



EMS Section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs

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EMS Section Board Meeting Clearwater, FL November 9-10, 2018

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

Chief McEvoy called the meeting to order at 9:00am Eastern on November 9

Meeting with Executive Director Light and Treasurer Carrizzo

The EMS Section Board met with IAFC Executive Director Mark Light and Treasurer Richard Carrizzo to discuss the EMS Section's 2019 budget. The group discussed the EMS Section's budgetary plans for 2019 and anticipated expenses. The group also discussed other high-level items such as the continuing need to collaborate with the USFA to review their EMS curriculum and the EMS Section's recruitment of AFG reviewers.

Discussion of NEMSQA

Chief Mike McEvoy updated the group on the work of the National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA – www.nemsqa.org) and the need for the IAFC to be involved in this organization. The group re-asserted their support for NEMSQA as well as support for the EMS Section's dues to continue involvement in NEMSQA.

Meeting with 1st Vice President Ludwig

The group met with IAFC 1st Vice President Gary Ludwig to discuss the EMS Section's priorities as well as his goals when he becomes the IAFC President in August 2019. 1st VP Ludwig described his goal of creating a campaign to increase awareness of firefighter cardiac arrests and the need to seek medical attention when an emergency responder feels ill. 1st VP Ludwig believes that the EMS Section is an important stakeholder in this project. The EMS Section Board agreed that this is an important priority and is looking forward to working with 1st VP Ludwig to address this issue.

Meeting with Terry Monroe and Cathy Feyh

The EMS Section Board met with Terry Monroe and Cathy Feyh from the IAFC's Membership Department. Terry and Cathy discussed trends in the IAFC's membership as well as what resources from the EMS Section seem to be most popular among IAFC members. These topic areas included EMS cost recovery and the debate surrounding educational requirements for paramedics. The EMS Section Board agreed to focus on developing more content in these content areas. The group also discussed ways to increase EMS Section membership through expanding non-chief involvement and group memberships. Chief McEvoy will also work with Board members to develop a membership (recruitment) brochure specific to the EMS Section.



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EMS Fatigue Recommendations

The Joint National EMS Leadership Forum (JNEMSLF) earlier this year had requested IAFC to endorse recommendations published in Prehospital Emergency Care (PEC) earlier this year. A new guidebook has recently been published to accompany the recommendations (<https://nasemso.org/wp-content/uploads/Fatigue-Guidebook-FINAL-2018Oct.pdf>). Following extensive discussion, especially with regards to recommendations #2 and #3, the Board forwarded a recommendation to the IAFC Board for their consideration in making an endorsement.

Meeting with David Bryson (NHTSA EMS)

The EMS Section Board met with David Bryson from the NHTSA EMS Office. Dave updated the group on a variety of NHTSA EMS programs including the EMS Agenda 2050, model scope of practice, evolving educational standards, and new staff changes within the NHTSA EMS Office. The group also discussed Fire-Rescue Med 2019 with Dave and explored ways that NHTSA could assist in developing or delivering content.

Paramedic Degree Requirements

The group discussed the concept of requiring a college degree for licensure as a paramedic. The EMS Section Board continues to oppose this concept and expressed interest in creating a toolkit for members, state fire chief associations, and others to use when opposing this argument at the state level. The group will identify resources to include in this toolkit and then share them with Evan Davis. Evan will work with IAFC staff to facilitate the creation and posting of this toolkit.

Meeting with VCOS Board

The EMS Section Board met with the VCOS Board to discuss the priorities of each section. The EMS Section briefed the VCOS Board on their work on EMS cost reporting with CMS as well as efforts to oppose the creation of a degree requirement for paramedics. The VCOS Board discussed their continued work to address firefighter cancer and mental health issues. Both the EMS Section and VCOS Boards discussed their interest in potentially updating the Orange Ribbon Report as well as continuing work on addressing mental health issues in the fire and emergency service.

Day One of the meeting was adjourned at 5pm on November 9.



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Day Two of the meeting was called to order at 9am on November 10.

Fire-Rescue Med 2019/2020 Planning

The group discussed a number of plans related to the FRM 2019 and FRM 2020 conferences. These topics included:

- **Promotions:** The group discussed the benefits of providing free FRM registration for all IAFC section board members. Cost information will be requested from the IAFC conferences department prior to deciding whether or not to execute. The group also discussed expediting the creation of one-page documents to promote the conference for attendees and vendors.
- **Location:** The group discussed some of the potential locations for the FRM 2020 conference. The Section Board and the FRM Program Planning Committee will decide on the conference's location at a later date.
- **Scholarship Letters:** The group decided not to send letters to the two scholarship recipients who failed to attend FRM 2018. For future years, the group is interested in requiring recipients to initially pay for their travel with reimbursement upon their arrival at the conference. Chief McEvoy will discuss this with the FRM PPC.
- **Awards:** The group updated the award criteria for the Heart Safe Community Awards and the criteria for the James O. Page award. Additionally, the group identified a recipient for the James O. Page EMS Achievement Award for 2019. This person is not being named until they have been formally notified and confirm their anticipated attendance at the conference.

Cost Reporting Update

Chief McEvoy, Chief Becker, and Evan updated the group on conversations that all three have had with both CMS and the RAND Corporation. Chief McEvoy reported that the Cost Reporting Work Group has completed their final report. The EMS Section Board agreed that this report should be shared with all IAFC members as a follow-up from the earlier all member email on cost reporting.

Legislative Update

Evan updated the EMS Section Board on a variety of legislative issues including

- **SIREN Act:** The Farm Bill conference committee has agreed to include SIREN in the final version of the Farm Bill. The committee also reduced the matching requirement from 25% to 10%. The IAFC is now waiting for the conference committee to reach an agreement on the overall bill.
- **Cost Reporting:** As was mentioned above, the IAFC is continuing to work closely with the CMS and RAND Corporation as they continue to design an EMS Cost Reporting system.



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- Ryan White Corrections: The IAFIC is continuing to talk with NIOSH regarding the design and implementation of an enforcement system for hospital noncompliance with the Ryan White Act's source patient testing requirements. Evan also thanked the Board for their help in developing supporting comments for CDC/NIOSH's definitional updates to the Ryan White Act.
- NFPA 1917: The IAFIC is continuing to work with the other national fire service organizations to build support for federal adoption of the NFPA 1917 ambulance standard. GSA has rejected the IAFIC's recent request to sunset the KKK specification and replace it with NFPA 1917.
- AFG Funding: Evan updated the group on the House and Senate's proposals to fund the federal government, including the proposed funding levels for the AFG and SAFER grant programs.
- Volunteer Tax Incentive: Evan updated the group on the IAFIC's work to exempt nominal recruitment and retention incentives for volunteer fire and EMS personnel. The Senate has included a one-year reauthorization of the VRIPA (H.R. 1550/S. 1238) in their Retirement Enhancement and Savings Act of 2018 (S. 2526). While the House has a different version of this bill, it seems as though the House is willing to accept the one-year reauthorization of VRIPA. The IAFIC hopes to see this legislation advance during the Lame Duck session of Congress.

The meeting adjourned on November 10 at approximately 3pm ET