

EMS Section of Oregon Fire Chiefs Association - Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2011 at 1:00pm

Salem Convention Center

Call to Order: President Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Member Introductions: Those present included:

Randy Jackson	Keizer Fire District	Will Bauscher	Corvallis Fire Dept.
Mark Stevens	TVF&R	Tim Frost	Lebanon Fire District
Tom Wright	Bend Fire Dept.	Doug Kelly	Redmond F&R
Chris Heppel	Lane Rural Fire/Rescue	Anna Slaughter	Bend Fire Dept.
Holly Love	Life Flight	JoAnna Kamppi	Eugene Fire & EMS
Todd Brumfield	City of Dallas, EMS	Monte Keady	Klamath Co. FD#1
Mike Mayfield	Polk Co. Fire Dist. #1	Laurie Monico	Springfield F&LS
Frank Douglas	Newberg Fire Dept.	Mark Boren	Lane Co. FD#1
Jonathan Chin	Washington Co. EMS	Ritu Sahni MD	OHA-EMS

Guests Included: None

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Frost to approve the June 9, 2011 meeting minutes, seconded by Keady, which passed unanimously by all those present.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Wright provided a Treasurer's report which detailed account activity. Our accounts have the following ending balances: US Bank checking \$2,327.49, 9-month CD @ US Bank of \$3,720.04 (matures 10/26/11) and the Home Federal Bank Money Market \$20,015.30. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Bauscher and seconded by Jackson, which passed unanimously by all those present.

Ex-Officio Member Reports

- EMS Office: OHA-EMS Medical Director Sahni provided the following EMS Office updates. One EMS office bill passed during the past legislative session so they are now working on draft language to update Oregon to the national levels of EMS certification. Individual providers will now be issued a "license" rather than a "certificate". He expected the proposed rule changes would be out very soon with an anticipated hearing date of 11/16/11 at the Portland EMS office (10am). No EMS fees increased (other than those previously planned) as funding requirements to include 2-MTU's were passed on to the medical marijuana program. Certification levels and training requirements will become effective during the 2013-15 cycle which will include specific transition requirements (except for Oregon EMT-I) but no change in the overall number of hours required. Details will be posted to the OR-EMS web site in the near future. New Paramedic internships will still be required to have 40 calls, but only 8 in each category. New State trauma rules will be published in early January 2012 which will include changes in trauma system entry criteria (OR is adopting a version of the national criteria). EMS-C is working on a "best practices for pediatrics" treatment guideline. On-line recertification went well except for those who waited until the very last day, which slowed down the system. Although no late penalties were assessed. He noted that 4 hours per year of EMS related training is being added to the EMS Medical Director/Supervising Physician requirements.
- DPSST: No representative present.

Committee/Activity Reports

- OFCA: Stevens reported the OFCA/OFDDA joint conference is Nov. 3, 4 & 5 in Seaside. He noted the passing of past member Kevin Donegan, whose funeral was 9/19/11. OFCA is looking to identify any high priority issues for the upcoming February legislative session.
- OSAA: Wright reported that the group was focused on an AAA hearing in D.C. which requested Medicare funding for EMS be left the same and the 2% reduction planned to sunset be left in place. He also noted the successful legislation to remove the PIP reimbursement from the workers comp rule which went into effect Sept. 1st and that community-based paramedic service discussions are still on-going. Everyone is watching the Health Care Transformation issue.
- ECEMS: Wright / Kelly reported they now have a neonatal resuscitation class available on-line and talked about doggy O2 masks.
- Northwest Air Ambulance Medical Responders (NWAAMR) Network: Love reported the group's next meeting is Nov. 30th in Seattle. SB-14 addresses Medicare funding for air ambulance transports.
- Legislative Updates: Quiet for now other than a letter being sent regarding HB3678.
- NEMSAC (National EMS Advisory Council): Dr. Sahni reported about a federal push for a broader culture of safety in EMS – more to follow for review and comment. Also on-going discussions about who is the best single federal agency for EMS...

State Committee Reports

- OMB/EMT Advisory Committee: Kelly reported on wording changes for First Responders, Adding TB testing/reading as permanent change to Paramedic scope is in final review, and discussions with the “Big” OMB Board over requiring whoever draws up a medication must also be the one to administer it. The EMS Section has sent a letter to the OMB opposing this “operational” change and President Stevens plans to attend the full Board's next meeting on Oct. 7th at 8am to testify (attend if you can).
- State EMS Committee: Stevens reported the group now has several new members and that most topics have already been reported on. They are reviewing current rules regarding staffing requirements due to the number of variances being requested.
- EMSC/Office of Rural Health: Nothing more (already covered in OHA report).
- STAB: Dr. Sahni reported they met in July and topics already covered in OHA report.
- DPSST Telecommunications Policy Committee: Raade not present – no report.
- OR-EMS Conference: Slaughter welcomed everyone. Attendance this year is down, but it's not a recertification year... They have been approached by the vendors about talking to the Fire Expo group. Next year's conference will be at the Riverhouse in bend the first weekend in October.

OFMAA Subcommittee Reports

- EMS Leadership & Education: Bauscher report they had not done much due to the legislative session but they were still having on-going discussions with DPSST about EMS related offerings.
- Safety & Operational Best Practices: No report.
- Protocol Development & Quality Improvement: Wright reported that a statewide STEMI and/or Stroke treatment protocol is not likely as situations and limitations are region based.
- Position Development & Policy Review: Wright still looking into bonding of the EMS Section E-Board as it may already be covered by the OFCA policy.

Old Business

- EMS Section Web Site Upgrades: Stevens asked for volunteers to help review and recommend updates to the sections web site. Keady and Douglas volunteered to do so.

New Business

- EMS for the Future Forum: Stevens reported on the workshop which was held at DPSST on 8/25/11 and thanked DPSST for both hosting and providing snacks and lunch! The event was well attended with 80-90 participants. Four primary discussion topics were identified (although I don't have note as to what they were) more will be sent out on this topic. On-going discussions as to how best distribute the information among such a diverse group. Having a common voice, especially at the legislative level is very important in order to be successful.
- Health Care Transformation: Stevens provided a handout with upcoming meeting dates & locations and suggested provider get involved now as these new Community Care Organizations (CCO's) are being formed. EMS is an afterthought and what we bring to the table needs to be considered early on in the process. Your input is important and things are moving fast. See www.health.oregon.gov for more information.
- POLST: Kelly reminded the group about the Oregon POLST registry which now has 75,000 individuals registered in the system.

Vendor Reports

- None present (setting up their displays for the conference).

Round Table (It should be noted that everyone is still having budget issues)

- Lane Co.: Consolidations with LCFD#1 still moving forward with a 1/1/12 target date and 7/1/12 joint budget. In August they added approx. 150 square miles to their ASA from Eugene via a 190 agreement and is going well. Expecting a new ambulance in early 2012.
- Corvallis: Still working with Albany FD on consolidation items at the admin level. 2 FTE vacancies filled and 7 new volunteers started. Developing a "rules of engagement" document for injured PAC 12 football players (on EMS Section web site soon).
- Newberg: 2 new ambulances ordered (\$192K each), fire station will get major remodel with 10 additional dorms, finalizing specifications for new transport capable engine.
- Eugene: No report had to leave early. ☹
- TVF&R: Have had 3 Firefighter's pass away in just the last few months... Noted several joint research articles published recently, looking at moving occupational health back into agency (from outsourcing) that could result in 963 fewer OT shifts (per year).
- Life Flight: Newsletter is out and all dispatching is now being done from Boise, ID.
- Washington Co. EMS: HD simulation lab project finishing up.
- Polk CFD#1: Nothing major to report.
- Dallas EMS: Nothing major to report.
- Bend: Property values are dropping (in a big way) due to reduced selling prices and requests for re-evaluation.
- Lebanon: Medical School (DO) opened in August with 110 students and a capacity of 400, the local clinic also moved requiring more transfers.
- Keizer: Supporting the City in placing a Public Safety Fee on November ballot.
- K-Falls: Public safety items, ASA plan under review, out of state (CA) requirement issues, remodeling 2 fire stations (he is now located in "Monte's Mission" and only has his cell phone for contact).
- Redmond: Now officially a Fire District and seeing a 10% decrease in property values.

Good of the Order None

The meeting adjourned at 4:08pm.

Next Meeting Dates and Locations:

- December 8, 2011 – Lane Co. FD #1

Submitted: Randy Jackson - OFMAA Secretary