

**State EMS Advisory Council Meeting Notes
September 17, 2009**

(The following represents notes taken at the meeting. They are not the “official” State of Illinois notes, but are intended to get information to you in a timely matter.)

NAEMSE EMS Unsung Hero Award

- Connie Mattera presented the NAEMSE Unsung Hero Award to Rosemary McGuiness.

IDPH Report (Jack Fleeharty)

- The State has been hosting weekly HINI call-in meetings with hospitals and Health Departments each Monday from 11am – Noon.
- There is a comprehensive Q &A section regarding HINI on the Department website.
- Vaccines will be shipped and distributed by McKesson.
- IDPH will follow the CDC recommended priority groups, including pregnant women, Healthcare providers, those at risk, etc. The priority groups are on the CDC website.
- There are two major topics regarding HINI:
 - 1) Will EMT-P’s be allowed to give the vaccine? Not under the current scope of practice. IDPH did a survey of the Medical Directors, and found that most are supportive of the EMT-P administration in a disaster.
 - 2) Therefore, EMT-Ps will be allowed to give the medication under an expand practice only during a disaster declaration, which will then provide the Medical Control Doctors “immunity”.
- At this point we are awaiting a disaster declaration by the Director, which they believe will be coming shortly. They will be adopting a training program for giving the shots, and that should be forthcoming soon.
- Goal is to push the training curriculum out to EMS Systems ASAP for training. If your EMS System wants to provide the training, you should submit a training form with the information for approval by IDPH, who will attempt to expedite approval.
- Providers, Agencies, or hospitals wanting to hear more about the HINI activities are encourage to listen in to the weekly telephone calls. Question can also be sent to IDPH. Q and A is posted on the website.
- Other good websites for HINI:
 - www.idph.il.us/hiniflu/index.ht
 - www.flu.gov
 - www.cdc.gov/flu
 - www.hhs.gov
 - www.ready.illinois.gov
- Once the declaration ends, medics must stop administering the flu shots. The disaster will include seasonal flu and HINI flu.
- Question – Can a System do regular shots outside of the disaster? Answer – although some systems have done it in the past, IDPH would need a legal opinion before commenting. Jack doesn’t know if it can be accomplished under the current act.
- Also looking at the ability to do tetanus shots and other shots during other types of emergencies.

- Question – Is there a central database or clearinghouse that tracks and allows for notification of providers who have treated or transported a confirmed HINI case?
Answer – Usually only “high risk” patients require notification. Jack suggests submitting that as a question to the IDPH Director and it will be listed on the Q & A. flu is not listed as a “communicable disease”.
- The Strategic Plan team has met twice. Plan has been sent for goal development. They are awaiting its return.
- EMSC survey will occur in October. Regions 3, 6, and 7 will be done in 2010.
- New pediatric resource cards have been developed. More info is available the EMSC website.
- Heartsaver AED fund did not receive any funding.
- The EMS Assistance fund received 134 grant applications totaling \$1.2 million in requests. Only \$94,000 is available to distribute for EMS assistance. This should be completed by the end of September.
- Trauma Registry version 6.1 is being rolled out soon.
- IDPH database beta testing is ongoing. Working towards NEMESIS compliance.
- IDPH has received a \$148,000 grant from the federal government for the creation of a web based database collection program.
- The technical requirements for a web-based program are almost done.
- Looking at 24 hour ED visits for the bypass System update. Communication will be going out Monday regarding this.
- Looking hard at hospitals that are not doing daily updates.
- TNS Course Coordinators have met and recently made some changes. They worked with a psychometrician to change the exam. Jack thanked them for their hard work.
- IDPH is seeing an increase in the number of requests for EMS database access. They only give two out per hospital.
- IDPH & Continental testing still are have site code problems. Make sure that you use NO DASHES, and also make sure that you do not use and “E Code”.
- NREMT is now offering online renewals. A handout was distributed.
- EMS Licensing version has been updated to version 5.0. They are seeing an improvement, but problems are now occurring with ambulance licensing.
- IDPH is looking to bring improvements to the tablet electronic ambulance inspection program.
- Looking at new licensing specifications for ambulance inspections.
- The military education bill passed.
- The Stroke Bill Passed. IDPH is developing rules.
- EMD Dispatch agency application forms are now available.

Trauma report (Dr. Gaines)

- 12 Trauma Site Surveys have been done so far.
- Condell is looking to go live as a Level 1 on October 1st.
- Goal is to do 12 more surveys by the end of the year.
- Will not have a dedicated State Trauma Coordinator.
- 3 Hospitals have applied for trauma status in the St. Louis area.
- Trauma funds have been dispersed.

Committee Reports

Trauma

- Next meeting in 10/23/09. It will be at ICEP and St. John Hospital teleconference.
- Advanced practice – no report
- TNS – Did review item analysis with psychmetrician. Did rescore some questions. Those affected were notified. If it negatively affected your score, than there was no change.
- Injury prevention – there was a written report distributed.

EMS Committee

- Legislative – met at ICEP yesterday.
- Aligning Illinois to the new education standards
- Emailed out a PowerPoint from Connie showing changes.
- Looking for data from survey sent by Connie for Gap analysis, and a SWAT analysis.
- Reminder, accreditation is not mandatory. However, it is clear the government wants one process nationwide. It may become mandatory in the next 10 years or so.
- There will be a Level 1 Education session next April. Will repeat the offerings in the fall.
- NAEMSE meeting will be held in Illinois next year.

State EMS Rules and Regs

- Mike Hansen wants to get this up and going.
- Mary Ann Millers group has info ready for review.
- George Madland from Good Sam has been asked to take Leadership of Rules and Regs.

State EMS Protocols

- Looking at BLS protocols for the State.
- Annie Moy is going to take over responsibilities.
- Date of next meeting is 10/1/09 at ICEP.
- Annie has worked up draft agendas and has a matrix completed.

EMS Data

- 7/9/09 was the last meeting
- Good to have Jack Fleeharty in his role.
- They reviewed the relation with EMS Data Systems.
- Looking for next meeting to be in October.

EMS Recruitment and Retention

- Hasn't met.

- Looking for downstate leadership here.

Tactical EMS

- Still moving forward
- Has held several seminars

Emerging Issues

- Draft rules for stretcher vans have been issued.
- Meeting every other month. Next meeting is at Superior Ambulance in Elmhurst on 10/26/09 from 9am until Noon.
- She encourages participation. You can reach her at mamiller@superiorambulance.com
- Her committee will look at Stroke, Code Stemi, and Mission Lifeline. She wants to hear how people interpret it.
- Mike Epping will be working on Stretcher Van rules.
- The critical care transportation plan is on Jack's list of priorities.

Medical Director Subcommittee

- Still a need for this group. It was referred to the ICEP group.
- Dr. French said they met, and now Dr. Jack Whitney will be the Chair.
- Goal is to offer this as a resource to IDPH. Will open it up to any medical director who is interested.
- He can be reached at jackw@imert.org

Legislative Issues for 2010 (Legislation and Planning) (Mike Hansen)

Goals for next year include:

- Anti-sweep legislation to protect EMS fund, Trauma fund, and EMS Assistance fund.
- Background checks on EMS providers. Tried this several times with no luck. He wants anyone convicted of a felony to lose his or her license.
- Legislation to get the Medicaid portion of the Ambulance rate to equal the Medicare portion.
- Wants paramedics to be eligible to hold Regional EMS Coordinator positions. Yesterday at ICEP, they voted to look into this issue and introduce legislation.
- Wants to oppose legislation that would require medics to do blood draws on suspected DUI patients per police request.

New Business

- The appointment process has changed for the State. Per the Governors press release, which was handed out, individuals now have to apply online. A background check

will be done. Looking at the demographics, experience, and education of members. It will be a lengthy process.

- Voted and agreed to change the 6/17/10 meeting to 6/3/10.
- Dr. Sands was elected to the Tactical EMS Chair.
- A lengthy and spirited discussion was started by Kathy Tanouye who wants to have the council reconsider moving the location of meetings from Springfield. It was agreed to look into possibly telecasting the meetings for those who could not attend.
- Problems were noted with some hospitals not restocking supplies. Jack said the Illinois EMS Act is in conflict with Medicare law.
- The Illinois Attorney General wrote a position paper on this topic 10-12 years ago.
- Act doesn't say you can't set up a billing system to bill providers.
- Jack recommends bringing hospital CFO's together to work out agreements.
- If the practice of restocking is common in a region or area, there is no "Enticement".
- He has no solution. He is willing to look at the Illinois EMS Act.

Meeting adjourned – Next meeting is December 10, 1009 in Springfield.

The above notes are strictly my own. Any omissions or mistakes are mine, and do not represent errors by IDPH.

David K. Maurer, MS, EMT-P
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