

EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 10:10-12:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Joe Nelson, DO-EMS Program Medical Director & Chairperson
Dr. Nerina Stepanovsky, EMS Program Director
Laurie Romig, MD, Public member
David Holler, Public member
Angus Jameson, MD-Pinellas County EMS Med. Director
Aimee Downey-Jacobson, SPC EMS Alumni
Robert Angell, District Chief, Pinellas Park Fire Dept.
Jerome Ruffing, Deputy Chief, Manatee County EMS
Christopher Henderson, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue
Kimberly Lacina, Sunstar/Paramedics Plus
Greg Taylor, Pinellas County School Board
Craig Hare, Pinellas County EMS/Fire Administration
James Humphrey, SPC Paramedic Student

GUESTS PRESENT: Judy Colson, SPC Dual Enrollment
Jeff Cesta, SPC Dual Enrollment
Ashley Caron, SPC Academic Effectiveness
Ted Rogers, SPC EMT Lead Instructor
Martin VanBourgondien, SPC Paramedic Lead Instructor
Scott Pelletier, SPC EMS Support Coord.
Ian Womack, Rescue Division Chief, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue
Dr. Rebecca Ludwig, Dean-College of Health Science
Dr. Eric Carver, Interim Provost-Health Education Center
Melissa McNulley, PA-C

WELCOME:

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM. Dr. Nelson welcomed all and asked everyone to introduce themselves, and to please sign in on the attendance roster. He announced that Kim Lacina, ARNP/PM will represent Sunstar on our committee in future. She replaces Vicki Glenn who has retired. Dr. Eric Carver now represents HEC as our Interim Provost. He replaces Dr. Phil Nicotera as of June 1, 2015. The EMS Program is now under the oversight of the College of Health Sciences led by Dr. Rebecca Ludwig, Dean.

The **Minutes of April 4, 2015**, which were emailed to all committee members, were **approved**.

State Bureau of EMS Updates - Drs. Nelson and Stepanovsky

Dr. Nelson announced that the new, Interim EMS Director for Florida is Mike Micard. He replaces Cindy Dyck who resigned last week. The next State EMS Meetings will be held November 16-17, 2015 in Orlando. As of January 1, 2016 Florida will adopt the NREMT paramedic exam (written assessment only). Dr. Nelson stated that the NR certification for paramedics is not required for re-certification. It is a personal choice if the individual wants an additional certification.

He does recommend it though and encourages graduating students to continue with the National Registry certification for Nationally certified paramedics is the standard to maintain throughout the state of Florida and the nation. In fact, a proposed state law, the "EMS Replica Compact proposes a treaty between states for EMS certification which would allow an individual with a National Registry certification to cross state lines and use their existing Florida/Natl. Reg. EMS cert." The Florida EMS office is working on a draft of this agreement. More will follow.

Paramedic Program Report – Marty VanBourgondien

Marty stated that the recent graduate pass rates were 100% on the first time attempt, adding the quicker a student tests the higher the pass rate. The Paramedic State pass rates are attached to the minutes.

Our next paramedic day class will begin in January 2016. Nerina will explain how it will work.

We graduated a total of 10 paramedic students at the close of the summer 2015 session.

Faculty & Staff Updates-Nerina Stepanovsky

Nerina reported that we still have one fulltime faculty position open (on hold at this time), and that we will seriously need to consider opening it because of the added need of an instructor for the new EMT Program at the Midtown Campus scheduled to begin this coming January, as well as the proposed mirror paramedic classes. She also announced that Cathy Skyrn, our part time EMS Staff Assistant will be leaving our program to take a fulltime position in the HEC Records & Admissions office effective September 28, 2015. Her position is being advertised and the need to increase this to a fulltime position is more evident now that the mirror paramedic class and Midtown EMT Program set to begin in January. Someone will need to travel to the Midtown campus at least twice a week to manage student paperwork, etc. while those classes are in session.

There have been a few changes to the EMS Advisory Committee membership roster. Teresa Collins, formerly with Northside Hospital, has left the area to take another position. Diane Conti, RN, ED Director at St. Pete General Hospital has agreed to take this role. Also, Glenn Clegg has left TransCare and has been replaced by Merrill Seabury.

Overall Program Report-Nerina Stepanovsky

Nerina announced that our next CoAEMSP site visit is scheduled for October 12-13, 2015. This will also include the DOH/OEMS site visit. The Self-study for CoAEMSP has been completed and was sent on October 1, 2014. State Initial Application for EMT at Midtown Campus was received by OEMS on September 21, 2015. Their site visit will be completed the afternoon of October 13th.

Enrollment offering for spring (January 2016) and (May 2016) are as follows:

- 1) Paramedic Mirror Class – accepting 36 students at this time. This will be a pilot class to begin this January 2016. If this way of offering paramedic is successful we will increase student maximum count to 48. Classes will be “mirrored” so that Monday/Tuesday will be the same class, and Wednesday/Thursday will be the same class. We will offer the program twice a year, in May and August beginning August 2016. We will change from a 14 month to 12 month program, and will NOT offer a class start date this upcoming May 2016 session due to current enrollment and clinical spaces available. The need for paramedic clinical field internship preceptors is still great.
- 2) A new EMT class is proposed to start January 2016 at the Midtown Keene Center. This will be a once a year program for the Midtown Campus. This will bring the total available EMT seats up to 72 from 60 for spring sessions. This is pending approval from the OEMS.
- 3) A combined Fire/EMT class is scheduled to begin May 18, 2016 as an express 12 week day class. These students will be in addition to our regular summer evening class of 30. We will not be able to accept more than 30 students due to space restrictions. This will be a non-credit PSAV (Post-Secondary Adult Vocational) class, but will be taught the same way as a credit class. It will be offered once a year during the summer session to students who have passed the Physical Agility Test and been accepted to the SPC Fire Academy.

The Eckerd College express/day summer EMT class did not take place due to out of state tuition requirement. As most students were from out of state, they didn't qualify for in state tuition. Two students out of the group chose to attend our regular evening summer EMT class.

MacDill AFB has submitted a notification of interest to offer an express EMT class through SPC for 12 base firefighters beginning this fall. Nerina responded affirmatively, and we are now waiting notification of selection by their Command after October 1st.

Coast Guard Cortez has expressed interest in an EMR class for their personnel. An initial meeting has been completed and Nerina is developing a proposal. The class would not be held until after January 2016 depending on the approval of their training command.

EMT Program Report – Ted Rogers

Copies of Pass Rates for EMT will be included at the end of the minutes.

Ted stated that the current finishing EMT student testing of last evening had a 100% pass rate. The students were strongly encouraged to apply to the State MQA and NREMT as soon as possible as delays in applying can directly affect pass rates. Plans are still in the works to have exam prep classes for completing EMT students, as they have shown to benefit pass rates on first attempt of the certification exam, and because several students will begin the Fire Academy in October.

He also shared that the 13th Ed. of *Emergency Care* by Dan Limmer is being reviewed as well as other EMT education resources.

We have a fall day class of 29 EMT students who began classes on August 18, 2015. The Evening EMT class will begin September 28, 2015 with an estimated 27 students.

Support Coord. Report - Scott Pelletier

Scott shared the status of our equipment.

Purchased: Two (2) Crash Kelly Trauma (LF) manikins, 1 Philips MRX with trade-out of our oldest model LP12 w/ MRX, CAE EMS-6 Learning Module for upgrade of METIman. Program allowing a variety of EMS Sim Packages for use in Lab & Evaluation settings. State Matching Grant requested items of a Kbpport and new METIman were denied at this time. **Proposed purchases:** 11 Finger Pulse Oximeters for use in both EMT and medic training, Noelle Replacement Birth Canal-\$337.37 (has been ordered and we are awaiting delivery), Stryker Power Stretcher (used) from Sunstar-Cost: \$2,000.00, Megacode Kelly Refurbishment \$2,317.50(x3) and Repairs/Service Contract \$1,655.00 (ea).

Affiliation Agreements/Approved (new) and Renewed: Americare- accepting EMT students for Field Internship beginning October 2015(new), (renewed) HCA Bayfront Health St. Petersburg, Northside Hospital, Palms of Pasadena Hospital, St. Pete General Hospital. Bayfront has been approved but requires a follow-up regarding access to the OR.

Pending affiliation Agreements: BayCare St. Joseph's Hospital South (opened spring 2015-no students till 2016), HCA Largo Med Ctr. (includes Main, IROC & CLW ER). This contract is at our attorney's office waiting final approval. St. Petersburg Fire Rescue – contract pending approval. TransCare is pending renewal.

FISDAP Updates: NREMT competency checklists have been loaded and enabled for use in labs (EMT & medic), and are authorized for e-lab books for proficiency sign-offs. We are having another Virtual User Webinar on September 29, 2015. There will be a FISDAP Scenario Writing for Lab Competencies Workshop on Oct. 22-23, 2016, in Orlando. Program Director, Lead medic instructor and support coordinator are attending.

Old Business

New uniforms are now worn by incoming students who are very pleased with the change. We have received multiple positive comments from hospitals and field agencies. We continue to have increased EMS student involvement in interdisciplinary scenarios with Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Respiratory Therapy and National University of Health Sciences Chiropractic Physician students.

The Pinellas Park High School First Responder Program will not be offered in the spring of 2016 as there are no available, credentialed instructors. Mr. Greg Taylor, the former instructor of this class for the Pinellas County School System has been promoted and has a new position. Scott Pelletier is teaching this Dual Enrollment class (7 students) during this fall term.

New Business

Nerina requested members of this advisory committee to meet with CoAEMSP site visitors at the Health Education Center on October 12 between 2:15-2:45 pm.

As increased course/program offerings are being requested, the program is in dire need of at least two (2) full time faculty as well as several more adjuncts.

Motion made: That two (2) new, fulltime faculty be hired to increase instructors needed for additional classes within the EMS Program, and that the half-time staff assistant position be upgraded to a fulltime Staff Assistant position to be added to the EMS Program Staff. **Motion Passed.**

Another request that was defended but not put forth in a motion is the need for a dedicated lab simulator coordinator. Much discussion ensued and the subject will be raised again at future meetings.

Guest, Ian Womack of St. Petersburg Fire Rescue made a presentation proposing a Dual Enrollment high school EMT class at the Midtown Campus. After much discussion a **Motion was made:** to work with SPFR to promote a high school dual enrollment EMT class with a working committee to include Ian Womack, Chris Henderson, Greg Taylor and Dr. Carver.

Motion Passed.

The EMS/CME contract with Pinellas County was not renewed effective October 1, 2015.

Advisory Committee Member Surveys/evaluations will be sent via email. Please respond.

Current paramedic student, James Humphrey, gave high praise for the paramedic instructors and expressed need for more equipment and scenario time.

Much discussion ensued regarding a possible Health Care Simulation Center to be house at the Annex (former Juvenile Welfare Board Bldg.). This will require large amounts of building renovations and costly equipment. Some money has been offered toward the equipment and Dr. Carver, Dr. Law and Pinellas County are working together to come up with a feasible plan to make this happen. This lab would become a multi-disciplinary simulation lab.

A discussion regarding Anatomy/Physiology requirements for paramedic curriculum was held with a variety of interesting viewpoints. This is a subject that will be revisited and shared at a future advisory committee meeting.

With thanks to all members of this committee for their continued support of the EMS Program at St. Petersburg College, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Next Advisory Committee meeting will be held in April/May 2016. Notification will be sent on date selected.

