

**EMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 3, 2006
TELECONFERENCE**

Members Present: Dan Ehlen, Nancy Capes, Dr Hamar, Cheryl Flick, Neil Frame, and Mark Weber

Others Present: Dean Lampe, Tim Meyer, Ed Gregoire, Mark Haugen, Darleen Bartz, Amy Eberle, Chip Thomas, and Kari Kuhn

Welcome and Introductions

Neil welcomed everybody to the meeting and introductions were done around the room and on the phone. Tim stated that Jesse Smith from Bismarck Fire will be replacing Al Runck on the committee representing the Rescue Society. This was up for discussion at the Rescue Society meeting during the EMS conference and Al Runck stepped down from the EMSAC.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 23, 2006

Nancy moved to approve the minutes of the February 23 meeting as written. Mark Weber seconded the motion. This motion will be voted on electronically by the committee.

Chip Thomas – NDHA. Volunteer EMT Staffing

EMS staffing issues were brought up at a recent public health unit meeting about two months ago. Darleen and Chip were both there. Chip thanked the committee for letting him come and speak at this meeting. Chip brought up discussion regarding the future roles for public health units and EMS / volunteer ambulances. He posed the question of what will fill the void when hospitals in rural North Dakota close. He brought up that public health units are organized, functional, open 24 hours, and not limited by political boundaries. Chip stressed that he is not intending this to be a negative discussion and is not suggesting a complete change from the way things are now.

Tim stated that staffing is a big problem for EMS in North Dakota and the EMS Association has been looking into it. Tim also commented that if a community is going to want to maintain an ambulance in their community they are going to have to figure out a way to pay for it, like they do with their police.

Dr. Hamar mentioned that this will play into the development of a mandatory trauma system in North Dakota. There was discussion about funding an ACS recommendation analysis in North Dakota. Chip will be meeting with Dr. Hamar and having further meetings with the ND Health Association and come back with further information. Amy will let Chip know of trauma committee meetings scheduled in the near future so he can attend.

Other Business

There was brief discussion about upcoming legislative issues. The EMS Association and the Healthcare Association plan to have their legislative agendas completed within the next 30 – 45 days.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was not scheduled at this time. The committee is considering a meeting in August. Tim stated that he should be able to do a presentation regarding the attrition survey at that time. The survey has been completed and an analysis tool is currently being developed.

Adjourn

Mark Weber made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Darleen Bartz.