

EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 7, 2012

10 am – 12 noon

- CALL TO ORDER:** 10:01 AM by Dr. Nelson
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joe Nelson, DO-EMS Program Medical Director & Chairperson
Nerina J. Stepanovsky, Ph.D., EMS Program Director
Dave Holler, Pin. Park Fire Rescue
Mark Maddalena, Pasadena Fire Dept.
Vicki Glenn, ParamedicsPlus/Sunstar
Laurie Romig, MD, Office of Med. Director
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Ted Rogers, Lead EMT Instr.
Ralph Sibbio, EMS Support Coord.
Nancy Kelly, Associate Provost-HEC
Dr. Phil Nicotera, Provost-HEC
Jill Delanis, Assist. Principal-Pinellas Park High School
Dave Gardner, SPC

WELCOME:

Dr. Nelson greeted everyone and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Dr. Nelson requested a motion to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2012. Minutes were approved.

Faculty/Staff Updates – Nothing to report at this time.

Overall Program Report-Dr. Stepanovsky

Nerina shared that the program is still recruiting more field preceptors, especially from Sunstar because of rule regarding team leads for paramedic students, in addition to 5 ride-ins for EMT students. We do have former students working in the field who have inquired about applying to be a preceptor for our program and that is gratifying.

A third Emergency Medical Responder class began this August at Manatee High School in Bradenton. Also, two more classes are scheduled for Pinellas Park High School with the first having begun in August and the second to start in January 2013 (for the senior class).

The next start dates for Intro to Paramedic are January 7 and May 13, 2013. Day and Evening EMT classes begin as follows: Day: Jan. 7, 2013-completing May 2, 2013; Evening: Feb. 18, 2013-completing June 19, 2013. Evening class dates for Spring and Fall are staggered. Summer Evening EMT begins May 13, 2013. We are holding Paramedic II (19 enrolled), and Paramedic III (7 enrolled) during this fall term, as well as EMS Pharmacology, BSC1084c (EMS A & P) and Evidence Based Health HSC 2721 (part of EMS/AS degree).

Lead Paramedic Instructor & Paramedic Pass Rate Report-Nerina Stepanovsky for Phil Borum

As of July 2012, 15 Paramedic III graduates have passed the State exam which keeps us at a 100% pass rate. The State average is 83.83%. The Spring 2012 Medic III class graduated 19 students. Our recent Summer Medic III class had 12 graduates.

There was discussion regarding students' reaction to the State Paramedic exam. Many students felt it wasn't difficult, especially when you study and don't wait too long to sit for the exam.

There are updated medic textbooks: For the Intro to Paramedic class new text is Emergency Care in the Streets, 7th Ed., by N. Caroline; ITLS 7th Ed., by Campbell.

Lead EMT Instructor & Pass Rate Report – Ted Rogers

Pass rates are staying consistent in the 80's. Last quarter numbers from MQA indicate a first time pass rate of 83% (60 students), retest rate of 54% (80 students) with an overall pass rate of 74% (86 students). The statewide averages are 74%, 36%, and 60% respectively.

First time pass rates from other area programs vary from 88% (Kaiser St. Pete/32 students) to 54% (MTI/68 students). Retake pass rates varied from 54% (SPC/26 students) to 0% (Kaiser NPR/2 students). Overall pass rates varied from 78% (Kaiser NPR/18 students) to 48% (MTI.126 students).

Overall we were third in first time pass rates (Kaiser 88, HCC 85), first in retake pass rates (next closest being HCC at 47%), and second in overall pass rates (Kaiser being highest non-pass rate at 78%).

See the inserted Pass Rate Charts at end of minutes. The GAO (Government Accountability Office) pass rates will also be attached and forwarded with these minutes to the Pinellas County EMS Administration Office.

Nerina stated that students who have not completed their EMT training at a CAAHEP or CoAEMSP accredited program will not be eligible to sit for the Florida NR exam and receive both the NREMT cert and Florida certification. Only the Florida certification will be issued. Also, as of January 1, 2013, paramedics graduating from a non-accredited program will not be eligible to sit for the National Registry paramedic exam. At this point Florida has contracted with National Registry for the EMT exam only. Paramedic testing is through Prometric.

The state has approved moving forward with the 2008 EMS Education Standards. We have been integrating the content during the last two sessions by adding the new material as additional content for online review. The official switch to the 12th edition EMT text will be during fall. We will change from the Mistovich test review text (not updated with new standards) to a web based review to be bundled with the text. New software allows students to design their own review material using computer adaptive testing formats which mirrors the design of the NREMT exam. This should benefit the students both in review for class as well as exam prep.

Ted stated he has been teaching the Intro to Paramedic in a blended format this session. Due to shortened summer session the class has been formatted to a 60% online and 40% classroom design. This has been well accepted by the students, and test scores have been higher than spring session, which was close to 50/50 in online/face-to-face delivery. Exams and quizzes are online and the final exam is written and testing is in a classroom setting. Improved final exam scores for summer compared to spring should validate the online format.

He also noted there are many new web-based interactive tools on the market for EMT that may work well with the "new generation" of students we see in the classroom. A goal over the next few months is to investigate the products available and possibly integrate more online resources into the program. Jones & Bartlett and Brady have online, interactive formats for the education materials. Brady will soon start offering the text as an e-book.

Attrition has not significantly changed. We are still seeing students with difficulty understanding online instruction and following links/directions for their online course content and quizzes. It was agreed that Facebook/Google/email familiarity is not the same as online education computer skills. Often computer issues arise with older students who haven't used computers in their past jobs/education.

Vicki Glenn asked about confusing information on required refresher hours for certification (initial and or renewal), both for Florida State EMT/National Registry and Paramedic renewal. Ted said that NR is currently re-arranging ways in which individuals can acquire the needed hours/skills for renewal of NREMT.

Clinical orientation for EMS 1441 (EMT) at HCA and/or Baycare facilities is now a requirement beginning this fall term. We have held 3 of these orientations and they were very successful in helping to ease the nerves of new clinical students by showing them where the ER is, how to find the charge nurse, where everything in an ER is located. Students go in groups of 5-6 with their clinical instructors for 4 hours. The hospitals have been extremely gracious, particularly Northside Hospital and St. Pete General Hospital. The nurse managers come out to welcome the students. When a patient is brought in on an ambulance the students get to listen to the report on the radio and the process of transferring a patient from EMS to the hospital. Sunstar has been so helpful by allowing the students to view the back of the ambulance as well as sometimes

allowing the students help move a patient to a bed. The fire departments have also been extremely helpful to our students. This all helps relieve student anxiety about beginning their clinicals. They also are informed on how to complete required clinical paperwork. Dr. Nelson stated he likes to see our students in the ER at Northside and will gently guide them to a patient to view and possibly assist. We see this process as a definite plus in the clinical training of our students. Appreciation was expressed again to the agencies/facilities our program works with.

Emergency Medical Responder Report

Nerina reported that there are currently 28 students enrolled in the Manatee High School class and that the students, according to instructor Jerome Ruffing are excited and motivated. The Medical Academy Coordinator, Laura Sollenberger, continues to teach medical terminology each semester as a dual enrollment course with SPC. Our dual enrollment program also continues to receive high praise and support. There is a delay in the arrivals of textbooks (Emergency Medical responder-1st on Scene, 9th Ed., by Brady), and one day of class was missed due to a tropical storm. There are 12 students in the Pinellas Park High School class and it is apparent they were prepared via previous courses they have taken within the "First Responder Academy." Supplies and room availability have been excellent at the school. Computer access was a problem initially, but has since been resolved and we able to use the classroom's Smart Board. The partnership between SPC and Pinellas Park HS is working out well as the administration and teachers have been great to work with.

Old Business

The bill allowing EMS training centers to adopt the 2008 EMS Education Standards didn't go through during this last Legislative session and will be re-introduced next session in early 2013. We have however, transitioned to the new EMT books (which were passed around the room). These texts are now being implemented and in January the 2008 guidelines will be implemented for Paramedic. We are waiting direction on bridge courses for Nationally Registered EMT or Paramedic. A transition course will be required and must be completed by either 2015 or 2016.

Nerina will get more information on this when she attends the Florida EMS meetings and FAEMSE (Florida Assoc. of EMS Educators) meeting in a couple of weeks. At this time they will be working on the Paramedic State approved curriculum.

Currently, our refreshers for EMT & Paramedic will remain the same, 32 hours including 2 hours of HIV/AIDS which is still required. However, next renewal years (2015-16) the refreshers will include the transition. Hopefully the next legislative meeting will pass the 2008 curriculum which will include the removal of the HIV requirement.

At this time both our refresher classes for this fall are full, and we have waiting lists in case of a cancellation. We may have additional refreshers in February for those who waited till the last minute or couldn't get in the fall classes.

Ralph Sibbio shared information regarding out of county clinical sites. As stated at our last meeting we have a signed contract with TransCare Medical Transportation Services in Tampa for our EMT Field Internship students, however we are still waiting for a final meeting with Glenn Clegg, Quality Assurance Coord. The issue appears to be the number of preceptors who are trained and available. Manatee Memorial in Bradenton is not available at this time due to the number of students from other programs already using their facility. Dr. Stepanovsky will continue to follow up with them for possible available time in the future. Blake Medical Center, also in Bradenton, is becoming a Level II Trauma Ctr. and they are receptive to our students using their facility. A contract is in place and we will meet with them to develop a schedule for students to do their trauma shift. At this time this hospital requires an instructor accompany students in groups of 4-6. Nerina stated she is in contact with someone who finishes his AS in EMS this session who is interested in assisting as a clinical instructor and would be willing to accompany students to clinicals at this site. Jerome, Mark and Nerina are all available depending on their schedules to assist at this facility also. There is also the possibility of using Blake for OR rotations to allow the intubations required. Reason for this is we continue to have issues with Bayfront Medical Center and their OR having a "fair playing field" for all programs needing

rotations scheduled in this area. Currently, Special Operations Medics have the majority of use in OR at Bayfront. This facility has become much more stringent on the number of students they allow in as well what program they will accept. They also stated our program could no longer send students to the Neuro ICU. In their words, paramedics have no reason to be there, only nurses need to be in this area.

Northside Hospital is very accommodating; however their volume of intubations doesn't meet the need of our students. Because this is a continuing problem, we have branched out to out of county facilities.

Also, Chief Ron Koper, of Manatee county EMS is willing to set up an agreement between that agency and our program for Field Internship for ride time.

Dr. Nicotera asked who made the final decision at Bayfront to not allow our students to use the Neuro ICU as well as the reduction of the number of our students who could their facility. Ralph stated that the main point of contact has been Jennie Lash, who attended the last master clinical rotation planning meeting. Dr. Nicotera asked for the specific necessities or areas we need and how many students would attend. He will be meeting with the medical director of the hospital in a few weeks. He would like to bring up this issue at the meeting. Dr. Nelson asked if we explored OR at St. Pete General. Nerina said that we haven't at that facility but we have at Largo Medical and Morton Plant. It depends on the volume at St. Petersburg General Hospital. Nerina will look into this. Largo Medical declined to accept students. Dr. Nelson stated that this has become a national issue on getting intubation opportunities for all medical training programs, especially EMS, yet it ironically EMS is the first to get "yelled at" for not getting intubations. It was shared that Largo Medical/HCA has a new CEO and perhaps a meeting could be arranged to discuss the program needs. This hospital organization also has a new community relations director, Matt Marshall. It was also suggested that he could be involved in this planned meeting. It was noted that Northside Hospital OR has been great in allowing our students to do rotations.

Discussion ensued regarding the requirement of 20 intubations, with last ten being successful. There is no exact number of live intubations required, however our program requirement **is 6 successful live intubations.**

Dr. Nicotera emphasized that research supports the use of simulation as part of the training with greater repetition only benefiting the student. Also, it was suggested that EMS education as whole should place more emphasis on airway management during lab classes. The issue of program requirements for clinical rotations to available clinical space and the continuing change in details for contracts with clinical sites has made the whole process of providing the best clinical experience for students more difficult.

To help with the intubation issue, Dr. Nicotera and Nerina met with the Dean of Nursing at SPC, Dr. Baker, regarding use of hi-fidelity simulators for this purpose. EMS has 2 of these simulators. However, the cost of pediatric simulators is prohibitive. The suggested plan is to use "The SCENE" (mock hospital setting in nursing) to schedule practice for our students on the Nursing Program hi-fidelity simulators. EMS has developed scenarios for student practice.

New Business

Nerina shared that we have received our new MetiMan simulator (acquired via a partial trade-in of \$6,000 and the balance from requested funds from the college). Also, she, Ted and Ralph have attended a training session in Sarasota. The cost for this is \$795 per person for two days of training. The plan is to begin integrating the use of the simulator in our labs this upcoming session. Our VitaSim controllers for our MegaCode Kelly's are to be traded in for an "I-Pad" type controller. They are wireless and will allow more flexibility with the mannequins, and hopefully, will reduce problems/repairs with other wired controllers.

It is very costly to have Laerdal come to our campus to look at the mannequins. These mannequins have been damaged during class use and Dr. Nelson suggested we have a plan in place to help reduce misuse of equipment. Nerina stated we have been working a protocol to keep instructors as well as students aware of the need to use due care with all equipment and remind them of the high cost of repair and replacement. Nerina mentioned that budget allowance for lab fees has been reduced. Also, the former practice of rolling over unused funds from the previous fiscal year has been stopped. Therefore, it is imperative that all users of any equipment be aware that funds are extremely limited for repair/replacement.

In the past, we have had the use of Perkins Funds that has helped the program purchase needed equipment. Amy Brush (SPC) has helped us many times and we are very grateful for her assistance.

Round Table Discussion

Nerina and Ralph Sibbio met with the US Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater to discuss providing their rescue swimmers (25 total at this time) with continuing medical education as well as EMT Refresher courses. A proposal will be drafted by Nerina for an agreement between SPC/EMS and the Coast Guard. They have been providing their own CME's through a program in California. The idea is to provide less expensive and more closely available courses. Nerina noted that all military "medics" must be Nationally Registered EMTS.

Ralph commented that the EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) students at Pinellas Park High School are very ambitious and intelligent and who at times exceed the capabilities of the college EMR class he teaches. He said, "It is a pleasure to teach these young people".

Nerina shared that at Fall All College Day in August, Dr. Law spoke on the importance of students "finishing what they start". This is the base directive for this year. He recommends faculty use office hours when they have no scheduled appointments or other work planned, to go to the New Initiative Program classrooms and offer to tutor students in the EMS Program. She said that several of our instructors have done this already and have even had "open labs" where they offer review in areas students need help on. As far as students dropping out of the program, it usually is not for academic reasons. More often, reasons for dropping are due to "life issues". Also, the majority of students who do drop out do come back to the program. There are limited appointments available to students with life issues through EAP (Employee Assistance Plan). The Program Director should refer students who display a need.

Dr. Nelson stated that there has been a contract change between Pinellas County Commission and EMS Administration. As a result, Dr. Romig will be stepping down from her position on October 1st as Pinellas County EMS Medical Director. He acknowledged her years of service and expressed his appreciation for her support of this committee and program. She has expressed a desire to remain on the SPC EMS Advisory Committee. Nerina stated that the committee would like her to remain on the committee and expressed her appreciation also.

Vicki stated that while attending a class recently the instructor noted that the worst industry for customer service is healthcare. The reason is because the patient is not considered a "customer". It is important to let the patient know what and why you doing any procedure. Vicki wants to know if some type of "customer service" training can be a part of EMT/Paramedic training. She noted that most of us will choose a particular store because of better customer service...from an always working shopping cart, less long lines or polite assistance finding an item. It is important to remember we are humans, whether a patient or provider. Good customer service is vital, and it is a privilege to be in someone's home to assist during a crisis-it is not a right. She reminded us that it's important to raise awareness of how others treat patients and to ask yourself if that is how you would like to be treated if you were the patient. Dr. Nelson stated that rather than a specific "2 hour training on customer service to a patient" the whole idea should be pervasive throughout the entire program. Nerina stated that it is continually impressed on the students during their education in the SPC EMS Program.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.