



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES **MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes of January 26, 2005 meeting

A meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Medical Advisory Board was held on January 26, 2005, at the Daytona Beach International Airport – Volusia Board Room, Daytona Beach, Florida. Dr. John Shedd called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Members present:

- John Shedd, M.D., FACEP, Chair, Volusia County EMS Division
- Paul Marton, M.D., Florida Hospital – Fish Memorial
- Arlen Stauffer, M.D., Bert Fish Medical Center
- Peter Springer, M.D., Halifax Medical Center
- Chip Woodard, D.O., Volusia County Medical Society
- Tracey Weiner, M.D., Florida Hospital - DeLand

Guests Present:

- Mike Mellon, Executive Director, EVAC Ambulance
- Matt Zavadsky, Volusia County EMS Director

Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair opened the meeting with introductions.

EMS Performance Statistics:

Matt Zavadsky provided a presentation on the overall EMS System performance statistics for the time period of January through September 2004. Statistics included response times broken down by Call Processing, Activation, Response, Patient Access and Total Time on Task.

These reports will become part of the quarterly EMS MAB meetings in the future for the benefit of the EMS MAB members.

Trauma Agency for Volusia County:

At the April 20, 2004 MAB meeting, Dr. Wiener suggested the Board be provided an overview of the state's Trauma Agency system and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of creating a Trauma Agency for Volusia County. At the July 20th Board meeting, the members requested that Dr. Shedd and Matt meet with Halifax to brief them on the issues raised by the Board. A meeting was scheduled on November 30, 2004, with Halifax representatives Dan Lang (Administrator), Jeffery Feasel (COO), William Meek, M.D. (Emergency Services Chairman), Michael Fabian, M.D. (Trauma Services Chairman), Jane Kwilecki, RN (Trauma Coordinator) John Shedd, M.D. and Matt. Dr. Meek and Mr. Feasel did not attend.

As requested by the MAB, Dr. Shedd shared the recent discussions at the MAB meetings regarding the creation of a Trauma Agency. He shared the genesis and reasons for the discussions, as well as the Florida EMS Bureau's overview information regarding the benefits of a Trauma Agency.

This led to a significant discussion with Halifax regarding the Transfer Center. Dr. Fabian indicated that he was aware of the problems with the Transfer Center and that steps were in process to make the patient transfer system more effective and efficient.

Mr. Lang indicated during the meeting that the official position of Halifax Medical Center is, and will be, to oppose the creation of a Trauma Agency. He stated that in Halifax's opinion, it creates additional administrative bureaucracy and oversight that is not necessary in Volusia County's Trauma Care System.

Dr. Shedd reported that two representatives of the Florida EMS Bureau were scheduled to attend tonight's meeting, but at the last minute they were unable to attend. Dr. Shedd suggested having further discussions at the April 2005 MAB.

Several MAB members wished to continue the discussion at this meeting as they felt the continued difficulty transferring patients from Volusia area hospitals to Halifax was a significant patient care concern. After significant discussion, the MAB members asked the Chair to send a letter to Halifax detailing the concerns of the MAB regarding the patient transfer concerns. Further, that the letter should request that Halifax allow inter-facility transfers for patients meeting Trauma Alert criteria based on physician-to-physician contact between Halifax and the sending hospital.

Dr. Springer suggested that the letter should be addressed to him, with a copy to Dr. Fabian and Mr. Lang. He will then follow-up personally with Halifax Administration and the Trauma Service in an attempt to resolve the difficulties.

Revised Hospital Diversion Protocol:

At the October 2004 MAB meeting, the members discussed a potential change to the existing VCEMS protocol regarding hospital diversions. The proposed change should remove an individual hospital's ability to unilaterally go on diversion status. If a hospital desired to go on diversion, the physician E/D Director would consult with the EMS Medical Director and the actual diversion status would be communicated to the EMS providers only by the EMS Medical Director..

Dr. Shedd and Matt met with all the hospital administrators and all were in agreement that the change as discussed is logical and consistent with effective resource utilization.

Dr. Shedd presented the revised protocol to the MAB members present for discussion. After some discussion, the MAB members approved the protocol as written and agreed that they would advise their hospital administration of the proposed change. The MAB members further agreed that if no significant issues were communicated to the EMS Division, the revised protocol would go into effect March 1, 2005.

EMS Inquiry/Investigation Policy:

Matt presented an overview of the proposed policy and encouraged MAB members to review and provide any comment as soon as possible.

Open Discussion:

Dr. Weiner asked if EVAC could provide feedback to agency's requesting the review of an incident. Mr. Mellon responded that EVAC has a professional standards and Q/A position dedicated to these reviews. He further stated he would assure feedback is provided to the requestor.

Adjournment:

Being no further business, the EMS Medical Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.