

**ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MINUTES**  
**Thursday, September 22, 2005**

**Call to Order:**

Chair Barb Simonsen called the fall 2005 meeting of the Alaska Council on Emergency Medical Services to order at 9:10 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

***ACEMS Members in Attendance:***

Barbara L. Simonsen, Chair	Karen O'Neill, MD
Ron Bowers	Don Hudson, DO
John Dickens	Ken Brown, MD
Soren Threadgill	Dave Hull

***State Section of Community Health and EMS Staff in Attendance:***

Kathy McLeron, EMS Unit Manager	Zoann Murphy, Health Planner
Martha Moore, Public Health Specialist	Shelley K. Owens, Health Program Manager
	Doreen Risley, Public Health Specialist

***EMS Regional Staff in Attendance:***

Ronni Sullivan, Executive Director, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.  
Bobbi Leichty, Executive Director, Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.  
Kyla Hagan, Emergency Services Director, YKHC Region  
Aggie Lie, EMS Director, Maniilaq EMS  
Dave Potashnick, EMS Regional Coordinator, North Slope Borough Fire Department  
Mike Owens, EMS Director, Norton Sound Health Corporation  
Terry Stone, EMS Coordinator, Kodiak Area Native Association  
Skip Richards, EMS Coordinator, Chugachmiut Corporation  
Susan Hecks, EMS Coordinator, Kenai Peninsula  
Teresa Seybert, EMS Coordinator, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation  
Troy Dolge, Copper River EMS Council

***Liaison Representative Members in Attendance:***

Ken Zafren, MD, State EMS Medical Director  
Frank Sacco, MD, Alaska Native Medical Center and American College of Surgeons  
Barbara J. Coopes, MD

**Approval of Agenda:**

***MOTION:*** To adopt the agenda for September 22 and 23 [Bowers/O'Neill]

***ACTION:*** Passed.

**Approval of Minutes:**

***MOTION:*** To adopt the minutes from the April 21 and 22, 2005 meeting [Hudson/Threadgill]

***ACTION:*** Passed.

### **Ethics Review** (Barb Simonsen)

If an ACEMS member has a personal/financial issue in any discussion, the member must recuse him/herself, and may not represent him/herself as a member of ACEMS in personal matters. If a question about an ethical issue arises, please contact Barb Simonsen.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, AND WORKING GROUPS**

### **Executive Committee Report** (Barb Simonsen)

The Executive Committee has not met since last meeting. Communications sent out include: letters to Gov. Murkowski and Commissioner Gilbertson thanking them for continuing financial support for the Oregon Poison Center; a letter of thanks to Dr. Mandsager for keeping IPEMS as a Section and for his support for the Oregon Poison Center; a letter to Acting Chief Deborah Jilly thanking her for her advocacy in keeping IPEMS a Section; a letter to Dr. Head, Chair of the State Medical Board, expressing concern about the length of time it takes paramedics to receive licenses; a letter thanking Melanie White for her long State service; a letter to Mark Barker thanking him for his work on the Training Committee; a letter thanking Dan Cox for six years of service on ACEMS; and a letter to Karen Peterson thanking her for her Symposium work. In addition, invitations to attend ACEMS were sent to: Gov. Murkowski; Lt. Gov. Leman; Commissioner Gilbertson; Dr. Mandsager; and Commissioner Jackson congratulating her on her appointment and inviting her to the State Symposium. We received Robert Painter's letter resigning from the State Training Committee.

### **EMS Medical Director's Report** (Ken Zafren, MD)

Ken is available as a resource for medical directors across the state and is working on expanded scope of practice issues. The EMSC advisory board had its first meeting. The Cold Injury Guidelines, final version, are now on the IPEMS website. The Symposium clinical track is Nov. 10-12. Discussion was held about guidelines for prehospital resuscitation of patients with Comfort One status where cardiac arrest is unrelated to the patient's terminal condition. The AK Comfort One Program refers to withholding CPR only, not ventilation. The IPEMS website has an FAQ with this issue and information on advanced healthcare directives. Ken offered to draft a letter clarifying the issue for medical directors and ask the Attorney General's office for input. Information on DNRs and advanced health care directives should be sent to medical directors, regions, providers, instructors.

**MOTION:** Requesting clarification from the State Medical Director, the State EMS Office and the Attorney General on Comfort One. [Hudson/Dickens]

**ACTION:** Passed.

### **Liaison Report** (Frank Sacco, MD)

Frank gave an update on the state trauma system, including hospitals being reviewed or renewed as trauma centers. He is helping sending out guidelines to rural facilities for performance improvement plans; working for legislation providing incentives for hospitals and facilities to become trauma center through a limitation of liability for hospitals/facilities designated as trauma centers. There is support in the legislature, but not enthusiasm. He gave an update on trauma training, including upcoming ATLS classes and ongoing efforts to increase the instructor pool. He described the Rural Trauma Team Development Course which is a one day pilot course designed for rural health facilities, not just doctors, to reflect the realities of how trauma patients are taken care of in rural areas. The course will be given at Central Peninsula hospital during the last weekend of September. There is Mass Burn Casualty planning to move patients through EMS system and to definitive care. A tabletop exercise in May led to better idea of how it would work but there is still the need for a one-sheet/one phone

number system throughout the state for 'who to call' when a situation occurs. ATLS courses have been done in Alaska; federal employees have received burn training, also some nurses at ANMC participated. He is working on getting more course instructors. The burn course is available online.

**Liaison Report** (Barbara J. Coopes, MD)

BJ is teaching pediatric education for prehospital personnel across the state - the PEPP course can be an Advanced or Basic course. She has gotten feedback that the courses are helping to make prehospital providers more comfortable taking care of children. She can modify the course as needed for specific areas. A statewide child protection team is being started in Anchorage. She is working on training for diagnosing child abuse and what to do after a case is discovered. Dr. Deborah Lerner and Dr. Robert Smith, pediatrician/anesthesiologist/pediatric anesthesiologist are new locums at Providence.

**State EMS Program Report** (Kathy McLeron)

Staff changes – welcome to Mike Branum, the new state EMS Training Coordinator. Melanie White retired in April. Mike, Zoann, and Kathy are managing certification for now until a new person can be hired. The Code Blue Committee met yesterday and is considering Phase 5 items. USDA and ALMR representatives came to the meeting. The Rural AED program gave notification of grant awards for the 2005 program. The amount is \$139,000 which will cover approximately 60 AEDs. We will know more about how many units will be available after applications are reviewed and bids are made. CPR/AED training is part of the grant. Community partnerships applications will be posted online and are due back October 8th. There has been ongoing dialogue with the state Nursing Board and nurses at hospitals around the state regarding paramedic student supervision. The National Registry computer-based testing will begin January 2007. Identified sites in Alaska are Anchorage, Nome, Barrow, Kotzebue, Cordova, Bethel, and Fairbanks. All sites will give all levels of exam. There has been a site suggested for Southeast, possibly Juneau or Sitka. Practical exams will continue to count for the exam requirements. If EMTs want National Registry status, they will have to take the tests at one of these sites. This is being driven by the EMS Agenda for Future and the EMS Education Agenda for Future, both of which include national certification/credentialing.

She continues to work on an update of the EMS regulations, but the Dept. doesn't have our regulation update in the 2006 priority list. The Cold Injury Guidelines were revised earlier this year and are available online at the IPEMS website. Don asked if the powerpoint presentation can be updated to reflect the changes. The Medevac Course Manual is in final review prior to printing by February 2006. The National Scope of Practice final draft document was released September 14, 2005. A budget increment for poison control was included in the legislative budget. Thanks to ACEMS for helping to get that funded. Grants to Regions for FY2006 are the same. The State is trying to get an incremental increase in the grants to the four regions; the multi-program group is not funded the same as the Grants to Regions and is not scheduled for increase. Barb asked for information on the amount requested for increase and there was discussion about the multi-program group (MPG) grant issue.

**EMS Training Committee Report** (Mike Branum)

For Instructor III candidates, the passing score from the three sections of the written exam requires a 90 or better. The office has had to correct received application forms which takes time away from certification. The skills test requirements have been updated. We need increased communication between the new certification person and the regions regarding certification requirements. Office reporting requirements include secondary education and child support enforcement. We are changing to new reporting software and trying to make sure the state office meets the needs of the regions. The Trauma Treatment Guidelines were reviewed and split into basic and advanced skills, procedures, and medications. Paul Perry on the Kenai says the decision of the Nursing Board hasn't impacted the

current capability of paramedic training programs. Mike discussed the National Scope of Practice document; he doesn't want to see Alaska behind the rest of the country on this issue.

**State EMS Symposium Update** (Doreen Risley)

The date for the State Symposium is November 9–12, 2005. Doreen gave a summary of the speakers and presentations.

**EMS for Children** (Doreen Risley)

We are in the final year of our 3-year grant. The focus has been on continuing pediatric education and disaster preparedness. The new application is due November 2 and the focus is on achieving EMSC Performance Measures, which involve data collection and institutionalizing EMSC in Alaska. Legislation will probably be necessary. We have organized a new EMSC Advisory Group to help with the program objectives. The new grant will be for \$115,000 and will start March 1, 2006.

**Code Blue** (Doreen Risley)

The Code Blue committee met yesterday to review our progress and a new request for Denali Commission money to purchase hand-held and mobile radios for EMS services, fund requests approved by the Code Blue Steering Committee in March and at yesterday's meeting, and EMS training. The request is for \$984,263. We received the Capital Equipment money and we learned that of all the Alaska projects sent for funding, only the Code Blue project was funded this year.

**Rural AED Project** (Doreen Risley)

See State EMS Program Report (Kathy McLeron)

**Symposium Banquet** (Shelley Owens)

Ron Bowers, John Dickens, Don Hudson, Karen O'Neill and Charlie Lean will attend the Banquet.

**Public Information and Education Committee Report** (Skip Richards)

The EMT posters may be available for Symposium if Zoann has time available. The Regional Directors & Coordinators will be putting together the Leadership course that was discussed at the Spring ACEMS meeting. Kyla Hagan reported on the EMS survey results. PI&E suggests redoing the survey in the next 5 years now that there is a baseline to use for comparison. Zoann will post the survey report online. Results can be used for the legislature, budgeting, and for grants and reports. Need a budget projection for how to get the survey out to more EMS providers to get them returned. For EMS Day at the Legislature, PI&E will provide a single page handout reflecting the costs of training in each region to give to legislators. There was discussion of having a table at the regional symposia to distribute information to EMS responders about how to contact their representatives, and how to access legislative information on the web. There is a need to market EMS to the general public. John Dickens writes an "EMS Corner" that features articles on general EMS information in his region. Perhaps there should be a collection of articles in a central location for statewide access. Dave Hull has done some successful PSAs thanking local businesses for allowing the EMTs to volunteer. Ideas included asking the local community college or high school to do PSA videos ("Trauma Drama").

***MOTION:*** To have ACEMS support the need for additional surveys. [O'Neill/Brown]

***ACTION:*** Passed.

**Regional EMS Directors/Coordinators** (Sue Hecks)

The RD&C discussed Melanie White's retirement and the impacts to the certification process; Regions have to get applications in early and complete. The length of time for grant reimbursements from the

state is too long. Kathy is working with the state grants and contracts office to shorten the time. EMS data, ambulance survey data, and the importance of data-driven systems and data collection were discussed. There is a need to support EMS management efforts, both recruiting new and training existing managers. RD&C will be working on EMS management courses; several have been developed over the years and those will be collected by Mike Motti who will compile the course information and bring a summary to the next RD&C meeting for review. Consideration was given to developing a management course for instructors to teach in the smaller communities. EMS Regulations and AMLR were discussed. Remember to send additions to the Memorial Plaque to Ronni by October 15<sup>th</sup>. She needs the date of birth, date of death, and service affiliation. Both the Plaque and the Memorial Page on the state website are updated continually. There are still denials of Medicare reimbursement in rural areas; Medicare does not pay if a patient is picked up and delivered to a clinic, but if the patient is delivered to Anchorage, it will pay. Troy's area is facing serious sustainability issues due to this problem. Barb will ask Dr. Mandsager for additional information tomorrow. Recent legislation for anatomical gifts/organ procurement went into effect September 5, 2005.

## **REGIONAL DIRECTORS & COORDINATORS REPORTS**

### **Interior EMS Region Report** (Dan Johnson)

No report.

### **Southeast Region Report** (Bobbi Leichty)

SEREMS has received \$4.2 million dollars in Code Blue money over the past four years. The staff resource coordinator is now three-quarter time devoted to Code Blue and the finance staff coordinator is half-time Code Blue. Equipment is being given without training for use. It is very expensive in this region to do EMT training. SEREMS Board Member Elaine Caskey died in July. The fast ferry realignment has had an impact on SEREMS, it is hard to get equipment on the fast ferries. The assistant training coordinator position was discontinued and the summer intern is taking over the job responsibilities. Positions may be cut or reduced to three-quarter time as of January 1, 2006. Board of Directors meets once a year and the Executive Committee has a 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in the fall. Southeast Symposium is moving to Ketchikan in spring 2006. Mike Motti has a program at SEARHC for high school students to take ETT/firefighter courses and do job-shadowing. The program will be expanded to Klawock and Prince of Wales Island next year. Small communities are in danger of losing their certified EMS providers because SEREMS can't afford to provide EMT-I level classes. SEREMS is now offering more ETT courses rather than EMT classes. Bobbi thanked ACEMS for its support.

### **Southern Region Report** (Ronni Sullivan)

SREMSC is down 2 positions with the Resource Coordinator position vacant since May and the Asst. Training Coordinator position vacant since August. A recent Methods of Instruction (MOI) class trained 23 people. The SREMSC audit was just completed. SREMSC now has 19 grants and contracts being administered with the same staff levels and will have to start turning down funding opportunities due to lack of staff. SREMSC received \$97,500 towards Code Blue from the USDA in June and has been working on the funding initiative to get additional money for the Regions. Code Blue Phase 5 bought equipment for 31 communities. Four patient transport vehicles were delivered to Nanwalek, New Stuyahok, Togiak and Port Heiden. Three ambulances are ready for specs and bids. This year's Symposium will mark SREMSC's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. State accounting reimbursement system changes have resulted in very slow payments and is impacting the Region quite heavily. She is working closely with IPEMS staff to get the grants pushed through as fast as possible. Dr. Helen Burn just died; she was Commissioner of DH&SS and a good friend of EMS. Ronni asks ACEMS to support the increment increase request and make sure that it encompasses all seven EMS regions in the state.

Ronni reported a 'save' in Cordova with an AED from the grant program; the Zoll defibrillator received from Code Blue funding also contributed to the save.

**North Slope Borough Report** (Dave Potashnick)

The North Slope EMS office hasn't lost any personnel since Dan's position was eliminated. They just spent five weeks doing training in the villages. The Disaster Coordinator needs to implement the communications grant with the goal of making North Slope communications compatible with the AMLR project which might come to the North Slope as part of the gas pipeline project. They are still working with the community college to put an AED into place. The Code Blue project goes well. The North Slope asked for additional Denali Commission funds for oxygen supplies supply village clinics and EMS. They were awarded NPRA funding for travel for training; they received \$250,000 for both fire and EMS, but mostly for EMS training. Dave went to New Orleans with the state DMAT team.

**Maniilaq Association Report** (Aggie Lie)

Maniilaq has received Code Blue vehicles, but it will be another year before the vehicles get to the villages because barge service to the villages has stopped for the year. It might be possible to get two vehicles to villages via the snow road. There is planning for an MOI class in October. With four paramedics in the office, Maniilaq is finally at full staff. There have been over 300 medevacs for the year, a significant increase over last year. Costs of classes have risen: EMT-I class in Kotzebue: \$34,600 (2 weeks). ETT class in Kotzebue: \$18,300 (7 days). Teaching classes in villages: \$2,210 for an ETT class. Training should increase with new instructors after the MOI class. Maniilaq is getting \$170,000 for Code Blue Phase 5; they have received over \$1 million in five years.

**Norton Sound Region Report** (presented on Friday - Mike Owens)

Recruitment and retention of paid staff has been an issue. There is a shortage of paramedics willing to come to Alaska. All but two communities are participating in the smoke alarm program. The number of medevacs from the region is up significantly (25% or greater). The flights are for legitimate medical reasons. Norton Sound is flying a lot of sick and injured patients but has not been able to identify causes. This is a major impact on healthcare in the state. We are watching to see if this increasing flight trend continues. One theory is that there was a hole in the population – where people used to die early, they are getting older and getting chronic diseases. Training levels are holding steady; requests and need are there for additional training, but we are in need of instructors.

**Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation** (Kyla Hagan)

YKHC has lost an EMS Instructor position due to budget cuts but has a new EMT instructor/injury prevention specialist, Teresa Markham. This year has seen 9 ETT classes, 7 EMT refresher classes, 3 bridge courses, 40 medic first aid/CPR courses, and one wilderness first aid class. The main goal is to get the Health Aides to the EMT level; currently about 40% of the Aides in the Region are EMT-I and 89 Health Aides are EMT trained. Bethel Fire Department has organized an EMT-II and III course for the end of October. YKHC has received over \$100,000 in Code Blue funding and has funded two Zoll defibrillators. YKHC also received equipment for Aniak and Hooper Bay and got USDA funds for clinics' immobilization equipment. A new transport vehicle was supposed to arrive, but the last barge left and there was no vehicle on board. There are two transport vehicles in line to be ordered. The Hooper Bay First Responder group has Grant Funk as a half-time EMS trainer. Hooper Bay has received Code Blue equipment and mini-grants from the YKHC office. They have cut response time down from 20-25 minutes to 5 minutes by providing pagers to the squad members. YKHC received seven AEDs for communities and they are working to get agreements for training.

**Adjourned for the day.**

**ALASKA COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MINUTES**  
**Friday, September 23, 2005**

**Call to Order:**

Call to Order 9:06 a.m.

***ACEMS Members in Attendance:***

Barb L. Simonsen, Chair	Don Hudson, MD
Ron Bowers	Ken Brown, MD
John Dickens	Soren Threadgill
Karen O'Neill, MD	

***State Section of Community Health and EMS Staff in Attendance:***

Kathy McLeron, EMS Unit Manager	Zoann Murphy, Health Planner
Martha Moore, Public Health Specialist	Shelley K. Owens, Health Program Manager
	Doreen Risley, Public Health Specialist

***EMS Regional Staff in Attendance:***

Ronni Sullivan, Executive Director, Southern Region EMS Council, Inc.  
Kyla Hagan, Emergency Services Director, YKHC Region  
Aggie Lie, EMS Director, Maniilaq EMS  
Dave Potashnick, EMS Regional Coordinator, North Slope Borough Fire Department  
Mike Owens, EMS Director, Norton Sound Health Corporation  
Skip Richards, EMS Coordinator, Chugachmiut Corporation  
Susan Hecks, EMS Coordinator, Kenai Peninsula  
Teresa Seybert, EMS Sub-Area Coordinator, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation  
Bobbi Leichthy, Executive Director, Southeast Region EMS Council, Inc.  
Troy Dolge, Copper River EMS Council  
Terry Stone, EMS Coordinator, Kodiak Area Native Association

**IPEMS Section Report** (Deborah Jilly, Acting Section Chief)

IPEMS will remain a Section. We are working on the budget increment increases, including the incremental increase in the grants to regions. Dr. Mandsager would like stories as to why it is essential to have EMS infrastructure and manpower in place, as well as a description of the impact of low infrastructure and manpower. He appreciates the graph that was developed; it will be useful for future needs. The EMS certification database needs updating and IPEMS is working with the IT unit to rewrite the program. Shelley is working with IT on the prehospital data project to develop a new program for the existing database. The Capital Improvement budget request for repair and maintenance of EMS communications systems may also provide some money for the AMLR system as it gets put into place. Requests for repair of various aspects of the EMS communications system have been received often this year. There has been no funding available for repair and maintenance. A candidate for the Section Chief position will be in the state the week of Symposium and Deb is hoping to have him meet with some ACEMS members as well as the IPEMS staff and regional EMS personnel. Ronni asked about the incremental budget proposal for only four regions. Deb said that they are proposing additional funds which might be able to be used for the MPGs. Deb has a proposal for using Labor Standards violations fines for EMS. She will be providing the 10-hour general industry OSHA outreach program for safety personnel at the Health Summit.

### **Injury Prevention Report** (Karen Lawfer)

The State has spent approximately \$250,000 per year on IP programs since 2000, such as getting certified CPS techs in the regions, the Kids Don't Float program, gun safe program, and public health nursing well-child checks. Alaska is getting closer to the U.S. child injury death rates. The motor vehicle traffic occupant death rate is declining, and it is believed that this is due to the Child Passenger Safety programs. Medicaid funds used to be used specifically for children's programs, but this has changed due to high fall rates, particularly in the elderly. She is working on a DHSS-wide program for physical activities, including injury prevention, with a unified message of how physical activities can help with fall prevention and disease prevention. Discussion on suicide rates in various regions and suicide prevention; it needs to be a multi-disciplinary approach. The regions would like reports for injuries in their areas. Zoann will work with Karen and Martha to get out regional data, specifically injuries by community within regions.

### **Public Health Division Report** (Richard Mandsager, MD)

We are in midst of budget process and are advocating for EMS grants and capital budget for the EMS system. Barb raised the concern about the need for additional funding for the MPG areas as well as the other regions. They are not in the funding line but Dr. Mandsager will be trying to add a proportionate increase to the EMS portion of those block grants. On the issue of emergency preparedness, communications issues must be addressed. There is a lack of adequate evacuation plans – would Alaska respond to evacuation warnings? Are the coastal communities ready? What about supply to isolated communities? Special needs population plans? There is concern for the safety of first responders – are the local organizations confident that the staff will think of their own safety as well as the community safety? The military presence is leaving Alaska – what does that mean to Alaska's response to emergencies?

The Division is continuing to recruit for the Section Chief position. We are currently interviewing an applicant and will be asking some of the regional directors to participate in the interview process when the applicant comes to Alaska. Dick discussed issues in the new public health law, including the quarantine portion, identifiable health information issues, and response to infectious disease. There is an amended licensing law for institutions in the state requiring background checks. Questions to be discussed are what background events become a disqualification for certification/licensure and how this is going to affect the EMS system. He would like to work with the EMS community to come up with ideas of how to thank EMS workers. There was a discussion of the ACEMS survey about what responders might need as recognition for recruitment and retention. There are activities at the individual community levels for incentive for EMS workers. Noel Rea in the Commissioner's office is working on the Medicare transport billing issue. The new provider model and frontier clinic would make the sites Medicare-eligible.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **911 Systems and Telecommunications** (Darrell Davis)

Darrell is the State E911 coordinator and security chief for the administrative branch – specifically IT and telecommunications. He is working on getting 911/E911 service statewide. The Executive Council for E911 consists of the Commissioners of Admin, DOT and Public Safety. Darrell reports to the Council. The majority of states have established E911 plans; Alaska is just starting to create its plan including drafting legislation for 911 services. The State EMS system is one of the 911 stakeholders in the state and should be able to provide input on the plan. Many areas do not have 911 or E911 systems.

### **Rural Hospital Flexibility Program** (Noel Rea)

Money is given to each state to work for rural hospitals and EMS system sustainability. Community health centers are being built and there are grants to small hospitals and a state planning grant to look at uninsured issues in the state. Noel works with the Denali Commission on the new clinics. The Rural Hospital Flexibility program started in 1997 with \$520,000 – \$540,000 per year. There is some money given to the EMS program each year. Priorities are decided each year. The reimbursement issue for the Frontier Extended Stay Clinics will be studied this year. He is working with the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services and HRSA on this issue. There is a big need to be reimbursed for EMS issues. Noel described the Rural Act to Emergency Services, and reminded ACEMS of Alaska's Rural Health Week Conference February 15-17, 2006.

### **Persons to be Heard**

Skip Richards. Services that have received patient transport vehicles must maintain full coverage insurance on those vehicles. Mini-grant funds are being used for insurance, not for EMS service. Insurance costs \$3000 per year now, but through the AK Municipal League (AML) it can be \$800 per year (due to pooling resources). A suggestion is to reclassify rural villages to become part of the AML so they can take advantage of the rates. This requires a statutory change: can ACEMS support this reclassification process so that the cities don't have to become second-class cities in order to join the municipal league. There is no fiscal note involved. Discussion.

### **Membership Status**

Barb and Charlie's terms are expiring and the Boards and Commissions office requests a letter from the applicants if they wish to continue. There is an opening for a prehospital position. Apply to the Boards and Commissions office and notify the state EMS office. There was a term change for officer positions; now through fall 2006.

### **Appointments to Task Forces and Committees**

One position is open on the Training Committee. The Fire Chief's Association makes a nomination and ACEMS approves the appointment. Jeff Tucker from North Star Fire Dept. will be nominated. Jodie Hettrick is replacing Mark Barker at State Fire Training. Kathy suggests that Mike Branum replace her on the Training Committee. Skip would like to pass the chair of PIE to someone else, but will continue to serve. Barb will contact PI&E members to see if anyone else is willing to serve.

**MOTION:** To have Mike Branum serve on the Training Committee. [Bowers/Dickens]

**ACTION:** Passed.

### **Recommendations to Staff**

**MOTION:** To ask the State EMS office, in conjunction with the regions, to send out a new survey to the EMTs via mail. Discussion on impact to staff and whether it will be the current survey or an updated version. PI&E and State Office will work together to determine the format. No specific timeline given in motion. [Bowers/Dickens]

**ACTION:** Passed.

Kathy needs information from the Regions in the nature of short anecdotal stories. If the funding increment goes through, how will the EMS system be better? Identify some problems of what flat funding has done. If this increment goes through, we will need ideas on measurability goals. The EMT survey is a good monitor of improvement. Injury graphs are also useful but need to follow those trends. Break down the injury results by year, rather than in five-year increments. RD&C will get together with the State office to brainstorm ideas for this request when ACEMS goes into Executive Session.

Paramedic training issue. Handouts: Nursing Statutes and Regulations; Minutes of Meeting June 1-3, 2005; letter to Marilyn Jackson, Executive Administrator Alaska Board of Nursing.

**MOTION:** ACEMS will endorse the letter from the Training Committee and send it to the State Nursing Board. [Brown/Hudson]

**ACTION:** Passed.

Should ACEMS send a letter to the State regarding the reimbursement of funds to Regions? Kathy spoke with Dr. Mandsager on this issue. Before ACEMS takes action, let Dr. Mandsager work on this.

**MOTION:** Barb will email Dr. Mandsager reiterating concerns and offering ACEMS assistance if needed; including reminder of other regional funding requests. [Brown/Dickens]

**ACTION:** Passed.

**MOTION:** Barb will send letter to the Fire Chief's Association appointing Jeff Tucker as representative on the State Training Committee. [Hudson/Bowers]

**ACTION:** Passed.

**Dates for next ACEMS meeting** The Spring meeting will be held in Juneau at the IPEMS office. ACEMS - April 20-21, 2006; Regional Directors & Coordinators - April 18, 2006; and PI&E and Code Blue will be April 19, 2006.

**MOTION:** To adjourn. [Brown/Bowers]

**ACTION:** Passed.

Adjourned to Executive Session: 3:00 pm

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (ACEMS Awards Nominations)**