



**International Association of Fire Chiefs
EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call
February 13, 2020**

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

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

FRM 2020 Planning Update

Chief McEvoy updated the group on the status of class and plans for the FRM 2020 conference. Chief McEvoy also announced that Chief Lindsey has stepped down as PPC chair and that Chief Ray Colburn will be taking over the chair position for the committee. The PPC hopes to finalize the list of classes in the next few weeks and begin promoting the conference more heavily.

Chief McEvoy also provided an updated on the anticipated classes as well as which presenters have been confirmed to teach during the conference.

Chief McEvoy also provided the group with an update on sponsorships for the conference. Chief McEvoy reported that the IAFC is close to finalizing a partnership with a sponsor for the Heart Safe Community Awards. The IAFC will begin developing the nomination form once this sponsorship agreement is in place.

Legislative Update

Evan updated the group on several EMS-relates issues before Congress:

- **Balance Billing:** A third proposal on balance billing recently was introduced by Representatives Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Virginia Foxx (R-NC). This proposal would create a ground ambulance payment advisory committee and call for further consideration of how to address balance billing by ground ambulance agencies. The IAFC is concerned that this could lead to balance billing prohibitions for EMS agencies. The IAFC was successful in having the language softened considerably before the proposal was marked up by the Committee on Education and Labor. The IAFC will continue monitoring all three proposals and work to keep ground ambulance agencies out of any bans on balance billing.
- **Hospital Diversion:** Representative Bobby Rush (D-IL) has [introduced a bill](#) which would call for a study on hospital diversions and the impacts they have on ambulances. Evan will send the bill text to the EMS Section Board members for their review.
- **SIREN Applications Open:** The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) opened the SIREN application process on January 31 and plan to close it on March 30. The IAFC recently [published guidance](#) for IAFC members interested in applying for funding.

NEMSAC Update

The EMS Section Board discussed their concern regarding NEMSAC's continued interest in developing a degree requirement for entry-level paramedics. The Board discussed their interest in collaborating with the IAFF to oppose the proposal at the next NEMSAC meeting in April as well as future NEMSAC meetings throughout 2020. There was also discussion about the constituency of NEMSAC and whether the present design truly represents the actual constituency of EMS providers in the US.

Upcoming Webinars

Chief McEvoy reported that the IAFC is preparing webinars in partnership with both PCG Health as well as RQI Partners. The PCG webinar will be focused on the CMS data reporting process and currently is scheduled for March 11 at 3pm ET. The RQI webinar would be focused on improving responses to cardiac emergencies and likely will include a representative from the Fort Lauderdale (FL) Fire Department. The RQI webinar currently is scheduled for March 30 at 1pm ET.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the call at 3:45pm ET