

**Minutes of the
State Emergency Medical Control Committee Meeting
September 25, 2007
Montgomery, AL**

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Clement Cotter, M.D.
Loring Rue, III, M.D., State Trauma Consultant
Frank Pettyjohn, M.D., Medical Director, Gulf Region
John McMahon, Jr., M.D., American College of Emergency Physicians – AL Chapter

Others Present:

Dennis Blair, ADPH	Charles Morton, AL Fire Chiefs'
Russell Crowley, ADPH	Buddy King, Tarrant Fire Dept.
Rachel Parrish, ADPH	LeAnder Allen, LifeCare of AL
Choon Lang, ADPH	Cindy Dorn, WSCC Hanceville
Gary Mackey, ADPH	Jennifer Ivey, WSCC Hanceville
Earl Langley, ADPH	Andrea Altman, WSCCHanceville
Mark Jackson, ADPH	Ray Cummings, Homewood Fire
Willie Smith, ADPH	Charlotte Harlan, USA/EMS
Vickie Turner, ADPH	Don Meyers, MFRD
Stephen Wilson, ADPH	Travis Parker, Tuscaloosa Fire
Sidney Griffith, ADPH	Glenn Davis, West AL EMS
Chris Lochte, ADPH	Jimmie Sue Page, Beville State C.C.
Stephanie Payne, ADPH	Alex Franklin, AL EMS Region One
Brian Hale, ADPH	Jim Witherington, Cahaba Valley
Kathy Gillison-Parker, East AL EMS	Dell Gamble, Care Ambulance
Melvin Behel, Keller EMS	Lyn Smith, Jefferson State
Brian Bonner, Homewood Fire Dept.	Brandon Dahlen, Gardendale Fire
Charlie Erwin, Univ of South AL	Shane Boyd, Bessemer Fire
Shannon Stephens, UAB/DEM	Rusty Lowe, Hoover Fire
Laura Steadman, Post Secondary Ed.	Randal Gray, UAB EMS
Glenn Cummings, Univ of South AL	Rusty Fowler, Dekalb Amb. Svcs.
Spencer Howard, HEMSI	Mark Ford, Dekalb Amb. Svcs.

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Others Present:

Eugene Toxey, Vestavia Hills Fire	David Garmon, USA EMS & AGEMSS
Roger Few, AMR-Mobile	Mike Wood, Baptist Life Flight-Mobile
Gene Raper, Bishop State C.C.	Steve Kennedy, Air Evac Lifeteam
Becky Morris, Trenholm State C.C.	David Ingram, Care Ambulance
Michael Whaley, Prattville Fire	Keith Bryan, Big Hat Solutions
Bob VanHooser, CenterPoint Fire	Charles Gordon, Birmingham Fire/Rescue
Steve Simpson, Southern Union	Lynda LaRue, LifeSaver
Patti Brown, Haynes Ambulance	Roger Wotten, Northeast AL C.C.
Buddy Tyler, North Shelby Fire	Frank Brocato, Hoover Fire Dept.
Robert Gwin, Moody Fire	Joe Nobles, Jr., Moody Fire
Sherry Threadgill, Regional Para. Svcs.	Cindy Jones, Trussville Fire
Rebecca Burke, WSCC-Dothan	Lynda Curry, USA
Lee Rumbley, Baptist LifeFlight	Larry Hall, Baptist LifeFlight
Shannon Yost, Montgomery Fire Dept.	William Hewitt, AL Assoc. of Fire Chiefs
Chuck Boone, Care Ambulance	Julie Coffman, AFC
Allan Rice, AFC	Matthew Knight, Southern Union
Shane Driver, AMR	Mike Ballard, Bessemer
Joe Acker, BREMSS	Brandon Fowler, Haynes
Rodney Snead, M.D., EAEMS	David Nathan, Birmingham Fire/Rescue
Jay Mostella, LifeCare of Alabama	Jim Hanley, USA Children's & Women's
Denise Louthain, SEAEMS & ALACEP	Michael Bartlett, Rocky Ridge Fire
Donald Richardson, Birmingham Fire/Rescue	

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

II. Introduction of New Staff: Dennis Blair introduced Willie Smith, Vickie Turner, and Stephen Wilson, EMS Specialists who will be conducting ambulance service inspections throughout the state. He also introduced Choon Lang, the new Trauma System Manager. Mr. Blair announced that Earl Langley will be retiring from the Office of EMS and Trauma January 1, 2008. Mr. Langley has 25 years of service with the Office of EMS and Trauma.

III. Introduction of New SEMCC Member: Dr. Campbell announced that Dr. Snead is now the Associate Medical Director for the East AL Region. He introduced Dr. Neil Christen as the new Medical Director and new SEMCC member for the East AL Region.

IV. Review of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the March 6, 2007, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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V. Age of Consent and Refusal: Brian Hale, ADPH General Counsel, presented information on the age of consent and refusal. He stated that a minor over the age of 14 *may consent* to medical treatment per § 22-8-4, *Code of Alabama 1975*; and, medical treatment may be provided to a minor *without consent* of a parent or guardian when an attempt to gain consent could delay treatment and risk the minor's life or health per §22-8-3, *Code of Alabama 1975*. Alabama code, however, does not explicitly provide a minor the right to *refuse* treatment. This is an area of unsettled law in Alabama as well as in the nation. Mr. Hale concluded by stating that the existence of an emergency works in favor of treatment without consent in the interest of preserving life. Dr. Campbell added that EMTs should always do what is in the best interest of the patient.

VI. EMS Education Update: Dr. Steadman stated that she has taken a faculty position at Snead State but will continue working at the Dept. of Post Secondary Education until the end of the year. She reported that Bradley Byrne is the new Chancellor of the AL College System. A High School EMS program will be introduced in Baldwin County on September 27, 2007. This program will allow students to take the required general education classes through dual enrollment so that they may enter the paramedic program upon graduation from high school. This program will be presented to the State Board of Education by the end of the year. Dr. Steadman concluded by stating that, over the next few months, changes will be made by Post Secondary to address the low National Registry of EMT scores in Alabama.

VII. Administrative Update: Dennis Blair reported on the following issues:

- (1) The six EMS agencies selected by the RFP process will be announced the following day.
- (2) The EMS Advisory Board approved the proposed EMS rule changes which primarily affect education with a move away from credentialing back to continuing education. Basic EMTs will be required to complete 24 hours of con-ed, Intermediates 36 hours, and Paramedics 48 hours, along with CPR and the protocol update. As a regulatory agency setting the standards for testing and licensure, ADPH will not be involved in EMS education. This process will be handled by the Dept of Post Secondary Education as required by law. The proposed rules will go out for public comment after the October 19, 2007, SCPH meeting; a public hearing will be held in mid-November; and if approved, the rules should be implemented in December.
- (3) Bill Brown, Director of the National Registry of EMTs, will visit Montgomery on September 27, 2007. He will meet with EMS educators to address ways to improve Alabama's NREMT scores.
- (4) Recent compliance actions taken by the Office of EMS and Trauma include: 41 EMT license suspensions, 9 EMT license revocations, 2 ambulance service license suspensions, 2 ambulance service license probations, and 320 ambulance inspections resulting in the grounding of 8 ambulances.
- (5) Pediatric equipment for ambulances has been ordered and should be available for distribution

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soon. (6) The EMS data system is close to full implementation with Grayco as ADPH's contracted vendor and EMS Consultant and the Fire House as third-party vendors. Mandatory submission of data begins January 1, 2008. (7) October 1, 2007, is the deadline for services to have protocol updates completed. Services that do not meet this deadline will be in non-compliance. This concluded Mr. Blair's update.

VIII. State Trauma System Update: Joe Acker presented an update on trauma system development in the six EMS regions. BREMSS has completed the planning and implementation process. AERO has completed the planning phase and is in the process of implementation. A portion of the funds from a BREMSS grant from ADPH will go towards a contract with the East and Southeast regions for trauma system development. The planning process is on-going in the West Region. The Gulf Region will complete the planning process by June 2008. The trauma plans should be submitted to SEMCC by December 31, 2007. Mr. Acker expressed appreciation to Alex Franklin, AERO, for his work during the planning and implementation process. Mr. Acker stated that BREMSS is a grantee of ADPH and that BREMSS is assisting in trauma system implementation under the support and direction of ADPH. Mr. Acker concluded by urging everyone to get an Emergency Patient Information (EPI) card. Dr. Campbell added that trauma system development is the most important thing that can be done in EMS and that Alabama has the potential to have the best trauma system in the nation.

IX. EMS Scope of Practice Model: David Garmon presented information from the fourth draft of the EMS Scope of Practice Model. He stated that the final document will be submitted to NHTSA in the fall of 2008. In February 2008, a national stake holder's meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. A national EMS Expo will be held in Orlando, Florida this fall. Dr. Campbell asked if CPAP was included in the model for the Advanced EMT level. Mr. Garmon responded that he had not seen any reference to it, but will find out. Linda Curry gave a brief presentation on the University of South Alabama's Bachelor of Science Degree in EMS.

X. Protocol Subcommittee Report: Dr. Campbell presented the proposed protocol changes and recommendations as submitted by the protocol subcommittee:

- (1) Protocol changes will only be made once a year, in June, unless an emergency change is needed.
- (2) EMT procedures will be separated from the EMT protocols.
- (3) The pediatric sepsis protocol will not be accepted as presented, but variances will be considered as needed.
- (4) Submit recommendation to SCPH to accept Cyanokit as an optional treatment for smoke inhalation or obvious cyanide poisoning in patients who have the clinical signs.
- (5) Approve the use of 1-2cc of 2% lidocaine, for paramedics only, when performing adult I/O.
- (6) A subcommittee has been appointed to consider a protocol on early activation of air medical services.
- (7) A survey will be sent to all

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Intermediate EMTs asking their opinion on the Intermediate level. (8) The Basic and Intermediate protocols are being compiled as separate documents from the Paramedic protocols. Dr. Campbell is currently working on converting the protocols into algorithms. A unanimous decision was made by the Committee to approve all proposed changes.

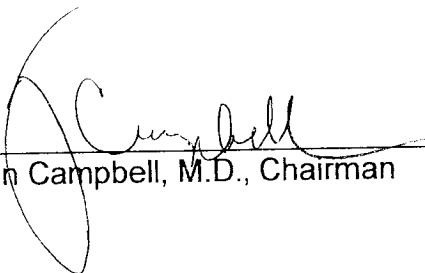
XI. On-Line Medical Directors Course: Dr Campbell reported that the Medical Directors Course is being updated and made into a web-based course. Physicians who currently have a medical control number will also be required to take the course, but they will not be required to take the test.

XII. Next Meeting: The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2007, in Montgomery at the Montgomery County Health Department, but is subject to cancellation if there are no issues to be addressed.

XIII. Other: (1) Dr. Melton announced that UAB will host its 11th Annual Trauma Symposium on October 11, 2007, in Birmingham at the Grand Cahaba Conference Center. The cost of attendance is \$55.00 and 8.5 CEUs will be awarded. (2) A question was raised regarding glucagon. Dr. Campbell stated that at the next protocol update, SEMCC will vote on whether to make glucagon a Category A drug instead of a Category B drug.

XIV. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.

APPROVED:



John Campbell, M.D., Chairman

Date