N.H. EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAUMA SERVICES COORDINATING BOARD

Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy
222 Sheep Davis Road
Concord, NH 03301

May 15, 2003

Members Present: Steve Achilles, Eileen Bartlett, Dave Duquette, Stephen Grise , Fred Heinrich, Janet Houston, Director Rick Mason, Dr. Joe Mastromarino, Dr. Doug McVicar, Shawn Mitchell, Jackie Normile, Chief Sue Prentiss, Susan Reeves, Dr. Clare Wilmot, Dr. Norm Yanofsky.

Members Absent: Tom Blanchette, Paul Gamache, Karen Lord, Dianne Roberts, Dr. Joe Sabato (Interim Chair), Dr. John Sutton.

Guests: Rob Atwater, Mark Beliveau, Jon Bouffard, Donna York Clark, Kathy Crawford, Donald DeAngelis, Jeanne Erickson, Steve Erickson, Linda Fischer, Doug Martin, Roger Thompson, Gary Zirpolo.

Bureau Staff: Wanda Botticello, Executive Secretary; Liza Burrill, Educational Coordinator; Kathy Doolan, Field Services Coordinator; David Dow, Field Services Representative; Clay Odell, Trauma Coordinator; Will Owen, ALS Coordinator; Fred von Recklinghausen, Research Coordinator.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. The meeting of the EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board was called to order by Steve Grise at 1:30 PM on May 15, 2003 at the Evergreen 1 Building in Lebanon, NH. Steve Grise reported that Dr. Joe Sabato, Interim Chair, was out of town.

Director Mason reported that he needed to leave, but wanted to say thank you to the Board for their dedication and work during this time of growth of the Bureau.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Item 1. March 20, 2003 Minutes: Motion was made by Steve Achilles and seconded by Dr. Joe Mastromarino. Motion passed unanimously.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item 1. - NH E-911 Report

No report.

Item 2. - NH Medical Control Board

Dr. Joe Mastromarino reported that the MCB spent the majority of the meeting discussing Alternative Airway Devices and Protocol Process Improvement. Dr. Mastromarino provided a brief overview of the discussion and decisions. (Please refer to the May 15, 2003, MCB Minutes for further information).

Item 3. - Bureau of EMS Report

Chief Prentiss referred to the written report included in each member's packet. The highlights are:

- **SARS** – Bureau has coordinated with Office of Emergency Management, Health and Human Services and Police Standards and Training to provide responders with the most updated information. There has been a series of video-teleconferences about SARS over the last 2 weeks and 2 evening session this coming week. The Bureau also has copies of the power-point presentation on CD. For a CD you can contact Bill Wood, Preparedness Coordinator at the Bureau.

- **Bureau Reorganization** – Clay Odell, RN, NREMT-P has filled the Trauma Coordinator's position. In response to the recent customer satisfaction survey and needs assessment, George Patterson has been moved into the Education Section to assist with overflow of educational questions, needs, etc. in the Concord office. John Clark, BS, NREMT-P, has filled the Trauma Grant position vacated by George. The Bureau is in the process of moving the Claremont office at Valley Regional Hospital to a bigger office in Lebanon on the "miracle mile" where Clay Odell and Kathy Doolan will be based.

- **Air Medical Notification Project** – Will Owen reported that a subcommittee was formed and developed clinical and operational guidelines for early notification of Air Medical Services. These guidelines were discussed and approved by the Trauma Medical Review Committee at their last meeting. The subcommittee and Bureau are now working on setting up evaluation sites in the Monadnock area, the Berlin-Gorham area and possibly the Concord area. Evaluation tools are being developed to track these programs and there will be a formal report given a year after the programs are initiated.

- **Practical Exam Process** - The Education Section of the Bureau has been developing a new BLS practical exams process to make exams more accessible and consistent. The Bureau will be meeting with Instructor/Coordinators (I/C's) throughout the State to discuss the

current proposal and hear their feedback and input. Current Bureau Exam Coordinators will be included in the next series of discussions.

- **Rural Health and EMS** – The Bureau is working closely with the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care on managing federal money available through the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program. A certain portion of this money is dedicated to rural EMS. This year they are working to create a Rural Health Technical Assistance Center that would help address 5 focus areas including EMS. They are currently developing an EMS mini-grant program that would allow Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) to apply for money in the following areas with regards to EMS: System Analysis, System Development, Local and Regional Team Building and Strategic Planning and Quality Improvement.

- **Regional Councils** – Region 4 will be approaching the Coordinating Board later in the meeting to be formally approved as a Council again, and if approved all 5 Regional Councils would be active again.

- **Rural AED Grant** – The 2002 Rural AED Grant is moving into it's final stages. The Regional Councils have made their decisions on placement for machines. The AED bid should be completed in the next few days. Machines will then be received and distributed, and the North Country Health Consortium (NCHC) will begin training. The Bureau has started working on the 2003 Rural AED Grant and plan again to partner with the 5 Regional Councils, NCHC and the NH Office of Rural Health and Primary Care.

Chief Prentiss thanked the Board for the letter of support to Commissioner Flynn.

Item 4. - Strategic Plan Evaluation

This was tabled to the next meeting secondary to the Interim Chair's absence.

Item 5. - Subcommittee Reports

- **Structured Continuing Education Requirement** – Steve Grise reported that this group has not had a chance to meet yet and has no report at this time.

- **EMT-Intermediate** – Sue Reeves reported that Dr. Norm Yanofsky, Dr. Jim Martin, Will Owen and she had met on April 3, 2003. The history of this project is that NH currently uses the '85 DOT National Standard Curriculum for training EMT-Intermediates. A new DOT National Standard Curriculum for EMT-Intermediates was released in 1999 that increased the scope of practice and training requirements. The National Registry of EMT's had stated they would no longer be offering the EMT-Intermediate '85 Exam as of 2006 and that all states that chose to use the National Registry Exam would need to adopt the '99 Curriculum. Since then, much of the EMS community across the country has voiced their opposition the '99 Curriculum, including the

National Association of State EMS Directors. To date only a few states have adopted the '99 Curriculum. Currently, there is a national project that is working on new curriculum and scopes of practice for all level of EMS providers, which would supercede '99. Bill Brown, the Executive Director of the National Registry, has said that the Registry will continue to offer the '85 Curriculum Exam and the '99 Curriculum Exam until this new national project is completed which will be at least a few years. The subcommittee felt at this point in light of the new developments, that there was no urgency or need to change the current NH system with regards to the EMT-Intermediate until the current national project is completed.

Discussion followed about the role of Intermediates in NH and what the role and next step for this subcommittee should be. It was decided that the subcommittee should further explore what NH as a state would like an EMT-Intermediate's scope of practice to look like based on patient care needs. This information will be given to the Bureau in order to give input into the current national curriculum/scope of practice project.

- **Provider Hazards** – Steve Achilles reported that this group has not had a chance to meet yet and has no report at this time.

- **Alternative to Biennial Practical Exam** – Liza Burrill reported that this group has not had a chance to meet yet and has no report at this time. It was decided that the two currently on-going evaluation projects (Concord Fire and Lakes Regional General Hospital) will report on their current status at the July meeting. Doug Martin of Frisbie Memorial Hospital will also present a proposal he has given to the Bureau for an alternative paramedic recertification process.

Item 6. - Region 4 Presentation

Roger Thompson presented a packet of information which included a formal letter of request to be recognized as a Region, a list of communities in Region 4 and a copy of the Regional by-laws.

Motion was made by Dr. Clare Wilmot to accept Region 4 as an officially recognized Regional Council. The motion was seconded by Dr. Joe Mastromarino. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 7. - Goals of the Board

This was tabled to the next meeting secondary to the Chair's absence. Sue Reeves stated that a group has been meeting about Goal #6 – Quality Improvement and would be willing to report on that Goal at the next meeting.

Item 8. - Nominating Committee

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Fred Heinrich made a **motion** that Dr. Joe Sabato be nominated as Chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Clare Wilmot. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Joe Sabato was named Chair of the Board.

The Nominating Committee will present nominations for Vice Chair at the July meeting.

Item 9. - Items of Interest

Kathy Doolan reported that a mailing about EMS Week, including the Governor's Proclamation of EMS Week in NH, was sent out last week to each of the services and Medical Resource Hospitals. Included in the packet was the nomination information for the annual State EMS Awards. It was asked that people please spread the word about the award nominations and if anyone needs more nomination forms to please contact the Bureau.

Steve Grise reported that as part of the Intersections Initiative, Dr. Joe Sabato is currently working with Keene State on a curriculum for Emergency Public Health for EMS and Fire personnel. It will be piloted in September 2003.

Steve Grise stated that recently the American Red Cross (ARC) has been getting a lot questions about a new AED that is being promoted by a manufacturer for use in pediatric patients under the age of 8 years old. This not in the current American Heart Association (AHA) or ARC recommendations for AED use. He asked for the Board's opinion on this issue and what, if anything, should be done about it. Discussion followed about the State's authority over this and what the next step should be. The Board agreed that Steve Grise should contact the manufacturer and ECC about the issue and raise his concerns. Steve will report back at the next meeting.

Steve Achilles stated that there will be an MCI drill in the Seacoast region this coming weekend and they will be evaluating a new system of pre-establishing transport of patients to certain hospitals and having pre-identified decompression capabilities for each hospital. Steve stated he will report back to the Board on how the proposed system worked.

Sue Prentiss reported that planning is starting for the Third Annual Trauma Conference to be held on November 12 at the Inn at Mills Falls in Meredith, NH.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Steve Achilles and seconded by Janet Houston to adjourn. Unanimous agreement to adjourn.

V. NEXT MEETING

July 17, 2003 at SOLO in Conway, NH. Directions are posted on the State website (www.state.nh.us/safety/ems) under "Who we Are" then "Medical Control Board – Meeting Schedule" or at the SOLO website (www.soloschools.com).

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne M. Prentiss, Bureau Chief, EMS

(Prepared by Will Owen, ALS Coordinator and Kathy Doolan, Field Services Coordinator)