

Minutes

Division of Emergency Medical Services Emergency Medical Services Board Ambulance Service Committee

February 10, 2010

Committee Chairman Brandon Ward convened the committee meeting in the Iris Room, First Floor, 227 French Landing Drive, Nashville. The following members and staff attended:

Committee Members

Anthony Roberts, Carter County EMS and Rescue Squad
Doug Mc Quary, Wilson County EMA
Brad Phillips, Jefferson County EMS
Rick Valentine, Sevier County EMS
Paul Feaster, Memorial Hospital EMS
Kenneth Wilkerson, Hamilton County EMS
Randall Kirby, Macon County EMS
Allen Lovett, Williamson County Medical Center EMS
Scott Storey, Lawrence County EMS
Roy Griggs, Giles County EMS
Brandon Ward, Crockett County EMS
Joyce Noles, Medcenter EMS, Madison County
Joseph Rike, Memphis Fire Department
Eric Newman Lauderdale County EMS

Staff

Ashley Carter, Advisory Attorney, Office of General Counsel
Joe Phillips, State EMS Director
Donna Tidwell, Director of EMS Personnel Licensure and Training
Richard Land, Director of Ambulance Service Licensure
Jimmie Edwards, Mid-Cumberland Regional EMS Consultant
Teddy Myracle, West TN Regional EMS Consultant
Judy Keown, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant, Service Licensure

The minutes of the January 12 meeting were approved as corrected. Ken Wilkerson was elected by acclamation to serve as secretary, to help staff in recording minutes of the meetings.

Richard Land responded to inquiries and discussed proposed changes in the rules other states. Donna Tidwell mentioned that few states had taken action concerning the proposed national changes to EMS personnel scope of practice. Four levels would be recognized: the emergency medical responder (replacing the First Responder); the Basic Emergency Medical Technician; the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician; and, the paramedic.

The committee adopted changes to the definitions of Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support

- (a) "Advanced Life Support" shall mean the treatment of life- threatening *or aggravating* medical emergencies by authorized advanced emergency medical technician or other higher EMS Personnel license under medical control, pursuant

to the rules of the Department, or the provision of such treatment by other qualified and licensed medical or nursing personnel.

- (b) "Basic Life Support" shall mean the treatment of life-threatening medical emergencies by an emergency medical technician or higher EMS Personnel license under medical control, pursuant to the rules of the Department or the provision of such treatment by other qualified and licensed medical or nursing personnel

After several other discussions about the definitions, the committee was urged to look at the body of the rules and come back to make changes in the definitions where needed.

Advisory Attorney Ashley Carter helped to clarify some changes to the language for classification of services (appearing on pages 4 and 5 of the amended draft of rules) and for requirements of the medical director (page 7).

Richard Land discussed whether it may be more practical to license every service to a Basic level first, and then to qualify the services for Advanced Life Support through an additional service inspection and audit. The language for Primary provider services was revised to state:

Primary emergency provider -

Each ambulance service designated as the primary provider shall operate advanced and/or basic life support ambulances within the service area as contracted or recognized by the local government to provide initial response to scene emergencies. The service may also provide ambulance transport services under its license for its county specific service area as identified in part 2. and shall coordinate licensed volunteer ambulance services and coordinate and oversee First Response agencies within its jurisdiction.

Following a lunch break, the group worked on further changes, with additional discussion on the base of operations, defining substations, and considering how mobile staging locations of ambulances could affect the license level. The committee requested the advisory attorney undertake further study to see if regulations could make service identify and limit the service to specific counties of operation.

There was additional discussion about the duties of the service medical director, and how those requirements might be transferred to another section of the EMS rules. Following additional discussion of the personnel changes by Donna Tidwell, the chairman asked if staff had looked at some means for evaluating the services.

Jimmie Edwards responded and showed some documents he had developed for the first committee meeting. The **50 EMS System Benchmarks** identified by Fitch and Associates provide a means for self-assessment. Jimmie offered to develop several proposed *Ambulance Service Evaluation Criteria*.

Richard Land referred to new language that he had proposed for licensing procedures. There would be a more comprehensive set of application procedures for initial service license, and a different set of criteria for addition of county-specific licenses and for ambulance license renewal. Discussion on the licensing procedures was deferred until the next meeting.

The committee meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.