

**BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
NURSE/EMT DUAL ROLE TASK FORCE
(CONFERENCE CALL)
HELENA, MONTANA
DATE: JUNE 26, 2009
MINUTES**

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AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

The Department of Labor and Industry is committed to providing meeting access through reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact the Board office prior to the proposed meeting date for further information.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Connie Reichelt, Dr. James Upchurch, Ms. Nonette Brown, Ms. Sharon Dschaak

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Mike Bush, Dr. Ricardo Vega, Mr. Dwight Thompson, Mr. Roy Kemp, Mr. William Taylor

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Jean Branscum, Ms. Anne O'Leary, Mr. Ken Threet, Mr. Jerry Morse from the Board of Medical Examiners, Ms. Cari Harris, Ms. Traci Collett, Ms. Pat Vic from the Board of Nursing

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. James Detienne, Mr. Kevin Fitzgerald from DPHHS EMS & Trauma Systems, Ms. Casey Blumenthal with the Montana Hospital Association

Item #1: Call meeting to order

Dr. James Upchurch called the meeting to order.

Item #2: Review of agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda and it was accepted as presented.

Item #3: Review of minutes

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes and were accepted as written.

Item #4: Open Forum for public comments

PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT:

In accordance with 2-3-103(1), MCA, the Board will hold a public comment period. Please note that Open Forum is the public's opportunity to address the Board on any topic that is not on the agenda for this meeting. While the board cannot take action on the issues presented, the Board will listen to comments and may ask the issue be placed on a subsequent agenda for possible action by the Board. The Chairperson of the committee will determine the amount of time allotted for public comment.

There were no public comments presented.

ITEM #5: Department of Public Health and Human Services rules regulating pre-hospital service licensure

Mr. James DeTienne presented the current rules regarding ambulance service licensure and that nurses play different roles depending on the type of ambulance response. Issues are inter-facility transport where the nurse is responding as part of the ambulance crew or inter-facility transports where the nurse is being sent as an employee of the sending facility. There are also nurses responding on emergency calls as members of the ambulance crew. The concerns are what role they play, what their scope of practice is, and who is assuming liability for their actions. According to the rules, the service medical director may authorize a nurse to work as an EMT equivalent by signing them off on a form provided by the department; however the nurse's scope of practice is limited to the ambulance licensure level. There was discussion about possibly developing an educational model and certification or licensure for nurses working on ambulance services, along with who is responsible for determining the training model and competency? There was also discussion on possible rules changes or language changes in current rules to address and standardize these issues. It was agreed that there needs to be further discussion on these issues and the task force will be meeting in the future.

ITEM #6: Hospital Policies on staffing for inter-facility transports.

Ms. Casey Blumenthal with the Montana Hospital Association stated that she had queried members of the association on these concerns and received different responses on how transfers were handled at these facilities. Some will cover the nurses under their liability umbrella while others will require the nurse's to clock out.

ITEM # 7: Recommendations to Boards of Nursing and Medical Examiners

It was recommended that the task force meet again for a more lengthy discussion and work toward a solution on these issues, possibly a full day meeting.

ITEM # 8: Determine Next Steps

Ms. Jean Branscum will coordinate the next task force meeting and try to secure a date in August or September.

Mr. Ken Threet will query other states for their best practice policies on this subject to bring back to the task force.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 A.M.

