



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

06 June 2017
1000 hours
EHSF Conference Room

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Robert Bernini	Chair
Deborah Currinder	Lancaster County Career Technology
Melissa Etzweiler	Harrisburg Area Community College
William Hall	Lancaster County Career Technology
Donald Kilheffer	Eastern Lebanon County High School
David Kirchner	Eastern Lebanon County High School
Andrew Melius	Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department
Richard Pearson	PA College of Health Sciences
Steve Poffenberger	HACC Paramedic / Holy Spirit EMS
Eric Smith	Eastern Lebanon County High School
Randolph Spies	Blue Ridge Community & Tech College

Staff:

Megan A. Ruby	Director of System Operations
Raphael W. Caloia II	Education Specialist
Carol A. Kauffman	Program Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bernini called the meeting to order at 1000 hours and asked for introductions.

OLD BUSINESS

Psychomotor Exam: BLS

Ms. Ruby reported the psychomotor exam for BLS testing continues to operate smoothly. The EHSF intends to continue with its current testing model, which was implemented in quarter two of 2016.

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF will be holding training for all evaluation team personnel. The objectives include providing a refresher of the evaluation process, outlining the national education standards and curriculum in correlation to testing, and reviewing common trends in the testing process.

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF intends to generate new assessment scenarios to send to the Department of Health for approval. Ms. Ruby asked if education institutes have scenarios used in training or suggestions, they can send those to Mr. Caloia. Mr. Kirchner responded he would share the scenarios created by an education taskforce in 2008. These scenarios were generated for the new testing model before switching to National Registry.

Ms. Ruby also reported the EHSF will begin developing a formal progress report from the psychomotor exams. The EHSF plans to include a breakdown of passed and failed skill stations along with any trends from the examination. Ms. Ruby asked the education institutes to provide any suggestions to include in the report to her. Mr. Spies welcomes the report and provided it will assist with the evaluation of their instructors.

ACTION ITEM:

Mr. Bernini questioned if students successfully completing the EMR psychomotor examination could apply their results toward the EMT psychomotor examination if the students completes and tests the EMT program within one year of successfully completing the EMR examination. Discussion ensued among the committee. This would eliminate the need for the student to retest the oxygen administration, bag valve management of an apneic patient, and the cardiac arrest management stations. Mr. Melius motioned to send formal correspondence to the Department of Health to permit the application of the successful oxygen administration, bag valve management of the apneic patient, and cardiac arrest management stations from the EMR psychomotor examination toward their EMT psychomotor examination. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kilheffer. The motion was carried.

ACTION ITEM:

Throughout the discussion of the transition from EMR to EMT certification, the committee discussed the ability to eliminate the supine immobilization station. Ms. Ruby explained Mr. Caloia learned from National Registry they permit the use of a second random skills station in lieu of the supine immobilization station. Ms. Etzweiler motioned to send formal correspondence to the Department of Health to permit the region to use a second random station in lieu of the supine immobilization station. At times the supine immobilization station would be used with one random. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kilheffer. The motion was carried.

Psychomotor Exam: ALS

Ms. Ruby reported Mr. Caloia is the EHSF's National Registry Representative for the psychomotor exam for ALS testing. Mr. Caloia provided an update of the testing for AEMT certification. Mr. Caloia reported his first AEMT examination was on Saturday, 03 June. The exam went well. Mr. Caloia discussed the upcoming changes for testing the paramedic certification level. The committee discussed the different possibilities for equipment logistics to streamline the examination process. Mr. Spies reported Blue Ridge Community and Technical College assigns a technical role. This role stays in the out-of-hospital scenario stations with the evaluator. The technical role facilitates the equipment needs so the evaluator can focus on evaluating the patient.

The committee also discussed the use of iSimulates. Currently, Harrisburg Area Community College possesses one iSimulate, PA College of Health Sciences possesses one iSimulate, and Blue Ridge Community and Technical College possesses three iSimulates. The three ALS education institutes expressed an interest in using the devices in future. The EHSF will evaluate a possible cost-sharing partnership to deploy iSimulates throughout the region.

Field Preceptors

Ms. Etzweiler reported the creation of regional field preceptor recognition will provide consistency for the in-the-field training of EMS candidates. The working group recently met and discussed the criteria for preceptors. EMS agencies entering into agreements with education institutes will provide EMS providers to precept and will ensure each preceptor has a resume or CV, medical director approval with a letter attesting the provider has no clinical issues within the past two years at the level they will be a preceptor, and completed the required education model. The education will be a four-hour, modular program created by the working group. The working group will also develop a refresher course.

Mr. Kilheffer questioned the requirements and negative impact on the volunteer agencies. Discussion ensued and resulted in the understanding of volunteer and paid providers both being able to meet the requirements to be a regional field preceptor for EMS candidates. Ms. Ruby also provided while the program will be highly encouraged to ensure EMS candidates receive valuable field experience, the program will not be mandated.

NEW BUSINESS

EMS Protocols 2017

Ms. Ruby announced the PA EMS Protocols are expected to be distributed by the end of June. Once the documents are available to share, the EHSF will disseminate to the agencies.

Mr. Poffenberger questioned if the protocols are driven by evidence-based medicine. Discussion ensued, and Ms. Ruby suggested communicating with the Regional Medical Advisory Committee to promote protocol changes based on evidence-based medicine and suggest citations or a list of references in the PA EMS Protocols to help EMS providers understand the reasons for change.

BLS Blood Glucose Testing

Ms. Ruby reported the optional blood glucose testing for BLS providers will be included with protocol release.

PA Train

Ms. Ruby announced the Department of Health will not be renewing its contract with 24/7 to provide educational material on PA Train for a variety of reasons. The Department of Health is exploring other vendor options, but asks the regions to find partners to upload courses for availability on PA Train.

Ms. Ruby reported PA Train will have group function similar to Centrelearn. The EHSF will provide more information as learned.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

DOH Staffing

Ms. Ruby announced the State EMS Director, Richard Gibbons, resigned from his position. The Deputy Secretary of Health, Raphael Barishansky, is acting as the interim director.

EHSF Staffing Updates

Ms. Ruby announced a program coordinator position in education and certification is now vacant.

EHSF Future Growth

Ms. Ruby provided the growth of the EHSF region by two additional counties (Chester and Delaware Counties) effective 01 July 2017, is now on hold. Hearings occurred in February. The Department of Health will not be forcing any consolidation. However, voluntary consolidation efforts are still permitted.

EHSF Website

Ms. Ruby announced the EHSF website is soon ready to be live. The EHSF will provide a demonstration at its June Advisory Council meeting.

PEHSC Education Task Force

Ms. Ruby provided no update was available for this committee.

NREMT Testing

Mr. Kilheffer questioned if other education institutes are experiencing issues with scheduling the cognitive exam through Pearson Vue. Mr. Kilheffer explained they take their high school students to test as a group. However, to now test as a group, they must go to a Pearson Vue Professional Center rather than any Pearson Vue location. The closest facility is in Allentown. There are also additional fees associated. Therefore, to test as a group each student costs \$105 rather than \$80 per attempt. The other education institutes acknowledged they experience the same process if they wish to test as a class or group. Ms. Ruby will further evaluate the concerns discussed related to testing as a group.

2017-2018 Meeting Dates

Ms. Ruby announced the upcoming meeting dates for the fiscal year 2017-18 are 12 September 2017, 12 December 2017, 13 March 2018, and 12 June 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bernini adjourned the meeting at 1115 hours.

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for 12 September 2017 at 1000 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan A. Ruby
Director of System Operations