



**International Association of Fire Chiefs  
EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call  
December 12, 2019**

*Attendees: McEvoy, Riley, Shimer, Becker, Davis*

Chief McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:00pm ET

### **Heart Safe Community Award Update**

Chief Shimer updated the group on his work with other EMS Section Board members to refresh the award criteria for the Heart Safe Community Awards criteria. The group discussed the concept of whether the awards should be limited to fire-based EMS agencies. The EMS Section Board agreed unanimously to limit the awards to fire-based EMS agencies. There was also discussion on inherent bias towards departments that transport. It was decided that the evaluation metrics will be adjusted to equalize applications from first response fire departments with transport-capable departments.

### **Legislative Update**

Evan reported that there are two main EMS-related issues which Congress currently is discussing:

- **Balance Billing:** Congress has nearly finished legislation to limit balance billing that is done for emergency services. At this time, there are two primary approaches which may get combined in 2020. Neither proposal would impact ground ambulances. However, it appears that both proposals would limit air ambulance agencies to billing only in-network rates for all patients.
- **Government Funding:** The federal government is operating on a continuing resolution which expires on Friday. It is looking likely that Congress will pass a short-term continuing resolution in the hopes that a full year agreement can be reached. If a new spending bill for FY 2020 does get passed, it is likely that it will contain \$5-10 million for the SIREN grant program.

### **Fire Rescue Med 2020 Update**

Chief McEvoy reported that he is continuing to discuss the FRM 2020 conference with Chief Jeff Lindsey, Chief Ray Colburn, and IAFC staff. The group plans to hold a call later this week to discuss the status of plans for the conference and the need to finalize the anticipated educational content.

### **Degree Requirements Update**

Chief Becker reported that the National EMS Advisory Committee likely will be meeting in January. While the agenda has not yet been published, Chief Becker believes that the group will continue to discuss the concept of instituting a degree requirement for entry-level paramedics. Chief Becker plans to attend this meeting, pending approval from the EMS Section Treasurer. The EMS Section Board members present agreed that continuing to oppose this requirement is a priority for the EMS Section. The EMS Section Board also requested IAFC staff provide an update of the Section's net assets.

### **2020 CFSI Dinner**

The EMS Section Board discussed their plans to attend the 2020 CFSI Dinner. Additionally, the group would like to continue coordinating with AMR for the event.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the call at 3:30pm ET