

Minutes of the April 8, 2016 Board of Emergency Medical Services Strategic Planning Session

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. James Smith, Chairperson, called the Board of Emergency Medical Services Strategic Planning Session to order at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, April 8, 2016 in the Country Inn and Suites – Omaha Room located at 5353 North 27th Street, Lincoln, NE. The meeting was duly publicized by distribution of the Notice of Meeting and Agenda at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and posting the agenda at the entrance of the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

Dr. Smith announced that this is a public meeting and the Open Meetings Law is posted.

The following Board Members were present at the meeting: Mike Bailey, Randy Boldt, Dr. John Bonta, Karen Bowlin, Joel Cerny, Ann Fiala, Don Harmon, Troy Hiemer, Linda Jensen, Charles LaFollette, Dr. Mike Miller, Carl Rennerfeldt, Dr. James Smith, and Scott Wiebe.

The following Department Staff were present at the meeting: Becky Wisell, Claire Covert-ByBee, Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Sue Medinger, Tim Wilson, Eric Ernest, Carol Jorgensen, Doug Fuller, Julie Smithson, Jackie Larrington, Ben Leseberg, Sherri Wren, Debbie Kuhn, Margaret Brockman, Lisa Anderson, and Teresa Hampton.

Board member Dr. Thomas Deegan was absent. Dr. Bonta left before the session adjourned.

Aarron Reinert and John Becknell from SafeTech Solutions facilitated the session.

Mr. Boldt moved, seconded by Ms. Bowlin to adopt the agenda. Voting aye: Bailey, Boldt, Bonta, Bowlin, Cerny, Fiala, Harmon, Hiemer, Jensen, LaFollette, Miller, Rennerfeldt, Smith, and Wiebe. Voting nay: None. Absent: Deegan. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLAN (PROVIDED BY SAFETECH SOLUTIONS)

This planning document is a work in progress and the result of an ongoing strategic planning process begun in 2015. The process includes:

- Listening to stakeholders across Nebraska;
- In depth evaluations of data, concerns and challenges;
- Meetings between the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services, the Department of Health and Human Services' Licensure Unit and the EMS/Trauma Program and key EMS and healthcare stakeholders; and
- Leadership focused on proactively investing time and other resources in preparing for the future.

The vision and goals below reflect the important opportunities, challenges and needs of EMS in Nebraska today and in the coming five years. The planning process will be ongoing. This document will continue to evolve and change as work is accomplished and more is learned.

Vision:

The following reflects the Board and staff's vision of EMS in Nebraska in five years.

In 2021 Nebraska residents and visitors will be served by emergency medical services that are:

- Above all, patient centered ;
- Part of a planned system with an appropriate distribution of resources;

- Appropriately led and regulated at the state level by various parts working collaboratively and communicating internally and externally;
- Seen, valued and funded as an essential public service;
- Providing the appropriate level of clinical care with engaged medical direction;
- Fully staffed with workers who are valued and reasonably educated, staffed, supported and held accountable;
- Locally sustainable and reliable; and
- Integrated into the larger healthcare system.

This vision will be supported by, but not limited to, the following strategic priorities/goals:

Strategic Priority/Goal

Update EMS rules and regulations to ensure regulatory structure supports and reflects current vision of patient centric system and current opportunities, challenges and needs.

- **Current actions:**
 - Open rules and regulations update process (completed);
 - Identify leadership and group to oversee process ensuring appropriate hearings, stakeholder input and statutory requirements are followed;
 - Steward this process to ensure goal is met; and
 - Explore changes needed around scope of practice to accommodate exploration of concepts like community paramedic and mobile integrated health.
- **Ownership:** Ann Fiala and Linda Jensen
- **Timeline:** To be determined by owners and reported at next Board meeting

Strategic Priority/Goal

EMS is broadly recognized as an essential public service in Nebraska with clear designation in statute or rule for who or whom is responsible for the provision of EMS.

- **Current actions:**
 - For a group to research this issue;
 - Gain understanding of barriers to the designation of responsibility; and
 - Form recommendations and a strategy for accomplishing this goal.
- **Ownership:** Randy Boldt, Carl Rennerfeldt and Troy Hiemer
- **Timeline:** To be determined by owners and reported at next Board meeting

Strategic Priority/Goal

Strengthen and improve local EMS Medical Direction engagement and effectiveness across Nebraska.

- **Current actions:**
 - Evaluate the current system of medical direction;
 - Explore medical director development, education, support, regional approaches, best practices in other states; and
 - Make recommendations for strengthening and improving the local EMS medical direction to the Board.
- **Ownership:** Dr. Eric Ernest, Dr. John Bonta, Don Harmon, PA, Dr. Thomas Deegan
- **Timeline:** To be determined by owners and reported at next Board meeting

Strategic Priority/Goal

A comprehensive vision for EMS data collection and use in Nebraska linked to practical and clear clinical performance indicators.

- **Current action:** Assemble a team of appropriate stakeholders and develop a data visioning/planning process.
- **Ownership:** Scott Wiebe and Doug Fuller
- **Timeline:** To be determined by owners and reported at next Board meeting

Strategic Priority/Goal

A five-year plan with specific practical actions that addresses EMS workforce including the decline in volunteerism and current and future needs across Nebraska.

- **Current actions:**
 - Form working group (include involvement of NSVFA & NEMSA);
 - Assess available data and get clear handle on scope of challenges and needs;
 - Create a process for educating local officials/communities about workforce issues/needs;
 - Apply principles of workforce planning to create a plan and identify specific practical actions to develop appropriate workforce; and
 - Continue the promotion of EMS leadership develop (Brian Monaghan).
- **Ownership:** Michael Bailey, Joel Cerny, Charles LaFollette
- **Timeline:** To be determined by owners and reported at next Board meeting

Strategic Priority/Goal

A thorough evaluation of the EMS education and testing process to ensure Nebraska has a best practice process (an educational assessment).

- **Current actions:**
 - Plan and conduct an educational assessment;
 - Explore issues related to testing concerns expressed in open forums;
 - Seek to understand what needs improvement or change; and
 - Make recommendations to Board.
- **Ownership:** Dr. Mike Miller, Brian Monaghan, Karen Bowlin
- **Timeline:** To be determined by owners and reported at next Board meeting

Strategic Priority/Goals

Acknowledged improvement in communication and collaboration between:

- Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services
- DHHS – Licensure Unit
- DHHS - EMS/Trauma Program
- Stakeholders across Nebraska
- Systems of care

Better access to Board meetings.

- **Current actions:**
 - Encourage EMS related DHHS staff to attend and participate in Board meetings;
 - Host regular joint staff meeting between Licensure Unit and EMS/Trauma Program;

- Continue to use and develop communication links with key stake holders such as open forums;
- Explore open meeting limits and possibilities with using technology; and
- Experiment with using technology to expand communication.
- **Ownership:** Dr. James Smith, Tim Wilson, Claire Covert-ByBee
- **Timeline:** To be determined by owners and reported at next Board meeting

Strategic Priority/Goals

Strengthen capacity of EMS Regional Specialists to identify local agency sustainability and assist local agencies and communities in navigating change process.

Deferred for future discussion

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Scott Wiebe, Secretary

Prepared by: Jacye LaFayette-Dymacek, Health Licensing Coordinator