



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

10 March 2015
1000 hours
EHSF Conference Room

ATTENDANCE

Present:	Robert Bernini	Education Committee, Chair
	Robert Burrs	Manheim Township Ambulance Association
	Anthony Deaven	First Aid & Safety Patrol
	Steve Henry	York Technical Institute – Lancaster
	Christopher Irvin	Manheim Township Ambulance Association
	Vickie Martin	PA College of Health Science/LEMSA
	Steve Poffenberger	West Shore EMS
	Bob Stakem	Harrisburg Area Community College
	Mike Tonkay	Harrisburg Area Community College
	Susan Vana	York Technical Institute
	Mervin Wertz	Reading Hospital
Staff:	Megan A. Hollinger	Director of System Operations

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bernini called the meeting to order at 1001 hours.

OLD BUSINESS

Evaluation Schedule

Ms. Christie reported the agreed testing schedule has been posted on Pangea. This schedule includes Basic Life Support (BLS) practical exams until December 2015. Those present are in agreement of the testing schedule.

Ms. Christie asked training institutes to enter their roster at least two weeks prior to the practical exam. If the student's eligibility to test changes from the date the roster is entered to the practical exam date, the training institute can update the information and remove the respective student. It is important to have a rough idea for the number of students to secure adequate evaluation team staff.

Mr. Bernini questioned if the number of practical exams per year would increase if the certification programs increase. Mr. Powell stated the region's history involves administering 12 to 16 exams annually. The new testing schedule includes 18 practical exams. Adding more exams would impact the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

PA Scope of Practice

Ms. Hollinger stated the PA EMS Scope of Practice was published in the PA Bulletin on 29 November 2014. On 05 December 2014, the Bureau of EMS (BEMS) released the EMS Information Bulletin 2014-006 to provide revisions to the published scope of practice. EHSF received various feedback from EMS agencies regarding concerns and is waiting on further clarification. The BEMS is expected to release an updated scope of practice in the near future.

Mr. Poffenberger stated the training institutes are required to teach to the education standards regardless of Pennsylvania's decision to exclude certain skills from the scope of practice.

Narcan

Ms. Hollinger reported Act 139 permits BLS providers, law enforcement, fire services, and citizens at large to administer Naloxone. The Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of EMS (BEMS) provided there will be one approved course for the BLS provider training. This course has not been shared yet, but it will be available on the learning management system. EHSF created a Narcan for BLS packet to assist the EMS agencies. EHSF will share this packet once the BLS protocols are released.

Waiver for Photo Verification at Testing

Mr. Bernini explained they recently encountered an Amish gentleman from their EMS certification program without photo identification. To test in a Pearson Vue center, photo identification is required at the time of testing. Ms. Christie contacted National Registry. National Registry first provided the information needed to submit a waiver for photo identification, which prompted EHSF to create a draft letter for students to use for this situation. However, National Registry quickly retracted their decision stating no one is permitted to test without a form of

photo identification. Evaluation of this process is needed to ensure students with special circumstances are eligible to test.

Authorization to Test

Ms. Christie reminded the training institutes that students must obtain authorization to test in order to take the written exam. Once authorization to test is issued, students only have 90-days to take their written exam. If they do not test within the allotted timeframe, students will have to repeat the process and pay for the exam again.

Opening Class Paperwork

Ms. Christie announced EHSF will wait to obtain Emergency Medical Services Vehicle Operator (EMSVO) paperwork until the end of class presentation, because most students do not have EVOC prior to the first day of class. Mr. Wertz asked if a student under 18 is eligible to apply for EMSVO. To secure EMSVO, a provider must be at least 18 years of age. Underage students should not submit their EMSVO application at the end of class, but rather wait until they turn 18 to complete the packet.

Ms. Christie plans to send the training institutes the paperwork in a packet with highlighted fields to complete and instructions two weeks prior to the class starting. Ms. Christie will also send information pertaining to a positive criminal history. This will allow students time to acquire the court certified documents to submit with the criminal history form at the start of the class. For students under 18 years of age, Ms. Christie will send the student consent form and memorandum for a parental consent signature.

EHSF Personnel Assignments

Ms. Hollinger provided a document listing the EHSF staff directory and assigned tasks of each coordinator.

NREMT Psychomotor Testing Options

Mr. Bernini asked to have the process explained if a training institute wishes to provide their own practical testing. Mr. Powell stated the training institute must submit a request for waiver to the DOH BEMS. Mr. Powell discussed the pilot of self-testing by Good Fellowship EMS. This organization completed one test and must submit results to John Englert at BEMS.

EHSF Evaluation Staff

Mr. Tonkay asked how the training institutes could assist EHSF to recruit more evaluation staff. Mr. Powell provided the hourly wages for evaluators and patient actors.

Practical Exam Testing Station

Mr. Wertz questioned why Pennsylvania still requires supine immobilization as a testing station when Pennsylvania adopted the National Registry manual for state testing. Discussion ensued. The committee decided it is a valid request to ask the BEMS to eliminate supine immobilization as a testing station.

ACTION ITEM

The Education Committee will ask the Advisory Council to submit a request to BEMS to remove supine immobilization as a testing station in the BLS practical exam.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

PEHSC Education Task Force

Mr. Deaven reported the PEHSC Education Task Force defined three areas of concern: cost and availability, testing, and continuing education. The draft document explaining the evaluation was sent to the BEMS in September, and the committee is awaiting their response.

Act 31

Mr. Poffenberger asked if anyone is familiar with Act 31 involving mandatory child abuse education for licensed personnel. This training is provided by the Department of Human Services. More information is needed to learn about the requirements for this Act.

Clinical Patient Care and Other Core

Ms. Martin questioned the requirements for clinical patient care and other core for the continuing education requirements. Ms. Hollinger explained clinical patient care and other core is similar to the past medical/trauma requirements.

EMS Certification Courses

Mr. Tonkay asked for clarification regarding bridge classes between certifications. Mr. Powell explained with the new standards the training institutes get to write the curriculum to the students needs. Therefore, an EMT class requiring a prerequisite of Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) should be able to meet their competencies easier than one without prerequisites of previous certification. For this example, course design and length may vary.

Next meeting is scheduled for 10 March 2014 at 1000 hours.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bernini adjourned the meeting at 1115 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan A. Hollinger
Director of System Operations