

**Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force
Special Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, November 25, 2013 at 2:30pm
Connecticut Department of Public Health
OCHA Hearing Room, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford**

Task Force Committee Members Present:

Raphael Barishansky, Bruce Baxter, Joseph Danao, Paul Fitzgerald, Matthew Galligan, Mary-Ellen Harper, David Lowell, Carl Schiessl, Charlee Tufts, Seth Roberts,

Guests in Attendance:

James Brown, Wendy Furniss, Josh Hughes, Richard Kamin, Jill Kentfield, Elizabeth Keyes, Gary O'Connor, Ken Przybysz, Judith Reynolds, Michael Demicco

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:37PM by Co-Chair Barishansky.

A. Introduction/Roll Call of Members

The Task Force members introduced themselves and their affiliations.

B. Introduction of Audience

The members of the audience introduced themselves and their affiliations.

C. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

A Motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2013 meeting, (Galligan/Roberts). During discussion, Lowell expressed concern over the proposed modifications to the PSAR draft regulations, it was not his understanding that the group would rewrite regulations. Co-Chair Barishansky had asked the Task Force members review the draft regulations to determine if they went far enough. Mary-Ellen Harper spoke on the intent of the proposed changes. Motion passed with Bruce Baxter abstaining and David Lowell opposing.

D. Public Comment

Co-Chair Barishansky opened the floor for public comment. Attorney Gary O'Connor representing AMR explained Chuck Babson was unable to attend today due to an emergency. He stated AMR has been evaluating the draft regulations and benchmarks and there is concern over the proposed regulations period of review, they believe it takes a longer period of time to get a return on capital investments. He commented that AMR has done an extensive study on benchmarks, which Chuck will speak about at the next meeting. He commented measurable standards take time to develop and are a complicated issue. He feels a close rein should be kept to the charge of the Task Force.

2.0 Old Business

A. Task Force Topic Review

Co-Chair Harper and Co-Chair Barishansky commented the document will be fluid and updated as discussion continues. There were no comments or questions.

B. DPH Proposed Regulations

Co-Chair Harper stated the suggested changes to the Proposed PSAR Regulations 19a-179-4, (revision date 10-22-13) were to open discussion. The group reviewed the document with the following commentary:

- Page 1 of 6: [(a)] addition of term of 5 years – David Lowell stated he is not in agreement with a 5 year term.
- Page 2 of 6: No changes were made.

- Page 3 of 6: (e) Review of PSAR Assignment (1) – deleted at least every five years – (G) through (L) added . Co-Chair Barishansky commented changes were proposed to open the language more. Lowell suggested referring to the performance metrics.
- Page 4 of 6: (E) 5 years added. [(e)] (2) section added.
- Page 5 of 6: (h) Transfer of PSAR assignment - section changed.
- Page 6 of 6: No changes

David Lowell distributed a document developed by ACAP titled “Performance Metrics” for the groups review supporting benchmarks that reflect best practice and where applicable are evidence based. Discussion followed on response times and factors that influence performance standards from community to community. Bruce Baxter commented on the importance of the PSA holder and the municipalities developing benchmarks during the contract process and deciding what is appropriate for them. There was additional discussion on contract content and development, contract term limits, investment recovery, cost effective delivery of care, quality assurance, local standards development through the EMS Plans and removal of PSA’s.

Co-Chair Harper and Co-Chair Barishansky will seek further input on the regulations, asking the Task Force to develop language based on conversation at today’s meeting. Charlee Tufts noted Gary Wiemokly had suggested the group review the proposed regulations line by line to determine what had been addressed. Wendy Furniss was granted the floor and commented that the Task Force recommendations should be conceptual and further study of some issues may be required by another group. Co-Chair Harper stated she feels the regulations are something the group can focus on to move forward, she suggested the group develop proposals prior to the next meeting for discussion.

Joe Danao commented he has reviewed all the material and the charge of the Task Force. He has provided summaries and suggestions and is waiting for the group to offers specifics on moving forward.

Carl Schiessl stated there appears to be a consensus on developing concepts, he suggest focusing on identifying concepts and developing recommendations to create minimum standards and a framework. Co-Chair Barishansky agreed noting there are four concepts the group appears to agree on; 1. Review of the PSA’s, 2. Development of performance standards, 3. Accelerating the process for underperforming providers and 4. Municipal involvement. He asked if the group could have these as topics of discussion for the next four meetings to come to a consensus. Discussion followed, David Lowell feels we need to develop recommendation statements and then determine if they are already addressed, if not then we can proceed further. Joe Danao feels we have to review the regulations and have everyone bring concerns to the next meeting. Co-Chair Barishansky summarized, there are two areas for consideration, overall recommendations and regulation review.

C. Task Force SWOT

Co-Chair Barishansky noted there were additions to the document, it was updated and resent. Co-Chair Barishansky asked the group to please notify Co-Chair Harper and him if you are in agreement with the concepts discussed and send any additional comments to them prior to December 04, 2013 for inclusion.

3.0 New Business

The next meeting is scheduled for December 09, 2013 at 2:30PM, Department of Public Health, OCHA Conference Room, Third Floor, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

4.0 Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn was made at 3:51PM (Lowell/Danao) and approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Draft 11/9/2013

Judi Reynolds
DPH/OEMS
Region 2 Coordinator