

Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Primary Service Area Task Force
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 3, 2014, 9:30AM
Connecticut Department of Public Health
OCHA Hearing Room, Third Floor, 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

Task Force Committee Members Present:

Charles Babson, Raphael Barishansky, Bruce Baxter, Paul Fitzgerald, Mary-Ellen Harper, Vincent Landisio, David Lowell, Seth Roberts, Thomas Ronalter, Carl Schiessl

Task Force Committee Members Calling In:

Caroline Baisley, Matthew Galligan, Gary Wiemokly

Guests in Attendance:

Mark Brennan, Randy Collins, Michael Demicco, Wendy Furniss, Donna Hunter, Richard Kamin, Jill Kentfield, Elizabeth Keyes, Ken Przybysz, Judith Reynolds, Bethany Siedlik, Brian Sullivan

1.0 Call to Order

Co-Chair Barishansky called the meeting to order at 9:31AM.

- 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. Public Comment
No public comment was offered.
- D. A motion to approve the minutes of 12/30/14 (Landisio/Lowell), they were reviewed and approved unanimously.

2.0 Old Business

A. DRAFT Task Force Final Report

Co-chair Barishansky reminded the group that the only section of the report being discussed at today's meeting is Recommendation #1. Co-chair Harper presented a document for consideration titled "Proposed Replacement Language for Task Force, Recommendation #1: Changes to the EMS Plan".

A motion was made (Co-chair Harper/Ronalter) to replace the current language in Recommendation #1 with the language in the distributed document. Co-chair Barishansky made a friendly amendment to the third and fifth paragraph of the document, adding "for consideration" after DPH in each paragraph.

Co-chair Barishansky called for commentary from the group. Chief Fitzgerald feels it is a good effort to come to consensus, Matt Galligan felt it addresses due process and patient care and is fair. Chuck Babson appreciates the considerable work in putting the proposed language together but still has concern that it does not offer protection from removal for no cause. David Lowell commented on the language being silent regarding time frames and the fundamental concern over removal without cause. Question was raised and discussed over the last paragraph hearing requirements being redundant.

Carl Schiessl feels the group should work toward a fair process; the principal difference being removal of a PSAR without cause. Our work is to tell the legislators what we agree on, what we do not and why. He feels the recommendations should stand alone, with differing opinions separated out. Paul Fitzgerald feels we are doing unnecessary word-smithing, we are here today to finalize our intent and the legislators will construct the appropriate language.

After further discussion Co-chair Harper amended her motion (Ronalter seconded) to accept from the document "Proposed Replacement Language for Task Force, Recommendation #1: Changes to the EMS Plan", from the third paragraph beginning with the word "Municipalities" to the last paragraph of the document, ending with the word "effective", to include the friendly amendment by Co-chair Barishansky regarding wording after DPH in the third and fifth paragraph as Recommendation #5. The vote was taken with 7 in favor and 6 against, motion passed.

A motion was made (Harper/Schiessl) to accept the current language in Recommendation # 1, paragraphs 1 & 2, as the new Recommendation #1. The motion was approved with 13 in favor, none against and none abstaining.

Tom Ronalter distributed a document titled "Proposed Replacement Language for Task Force Report". During discussion, David Lowell asked that "present at the time of the vote" be added to the end of the first paragraph. After further discussion a motion was made (Babson/Lowell) to adopt paragraph 1 of the document distributed by Tom Ronalter, titled "Proposed Replacement Language for Task Force Report", to precede the content of Recommendation #5, with each side having the opportunity to submit their views in position statements, adding "present at the time of the vote", to the end of the paragraph. A friendly amendment by David Lowell was made that the position statements not be called recommendations. After discussion, a vote was taken with 11 in favor, 2 against and none abstaining. Both sides agreed to limit their position statements to 1 paragraph.

Position statements language will be sent by the group to the co-chairs by 9:00AM, February 4, 2014. By the close of business on Tuesday, February, 2014, a final draft of the report will be forwarded to the group by the co-chairs. All Task Force Members are asked to reply back with final grammar / spelling / formatting corrections before close of business on Wednesday, February 5 . The final document will be forwarded to Commissioner Mullen on Thursday, February 6, 2014.

3.0 New Business

4.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 10:46AM (Lowell/Fitzgerald) and approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judith Reynolds, DPH/OEMS, Region 2 Coordinator