



International Association of Fire Chiefs
EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call

July 13, 2023

3:00 pm (Eastern)

Attendees: McEvoy, Croom, Joles, Becker, Maxwell, Richardson.

1. FRI Planning

Chief McEvoy discussed the schedule for the EMS Section Board members at FRI. Besides the EMS Section Board meeting and EMS Section Business meeting, there will be a “Shakers” session focusing on EMS issues. It will be at 3:30 pm (Central) on Thursday, August 17 in room 1501A of the Kansas City Convention Center.

The EMS Section meeting will be on Friday, August 18 at 2:00 pm (Central) in Room 2102AB in the Kansas City Convention Center. There will be briefings from the U.S. Fire Administration and about the Advisory Committee on Ground Ambulance and Patient Billing. In addition, the EMS Section Board members will be sworn in. The EMS Section also will vote on extending Chief Croom’s term as the section’s representative on the IAFC Board.

Chief Joles also is working with the IAFC Program Planning Committee on a session at FRI that will discuss the ET3 program and how to maintain ET3 programs after CMS ends the program in December.

2. VCOS Symposium in the Sun

Chief McEvoy discussed planning for the EMS Section Board meeting at the VCOS Symposium in the Sun. The EMS Section Board will arrive on November 9 and meet on November 10. The EMS Section Board also would like to schedule time to meet with the VCOS Board.

3. Prehospital Blood Transfusion Initiative

Chief McEvoy reported that Dr. John Krohmer contacted him about the EMS Section participating in the Prehospital Blood Transfusion Initiative Coalition (formerly known as the Prehospital Transfusion Reimbursement Working Group). This group is focusing on educating the EMS and health care communities and national leaders about the critical importance of blood transfusions (whole blood and blood components) in the prehospital setting in treating patients in hemorrhagic shock, either from surgical or medical etiology. Chiefs Richardson and Maxwell expressed interest in participating.

4. ET3 Cancellation

Chief McEvoy reported that CMS is canceling the ET3 program at the end of the year. CMS cited a lower number of interventions than it has expected. CMS claimed that the operating cost of the program did not equal the savings benefits.

5. CMS Deliberations re: GEMT

Mr. LaSala discussed an initiative being pursued in coordination with PCG. AS CMS is reviewing GEMT applications from states, the agency is changing the payment model and adding new restrictions. The IAFC will have to meet with CMS to discuss the inconsistencies in CMS approach and how to protect current reimbursements under the GEMT program.

6. Federal Update

Mr. LaSala reported that the Senate HELP Committee voted to pass the SIREN Grant Reauthorization Act (S. 265). A House companion bill (H.R. 4646) was introduced by Representatives David Joyce (R-OH) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI). The House bill has eight other cosponsors.

He also reported that the IAFC is working with the IAFF and NAEMT on legislation to extend the COVID-19 waivers that allowed CMS to reimburse for treatment in place and transportation to alternate destinations of care.

7. Roundtable

- Chief McEvoy reported that Chief Jim Davis's term on the NREMT Board has expired. He is eligible for an additional term on their board. The NREMT also is looking for an alternate candidate. The EMS Section Board will recommend Chief Richardson.
- Chief Croom reported that the IAFC has developed a one-page document about its mission, vision, and values. In addition, he is working with IAFC staff on comments to draft NHTSA regulations concerning automatic braking in automobiles to prevent vehicle and pedestrian accidents.
- Chief Maxwell reported that there is a new study that demonstrated that AI outperforms clinicians at analyzing EKG results.

The next EMS Section Board meeting will be at 11:00 am (Central) in room 2203 of the Kansas City Convention Center.