



## International Association of Fire Chiefs

### EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call

September 9, 2021

*Attendees:* McEvoy, Riley, Deardorff, Becker, Maxwell, Shimer, Croom, LaSala

Chief McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. ET

#### **FRM 2022 Update**

Chief Shimer updated the Section leadership about planning for Fire-Rescue Med (FRM) in 2022. It seems like it would be logistically and financially unfeasible to hold a hybrid conference. The section leadership discussed the virtues of holding another virtual FRM next year or holding FRM in conjunction with Fire-Rescue International (FRI). Chief McEvoy recommended holding a virtual FRM next year based on the large attendance at the past two year's virtual conferences. He also recommended working with the FRI Program Planning Committee to bring more EMS classes to FRI. Chief Shimer will follow up with the IAFC conference staff about a virtual or hybrid FRM next year. The EMS Section leadership will start looking at dates in May or June to host a virtual FRM.

#### **Meeting at EMS World**

Chief McEvoy reported that the EMS Section Board is planning to meet with the board of directors of the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT) at EMS World in Atlanta on October 7 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. The agenda will include items such as mentorships; next steps for the First On Scene class; legislative issues; and other issues. Mr. LaSala was asked to follow up with NAEMT about other agenda items and to develop talking points on legislative issues.

#### **Update from the National Registry**

Chief McEvoy updated the EMS Section Board about issues relating to the National Registry. The International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and NAEMT have expressed concerns about the National Registry's "continued competency" effort. They have sent a letter to the National Registry about their concerns. The IAFC is represented by Chief Jim Davis (Ft. Worth, TX), who will raise this issue with the National Registry along with Chief McEvoy. Chief McEvoy will update the EMS Section membership about this issue through Knowledgenet.

Chief McEvoy also updated the EMS Section Board about some issues relating to accreditation and EMS classes in Florida. He also reported that Ray Mollers is taking over as the executive director of Replica.

#### **Update on CAAHEP Standards for EMS Professions**

Chief Becker updated the EMS Section Board about changes to the CAAHEP standard. The changes in this iteration are less than were made in 2015, and they concern removing duplicates and focusing on

outcome-based reporting. The CAAHEP will ask the IAFC Board to sponsor the revised standard. The document may not be finalized until December. Chief Becker will submit to the IAFC Board for approval. If there are any questions about the new CAAHEP standard, please contact Chief Becker or Chief Paul Berlin.

### **IAFC Board of Directors Update**

Chief Croom reported that the IAFC Board is still getting financials from FRI, but, overall, the IAFC budget is forecast to be “in the black” this year. He also reported that the IAFC Board had issued a [position statement](#) encouraging the COVID-19 vaccination of fire and EMS personnel. Chief Stuebing also reported that IAFC President, Fire Chief Ken Stuebing, is planning to hold an IAFC Board meeting and Strategic Planning meeting in January 2022.

### **Update on Colorado Ketamine Issue**

Chief Croom reported that the Colorado Attorney General convened a grand jury who indicted the first responders in the Elijah McClain case. The city of Aurora (CO) will not defend the police or paramedics. Chief Croom will work with Mr. LaSala to express the IAFC’s concerns with the Ketamine Restriction Act (H.R. 3876).

### **Federal Update**

Mr. LaSala updated the EMS Section Board about relevant legislation in Washington, D.C. The House passed \$6.5 million for the SIREN grant program to support rural EMS as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 4502). The Senate has yet to act.

In addition, the House and Senate are working on assembling a \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill. The House Science, Space and Technology Committee is recommending \$718 million for fire and EMS station reconstruction, renovation, and new construction. The committee also recommended \$80 million for the purchase of PFAS-free foam and equipment. Both programs would be funded through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. The House and Senate are expected to vote on the reconciliation bill in late September or early October.

The IAFC is working with the IAFF on two letters to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The first letter expresses concerns about CMS efforts to apply new “surprise billing” regulations to interfacility transport. This attempt is beyond the scope of recently passed federal “surprise billing” legislation. The second letter would ask CMS to continue to adhere to its timeline for collecting cost reporting data for treatment of Medicare patients.

### **New Business**

Chief Deardorff reported that he attended a traffic safety meeting at the Pennsylvania state turnpike office in August. The meeting was hosted by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen’s Association. It was focused on reducing struck-by deaths of first responders at the scene of highway incidents. Representatives of the EMS, fire, law enforcement and towing industry were present. Chief Deardorff thinks this will be an ongoing effort and is awaiting follow-up from the organizers.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the call at 4:00 pm ET.