



EMS Section of The International Association of Fire Chiefs

4025 Fair Ridge Drive • Fairfax, VA 22033-2868 • Tel: 703/273-0911 • www.iafc.org



EMS Section – Annual Business Meeting Fire-Rescue International – Charlotte, NC Thursday, July 27, 3:30 PM (ET)

In Attendance: Becker, McEvoy, Riley, Croom, Metro, Ludwig, Davis

Introduction of Officers

Chief Becker thanked everyone for attending the meeting and introduced all EMS Section and IAFC officers who were present.

Naming of the Parliamentarian and Approval of Minutes

Chief Vance Riley was named as the parliamentarian. Chief Croom offered a motion, seconded by Chief Ludwig, to approve the minutes from the EMS Section business meeting held at Fire-Rescue Med 2017 in Henderson, NV. The motion passed unanimously.

Oath of Office

Chief Gary Ludwig, outgoing immediate past chair, administered the oath of office to new EMS Section officers:

Chair: Chief Mike McEvoy
Secretary/Treasurer: Chief Vance Riley
Director At-Large: Chief Mike Metro

Recognition of Past Chair

Chief Mike McEvoy formally recognized Chiefs Becker and Ludwig for their service and dedication to the EMS Section.

Treasurer's Report

Chief Mike Metro, outgoing EMS Section Treasurer, reported that the EMS Section's finances continued to hold strong. Chief Metro reported that the FRM 2017 conference was successful and contributed to the strong position of the EMS Section's finances.

Update on MIH Handbook

Chief McEvoy announced that the IAFC Board of Directors voted to approve publication of the MIH Handbook, pending final editorial review by IAFC staff. Chief Metro shared additional information on the content of the handbook.

Legislative Update

Evan reported that the IAFC is continuing to work on several EMS initiatives, including:

- 1) Ryan White Act: The IAFC is continuing to encourage the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to empower the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

with the ability to enforce the Ryan White Act. The IAFC will work with other national fire and EMS organizations to send a new letter to HHS Secretary Price on this issue.

- 2) Ambulance Payment Extenders: The IAFC is working with Congress as it develops legislation to reauthorize the Medicare Ambulance Add-On Payments as well as develop a cost reporting mechanism for all ambulance services.
- 3) AFG/SAFER: The IAFC is working to support legislation to reauthorize the AFG and SAFER grant programs. More information can be found at www.iafc.org/gr
- 4) Medkit Funding: The House is looking again to pass legislation to codify the current grant guidance for the UASI and SHSGP programs which permit this funding to be used for purchasing medkits for first responders.

NHTSA Update

Dr. Jon Krohmer from the NHTSA Office of EMS thanked the group for the opportunity to attend FRI and the EMS Section meeting. NHTSA plans to lead a stakeholder initiative to address scene response issues with opioid overdoses. NHTSA will invite the IAFC and other national fire and EMS organizations to participate in this effort.

DEA Update

Supervisory Special Agents Keith Perkins and Jason Capstraw provided information on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's work to address the growing opioid problem in the United States. SSA Perkins also provided information pertaining to personnel safety when responding to incidents involving either confirmed or suspected fentanyl.

FirstNet Update

Chief Mike Varney provided an update on the establishment of FirstNet. Chief Varney encouraged all EMS Section members to contact their governors and advocate for opting into the national FirstNet initiative.

NEMSMA Update

While NEMSMA was unable to attend the meeting, they have submitted a written update. This information can be found on the final two pages of these minutes.

Nomenclature Issue

Chief Becker announced that the IAFC Board of Directors recently adopted an EMS Section drafted position statement in opposition to the concept of adopting the single nomenclature of "paramedicine" for the entire EMS industry. The IAFC will share this position with other national fire and EMS organizations as well as the National EMS Advisory Committee.

EMS Section Board Vacancies

Chief McEvoy announced that the EMS Section has two vacancies in the positions of Vice Chair and Member At-Large. The EMS Section Board is assessing candidates to appoint for the remainder of these terms.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm

NEMSMA Update (submitted by Allison Bloom)

NEMSMA's key initiatives and activities in 2017:

- Annual Meeting- NEMSMA will be holding its Annual Membership Meeting and releasing its Annual Membership Report at the Pinnacle EMS Leadership Conference in Boca Raton, Florida, on August 8th, 2017.
- Profession Nomenclature- NEMSMA has released a new position paper addressing the nomenclature of our profession. It substantially expands our previous statement on this issue made in 2012. Our current position calls for the industry to recognize we have become our own profession, a subspecialty of healthcare, that our discipline should be referred to as paramedicine, and we should adopt a common, generic name for all our practitioners, regardless of their scope of practice. It is posted on our web site and has been distributed to the industry.
- EMS Resiliency Project- Our Practitioner Wellbeing Committee (chaired by Monique Rose) is aggressively working on this national project, supported by virtually all the major EMS associations across the country. Announced at EMS Today in February, 2017, this project is focused on the goal of collaborating with the entire industry to develop programs and training that will provide guidance and education for practitioners on the difficult issue of stress and suicide within our profession.

The inaugural meeting of the national EMS Resiliency Alliance was held on June 12th, 2017, in Washington, DC. The purpose of the project is to draw together all the EMS industry's stakeholder groups into a cooperative task force to address the profession-wide problem of stress and suicide.

- EMS Safety and QI Specialty Officers- Two of our committees, Practitioner Wellbeing and Quality Improvement (chaired by Justin Reed), are actively working on the development of competencies and credentialing requirements for these two new EMS specialty officers. They are reviewing our current officers' competencies and augmenting them toward these specialty levels. Once completed, NEMSMA, through our relationship with Avesta, will be creating credentialing testing for those interested in seeking national recognition for these distinct levels of management.
- Accreditation Process- The Accreditation Committee (chaired by Charles Blankenship) has developed an accreditation process that will allow NEMSMA to review and determine if submitted programs and courses meet our officers' competencies. If so, we will award the NEMSMA Accredited Program recognition for those sessions and they can be used toward our officer credentialing and recertification.

- EMS Officer Testing and Testing Preparation- NEMSMA is expanding the number of venues at which we are offering our EMS officer testing and prep courses. We recently (April) held both for our Supervising Officer credential at the Colorado regional EMS leadership conference in Grand Junction. Next, we look forward to the Pinnacle Leadership Conference in August, a regional conference in Minnesota in September and EMS World Expo in Las Vegas in October. By August, we will be providing test preparation courses and the credentialing tests for both the Supervising and Managing Officer levels. Next year we will roll out the test and prep courses for the Executive level of EMS officer.
- New Information & Technology Committee- We have added a new committee to the association line up. The Information and Technology Committee was approved by the Board in April and Board member Nick Nudell was assigned as our liaison. We have appointed Jon Kumrud, from Allina Health, as Chairperson. The committee is responsible for establishing the professional expectations and requirements of an EMS agency's information managers. These are equivalent to the CIO positions in most corporations. Also, to establish a new credential for this role along with education and competency requirements for the various facets of the role. To develop materials for the of this officer's responsibility as a critical team member. In addition, to develop position papers on this subject and identify best practices for information management in EMS agencies.
- Board Member Sean Caffrey has been selected as a member of NHTSA's Subject Matter Expert Panel (SMEP) for the National EMS Scope of Practice Revision Initiative under the management of the National Association of State EMS Officers (NASEMSO).
- Board member and Past President Mike Touchstone has been appointed by NEMSMA as our association's representative for the EMS Agenda 2050 project.
- Board member Pat Songer has been appointed by NEMSMA to represent our association on the NFPA's Active Shooter project.
- President Vince Robbins has been appointed by NEMSMA to represent our association on the NFPA's standing EMS Section Technical Committee.
- Member Jon Olson was reappointed by NEMSMA to represent the association in FirstNet's Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC).
- In recognition of our nomenclature position statement, NEMSMA renamed the EMS Officers' Credentialing Commission, to the *American College of Paramedic Executives*.
- The NEMSMA Board appointed Jose Salazar and Amie Allison as new Commissioners to the American College of Paramedic Executives.

- NEMSMA expressed its support for Senate Bills S.967, which makes the temporary Medicare reimbursement increase, permanent, and S.916, which addresses the problem we face regarding our use of controlled substances. We opposed a Bill being considered in the House of Representatives, HR 1394, which will allow states to remove non-emergent ambulance transportation as a covered service under Medicaid.