

**South Carolina EMS Advisory Council Meeting  
Columbia Mills Building  
Virtual Teams Meeting  
September 9, 2021  
10:00 am**

<i><b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b></i>	<i><b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b></i>	<i><b>DHEC STAFF</b></i>
Ed DesChamps, MD	John Williams	Rich Wisniewski
Garrett Clanton, MD	Brett McGary, MD	Karen Moore
David French, MD	Spencer Robinson, MD	John Thivierge
Britton Herbert	Antoine Kelly	Mary Neely
Kelly Carlton	Debbie Hession	
Kim Graham	Chris Cothran	
Henry Lewis	Ryan Barnett	
Mark Self	John Lawson	
Austin Mandeville	Phil Clarke	
Richard Mann	Charles Dixon	
Matt Morris	Chris Bowers	
Ryon Watkins		
Scott Stoller		
Crystal Youmans		

<i><b>AGENDA ITEMS</b></i>	<i><b>DISCUSSION/ACTION</b></i>
<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	Dr. DesChamps called the meeting to order.
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT</b>	Ms. Moore read the Freedom of Information Act.
<b>ROLL CALL</b>	Ms. Moore called the roll.
<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	<i>Mr. Stoller made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Mann seconded, and the motion passed.</i>
<b>DHEC REPORTS</b> Staff Positions  Connie Thompson  ID Cards	<p>Mr. Wisniewski stated the position for EMS Program Manager has been filled by John Thivierge and the position of Trauma Program Manager has been filled by Karen Moore. Both had been acting Interim Managers in those positions. The Division will be posting positions for EMSC Coordinator, and the Stroke, Sepsis, Stemi Coordinator.</p> <p>Tim Martin was chosen as Training and Compliance Manager and as soon as possible, his old position of Midlands Inspector will be posted.</p> <p>Mr. Wisniewski reported Connie Thompson, the Trauma Administrative Assistant, resigned her position due to health issues. Nita Wright has joined the Division as the Trauma Admin.</p> <p>Mr. Wisniewski said due to slow mail times, the EMS ID cards are now able to be printed from an individual's Image Trend account. The ID badges are still being mailed, but printing a paper copy</p>

<p>Regulation 61-7</p> <p>Electing a Secretary</p> <p>Certification Process</p> <p>EMS Agency Visits</p> <p>Trauma Registry</p>	<p>will allow individuals to be able to work as soon as possible.</p> <p>Mr. Wisniewski stated the public comment period for Regulation 61-7 started on August 27 and will end on September 27. Town Hall meetings are scheduled for next week, Monday through Thursday at various times including afternoon and evening times. Discussion followed.</p> <p>Mr. Wisniewski reported OGC’s official opinion of “provide administrative support” regarding committee and council meetings is that DHEC is responsible for hosting the meetings, for reserving meeting rooms, and for communications for the meetings. The taking/writing the meeting minutes are the responsibility of the individual councils. We ask the Council to nominate someone to keep the minutes for this Council. Discussion followed.</p> <p>Mr. Thivierge stated since July, the Division has been trying to streamline and improve the EMT certification process. Mr. Grimes and Mr. Williams have been working on several problems found in the application system.</p> <p>Mr. Thivierge is planning to visit EMS agencies across the state, to meet the agencies’ directors and training officers. Mr. Thivierge thanked the Council for their patience during this time of transition.</p> <p>Ms. Moore announced the Division is getting a Trauma Registry. She shared a timeline for the project, and hopefully the contract will be in place just after the New Year.</p>
<p><b>COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</b></p> <p>Medical Control Committee</p> <p>Spinal Immobilizations</p>	<p>Dr. DesChamps reported there were four motions from the Medical Control Committee sent to the Advisory Council for review and vote.</p> <p><b><i>Motion: No further comments and the motion passes. Motion now moves forward to the Division for removal.</i></b></p>

	<p><b>Motion 1</b> Discussion followed. <b>Motion passed and moves to Training Committee to develop training and Protocols.</b></p> <p><b>Motion 2: remove restriction on starting blood products that have been typed and crossed at sending facility, at the time of transfer.</b> Discussion followed. <b>Motion passed and moves to the Training Committee to develop training and Protocols.</b></p> <p>Dr. DesChamps said the Medical Control Committee also approved the addition of Tranexamic Acid (TXA) statewide: *Services no longer have to apply one by one to add TXA; it will be added to the Formulary. *Services will need to follow the Lexington Protocol. *Service must have a letter from their primary receiving facility, stating it is aware of this program and can manage TXA patients. Letter must be sent to the Division. <b>Motion passes and will go to the Training Committee adapt the Lexington Protocol and training package.</b></p>
<p>Prehospital Pain Protocol</p>	<p>Dr. DesChamps brought forward a motion from the MCC to change the dosage on the Prehospital Pain Protocol: *Smaller doses of Narcotics May be utilized to achieve pain control. Repeat dosing of Narcotics is restricted to 5-minute intervals until the maximum dosage is reached prior to online Medical Control contact. The Bureau of Drug Control did not have any problem with this change: <b>Mr. Self made a motion to approve the change in the Protocol. Dr. Gainey seconded and the motion passed.</b></p> <p>Dr. DesChamps reminded the Council that while these motions all passed, they still must go through the Training Committee. The Division will let the state know when these motions are available statewide.</p>
<p>Nitrous Oxide Expansion</p>	<p>Dr. DesChamps stated Dr. Lutz gave a presentation for the use of Nitrous Oxide for pain management for the level of EMT and above.</p>

	<p>The MCC approved. This too must go to the Training Committee for development of the training module and the Protocol. Discussion followed. <b><i>Motion tabled until Dr. Lutz can present more information at the next Advisory Council meeting.</i></b></p>
<p>Training Committee Program Manual</p>	<p>Ms. Smith reported the Program Manual is on hold until Regulation 61-7 is approved.</p>
<p>SC Training Components</p>	<p>Ms. Smith stated the Committee is discussing training components that are South Carolina specific. These components may not be added to initial EMT curriculum, but agencies that use those processes must make sure their employees are properly trained.</p>
<p>Institutional Data Reports</p>	<p>Ms. Smith said there has been a delay with the institutional data reports. Will be having more discussion, especially making sure the institutions are reporting their data. Discussion followed.</p>
<p>Data Committee</p>	<p>No report.</p>
<p>Trauma Advisory Council</p>	<p>Ms. Moore reported TAC did not meet in July but will meet on October 21<sup>st</sup>.</p>
<p>EMS for Children Pediatric Symposium</p>	<p>Ms. Moore stated EMSC announced the Pediatric Symposium will be held Friday February 25, 2022 in Charleston with hybrid and in-person options.</p>
<p>Cervical Collar Project</p>	<p>Ms. Moore said the Committee was working with the TASC Pediatric subcommittee group on a cervical collar project. EMS agencies will be receiving a short cervical collar survey soon.</p>
<p>Spinal Mobile Restriction</p>	<p>Ms. Moore added the Committee is also working on spinal mobile restriction for pediatrics and have developed some draft protocols and guidelines.</p>
<p>Peds Ready Program</p>	<p>Ms. Moore announced the Peds Ready program is up and running and have a few visits coming up. If your agency is interested in being recognized as a Peds Ready agency, please contact her.</p>
<p>Stroke Advisory Council</p>	<p>Mr. Thivierge said the Stroke Advisory Council met on virtually on July 21<sup>st</sup>.</p>
<p>Bon Secours/St. Francis</p>	

<p>Get With the Guidelines</p> <p>Prehospital Data Presentation</p> <p>Hospital Association</p>	<p>Mr. Thivierge announced as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, Bon Secours/St. Francis downtown campus in Greenville changed their designation from Comprehensive Stroke Center to Primary Stroke Center. Discussion followed.</p> <p>Mr. Thivierge said the Get With the Guidelines reimbursements requests are still coming in and there are funds still available for the Stroke Centers.</p> <p>Mr. Thivierge reported that Pat Aysse from the American Heart Association presented information about prehospital data.</p> <p>Mr. Thivierge stated that Melanie Matney from the Hospital Association spoke to the group about initiatives the Association is planning to collaborate on with EMS and DHEC in the future.</p> <p>Next meeting is virtual on October 14.</p>
<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Hospital Diversion</p> <p>Workforce Recruitment and Retention</p> <p>Advisory Council Membership</p>	<p>Henry Lewis, Executive Director of the EMS Association, brought forward the concerns about hospital diversion at surge capacity. Mr. Lewis stated the Association has worked with DHEC staff and the SC Hospital Association on a joint position statement that will clarify some issues for receiving facilities. He hopes to have the draft finished soon and it will be distributed to all hospitals in the state, as well as all EMS providers in the state.</p> <p>Mr. Lewis said the Association has received funding from the General Assembly specific to workforce recruitment and retention. Once the funds are allocated, the EMS Association plans a statewide Recruitment into the Workforce Campaign to raise awareness of EMS career options and education.</p> <p>Dr. DesChamps stated there were many vacant seats on the Advisory Council. Some members expired in 2020 and due to Covid-19, those memberships were extended to the end of 2021; all 2021 memberships will also expire at the end</p>

<p>Advisory Council Secretary</p> <p>Medical Control Physician’s Workshop</p> <p>Refusal to Transport</p> <p>Covid-19 Protocol</p> <p>EMS Association of EMS Physicians</p>	<p>of 2021. Dr. DesChamps said that any position that expired prior to 2020 is considered vacant. Richard Mann will work with Henry Lewis to fill the vacant positions. Discussion followed.</p> <p>Dr. DesChamps asked the Council members to consider the secretary position and elect someone at the next meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Thivierge reminded the Council of the Medical Control Physician’s Workshop that will be held on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 8-5 at the SC Fire Academy. Discussion followed.</p> <p>Mr. Blanchard from Kershaw County EMS asked the Council to consider creating an EMS initiated Refusal to Transport. Mr. Blanchard said his local medical control was uncomfortable to draft one without the state’s guidance. Dr. Deschamps suggested adding this issue to the MCC agenda in November. He asked Mr. Blanchard to see if local med control had ideas and to forward them.</p> <p>Dr. Clanton remembered working on Protocol for Covid-19 during a State of Emergency and asked if it had ever been enacted. Discussion followed. Mr. Wisniewski stated the Division was working with Public Health Preparedness on some guidelines internally and should have a rough draft to Dr. DesChamps soon. the next few weeks.</p> <p>Dr. Ed extended condolences to Mark for the death of his son.</p> <p>Dr Clanton announced that the National Association of EMS Physicians will be sending a survey for physician medical directors on Sept. 13. It is to gather information nationwide on what Medical Directors are doing.</p>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p><b>NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 9</b></p>