

**Minutes of the
State Emergency Medical Control Committee Meeting
March 7, 2006
Clanton, Alabama**

Members Present:

John Campbell, M.D. Chairman, State EMS Medical Director
William Crawford, M.D., Assistant State EMS Medical Director
Ann Klasner, M.D., American Academy of Pediatrics, AL Chapter
John McMahon, Jr., M.D., American College of Emergency Physicians – Alabama Chapter
Adam Robertson, M.D., Medical Director, Birmingham Regional EMS System
Rodney Snead, M.D.

Members Absent:

Stephen Bowden, M.D.
Clement Cotter, M.D.
Sherry Melton, M.D., American College of Surgeons, State Trauma Committee
Loring Rue, III, M.D., State Trauma Consultant

Others Present:

Donald Williamson, M.D., ADPH	Tim Petreit, Prattville Fire Dept
Jim Prince, ADPH/EMS	Ron McCary, GSCC/East AL Hwy Safety
Rachel Parrish, ADPH/EMS	Larry Butler, Lifeguard Transport
Earl Langley, ADPH/EMS	Melinda Cooper, GSCC/East AL Hwy Safety
Russell Crowley, ADPH/EMS	Kathy Gillison-Parker, GSCC/EAEMS
Mark Jackson, ADPH/EMS	David Blair, D.W. McMillian Amb Svc.
Hugh Hollon, ADPH/EMS	Judith Kirby, D.W. McMillian Amb Svc.
Gary Mackey, ADPH/EMS	Denise Smith, SEAEMS & ALACEP
Chris Lochte, ADPH/EMS	Becky Morris, Trenholm State College
Chris Hutto, ADPH/EMS	Cindy Dorn, Wallace-Hanceville
Alex Franklin, HEMSI	Jennifer Ivey, Wallace-Hanceville
Jamie Jackson, Dekalb Amb. Svc.	Stacey McCoy, UAB
Rusty Fowler, Dekalb Amb. Svc.	Randal Gray, UAB
Spencer Howard, HEMSI	James Morris, AMR-Birmingham
Vince Parker, USA/EMS	George Campbell, American Medical Response
David Garmon, USA/EMS	Shannon Stephens, UAB/DEM
Ann Mantel, JDCC/EMS	Julie Coffman, Alabama Fire College
Matthew Knight, SUSCC/Emer.Med. Trans.	Glenn Cummings, Univ. of South AL
Jeff Stone, LifeSaver	Richard Gonzalez, M.D., Univ. of South AL
Bret McGill, Northwest-Shoals C.C.	Charles Morton, Cahaba Valley Fire
Melvin Behel, Keller EMS	William Hewitt, AL Fire Chiefs Assn.
David Gardner, Air-Evac Lifeteam	Frank Matherson, Alabaster Fire
Patti Spivey, Haynes Ambulance	Dan Hornsohz, Alabaster Fire
Alice Floyd, ADPH	Bart Wilkerson, North Shelby Fire

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Others Present:

Dave Nathan, Birmingham Fire Rescue
Scott Fassina, Fulondale Fire
Jimmie Sue Page, Bevill State C.C.
Cliff Carlisle, Bevill State C.C.
Don Meyers, Mobile Fire/Rescue Dept.
Jack Busby, Mobile Fire/Rescue Dept.
Melissa Costello, USA Emergency Medicine
Michael Bartlett, Rocky Ridge Fire
John Reed, BREMSS
Michael Minor, BREMSS
Shane Driver, AMR
Roger Few, AMR-Mobile
C.E. Gordon, BFRS
J. Donald Richardson, BFRS

Rusty Lowe, Hoover Fire Dept
Allan Rice, Jefferson State C.C.
Mike Bolack, Bessemer Fire Dept.
John Santa Cruz, Bishop State C.C.
Roger Wootten, Northeast AL C.C.
Nancy Corser, Wallace State-Hanceville
Laura Steadman, Dept of Post Secondary
Travis Parker, Tuscaloosa Fire/Rescue
Glenn Davis, West AL EMS
Steve Simpson, Southern Union C.C.
John Blue, III, Gadsden State/EAEMS
C. E. Gordon, BFRS
J. Donald Richardson, BFRS
Amelia Headly, Enterprise Vol Fire Dept

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by John Campbell, M.D., Chairman.

II. Review of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2005, and the December 6, 2005, meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

III. State Health Officer Comments: Dr. Williamson thanked the entities that participated in the Request for Proposal process for the EMS regional agencies and stated that for the first time in several years, money is available to fund EMS regional agencies. He concluded his comments by reiterating his commitment to move EMS forward and to work with SEMCC to address changes needed in EMS.

IV. Administrative Update: Jim Prince gave a brief update on the following activities of the State EMS office: (1) *On-line license renewal* – the on-line license renewal process will not be implemented until next year; the deadline for EMT licensure renewal for this cycle is March 31, 2006. (2) *Rules Revision* – the EMS rules are currently being rewritten. (3) *New EMS Regional Agencies* – six regional agencies are being contracted to assist ADPH in providing emergency medical services in the designated region; four of the former regional agencies are returning with new agencies in the North Region contracted by HEMSI and in the Gulf Region contracted by the University of South Alabama. (4) *Emergency Response* – the State EMS Division is now called the Office of EMS and Trauma which along with the Center for Emergency Preparedness, comprise the Bureau of Emergency Response; work is being done to develop the EMS and Trauma chapter of the ADPH Emergency Response Manual; pending completion of an emergency disaster plan, a mail-out will be sent to all providers requesting them to notify ADPH

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any time they self-dispatch to a disaster area; work is being done to develop a communication system to allow mass email communication to providers in the time of a disaster. (5) *NREMT Test* –effective January 1, 2007, National Registry will use computer-testing instead of the current written/paper test; Alabama was chosen as one of the test sites to conduct beta-testing beginning June 20 on the new computer-based test; there will be 110 slots available for free testing and EMTs failing the computer-based test will not be penalized for failing the test but will be allowed to take the written test. (6) *Grant Monies* - the State EMS office lost \$125,000 in ADECA grant funds and \$80,000 in trauma grant funds; \$160,000 was awarded through August 2006 for AED placement in rural areas.

V. QI Committee Report: Shannon Stephens reported that two groups have been formed. The Education Committee Task Force will provide education on the NEMSIS data set as well as develop a continuing education course. The Software Compliance Committee will oversee technical compliance and work with Grayco to develop a web-based data collection tool. It is the intent of ADPH to accept data from other EMS vendor software companies other than Grayco. Mr. Stephens concluded by stating that the QI Committee will also investigate the causes of non-compliance with electronic data submission.

VI. Communication Committee Report: Dr. Crawford reported that the Committee made a recommendation to SEMCC that the HEAR system continue to be required on all ambulances. In addition, they recommended that four additional EMS tactical channels be required on transport units.

VII. CPAP Study: Dr. Robertson reported that the Continuous Positive Airway Pressure study has recently begun. He referred the Committee to the attached information on CPAP as distributed. He then provided a demonstration of the equipment. A more detailed presentation will be given at the next SEMCC meeting along with recommendation for a final decision.

VIII. Adult I/O Study Update: Dr. McMahon stated that the Adult Intraosseous study is ongoing and that the equipment has worked well when used. A demonstration of the intraosseous infusion needle will be conducted at the next SEMCC meeting.

IX. Old Business: (1) *Morphine* – Dr. Campbell stated that SEMCC initially decided that all services would carry morphine and adhere to the protocol. It was later determined that some services were having difficulty meeting the DEA requirements to carry morphine. As a result, the Committee was asked to consider Morphine as an optional drug to be carried only if the requirements were met. There were no opposing votes to making morphine an optional drug. Dr. Campbell also asked the Committee to consider allowing a limited optional drug list which specifies certain drugs that may or may not be carried. There were no opposing votes to the optional drug list. The list of drugs will be determined and will be included in the new protocols. The Committee also discussed the possibility of having to deliver drug boxes to services that are

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out of their usual area during the time of a disaster. The drug boxes will contain the required drugs in the protocols, which may not necessarily contain the normal drugs carried by a service. (2) *Protocol Revision* - Dr. Campbell reported that the protocol revisions will not be available until the next SEMCC meeting due to the recent release of the new American Heart Association guidelines. The intent is to have the protocols available on the web for review and comment for at least one month prior to the next SEMCC meeting. The Committee will also address protocols for Tazers and present them for display at the next meeting.

X. New Business: (1) *Basic/Advanced Basic & EMT Paramedic* - Dr. Campbell reported that there has been on-going discussion to standardize the paramedic curriculum at Alabama's two-year schools. The Fire Chiefs Association is petitioning for a shorter curriculum and for the restoration of the Intermediate EMT level. Dr. Roy Johnson, Chancellor of Post-Secondary Education, and ADPH have met to address these issues. In 2008, the new scope of practice will have an Intermediate level that will be an Advanced EMT with the capability of performing advanced airway procedures as well as administering limited drugs. The Fire Chiefs Association is also requesting that when the curriculum is rewritten, the new Intermediate level be included at that time. Discussion ensued. A motion was made to task the Curriculum Committee with reviewing the paramedic curriculum and developing a draft curriculum that would include an Intermediate level similar to the 2008 Advanced EMT; the draft will be presented to SEMCC for consideration. The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Williamson urged the Committee to consider a couple of issues when deciding on the draft curriculum: the curriculum must be testable and how it will be implemented must be decided. (2) *Fluid & Drug Purchase* - Dr. Campbell reported that legislation is currently being considered which would allow providers to purchase fluids and drugs from sources other than a hospital, to include wholesalers and distributors. Variances are currently available for services that have a problem obtaining fluids and drugs. (3) *University of South Alabama Rural Vehicular Trauma Study* - Dr. Richard Gonzalez reported that USA needs EMS services to participate in a real time deployment study and a prospective randomized IV study. The studies are funded by the Department of Transportation, NHTSA. There will be no cost to services who participate in the study. Interested services were urged to contact Glenn Cummings at USA. (4) *Announcements* - Dr. Campbell announced that the 7th Annual Rural Health Conference will be held April 19-21, 2006, at Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa; and the Southeast AL EMS Conference will be held on May 10-12, 2006, at Edgewater Beach Resort in Panama City, Florida. A Protocol Course will be held on May 8 and a Paramedic Refresher course on May 9. (5) *Next SEMCC Meeting* - the next meeting was scheduled for June 8, 2006, in Clanton at the Alabama Power Center. Dr. Campbell announced Jim Prince's retirement from ADPH. Denise Smith thanked Mr. Prince for his efforts in EMS and especially for his assistance to the regional EMS agencies. Applause from the audience followed. (6) *Advanced Procedures for BLS Services* - Dr. Campbell reported that the State EMS Office is requesting that BLS services have a system approved to use advanced airway procedures when needed. These services will be required to submit an application to the State EMS Office with the name of a physician who will

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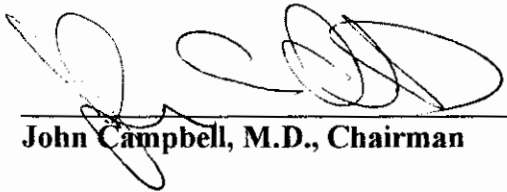
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be the off-line medical director, complete written or electronic PCR's for each advanced airway used, and stock equipment as required in the EMS Rules. A motion was made to accept the proposed requirements as submitted by the State EMS Office. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The motion carried.

XI. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.

APPROVED:



John Campbell, M.D., Chairman

6/20/06

Date