



Meeting Minutes



Meeting Title:	Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC)	
Meeting Location:	Zoom Meeting	
Meeting Date:	April 15, 2022	
Time:	2:00 p.m.	
Attendees:	<p><u>Council Members (X = Present):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Rick Carlton, Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. W. Duncan Donald III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jeremy Rogers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jonathan Wilson <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Andy Woodard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mike Cole <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Suzanne Joslin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Dennis Hebner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Jeffrey Welborn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Eric Valles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Mark Davis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Kendall McKenzie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Clyde Deschamp <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Pete Avara <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Hugh Gamble <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Hans H. Tulip <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Pam Wallace <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Katherine Waddell <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Ben Yarborough <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Amber Kyle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Mark Galtelli <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Tyler Blalock <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Chris Howard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Benjamin Scrivener <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Rodbey Frothingham <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Claude Brunson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Amanda Fontaine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. David Grayson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jason Stacy 	<p><u>State EMS Director and Meeting Facilitator</u> Mr. David Hall</p> <p><u>State EMS Medical Director</u> Dr. Bob Galli – absent due to ZOOM issue</p> <p><u>MSDH Related Staff Present:</u> Mr. Steven Jones – Manager, EMS OPS Ms. Kay Chambers – Supervisor, Licensure... Mr. Jimmy McManus – Manager, Data Systems Ms. Teletha Johnson – Trauma Data Quality Ms. Teresa Windham – Nurse Admin., BACS Ms. Chasity Meadows – Finance/Admin.</p>



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	GUEST: Benji Sessums – MS EMS Educators; Scott Stinson – AAA Ambulance; Dr. Damon Darsey – Wayne General Amb Svc, PatientCare EMS, St Dominic DPS; Mr. Chuck Carter – AAA Ambulance	

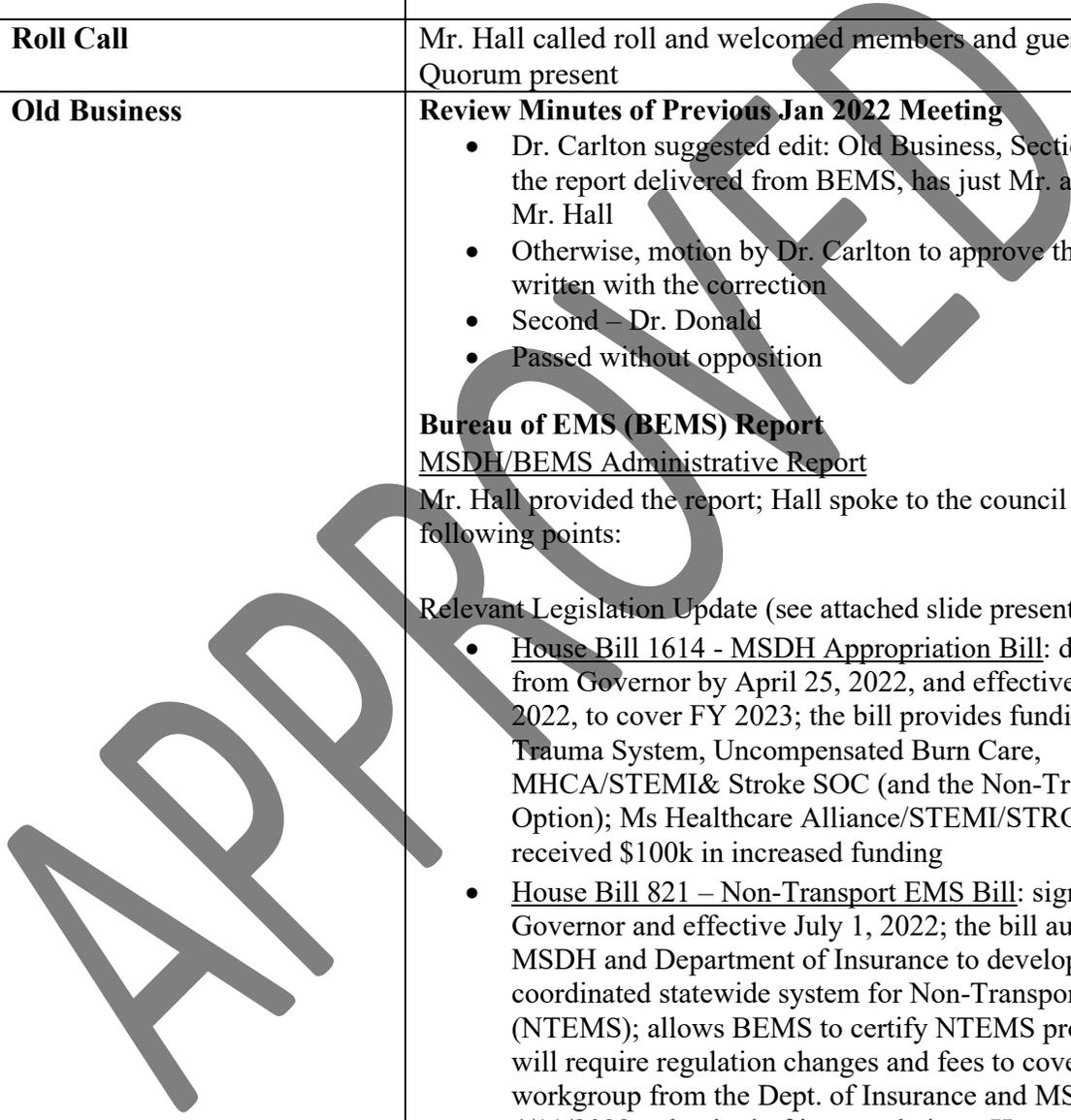
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	AGENDA TOPIC	NOTES
I	Call to Order	Dr. Carlton called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. with recognitions and announcements
II	Roll Call	Mr. Hall called roll and welcomed members and guests Quorum present
III	Old Business	<p>Review Minutes of Previous Jan 2022 Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Carlton suggested edit: Old Business, Section B, Item 1, the report delivered from BEMS, has just Mr. and should be Mr. Hall • Otherwise, motion by Dr. Carlton to approve the minutes as written with the correction • Second – Dr. Donald • Passed without opposition <p>Bureau of EMS (BEMS) Report <u>MSDH/BEMS Administrative Report</u> Mr. Hall provided the report; Hall spoke to the council about the following points:</p> <p>Relevant Legislation Update (see attached slide presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>House Bill 1614 - MSDH Appropriation Bill</u>: due back from Governor by April 25, 2022, and effective July 1, 2022, to cover FY 2023; the bill provides funding for EMS, Trauma System, Uncompensated Burn Care, MHCA/STEMI& Stroke SOC (and the Non-Transport EMS Option); Ms Healthcare Alliance/STEMI/STROKE SOC received \$100k in increased funding • <u>House Bill 821 – Non-Transport EMS Bill</u>: signed by Governor and effective July 1, 2022; the bill authorizes the MSDH and Department of Insurance to develop a coordinated statewide system for Non-Transport EMS (NTEMS); allows BEMS to certify NTEMS providers; bill will require regulation changes and fees to cover cost; joint workgroup from the Dept. of Insurance and MSDH met on 4/11/2022 to begin drafting regulations; House Appropriation Bill 1614 gave MSDH \$415,000 to cover first year expenses; Mr. Hall thanked those who worked on the bill initiative and passage in the Legislature; Hall stated BEMS is eager to work with Director Terry Wages and





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		<p>stakeholders in NTEMS moving forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Senate Bill 2739 – Non-Emergency Medical Transport Bill:</u> due back from Governor by April 25, 2022; to be effective July 1, 2022; bill covers vehicles providing non-emergency medical transportation under Medicaid non-emergency transportation program through a managed care provider contracted with Medicaid; will require regulation changes, standards established, and fees to support cost (fully fee supported program); will develop an ad-hoc advisory group to help with this; Legislature has also provided funding for this program to start; bill requires fingerprint background checks be done, annual criminal background checks including sex offender registry, annual motor vehicle records checks, drug screens, regular confirmation driver does not appear on OIG exclusion list, appropriate driver training, inspections of vehicles, and minimum insurance; bill provides fines and revocation authority for permits; 1st year estimated expenses of \$189,571 and 3 FTE; 11st year expense covered as part of agency general appropriation (HB1614) • <u>Senate Bill 2735 – Pilot Freestanding Emergency Rooms:</u> due back from Governor on 4/23/2022; to be effective July 1, 2022; bill adds definition for Pilot Freestanding Emergency Rooms (open 24 hours a day for the treatment of urgent and emergent medical conditions, located fifteen (15) miles from the nearest hospital-based emergency room in a county without emergency hospital care); bill limits agency to issuing not more than five (5) pilot freestanding emergency room licenses and MSDH will update regulations; MTAC weighed in on the need to ensure same level of quality care for system of care patients during meeting this morning <p>Mr. Hall provided additional updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall gave an update on “wall times”; meeting of hospitals and EMS stakeholders occurred 02/24/2022 as requested by EMSAC with Dr. Dobbs present; both hospital leaders and EMS leaders agreed wall times were an issue but no single tangible alternative to the proposed rules was proposed;



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		<p>BOH approved the proposed Wall Time rules on 04/13/2022; these approved rules presently are on the way to the SOS office for filing; these approved rules will become administrative law 30 days after filing; the new rules will provide the minimum expectations for wall times (that the transfer of care between EMS and ED staff will occur within the reasonable time of 30 minutes as provided for by said rules; EMS operations experiencing issues may work with their respective hospitals to find solutions for the wall time issues, or if they feel they cannot work around this, or if they think it is causing a public health crisis, they are more than welcome to issue a complaint with BEMS; EMS operators may also file an EMTALA complaint as appropriate (see approved rules for full text)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma Care Trust Fund: Hall shared MSDH Bureau of Acute Care Systems (BACS) is presently processing one of the largest ever distributions (which will see one of the largest ever payments to EMS); payment expected in the next 30 days or so • EMS Education and Workforce Study and Forum: Hall shared that BEMS initiated an EMS Education and Workforce Study and Forum following the last meeting of the EMSAC; EMSAC had raised specific concerns related to EMS education and workforce; in response to concerns and questions, Hall is asking the education and workforce communities statewide to come together to identify issues related to EMS education and workforce and develop sustainable solutions; the project will work out over the next 1-2 years with the ultimate goal of improving staffing in EMS, directly and indirectly; Hall shared the 1st meeting had been held on 4/13/2022 at Hinds Community College and included stakeholders from the education community; Hall shared data provided during the 1st meeting during the EMSAC meeting today (see PPT); BEMS intends to be a partner (a facilitator) as we address challenges statewide relevant to EMS Education and Workforce; specific observations: of April 12, 2022 a significant number of providers show as NREMT certified but not yet MS

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		<p>recertified; Dr. Cole asked if we knew who those people are, individually; yes, we can identify and will work to reach out to these individuals; Hall advised some may be ones that live across state lines and may have just not made it to recert; Hall shared information about the workforce survey sent out to around 90 services; 14 responded; however, those that die respond represented a wide range of service types and operations (reasonable sampling); Hall shared the plan to reach out individually and obtain a more full picture along these lines; survey questions included questions like operation type and 911 vs. non-911 contract; results broken down into 10 larger EMS services, 2 large air medical, 1 fire based service, and 1 hospital based; overall, the survey showed 16% of available positions were presently vacant at the respondent services</p> <p>Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. McKenzie asked about Free Standing ERs, and if we knew how many counties across the state would meet the exclusion criteria: Hall states he does not believe there would be that many but he had no specific information related to estimates on free-stranding ERs • Dr. McKenzie asked is hospital failure to comply with the new rule on wall times would automatically trigger an EMTALA complaint; Hall states that most issues could probably be handled between EMS staff and hospital staff; the Region 4 spokesperson spoke to the question – stated the patient was the hospital’s responsibility after arrival on their grounds; Hall shared his hope that people will use good judgement and reach out to BEMS as need • Dr. Rogers asked who would be the one to file any respective complaint(s) related to wall times: Hall shared complaints may be filed by the EMS operator (ambulance service) with BEMS or EMTALA as appropriate; • Dr. Rogers asked would it be the EMS person or the state: Hall stated the service would file any respective complaint, not the state

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		<p><u>EMS Operational and Professional Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Steven Jones provided the report; Jones talked about finishing the recertification period on March 31, 2022; Jones shared plans to send out a survey or letter to those who have expired but still have NREMT certification (but have not yet recertified in MS); BEMS has resumed in-person counter service up with the ability to accept credit/debit cards; Jones related BEMS had only one walk-in and no use of the debit/credit card option; the online version is still recommended and still the most used; Jones advised he attended the Clear Investigator/Inspection training in Raleigh, NC and learned a lot more about EMS related investigations from the course <p><u>EMS-C</u></p> <p>David gave report and stated that they were working on filling the chair position and just finished the grant year</p> <p>Committee and Subcommittee Reports</p> <p><u>MDTQA</u></p> <p>Dr. Galli, State EMS Medical Director, and Chair of MDTQA, was not able to provide report due to issue with Zoom link; Mr. Jones advised Dr. Galli had sent an email to him stating that the link was not working and that he was sent the link again; Mr. Hall recognized Dr. Galli for all he does for EMS in Mississippi; Dr. Carlton states they had a discussion via email on the tiered response</p> <p><u>MTAC</u></p> <p>Dr. Donald provided the report; Donald states MTAC met this morning; some of the issues discussed were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trauma funding is in process and should be going out soon Had a discussion on the Free-Standing ER issues and how to incorporate them into SOC; MTAC want to be involved in discussion(s) related to free-standing facilities and how they might come to bear on the systems of care; Dr. Carlton put to vote all SOC be a part of the discussions on the Free-Standing ERs; Dr. Donald states that his team thought that

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		<p>it was our duty to be on that workgroup for patient safety; Dr. Carlton entertained a motion to ensure free-standing ERs comply with SOC requirements; Dr. Wilson made the motion; Dr. Stacy seconded the motion; Dr. Carlton called for a vote with no oppositions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data related: MTAC looked at data on mortality rate and it is at 3.6% over last four (4) quarters; ED length of stay times were longer in 2021 than in 2020 or 2019 • Second annual Trauma Symposium will be in May in Meridian and there is no cost; registration is on the Trauma Foundation website • The American College of Surgeons just released new standards and we are going to review and see if we need to make changes • Trauma Care Trust Fund Distribution Task Group established – Dr. Wilson will head up that group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We discussed how we are currently paying for a bridge for EMS and trauma to share data; Mr. Hall related how a common vendor might reduce costs and improve efficacy; can we possibly come up with a unified vendor for these two registries; Donald relates Hall had shared use of a common vendor could possible reduce costs by \$195,000 over 5 years; Donald would like EMSAC to consider forming a registry committee to work on this; Dr. Carlton asked if we needed a committee or could BEMS work on this; Hall stated it at it could be committee or a task group; Hall shared his preference to have an EMS registry group like the trauma registry group which functions to provide advice on the development of the registry; Dr. Carlton asked if there were any volunteers that would serve on it; Dr. Stacy states that he would help; Mr. Hebner volunteered to serve; Hall said we can even pull in outside people from ambulance services; Mr. Blalock also agreed to serve <p><u>Rules and Regulations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Wilson provided the report; Wilson noted the committee would work on Non-Transport EMS and rules relevant to free-standing EDs as appropriate and as/if



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		<p>needed</p> <p><u>MS EMS Educators</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Benji Sessums provided the report; Sessums thanked those in support of EMS education in MS; shared his thoughts on the recent EMS Education and Workforce Study and Forum; stated it was a great meeting; Sessums shared his commitment to recruiting and introducing the public to EMS and EMS opportunities; talked about reaching out to high-school counselors; talked about pass rates; shared his excitement to meet with stakeholders through the process of the forum and learn about EMS related challenges; new EMS curriculum to go before the college board in June; couple of new Paramedic programs at community colleges; Sessums asked Mr. Galtelli to speak on the new Mississippi Center for Advancement of Prehospital Medicine; Galtelli talked about grants and opportunities for EMS; the foundation's main function would be to go out and get grants and help with retention, alternative education, support tuition, and serve as a adjunct to move EMS education forward; the foundation is not a committee or organization and not to compete with anyone in EMS; Dr. Cole thanked the EMS educators for all of their hard work; Galtelli shared that the new curriculum would have a bridge for AEMT to Paramedic; a 3-hour course and it would allow the student to enroll/enter during the second semester of paramedic school (if they have completed A&P I and II)
IV	New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Donald shared the new Trauma EMS Field Destination Guidelines will be released later this year
V	Open Discussion/ Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need for Executive Session Next Meeting: July 15, 2022, at 2pm. We will let everyone know if this meeting will be a in-person or a



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		ZOOM meeting
VI	Adjournment	Dr. Carlton adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

#	Step	Responsible	Due Date
I			
II			