

**Minutes of the
State Emergency Medical Control Committee Meeting
March 4, 2008
Clanton, Alabama**

Members Present:

John Campbell, M.D., Chairman, State EMS Medical Director
William Crawford, M.D., Assistant State EMS Medical Director
John McMahon, Jr., M.D., American College of Emergency Physicians – AL Chapter
Neil Christen, M.D., Medical Director, East AL EMS, Inc.
Adam Robertson, M.D., Medical Director, Birmingham Regional EMS System
Rick Webber, M.D., Medical Director, Southeast AL EMS
Frank Pettyjohn, M.D., Medical Director, Gulf Region
Ann Klasner, M.D., American Academy of Pediatrics, AL Chapter
Sherry Melton, M.D., American College of Surgeons, State Trauma Committee

Members Absent:

Loring Rue, III, M.D., State Trauma Consultant
Clement Cotter, M.D.

Others Present:

Dennis Blair, ADPH	Debbie Cox, Decatur EMS
Russell Crowley, APDH	Cathy Hubler, Huntsville Hosp.
Rachel Parrish, ADPH	Jim Webb, Huntsville Hosp.
Choon Lang, ADPH	Steve Kennedy, Air Evac
Gary Mackey, ADPH	Glenn Davis, West AL EMS
Hugh Hollon, ADPH	Travis Parker, Tuscaloosa Fire
Chris Lochte, ADPH	Mark Hansberry, Mobile Fire Rescue
Verla Thomas, ADPH	Myron King, Mobile Fire
Stiles Clarke, MedFlight	Larry Hall, Jr., Baptist LifeFlight-Evergreen
Wes Hamilton, Air Evac	Lee Rumbley, Baptist LifeFlight
Jonathan Blakely, Air Evac	Mike Wood, Baptist LifeFlight-Mobile
Noah Banister, Air Evac	Michael Whaley, Prattville Fire Dept.
Sheila Barnes, Northwest Shoals C.C.	Don Wilson, Gadsden Fire/LifeSaver
David Gardner, Air Evac	Dell Gamble, Care Ambulance
Denise Louthain, SEAEMS & ALACEP	Dennis Poole, Care Ambulance
David Garmon, USA EMS Region 6	Kevin Harralson, CARE
E. Allan Pace, East AL EMS	Steve Hemby, CARE
Kathy Gillison-Parker, East AL EMS/GSCC	Scott Fassina, Fultondale Fire
Linda Cater, Dept. of Post Secondary	Brandon Dahlen, Gardendale Fire
Jeff Johnson, Huntsville MedFlight	James Robinson, Moody Fire Dept.
David Bowman, Huntsville MedFlight	Larry Butler, Lifeguard Ambulance
Becky Morris, Trenholm State	Hugh Morrison, Calera Fire
Jason Howell, Palmerdale Fire	Dan Goslin, East AL Med. Center

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Others Present:

Brian Bonner, Homewood Fire/Rescue	Chris Mullins, Mountain Brook Fire
Ray Cummings, Homewood Fire/Rescue	Eugene Toxey, Vestavia Hills Fire
John Reed, BREMSS	Shannon Stephens, UAB/DEM
Christy Driver, ESEC	Shane Driver, ESEC
Christy Graves, ESEC	Melissa Costello, M.D., USA/MedEvac
Jay Mostella, Lifecare of AL	Nick Kuzy, LifeCare of AL
Dan Hornkohl, Alabaster Fire	Dave Nathan, Birmingham Fire/Rescue
Stacey McCoy, Wallace State-Hanceville	Jennifer Ivey, Wallace State-Hanceville
Rebecca Burke, Wallace-Dothan	Judith Kirby, D.W. McMillan Hosp.
Chris Carpenter, Pelham Fire	Brian Cleveland, Pelham Fire
Don Green, Pelham Fire	Linda Larue, Life Saver
Steve Simpson, Southern Union	Anthony Cole, Enterprise-Ozark C.C.
Tracy Hyche, BSCC-Sumiton	Chris Colvin, BSCC
Mark Ford, DAS	Roger Wootten, Northeast AL C.C.
Alex Franklin, AL EMS Region One	Spencer Howard, HEMSI/AERO
Jeff Parker, Minor Fire Dept.	C. Sean O'Neal, Gulf Coast MedEvac
Sarah Nafziger, M.D., UAB/DEM	Tim Shotts, Trussville Fire
Michael Bartlett, Rocky Ridge Fire/Rescue	William Hewitt, AAFC
Max Armstrong, Blount County 911	Joe Acker, BREMSS
Donald Richardson, Birmingham Fire/Rescue	Michael Minor, BREMSS
Larry Manning, MidField Fire	Rusty Lowe, Hoover Fire
Frank Brocato, Hoover Fire	Kyle McDonnell, RPS
Jessica Manning, Tri-anim Health Svcs.	Terry Provo, Advanced Circulatory Sys.
Keith Bryan, Big Hat Solutions	

I. Welcome/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 September 25, 2007, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Administrative Update: Dennis Blair gave the following update: (1) The current ADPH/EMS Newsletter has been distributed and includes administrative updates. (2) Due to political reasons, the EMS Bill will not be introduced during this legislative session. (3) The e-PCR system should be fully operational soon with 100% of the client-version installed. Third-party vendors are near full compliance and the web-based version should be operational soon. Training on the system will be provided.

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(4) ADPH will contract with the University of Alabama to design and implement a QI program which will create a usable way to extract EMS data. The State EMS Office will survey providers to determine what is needed to improve their program. Pre-determined reports will be generated as identified by providers. (5) Since December 2007, there have been 12 disciplinary license actions taken resulting in suspension or revocation. Six more actions are pending. Since December 2007, the State EMS Office has inspected 95% of all ALS transport and non-transport services. (6) The 2008 EMT license renewal cycle has begun. EMT licenses that expire in 2008, can now be renewed on-line. (7) The National Association of State EMS Officials will finalize the Advanced EMT level in September 2008. It may take 12-18 months to get the course ready after it is approved. (8) EMTs who are not currently receiving the EMS Newsletter were urged to contact Gary Mackey, State EMS Office, with an updated email address. Mr. Blair gave a formal apology to the City of Mobile for inspecting their ambulances during Mardi Gras. Providers were urged to notify the State EMS Office in advance if they have an event scheduled so that the inspections will not occur during those times.

IV. EMS Education Update: Linda Cater, Director of Health Programs at the Department of Post Secondary Education, stated that Alabama's two-year college system is now called the Alabama Community College System. Ms. Cater reported that she recently met with EMS program directors to review the EMT curriculum and to determine if changes are needed. She stated that the primary goal in EMS education is to improve National Registry scores. The new Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System has also been working on this issue and is committed to improving National Registry scores. Ms. Cater concluded by stating that she is available to work with the EMS community anyway possible.

V. Update on State Trauma System: Joe Acker presented an update on trauma system development. He thanked Spencer Howard, Alex Franklin, and Dr. Rony Najjar for their assistance in getting the North AL system implemented. There are 10 hospitals in the system and over 1100 people have been trained in prehospital emergency care. During the first week of operation, fifteen patients were entered into the trauma system with the first patient on February 25, 2008, by Air Evac. Contracts are in place with the East and Southeast regions to begin the trauma planning process. A trauma system roll-out will be held in the East Region on March 24, 2008, and in the Southeast Region on March 27, 2008. A draft contract has been developed for the West Region and discussion will begin on the time-line for implementation in the Gulf Region. ADPH is hosting a press conference on Friday, March 7, 2008, at Huntsville Hospital to discuss the implementation of the North AL trauma system and the expansion of the system statewide. Dr. Campbell stated that the Trauma Advisory Council is required by law to establish trauma protocols which must be reviewed by SEMCC before submitting to the State Committee of Public Health (SCPH). Joe Acker added that he has been

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granted permission by the State EMS Office to give a trauma system update at each SEMCC meeting.

VI. Announcements: Dr. Campbell announced that the Southeast EMS Conference will be held May 7-9, 2008, in Panama City Beach, Florida. The Gulf Region is sponsoring an EMS Cruise September 22 – October 2, 2008. David Garmon, Gulf Regional Director, stated that 16 CEU hours will be awarded to EMTs and nurses who take part in the EMS cruise.

VII. Protocol Subcommittee Report: Dr. Campbell stated that the Committee agreed to make protocol changes once a year, in June, unless an emergency change is needed. The protocols are now on the ADPH/EMS website. At the last meeting, the Committee approved using a small dose of IV lidocaine when performing adult I/O on a patient that is awake. The current protocol states that the preferred site for adult I/O is the tibia. The protocol will be changed in June to state that it is the *only* site. Dr. Campbell presented the recommendations from the protocol subcommittee: (1) *Trauma System Patient Criteria Protocol:* The Trauma Advisory Council recommends that physiological criteria be tied to the Glasgow Coma Scale. The suggested change would read: "Head trauma with a Glasgow Coma Scale score of 13 or less." A unanimous decision was made by the Committee to approve this protocol change and to submit it to the March SCPH for approval. If approved, the change will be made in June. (2) *Separation of "Procedures" from Protocols:* At the last meeting, the Committee agreed to separate the "Procedures" from the protocols; when separated the protocols were confusing, so the "Procedures" were put back into the protocols. ALS services are not required to train on all three EMT protocols, but on the protocol of the highest level EMT (i.e. if paramedic is the highest level, then the service would use the paramedic protocols). BLS services should use Basic protocols. (3) *Scene Activation of Air Medical Transport:* A protocol will be developed to give guidance on when to activate air medical transport. One protocol will be for early activation, one for trauma system activation, and one for activation for medical reasons. (4) *Intermediate EMT to Advanced EMT Level:* When the national standards take effect, the current Intermediate level will be called the Advanced EMT. Current Alabama Intermediates will have the option to stay at the Intermediate level or take a bridge course to become an Advanced EMT. EMTs who choose to become an Advanced EMT will be required to take the National Registry exam. When the national standards take effect, Alabama will have two different Intermediates: the current Intermediate and the Advanced EMT. Dr. Campbell concluded by stating that the burn protocol will be updated to show which patients should be taken to the burn center and entered into the trauma system.

VIII. Presentation – ResQPOD: Terry Provo, Advanced Circulatory System, gave a presentation on the ResQPOD, a device for use during CPR which aids in circulation.

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The list price is \$99.00. Dr. Campbell stated that this device is not required equipment for CPR, but services may use it if purchased. He also stated that a multi-state/multi-hospital trial will be conducted to study multiple resuscitation methods. It is anticipated that the results should be available within the next two years.

IX. On-Line Medical Directors Course: Dr. Campbell reported that the course is still not yet available on-line, but hopes that it will be by the next meeting. The course will be updated to include the trauma system. Current medical control physicians will also be required to take the course as an update.

X. Next SEMCC Meeting: The next SEMCC meeting was scheduled for June 3, 2008, in Clanton at the Alabama Power Center. Dr. Campbell reminded the Committee that 10:00 a.m., staff meetings will not be held prior to SEMCC unless it is necessary. Meeting notices will be placed on the ADPH/EMS webpage. Dr. Campbell concluded by reiterating that SEMCC meetings, Trauma Advisory Council meetings, and any subcommittee meetings are all open meetings and anyone is welcome to attend.

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

APPROVED:



John Campbell, M.D., Chairman



Date