



**International Association of Fire Chiefs
EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call
April 8, 2021**

Attendees: McEvoy, Riley, Deardorff, Croom, Shimer, Becker, Davis

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

Legislative Update

Mr. Davis provided the group with an update on several pieces of legislation and regulations:

- NAEMSP Proposal: The IAFC has continued to collaborate with the IAFF to oppose the NAEMSP's proposed bill on EMS quality and medical director payments. The IAFC and IAFF have identified several offices which understand our concerns and are committed to working to either amend or oppose the NAEMSP bill. NAEMT and AAA are currently seeking opportunities to meet with the NAEMSP and express their concerns.
- TIP Update: Representatives from the IAFC EMS Section recently met with CMS staff to discuss potential implementation of the TIP payments during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Most of these conversations centered on the concept of retroactive application of the TIP payments. It is not clear when CMS will release the implementing regulations for TIP.
- Infrastructure: The IAFC is developing a list of priorities for the upcoming infrastructure bill. The IAFC likely will focus on a variety of topics such as funding for NG911, fire station construction grants, and funding to retrofit public housing with fire sprinkler systems.

Fire-Rescue Med 2021 Planning

Chief McEvoy and Chief Shimer reviewed the current educational plan and list of speakers for the FRM 2021. The group was very pleased with the progress on the conference as well as the fresh slate of speakers who will be presenting.

Common Ground Paper

Chief Becker briefed the group on the "Common Ground" paper which he developed with a board member from the National Association of EMS Educators. This paper was an attempt to develop unity among EMS education stakeholders by identifying areas of agreement rather than just disagreement. The EMS Section Board discussed the paper and largely was supportive. Chief Becker made a motion for the Section Board to endorse the paper and seek approval from the IAFC Board. The motion was approved.

Mr. Davis will share the paper with the IAFC Board. Chief Croom will make a motion to endorse the paper at the next IAFC Board meeting.

Mental Health Discussion

Members of the EMS Section Board held a discussion about an emerging whereby law enforcement agencies are beginning to express hesitancy at responding to calls regarding mental health emergencies. The EMS Section Board members are concerned that there is a lack of information and guidance for how fire chiefs can prepare for these types of calls if local law enforcement agencies stop responding. The

Section Board agreed on the need to convene other fire and EMS stakeholders to discuss this topic and potentially assemble a white paper or other best practices.

The EMS Section Board asked Mr. Davis to check with the EFO, Metro Chiefs, and VCOS Sections about their interest in working on this topic. The group also asked Mr. Davis to check with the Congressional Fire Services Institute to see if they would be interested in helping to gather the relevant stakeholders.

Colorado Legislation on Sedatives

Chief Croom briefed the group on the emerging legislation that is being developed in Colorado to limit the ability of EMS personnel to administer sedatives to patients. The Colorado Fire Chiefs are working closely with other EMS and physicians' groups to oppose the proposed legislation. Chief Croom recommended that this issue also be considered by the group that is assembled to review the situation regarding responses to individuals experiencing mental health emergencies.

Financial Review

Mr. Davis shared the recent financial statement for the EMS Section and FRM with Chiefs McEvoy and Deardorff in advance of the meeting. Chief Deardorff briefed the group on the latest numbers. Overall, the Section's finances are dramatically improving. The success of FRM 2020 and reduced travel played roles in increasing the Section's reserves. The EMS Section Board anticipates the Section's finances will continue to improve throughout the remainder of 2021.

Future Travel

Members of the EMS Section Board discussed their plans for future travel. The EMS Section Board would like to hold a business meeting at the FRI conference in Charlotte. Chief McEvoy encouraged whoever can attend to do so.

Based on scheduling conflicts, the EMS Section Board will not hold their regular meeting at the VCOS Symposium in the Sun conference. Instead, the group discussed meeting at the EMS World conference in Atlanta in October. The group will check their schedules and continue discussing a potential meeting place for a Fall strategic planning meeting.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the call at 4:15pm ET