Melody Dotson, R.N., Vice-Chair
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE Education/Research Subcommittee Minutes Thursday, October 22, 2009

Members Present

Dotson, R.N., Melody – Base Hospital Nurse Coord.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Green, R.N., Katy – First District
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs’ Association

County Staff Present

Flores, Carlos
Haynes, M.D., Bruce
Metz, R.N., Chief, Marcy
Thomas, R.N., Pauline

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

Guests Present

Balderson, Kristi – NCTI
Broyles, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Assoc.
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Distr. Assoc.
Foehr, Rick – EMSTA College
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Co. Ambulance Assoc.
Klingensmith, Todd – S.D. Co. Param. Assoc.
Majerczak, R.N., Karen – Base Hosp. Nurse Co.
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics’ Association
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District
Ochs, R.N., Ginger – San Diego Fire Rescue
Saner, Dan – San Diego Fire Rescue
Scott, R.N., Chris – San Diego Fire Rescue
Stonecipher, R.N., Joanne – Southwestern Coll.
Workman, R.N., Debi – Palomar College

I. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Carlos Flores, County EMS, brought the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

MOTION made by Melody Dotson, R.N., Seconded by Katy Green, R.N., to appoint Bruce Fried as Chair and Bob Pfohl as Vice-Chair. MOTION carried.

II. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Bruce Fried called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

III. PARAMEDIC TRAINING

Chairperson Bruce Fried explained that the topic of Paramedic Training was brought up at the September 24, 2009 EMCC meeting by Rick Foehr, EMSTA College and then again by Wayne Johnson, President, San Diego County Ambulance Association at the EMCC meeting of October 22, 2009.

Chairperson Fried stated that the subcommittee could either go ahead and let individuals speak in an effort to determine what EMCC Education/Research should focus on and assist with any issues that exist in the County at this time regarding paramedic training. Carlos Flores, County EMS, stated that recently a new training program opened in San Diego County but at this time had not met all the application criteria and are not approved at this time. Mr. Flores will be meeting with that program in a few days.

Currently a large number of paramedic and EMT interns participate in ride alongs and at hospital emergency rooms which has impacted these systems tremendously. Also impacting San Diego County is the fact that other interns come in other areas in the State and Country trying to do their internships in San Diego County which further increases the impact on the local agencies and hospitals.

Mr. Johnson, representing San Diego Medical Services Enterprise, one of the largest agencies in the County, stated that there are a few areas that need to be addressed regarding the placement of the students. He added that an additional issue is that there seems to be a dichotomy in how both private and public ambulance agencies in the County treat the different schools. Some schools differ as far as prerequisites to get into paramedic school; most require students having some experience as an EMT. Those schools that don't require students to have any EMT experience prior to entering paramedic school put another indirect burden on the agencies when people come for internship and have to be given instructions on basic things such as backboards and stretchers.

Mr. Flores stated that the County must follow Title XXII State regulations when reviewing applications for new training programs. He added that County EMS approves programs once they have met the requirements and agree to follow established policies.

Rick Foehr, EMSTA College, stated that a new law, Assembly Bill 48 goes into effect on January 1, 2010 and is already signed by the Governor, which states that satellite schools can be no more than 50 miles from their main campus.

Karen Majerczak, R.N., Tri-City, stated that sometimes Tri-City's emergency room is overwhelmed by nursing students from various nursing schools in addition to paramedic interns, at times with every nurse working with a student intern.

Chief Gary Fisher, Vista Fire, stated that his agency is inundated with interns as well.

Sometimes burn-out occurs for regular agency employees as the training requires extra time and attention.

Marcy Metz, R.N., Chief, County EMS, stated that the County does have MOA's (Memorandum of Agreements) with ALS agencies which state that the agencies will participate in training. As long as agencies demonstrate to the County they did participate in training, they meet the requirements, that is all that is required in the MOA. The MOA's are reviewed every two years.

County policies and procedures are reviewed every three years. Policies P-300, P-301 and P-302 are related to paramedic training; B-351 is EMT training.

Suggestions/Actions

- It was suggested that researching what goes on in other California counties would be helpful.
- Putting a needs assessment into place as part of a County policy with the consensus of the County Paramedic Agencies Committee would be helpful.
- Joanne Stonecipher, R.N., Southwestern College, stated that adding more students to her classes would be acceptable as long as there are preceptors available. Currently Southwestern and Palomar Colleges are limited to 24 students per class.
- It was suggested to have a clearinghouse for processing the students to do their internships.
- Consensus was reached to send out policies P-300, P-301 and P-302 for review by the EMCC Education/Research subcommittee and discuss at the next meeting of Thursday, November 19, 2009.
- Debi Workman, R.N., Palomar College, suggested that the training agencies are working towards becoming more of a formal group and would eventually like to have a seat on the EMCC. Ms. Metz stated that that would require a change in the EMCC Bylaws and a Board Letter through EMCC going to the County Board of Supervisors for approval. **ACTION: Place on EMCC agenda as discussion item for next meeting.**
- **ACTION: Ms. Workman requested bringing back policies P-300, P-301 and P-302 along with the pertinent regulations and accreditation standards for review at the next EMCC Education/Research meeting of November 19, 2009. MOTION made by Mr. Johnson, Seconded by Bob Pfohl, to add that when reviewing the policies, incorporating language to facilitate training to look at the training method as far as distribution and availability with the County, not only for the paramedics but include the EMT training policy as well. MOTION carried.**

- **Discussion ensued on which EMCC subcommittee should review the policies as normally the policies are reviewed by Prehospital/Hospital. ACTION: Ms. Metz will check into the routine process.**

IV. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2009 at approximately 10:00 a.m., following the regular EMCC meeting that morning at the County Health Services Askew Building, 1700 Pacific Highway, Room 309, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary
County EMS

