

IEMSA Board of Directors Meeting
AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 18, 2003 @ 10:00 a.m.
West Des Moines EMS
3421 Ashworth Rd.
West Des Moines, Iowa

ATTENDEES:

Board Members: Evan Bensley, Cheryl Blazek, John Copper, Kirk Dighton, Jeff Dumermuth, Cindy Hewitt, John Hill, Brian Jacobsen, Ric Jones, Connie Leicher, Jeff Messerole, Lori Reeves, Rod Robinson, Judy Rurup, Melissa Sally-Mueller, Tom Summitt, Bruce Thomas

Staff: Gary Ireland, Karen Kreider

Guests: Jerry Johnston, Ray Jones, Curtis Hopper, Julie Gesie, Deb Burke

Proxies: Rosemary Adam, Bill Fish, Kay Lucas, Steve Noland

Absent: Roger Heglund, Fred Hansen

I. Call To Order - Jeff Dumermuth, President - Jeff called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. Determination of Quorum/Proxies - A quorum was determined and proxies were noted.

III. Agenda reordered to accommodate an early presentation of the Practical Testing issue.

IV. Mercy School of EMS Mary Jankowski & Shirley Beaver - Mary presented information on the H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Program and distributed materials related to the grant opportunity. Mercy College is proposing that full tuition grants be given to students (paramedics) who meet admissions requirements of Mercy College and the professional Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree program. The grant assumes that the federal grant dollars will be used to create new programming by offering alternative delivery methods to attract interested participants. Shirley then presented information on the 3 Semester, Paramedic to RN Program and distributed materials related to the curriculum. Discussion was opened and questions were answered. Hospitals and other service providers can participate in this program by offering employment to students who successfully complete the academic program, contingent on their ability to obtain certification or offer paid time off for students to attend classes or provide tuition assistance (to be treated as cash match in the grant) towards their degree/certification. Mercy's immediate need from IEMSA is a letter of support that outlines our willingness to endorse the program due to its potential benefits. A letter of support will be provided by IEMSA - Jeff Dumermuth to write and send this letter.

V. Minutes of August 21, 2003 - A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2003 Board Meeting as written. Hewitt/Hill/Unanimous

VI. Practical Testing - Jerry Johnston - Jerry reported that he did not receive any e-mailed comments regarding the Practical Testing proposal. He noted that he did hear of concerns regarding the business plan/financials. Jerry explained that adopting the concept does not mean adopting the proposal as is, as additional research is required before such a program can become operational. Questions were raised regarding the reaction of the training programs. Jerry reported that he has heard mixed reviews - the perception is that some training programs will be hurt financially and others will be relieved of the burden. The next step in this process is to authorize Gary Ireland to pursue meetings with the training programs to get more specific about our plans and see how a working relationship with the programs can be forged. A motion was made to accept the proposal and move our pursuit of this program to the next step of meeting with the training programs. Bensley/Sally-Mueller/discussion. Ray Jones of the Bureau reiterated that the Bureau has asked for this proposal from IEMSA and has clearly reported this at training program meetings. He also noted that proposals will be entertained from entities other than IEMSA. This was noted in the minutes of the Training Programs forum. In addition, the Attorney General was solicited for an opinion on conflict of interest re: training programs testing their own students. An answer is pending. Vote to accept the motion as presented: Bensley, Sally-Mueller/Unanimous.

VII. Treasurer's Report - Bruce Thomas - Bruce reviewed the Profit and Loss statement, noting that the year is 2/3's complete. He also noted that total income and total expenses fall in appropriate ranges. The finances currently stand at an approximate loss of \$10,000. Bruce referred to Balance Sheet to bring the Board's attention to the current overall position and noted that the bulk of IEMSA's income is acquired during the last quarter of the year due to the conference. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Messerole/Summitt/Unanimous

VIII. Executive Director's Report - Gary Ireland

- * Gary reported that responses to the corporate solicitations have been nil. He also noted that his attempt to attain grant funds from Foundations and other Charitable Giving Programs is at a dead end.
- * He also reported that he and Cal Hultman met with Wellmark Insurance regarding the proposed voluntary check-off program attached to insurance premiums and renewals. He noted that the idea was not embraced by Wellmark. Wellmark is, however, supportive of IEMSA's goals and recommended a surcharge for all who use emergency room services. Research on the issue of continuous funding for EMT's will continue.
- * Gary attended the HRSA meeting on our behalf.

IX. Administrative Assistant's Report - Karen Kreider

- * Getting ready for the Conference has been Karen's main activity. Individual registrations and exhibitor registrations are coming in steadily.
- * Wisconsin EMS Association placed our conference ad in their publication as a swap of advertising space. We will be placing their conference ad in our December newsletter. We have received one call for information from a Wisconsin person thus far. Had we paid for the advertisement, it would have cost \$200.

X. Bureau of EMS Report - Ray Jones

1. DNR rules - Ray reported that the DNR rules went through; he distributed the protocols and circulated a sample of the universal identifier. He noted that a potential conflict re: durable power of attorney and physician's responsibility exists. He also suggested that the Board and all EMT's visit the web site to keep current on forms to be used as changes are expected as issues get resolved. There was an omission on the EMS side of the rules re: accidents and the decision to resuscitate if the accident victim is wearing the identifier.
2. Budget - Ray reported that funds for the Bureau are very tight right now and noted that 62% of funding for IDPH is federal and subject to cuts.
3. 2004 AED Proposal- No word has been received regarding the results of the Grant Award. Ray noted that IEMSA is in line again for administration of the new grant
4. Ray reported that private ambulance companies are leaving service due to budgetary issues.
5. A Grant forum was held yesterday. The same funding stream is expected. Contracts will be issued on a time sensitive basis this round - if a contract is awarded and not returned within the published time frame, the related contract monies will be redistributed. There is an issue of services not following through with required paperwork.
6. The System Development process is to be totally revamped.
7. Data Dictionary - MedMedia is the successful bidder. This program will be using that national data dictionary criteria selected by the Bureau. He noted that paper will no longer be accepted. The Bureau will be looking at changing that requirement but only after the new system is up and going; it will take some time. Ray and Jeff D. provided details about how the program works, noting that this program, which is internet based, is a data gathering tool, not a patient reporting system.

XI. Committee Reports

1. Legislative

1. State - Ric Jones - Ric noted that an issue was raised regarding who can do an emergency room assessment when EMS entities work in ER's and the need to address this issue legislatively. Ric asked that Board members submit legislative issues to him for including in next year's agenda.
2. National - Mark Postma - no report
2. By-Laws - Jeff Messerole - Jeff noted that the proposed by-law changes are posted on web page.
3. Public Information and Education (PI&E) - Evan
 - * Calendar/Educational Poster - Evan reported that the postage cost is \$570 in addition to the \$600 cost for preparing the document, for a total investment of \$1170. Evan noted that he has only heard from 5 community colleges; training programs need to be approached and/or confirmed. He also noted that he may have an electronic version on web by conference time. Final publishing will be in early 2004.
 - * IEMSA pens and other give-away items will be purchased for the booth out of the PI&E budget.
 - * Newsletter - Karen Kreider - Karen, reporting for Rosie announced that an error regarding the CE article in the last newsletter was brought to our attention. It will be corrected when the certificates are distributed. Anyone wanting to submit articles for our final newsletter of the year must get their info to Karen by November 17. It will be mailed by December 10.
 - * Booth - Melissa Sally-Mueller - Melissa reported that Booth volunteers are needed. A sign up sheet will be circulated. T-shirts will be ordered.
 - * Web Page - Karen Kreider - All conference materials are up on the site. Following the September 26th deadline for award and at-large/regional representative nominees, the call for nominees for both events will be removed. New pictures have been submitted of local EMS entities and activities to update the site. She also reported that a new page has been added to the site entitled: Opportunities in EMS. She announced that any Affiliate or Corporate members who want to post job opportunities on the site may do so for free. We will need to create a system for non-members, however.
 - * Membership - John Hill. John reported that Individual membership is currently at 1567 and the breakdown is as follows: NC

- 214, NE -242, NW - 137, SC - 327, SE - 353, SW - 254, non-resident - 40. Affiliate membership is currently at 109. The regional breakdown for Affiliate membership is NC - 14, NE - 26, NW - 17, SC - 14, SE - 28, SW - 10. Corporate membership is holding at 4 members. He also reported that he met with Jeff D. and Karen this morning to discuss ways to enhance our membership activities. John recommended adding an affiliate membership level for non-transport/conditional transport services at \$50 for a service that routinely has 25 responses/calls or less per year. Benefits would include a certificate, the newsletter and 1 free membership for a service representative. He noted that we are lacking in the amount of recognition we give our affiliate and corporate members and suggested that we feature 1 service from each level of membership in each newsletter as a start and continue to look for meaningful ways to recognize sponsorship. He also reported that he will be working on group purchasing - a potential benefit for Affiliate members and life insurance that goes into effect if accidental death occurs on job as a new benefit for Individual members. Making IEMSA informational presentations to students was discussed as a way to make a bigger impression on students entering the EMT field. He noted that a PowerPoint® presentation could be made that has talking points to assist a speaker or which can be run without the benefit of a speaker when one is not available.

4. Awards - Bruce - Bruce reported that the deadline for submitting a nomination is Sept. 26. The Awards Committee is looking at ways to recognize volunteer and career professionals of the year; noting that the Board voted to not send the award winners to Washington.

5. State Fire Service and Emergency Response Council - Cindy Hewitt - Cindy reported that she received no comments regarding the e-mail that was distributed to the board re: fire service training program. A decision needs to be made regarding whether IEMSA should or should not generate a letter of support for the program.

6. Service Directors/Providers - Jerry Johnston - Jeff reported, in Jerry's absence, that IEMSA is sponsoring an audio conference today in this location for Service Directors and Providers.

7. Nominating/Elections - Jeff Dumermuth - Jeff noted that, at this time, all candidates are running unopposed and that, should this remain the case, an election will not be required. Karen reviewed the process that will be used this year should an election be required.

8. Annual Conference - Lori Reeves - Lori reported that the registration brochure was mailed to all EMT's in the State and that the Bureau's list of certified EMT's was used as the database. Lori reviewed registration statistics. A volunteer sign up sheet was circulated. Lori noted that she visited the Wisconsin EMS Association web site, due to the interactions currently happening between WEMSA and IEMSA and noted that their educational presenters are all of national level and that their attendance is typically over 1000 participants. She commented that she would be interested in attending their conference to get another Association's perspective on conference planning and delivery. Lori also reported that hotel reservations for the Board have been made at the Savory.

9. 911 Telecommunications - Dennis Bachman - no report

10. Exhibit Hall - Roger Heglund - Connie Leicher reporting for Roger, noted that there are currently 33 exhibitors registered and that this is up from this time last year. The Committee is optimistic about increasing the number of exhibitors this year. Issues such as non-profit discounts and corporate sponsor booth locations need to be addressed in the future.

11. Advisory Council - Jeff Messerole - no report

12. State Medical Examiner Advisory Council - Jeff Dumermuth - no report

13. Disaster Preparedness Advisory Committee - Jeff Messerole - no report

14. TSAC - Rosemary Adam - no report

15. SEQIC - Melissa Sally-Mueller & Nella Seivert - Melissa reported that data collection was an issue discussed at the last meeting; especially in the area of wanting EMS to add the time a collision occurred to the selection criteria. A brief discussion regarding that issue was held noting that such a timeframe is very vague and that data collection may provide a range for the time of collision as opposed to exact time.

16. Homeland Security - Steve Noland - no report

17. Heartland Coalition - Jerry Johnston - no report

XII. New Business

1. Proposed meeting dates for 2004 - Jeff reported that meeting dates for 2004 were established and distributed in the Board meeting packets. A motion was made to accept the schedule as proposed. Hill/Thomas/Unanimous

2. Ray Jones reported that the Bureau's SC coordinator - Ellen McCordle Woods recently had heart attack; and is recovering well. He also reported that Craig Keogh's wife admitted to the hospital with chest pain as well. Luckily it was not a heart attack; she is also recovering well.

3. Ric Jones recommended that IEMSA send Lori Reeves to the WEMSA conference. A motion was made to pay Lori Reeves' conference registration and expenses to attend the Wisconsin EMS Conference. Jones/Messerole/Unanimous

4. Kirk Dighton - Kirk presented information important to service program directors indicating that - Medicaid reimbursement does not match Medicare in Medicaid/Medicare approved EMS services; he noted that David Werfel, the American Ambulance Association's legal representative for Medicare/Medicaid recommended that States challenge Medicaid to match Medicare. To date, Oregon and California have been successful in achieving match. Would IEMSA be willing to lobby for matching reimbursement?

XIII. Adjournment - A Motion was made to adjourn the IEMSA Board meeting at 12:10 p.m.

XIV. Addendum - Dr. Alfred Hansen has graciously accepted our invitation to become our first Medical Liaison, noting that he looks forward to working with us. He intended to attend this meeting, but his presence was required elsewhere on short notice.