

Peninsulas EMS Council, Inc., Northern Neck Prehospital Committee (NNPHC)

Minutes – 9 October 2002

Riverside Tappahannock Hospital, Tappahannock, Virginia

The NNPHC met in regular session this date.

Officers Present:

- Debbie Duckett, Montross Volunteer Rescue Squad (Vice Chair)
- Craig Rice, Kilmarnock-Lancaster Rescue Squad (Chair)

Officers Absent:

Members Present:

- Gaylord Belfield, Richmond County Rescue Squad
- James Brooks, Westmoreland Rescue Squad
- Cindi deCapiteau, Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Harold Conley, Richmond County Rescue Squad
- Ferman Dixon, Westmoreland Rescue Squad
- Debbie Duckett, Montross Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Granville Fisher, Westmoreland Rescue Squad
- Darrell Johnson, Montross Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Carol Patton, Mattaponi Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Judy Ramirez, Mattaponi Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Nancy Wagner, Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Jerry Whitlock, King & Queen Volunteer Rescue Squad

Member Agencies Absent:

- Callao Volunteer Rescue Squad
- Northumberland County Rescue Squad
- Tappahannock Rescue Squad
- Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad

PEMS Representatives Present:

- Don Wilson, Executive Director
- Dane Davis, ALS Coordinator

Minutes

Minutes from July meeting were adopted without change.

Grant Review

Craig Rice initiated the grant review process.

Mid-County VRS request

- 2 AEDs – Rank 1
- 1 ambulance – Rank 1

HEPA mask fit test request – dropped

Montross Volunteer Rescue Squad

- Ambulance – Rank 1
- Satellite system to receive EMSAT – Rank 2

Compliance with New Rules & Regs

Dane Davis, following explained the implications for compliance with the new OEMS rules and regulations. Conley admonished that the state is creating mandates that will make many squads "go belly up." Conley would like to see the Governor at a session. Davis has proposed to bring squads from throughout the PEMS region to discuss compliance issues. Conley protested that the state will not provide money to comply with these rules and regulations and he doesn't know where the money will come from.

Wilson noted that the state is not empowered to do much more than publish regulations. It will be up to localities to ensure compliance. PEMS and other Councils may submit a letter requesting a grace period (6 months, perhaps) for compliance with the rules and regulations because they have not been published; making compliance difficult. The regional directors will ask the state to extend the grace period for a period, and if compliance is still a problem at the end of that period, the directors will request more time. The wording of the letter will request the extension on the basis that the rules and regulations were not published until 60 days before the rules and regulations went into effect.

Davis proposed that this is a good time to approach community leaders and citizens to explain the situation; to report, for example, that the squads operating vehicles in which the integrity of drugs cannot be guaranteed because the vehicles are not equipped with climate control. Duckett agreed that the squads need to go to their communities to request adequate funding from their boards of supervisors.

Davis noted that the R&Rs spell out all the skills that EMS providers can perform. Under the new R&Rs, skills currently allowed will be taken away from providers in some areas of the state. The state, as a result, is evaluating ways to address complaints from OMDs in these areas.

Davis added that there are also personnel implications of the R&Rs. This will have a big effect on squads in the Northern Neck. He suggests that we might want to start looking at ways to share ALS staff (in particular) among all squads. Davis can provide additional suggestions on request. He can also get Melissa Doak (OEMS program supervisor) to agree to come to the Northern Neck if he can get a commitment from the agencies up here to attend a session.

Rice suggested that such a session should be announced well in advance (at least two months) to give the squads time to have their own meetings, make an announcement, and

get people to turn out. Davis noted that Melissa Doak is conducting R&R review sessions throughout the PEMS region. Two were held recently in Gloucester. Davis is notifying members via email about these sessions. He urged NNPHC members to attend one. He also noted he will ask Melissa to conduct a session closer to the NNPHC end of the PEMS region.

Funding Sources

Dixon suggested inviting Westmoreland County administrators (for example) to attend meetings like this so they will know what we're up against. Davis commented that he is working on plans for a "Rules and Regulations Retreat," during which EMS agencies, community leaders, and emergency equipment vendors can meet to discuss the R&Rs and understand options for meeting the obligations the R&Rs imply.

Davis mentioned that the new R&Rs stipulate information that the squads must publicize, including financial statements and response times.

Announcements

OEMS web site. Following up on a question from Conley at the July meeting (how did grant applicants make out on the last grant cycle). Wilson mentioned that information about grant awards is posted on the VA OEMS web site.

PEMS Advisory Board. PEMS is expanding the membership of its advisory board to include individuals outside the ranks of EMS providers and hospital staff. Nominations have been solicited for community members. The goal for the expansion is to involve community leaders—politicians, business leaders and consumers. Several individuals have been nominated from Northumberland County and PEMS will send letters to nominees before mid-October.

Wilson advised committee members to tell their nominees that the letters are coming, why they were nominated, and how their service will make a difference.

PEMS board meetings are open and NNPHC members can attend. Wilson recommended that we do so if we want to be heard.

Training. Ellen Vest is conducting a CT to I bridge course in Tappahannock, beginning in November. Registration deadline is November 8. Cost is \$275, which includes a registration fee and textbooks.

Governor's EMS Advisory Board. The new chairman of the Advisory Board is David Palmer, Assistant Chief of Norfolk Fire & Rescue.

Business Meeting Dates. NNPHC committee members need to advise Dane Davis of the dates of squad business meetings. Davis wants to attend those meetings to facilitate communications between the squads and PEMS.

Trauma Triage Protocol Survey

Davis presented information about PEMS quality assurance efforts, in particular those directed toward assessing the regional trauma triage protocols. The effort has been requested by the Medical Advisors Committee and will assist them in seeing the big picture of regional operations. Involved is a survey to collect data about protocol

effectiveness for patients who meet the care criteria spelled out in the regional protocol. Davis stressed that the survey is non-punitive, intended to evaluate the protocols, not the providers. In addition, the data are easy to provide by filling out a card that asks just 9 questions.

He listed criteria that, if met, would cause a responder to fill out a card:

A card should be filled out for any patient who, as the result of trauma, exhibits one or more of the following:

- Altered mental status
- Signs & symptoms of shock
- Respiratory distress
- Paralysis
- Flail chest
- Skull fracture
- Amputation above the elbow or knee

The data collection effort begins October 15, 2002 and ends April 15, 2002. No questions are asked (or answered) about patient name, provider name. The information will be forwarded to OEMS and will likely direct state trauma training programs. It could also result in change to the protocol if the data reveal that the protocol is ineffective in whole or in part, or if it works better in some areas than it does in others. The results could also drive decision-making about the need for rapid transport from this area or even the need for a level 1 trauma center located closer to this area than MCV.

Locked boxes have been provided at each emergency department to which PEMS-area agencies respond. Responders can find the boxes in the same area where you complete your patient care reports.

The cards for patients transported by air medical are completed by the air medical personnel, not the ground transport and other first responders to a criteria-meeting trauma incident. Ground providers fill out the cards only for patients who are transported by ground to hospital EDs.

Wilson suggested that Davis ask the MAC to share the results of the survey with all PEMS agencies and others such as OEMS, air medical transportation service (including the Maryland State Police).

R&R Retreat

Davis commented that the retreat would be intended for people in a decision making capacity, but everybody is welcome. He cautioned, however, that the retreat will not be a gripe session. It will be a problem identification and problem solving session. The date will be chosen after all 3 prehospital committees in the PEMS region buy in. Davis will announce the retreat well in advance.

Davis asked committee members to send him the names and phone numbers of vendors who should be invited to the retreat.

Training Suggestions

Davis asked committee members to send him their suggestions for training they would like to see in the PEMS region in the coming year.

Next meeting

January 9, 2003 at RGH in the training center.

Meeting adjourned.