

Minutes of Municipal EMS Board Meeting held on January 29, 2008

The January 29, 2008 meeting of the Municipal EMS Board was called to order by Dr. Michael Levy at 7:07 am in Room 830, City Hall at 632 West 6th Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska. A quorum was present.

Present

Dr. Michael Levy, Chair
Dr. Frank Sacco
Dr. Sami Ali
Dr. Matthew Wolf
Dr. Richard Brodsky
Dr. Tim Silbaugh
Mary Leemhuis, RN
Sandy Coons, RN

Debbie Gariepy, RN
Robert Bowler, FF/PM

Excused

Dr. Keith Winkle

Absent

Dr. Gilbert Dickie

AFD Staff

Doug Schrage, Deputy Chief (Ops)
Erich Scheunemann, Assistant Chief (Ops)
Soren Threadgill, Assistant Chief (Liaison)
Wade Strahan, Assistant Chief (Ops)
Steve Poggi, Chief Financial Officer

Anne Sigsworth, Battalion Chief (EMS)
Pat Vincent, EMS Training Specialist
Molly Cullom, Contract Administrator
Jennifer Chaleunvon, Office Associate
Rhodora Mallari, Office Associate

Guests

Doug Green, Guardian Operations Mgr.

Approval of Minutes: The November 2007 MAB minutes were approved.

Agenda Changes: None

Old Business: Dr. Michael Levy, AFD Medical Director

- Guardian application is completed.
- Updated Dispatch P&I is completed.
- Area-wide EMS Orders, with regards to all agencies save one have been endorsed.
- Waiting for MOM 2008 to be completed and issued.
- Chief Schrage gives update on the New Hire Academy: EMT's have been certified and Paramedics have completed their ALS curriculum; now learning firefighter skills.
- Dr. Levy is enthusiastic in moving forward with field cooling for cardiac arrest; slight 'wrinkle' that needs to be worked out: there is an assertion that 10% of those who suffer cardiac arrest have a seizure, which is not consistent with his experience – Dr. Levy wants to see that data. If cooling in the hospital is good for cardiac arrest, cooling in the field is even better. We need to initiate field cooling in people with ROSC from cardiac arrest; there's small point on how to best sedate them and keep them from shivering, and that depends upon protocol.
- ROAM Update: Chief Scheunemann states progress and working on hot spots for hospitals, Training Center and Headquarters. FF/PM Bowler adds first version of customized program/software format should be coming in a week or so; this is the first step to making it streamlined for operations and further development. Dr. Levy comments we're trying to

eliminate things that don't make sense for our system; changing screens around so that AFD will get a product that is good for them.

Administration Reports: Erich Scheunemann, Assistant Chief (Operations)

- MOM 2008 is currently under development.
- EMS BC Sigsworth will have an updated anaphylaxis protocol coming out this week; was discussed during November board meeting.
- June 6-8, 2008 AFD Resuscitation conference is progressing. Topics such as urban search & rescue in earthquake situations, pediatric trauma burn care as well as CPR & resuscitation research will be discussed. There will be an ALS Paramedic refresher course 2 days prior. Dr. Levy adds that this is a huge deal and we need to get physicians involved. A flyer is available.
- Changes in Medicare billing signatures went into affect January 1st with mixed results. Chief Crotty and Poggi will have more info on that.
- Changes were made on the cardiac arrest post incident analysis requirements; streamlining the quality improvement process.
- MOA bond in April will include 3 new ambulance replacements.
- PM/FF intern Ryan Staten close to finishing up ALS internship. He will meet with Dr. Levy at end of the month and will go B shift downtown.
- Movement on the CARES Program as well IMMEDIATE trial; we're going to try and test out Physio Control LUCAS - CPR device.
- CSP: Molly Cullom states new database implemented Jan 1st; staff was trained by AFD. Starting to look at 2007 data, looks like an overall 5% increase in intakes over 2006. Clientele percentage remains the same: 90% AK Native, 8% Caucasian, and 2% all other. Will issue some overall 2007 data.
- Transcare's Private Ambulance Service permit expires this month. Chief Threadgill and Chief Garbe inspected their equipment last week, paperwork is in order; awaiting Dr. Levy to approve their standing orders.

Training: Pat Vincent, EMS Training Specialist

- Great deal of ALS additional training will be offered. This year is a renewal year, so all EMT's and Paramedics need to renew by December 31.
- There will be 4 quarters of training – group training where all Firefighters will come to training center and get skill verification which is necessary for their application in EMT; also CME for paramedics.
- Offering 2 Pediatric classes this year - February 20 & 22 and December 3 & 5. This will help those filling out applications for National Registry which is March 31st every year.
- Offering 4 ACLS this year to accommodate all expirations – one in February, May, July and October.
- Paramedic refresher course will be June 4-5 (16 hours); mandatory core training for paramedic refresher.
- EMT testing will be in October and should be completed by October 31st; will submit applications and wait for state to approve certifications.
- ALS hours have been increased. Providing advanced airway class and PHTLS (pre-hospital trauma life support).
- Ryan Staten will receive permanent license this month, just awaiting board approval.

Medical Director’s Report: Dr. Michael Levy, AFD Medical Director

- Dr. Levy states we’re continuing with compression devices; fundamental trial going on as part of the Rock Study. This will be the ‘make or break’ study whether or not the autopulse type device works. We see automatic compression devices having certain benefits to personnel, and hope it benefits patients as well. The technology used right now is the circumferential compression with the revivant devices. Another technology out there is the compression/decompression which turned out to be a little bit more effective in some studies. Will get a couple demonstrators for this.
- We’ll continue to see the Rescue Pods, also part of the Rock Project. Dr. Levy requests physicians educate their respiratory therapist since operationally these can be frustrating.
- Glucose Insulin Potassium trial (IMMEDIATE trial): Principle investigators really enthusiastic about us joining this trial; will be 4-6 months. More information as this goes along.
- DEA issues – There were bookkeeping errors, medications not charted correctly and/or held in a way that caused mixing and matching of controlled substances. Dr. Levy states we are again going to re-educate about how catastrophic this can be to the system. The DEA in Alaska take such discrepancies very seriously with regard to diversions, apparent diversions or lack of paperwork being completed. This scrutiny goes way beyond what you see in the hospital, so it is imperative to be diligently careful and make sure your people are following every P & I, have full control of your drugs. Spot check and keep a good record of every check done, every memo sent and make sure your people understand how important it is that there can be no slack on this.
- Purchased Codestat Suite which allows us to get in the lifepacks and look at the entire cardiac arrest; hope to integrate that stream into the cardiac arrest data. This shows when the first compressions were done, disruptions, when shocks were done, what the effect was, etc. That will be integrated onto our new ROAM system as well.
- CSP is still high on our radar screen, affects all operations. Molly Cullom will work towards getting new and enhanced sets of statistics. Always looking for funding and more van time. Would also like to catalog the amount of time drained from APD and AFD resources and more information on the hospital side of things.
- A plaque was presented to Mr. Denis LeBlanc at his going away party from the MAB lauding all of his efforts for the system. The Board welcomes Mr. Mike Abbott who replaced Denis LeBlanc as City Manager.
- CARES Project comparison data discussed – All sites (14 or 15 sites) data is from 2005 to current; Anchorage data is from 2007 data. Anchorage is doing very well in comparison to the overall study data.

ALL SITES TOTAL		ANCHORAGE 2007	
OVERALL	6%	OVERALL	12.7%
Bystander Wit’d	9.3%	Bystander Wit’d	20.5%
Ustein	21.3%	Ustein	39.1%
Ustein Bystander	26.4%	Ustein Bystander	25%
EMS Wit’d	11%	EMS Wit’d	22.2%
Unwitnessed	2.5%	Unwitnessed	2.3%
Shockable/Bystand	33.8%	Shockable/Bystand	52.3%

- It is time of year to consider looking for new EMS Board Chair; Dr. Levy encourages members to consider this role and nominate yourself or someone else. Submit the information to Chief Scheunemann or Molly Cullom.

Calls for the ‘good of the order’: None

- Guardian Flight ground transports briefly discussed.

Adjournment: The January 29, 2008 MAB meeting was adjourned at 7:40 am.