



International Association of Fire Chiefs

EMS Section Board of Directors

August 16, 2023

11 AM (Central)

Room 2203, Kansas City Convention Center

Attendees: McEvoy, Riley, Joles, Croom, Richardson, Becker, Sinclair

Agenda:

Chief McEvoy opened the meeting at 11 AM (Central).

1. FRI Agenda

Chief McEvoy reviewed the upcoming agenda for the week. The EMS Section Board discussed the need to develop questions for the August 17 Shakers meeting.

In addition, Chief McEvoy announced that the August 18 EMS section meeting would include briefings by Chief Pete Lawrence about the federal Advisory Committee on Ground Ambulance and Patient Billing (GAPB); Chief Richard Patrick about the new EMS branch at the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA); Chief Dave Bryson about the Office of EMS at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); and an update on FirstNet. There will be a presentation of meritorious awards by Chief McEvoy and the new section leadership will be sworn in.

2. IAFC EMS Section Succession Planning

Chief McEvoy will be stepping down as EMS Section Chair (and become Past Chair) due to his incoming presidency with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Chief Joles will take over as EMS Section Chair; Chief Maxwell will become EMS Section Treasurer; and Chief Becker will become an At-Large Board Member of the section board. This change will require a motion at the EMS Section meeting.

3. CMS Deliberations re: GEMT and CMS Cost Reporting Requirements

Mr. LaSala reported that the IAFC will have to start talks with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program. The CMS is scaling back on expenses that it will reimburse through the GEMT program. We will educate CMS about some of the onerous requirements that they propose and how they will affect emergency medical care.

Chief McEvoy reported that he asked CMS for information about cost-reporting submissions for fire-based EMS agencies. CMS said that small agencies are meeting their cost-reporting requirements, but large commercial services are running late. Chief McEvoy asked CMS for a recommendation about what the IAFC can do to help alert fire-based EMS agencies of their cost-reporting requirements and he is awaiting an answer.

4. VCOS Symposium Planning

Chief Joles, Riley, McEvoy, Croom, and Becker will be able to attend the EMS Section Board meeting on November 10 and 11 at the VCOS Symposium in the Sun. Chiefs Maxwell and Richardson will not be able to

attend. The EMS Section Board will arrive on November 9; meet on November 10 and 11; and return home on November 12.

5. Heart Safe Community Awards

Chief McEvoy reported that PulsePoint would like the EMS Section to do more publicity for the Heart Safe Community Awards. He recommended working with the VCOS to develop a guide to becoming a Heart Safe Community.

6. Federal Update

Mr. LaSala updated the EMS Section Board about federal legislation. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has reported the SIREN Grant Reauthorization Act (S. 265/H.R. 4646). In addition, the Senate is proposing \$11.5 million for the SIREN grants in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Mr. LaSala also discussed proposed changes to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reimbursement of fire-based EMS for ambulance transport.

7. Roundtable

Chief Joles reported that he met with Rob Brown, the IAFC's CEO and Executive Director, and Chief Croom to discuss bringing FRM back as an in-person conference. He asked about soliciting a group to plan FRM through Knowledgenet.

Chief McEvoy discussed an effort by the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) to develop protocols for dealing with violent patients. Chief McEvoy expressed some concern with this project.

Chief Sinclair discussed the need to re-engage with the IAFF's EMS committee and participation in the monthly EMS calls. He also discussed the need for the EMS Section to have a medical intelligence subcommittee to make recommendations to prepare for the next pandemic.

Chief Croom reported on the IAFC Board's strategic initiative plan. He discussed efforts to work with Columbia Southern to improve the Officer Development Program. He also reported that he has been elected as an At-Large member of the IAFC Board's Executive Committee.

Chief Becker urged that the EMS Section needs to participate in the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) and Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) meetings. He also discussed the IAFF position regarding opposition to a postgraduate paramedic position. He expressed concerns that EMS programs do not have a program to teach classes for this position and the states would have to add the post-graduate paramedic position to the scope of practice.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the meeting at 12:16 PM (Central).