

**Minutes of the
State Emergency Medical Control Committee Meeting
March 6, 2007
Montgomery, Alabama**

Members Present:

John Campbell, M.D., State EMS Medical Director
Ann Klasner, M.D., American Academy of Pediatrics, AL Chapter
Sherry Melton, M.D., American College of Surgeons, State Trauma Committee
John McMahon, Jr., M.D., American College of Emergency Physicians – AL Chapter
Frank Pettyjohn, M.D., Medical Director, Gulf Region
Adam Robertson, M.D., Medical Director, Birmingham Regional EMS System
Rodney Snead, M.D., Medical Director, East AL EMS, Inc.

Members Absent:

William Crawford, M.D., Assistant State EMS Medical Director
Clement Cotter, M.D.
Loring Rue, III, M.D., State Trauma Consultant
Rick Weber, M.D., Medical Director, Southeast AL EMS

Others Present:

Dennis Blair, ADPH	Vince Parker, USAEMS
Russell Crowley, ADPH	Charles Gordon, BFRS
Rachel Parrish, ADPH	Gerald Stargel, Gulf Coast Med-Evac
Verla Thomas, ADPH	Randal Gray, UAB
Chris Lochte, ADPH	Becky Morris, Trenholm State Tech.
Gary Mackey, ADPH	Keith Bryan
Earl Langley, ADPH	Don Meyers, MFRD
Mike Daughtry, ADPH	Spencer Howard, HEMSI/AERO
Hugh Hollon, ADPH	Jack Busby, MFRD
Stephanie Payne, ADPH	Steve Kennedy, Air Evac
Sidney Griffith, ADPH	Toby Etheriedge, Lifeguard
Barry Lawson, RN, Air-Evac	Larry Butler, Lifeguard
David Gardner, RN, Air-Evac	Brian Bonner, Homewood Fire/Rescue
Laura Steadman, Post Sec. Ed.	Judith Kirby, DW McMillian Hosp EMS
Frank Perez, Care Ambulance	Larry Smith, Air Evac
Sherry Threadgill, Regional Paramedics	Denise Smith, SEAEMS & ALACEP
Kyle McDonnell, Regional Paramedics	Chris Mullins, Mountain Brook Fire
Rusty Lowe, Hoover Fire	David Garmon, USA EMS/Region 6
Mark Caten, Gulf Coast MedEvac	Shannon Stephens, UAB/DEM
Rebecca Burke, Wallace-Dothan	William Hewitt, AL Fire Chiefs Assn
Mark Hansberry, Mobile Fire-Rescue	Melvin Malone, Madison Fire & Rescue
Travis Parker, Tuscaloosa Fire	Charles King, Rural Metro
Edgar Calloway, NorthStar EMS	Tim Shotts, Trussville Fire
Cindy Jones, Trussville Fire	

Minutes of the State Emergency Medical Control Committee Meeting
March 6, 2007
Page Two

Richard Gonzalez, M.D., USA Med Ctr
Roger Few, AMR-Mobile
Cindy Dorn, Wallace State-Hanceville
Andrea Altman, Wallace State-Hanceville
Mark Ford, Dekalb Ambulance
Dell Gamble, Care Ambulance
Myron King, Mobile Fire Rescue Dept.
Charles King, Rural Metro Amb.
Jeff Johnson, Med Flight
Bryan Galyon, NorthStar
Scott Karr, Bevill State/ATN
Jackie Ridgeway, AFA
Lyn Smith, Jefferson State C.C.
Toby Parrish, Simmons Ambulance
Robbie Covert, Air Evac Lifeteam
Daniel Sweeza, Air Evac Lifeteam
Michael Bartlett, Rocky Ridge Fire Dept.
Bob McGuire, Midfield Fire Dept.
Michael Bolack, Bessemer Fire Dept.
Melissa Costello, USA-Mobile
John Reed, BREMSS
Duane Whatley, Lifeguard Amb.
George Campbell, American Med. Response

Glenn Cummings, USA Med Ctr
Gil Torres, AMR-Mobile
Jennifer Ivey, Wallace State-Hanceville
Michael Minor, BREMSS
Patti Spivey, Haynes Ambulance
Shane Parker, Lifesaver/Omni Flight
C. Joel Lonnergan, Rural Metro Amb.
Stiles Clarke, Med Flight
Stacy Johnson, MedFlight
Bill Warren, AL Firefighters Assn.
Joe Acker, BREMSS
Gary Cobb, AAVFD
Allan Rice, Jefferson State C.C.
Noah Banister, Air Evac Lifeteam
Debbie Cox, Cullman EMS
Tim Petreit, Prattville Fire Dept.
Chief Larry Manning, Midfield Fire Dept.
Kathy Gillison-Parker, East AL EMS
Donald Richardson, Birmingham Fire/Rescue
Shane Driver, AMR
Julia Nelms, Omniflight/Life Saver-Opelika
Glenn Davis, West AL EMS
Julie Coffman, Alabama Fire College

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 accept the minutes of the December 5, 2006, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI)/Medical Helicopter Services Update: Dr. Campbell stated that nearly 25 years ago when helicopter and ground critical care ambulances formed, it was incorrectly determined that ADPH does not regulate EMTs who work on helicopters. The Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners (BME) recently ruled that ADPH does regulate these EMTs and in order for them to perform RSI a protocol must be written. Dr. Campbell referred the Committee to the proposed protocol as submitted by the protocol subcommittee which would allow flight paramedics with experience, sufficient training, and medical supervision to perform RSI. He stated that the protocol had been reviewed by the Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners (BME). Discussion ensued. A unanimous decision was made by the Committee to recommend approval of the RSI protocol to the State Committee of Public Health (SCPH) for adoption. Dr. Campbell stated that a subcommittee may also need to be formed to address the possibility of a critical care paramedic who could perform advanced

Minutes of the State Emergency Medical Control Committee Meeting

March 7, 2007

Page Three

procedures such as RSI.

IV. EMS Education Update: Dr. Campbell reported that the Education Committee would disband and educational issues will be addressed by the AL Department of Post Secondary Education (DPSE). SEMCC will continue to address medical issues involving drugs, procedures, and protocols. Dr. Steadman, DPSE, gave a brief update on EMS education issues. She reported that the Alabama College System has a new Interim Chancellor, Renee Culverhouse, President of Gadsden State Community College. The process is on-going to standardize the EMS curriculum. A policy has been developed for the new advanced level EMT and the course is being developed. A policy has been drafted which will require background checks on all health programs including EMS. If the policy is approved, implementation will begin in fall 2008. A new paramedic application has been developed. A paramedic task force has been formed to address EMT shortage in Alabama and a survey was distributed to the EMS community regarding this issue. Information on the survey data will be presented at the next SEMCC meeting. Dr. Steadman concluded her report by stating that a new EMT program will begin at Faulkner State Community College in Gulf Shores.

V. Administrative Update: Dr. Campbell read comments from Dennis Blair clarifying the following issues: (1) Math/English is a requirement from DPSE, not the State EMS Office. The State EMS Office requires that EMT programs are accredited by COAEMSP, that the programs teach the state approved curriculum, and that students must pass the National Registry exam. (2) SEMCC is a medical oversight committee that makes recommendations through the State Health Officer to the SCPH. It is not a regulatory committee. (3) The proposed EMS bill is in the developmental phase and it is not known when the bill will be introduced in the legislature. (4) The current EMS rules will be rewritten and presented for public comment pending the outcome of the new EMS Bill. (5) The State EMS Office will soon begin distribution of a monthly email newsletter to all providers and EMTs in an effort to improve communication within the EMS community. (6) The QA/QI Committee will be restructured and the EMS Education Committee will be abolished. Dr. Campbell concluded the comments by stating that the proposal to abolish the EMS Advisory Board and restructure SEMCC will not be included in the new EMS bill.

VI. State Trauma System Update: Joe Acker gave a brief update on the state's trauma system development. He reported that the BREMSS/ADPH Trauma contract has been extended through June 2007. The North Alabama Trauma System Plan has been approved by the SCPH. A survey process is being conducted to identify potential trauma hospitals. Implementation of the North Alabama trauma system is scheduled for July 2007. Jackson county has been realigned from the East Region to the North Region. A subcontractual agreement for trauma system planning in the East, West, and Southeast regions has been submitted to ADPH and the trauma plan for these regions will be submitted to SEMCC by September 2007. Trauma system plans for the Gulf

Minutes of the State Emergency Medical Control Committee Meeting
March 13, 2007
Page Four

Region will be submitted during fiscal year 2008. BREMSS has contracted with the North Region to assist with education, QI, and administrative functions of the North AL Trauma System.

VII. Suggested Protocol Changes: Dr. Campbell presented the proposed protocol changes submitted by the protocol subcommittee: (1) *Rescue Airways* - add King Airway, Easy tube, and LMA to the list of acceptable airways and require the services' medical director to decide which airway they will use. (2) *Hemostatic agent* - use Quikclot as an optional method for exsanguinating hemorrhage that can not be controlled any other way. (3) *CPAP* - approve as an optional procedure to be added to the congestive heart failure and respiratory distress protocols. (4) *Adult IO* - the medical director must choose which brand of the intraosseous infusion needle to use and the protocol will state which area of the body to inject the needle (i.e. sternum or tibia). (5) *Age of Consent* - the protocols will state that if the minor patient refuses treatment and the EMT thinks the patient needs care, then the EMT should contact the On-Line Medical Director (OLMD) who will attempt to convince the patient to be examined. If the patient still refuses, the OLMD will notify the Dept. of Human Resources who may obtain a court order for treatment if necessary. (6) *Morphine* - make a Category A drug for pain in adults and a Category B for pediatric patients and for pulmonary edema. (7) *NAHCO₃* - make a Category A drug for cardiac arrest and Category B for tricyclic antidepressant overdose. (8) *Diphenhydramine* - add to protocols for treatment of nausea and vomiting; Category A for adults and Category B for pediatric patients. (9) *Head Trauma* - add to the protocol to ventilate the patient if the Glasgow Coma Scale Score is less than 9 and the transport time is long. (10) *Death in the field* - add to the protocol that if the patient is declared dead on the scene, the body must not be moved until the proper law enforcement agency and coroner is contacted. (11) *Vasopressin* add as an optional drug to replace the first or second dose of epinephrine in Asystole and PEA as well as for V-Fib or pulseless V-Tach (12) *D50 IV* - allow Intermediates to give IM-Glucagon if an IV cannot be started on a hypoglycemic patient. A unanimous decision was made by the Committee to recommend approval of each protocol change to the SCPH. The protocol subcommittee will write the new protocols which will not go into effect until the approval process is complete. Dr. Campbell clarified that anytime a drug is given in the field, whether it be a controlled drug or not, the Drug Order Sheet must be signed by the Off-Line or On-Line Medical Director.

VIII. Ambulance Staffing - Dr. Campbell reported that ambulance staffing requirements vary from state-to-state regarding who is required to take care of the patient. Most states require that the ALS service has a paramedic or intermediate on the ambulance and one other EMT-level as the driver. Dr. Campbell stated that suggestions are needed for ways to prevent there being less than two trained EMTs at the scene of an accident or illness.

IX. Other: Emergency Patient Information (EPI) - Dr. McMahon reported that Blue-Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) aired commercials relating to the EPI card. The commercials imply that EMTs withhold care if they do not have all the information on a patient. BC/BS has been informed that this is not the practice of prehospital care and emergency medicine in Alabama. The commercials have been withdrawn by BC/BS and they offered an apology for the

Minutes of the State Emergency Medical Control Committee Meeting

March 7, 2007

Page Five

misinformation. Dr. McMahon admonished the EMS community to inform SEMCC or the medical directors of any such practice of withholding care.

X. Next SEMCC Meeting - The next SEMCC meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2007, in Clanton at the Alabama Power Conference Center.

XI. Adjournment: There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

John Campbell, M.D., Chairman

Date