



EMS S.21 Subcommittee

Meeting #4 - 2017 – Minutes

Date: November 30, 2017

Chair: Ian Nash

Location: Centre for Health and Safety Innovation, Mississauga

The following is a summary of subjects discussed at the above meeting. Please advise of any errors or omissions.

Attendees:

Members: Ian Nash (Chair), Joel Usher, Roger Mayo, Chris Stolte, Mark Etherington, Wayne Markell, Robert Crossan.
 Observers: Rob Nishman (MoHLTC), Tim Metcalfe (PSHSA)
 Regrets: Jennifer Amyotte
 Facilitator: Craig Lawrie, MOL
 Guests: Vivien Wharton-Szatan, MOL Provincial Coordinator, Industrial Health and Safety Program

	Topic/ Presenter	Comments/Action Items
	Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of V. Wharton-Szatan; members introduced themselves.
1	Approval of Agenda	The meeting agenda was approved.
2.	Minutes of previous meeting and action items	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting (September 14, 2017) were presented and accepted. Action items from the previous meeting were reviewed. The following notes on action items were made:</p> <p>Craig forwarded revised guidance notes to PSHSA for posting.</p> <p>Action Item: Roger will follow up with OAPC about having minutes and guidance notes posted on the OAPC web pages.</p> <p>In response to a request from this subcommittee, the Healthcare Section 21 Committee has asked for an EMS contact from this committee to provide input on guidance related to transfer of care. C. Stolte will be the EMS subcommittee contact on this issue.</p>
3.	MOL Update (V. Wharton-Szatan)	<p>V. Wharton-Szatan provided an MOL update. A short presentation regarding the migration of MOL website content to the new Ontario.ca website was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario.ca is the new single point of access for all Government of Ontario web content. Instead of each Ministry having a web site, all content will be accessible to members of the public from a single Ontario.ca web site. Part of the transition also involves creating web content that meets accessibility standards (e.g. simpler language, format changes, use of headings etc.) – to meet these requirements many of the MOL guidelines etc. are being re-written.

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		<p>A brief mention of recently passed legislation, which primarily focusses on employment standards and fair workplaces. Committee members can review the updates at the following link: Ontario's legislation to create Fair Workplaces and better jobs receives Royal Assent.</p> <p>Safe at Work Ontario was discussed – SAWO is the MOL strategy for workplace safety. Annual stakeholder consultations are held to inform MOL activities, and the consultations are in planning stage at this time. Consultations are being planned for late January or February. Some members from the committee (or the associations etc. that they belong to) may be invited to participate in consultations.</p> <p>For information of the members, Craig informed the committee about WSIB's new health and safety tool called "Compass", which allows people to access injury statistics on-line. Web address is: https://compass.wsib.on.ca/</p>
4.	Guidance notes	<p>1) Synthetic opioids – R. Mayo, I. Nash, R. Crossan: The committee discussed a number the current guidance documents related to synthetic opioids. I. Nash provided the starting point for the GN on synthetic opioids. A number of items related to the content of the guidance note were discussed.</p> <p>Action: Craig will take the notes from the discussion, add to the content of the note, and then distribute it back to the work group.</p> <p>The committee also had some questions related to the PSHSA fast fact on fentanyl related to paramedic workers. Some suggested changes to some of the wording were made for T. Metcalfe to take back for consideration.</p> <p>2) Confined spaces – W. Markell and C. Stolte: The committee had a brief discussion about scope of this note. Wayne and Chris are aiming to have a draft of the note prepared for discussion in the new year.</p> <p>3) Trenches and excavations – J. Amyotte: M. Etherington. The committee discussed the safety of working in trenches and excavations. The committee agreed that excavations was too broad and that trenches should be the focus of this guidance note. It was also agreed that the general guidance regarding trenches is that they are inherently unsafe for paramedics and entry into trenches should be avoided.</p> <p>Action: Craig will take initial content and notes from the discussion and create a draft for the work group to review.</p>
5.	Response to potential chemical spill (R. Mayo)	<p>R. Mayo provided a short presentation and summary of an incident response to a potential chemical spill from a truck crash. A number of agencies were involved (police, fire, EMS, MTO, municipal officials etc.). Some of the key learnings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good communication is always a key concern and essential for incident response • use the expertise from the chemical manufacturers where possible, they provide excellent knowledge of product and may be able to assist in response • excellent fact sheets on chemicals and response to chemical exposures (including pre-hospital and emergency room patient care guidance) are available from the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR). Web link for emergency workers: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/ToxEmergency.asp (follow the link to

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		<p>Medical Management Guidelines for Acute Chemical Exposure).</p> <p>Based on discussions following the presentation, the committee may consider a guidance note related to CBRNE response, focussing on issues such as situational awareness, safety etc.</p> <p>Action: R. Mayo agreed to scope out some potential CBRNE principles for discussion at a future meeting.</p>
6.	<p>Roundtable (all members)</p>	<p><u>W. Markell</u> – provided a brief overview of the work of paramedics in Cornwall SDG related to influenza. The ‘flu medic’ program is occurring in some of the paramedic services in the Champlain LHIN, and so far seems to be working well and contributes to fewer calls for transport (and visits) to ER related to influenza and other ILIs.</p> <p><u>J. Usher</u> – reported that Frontenac EMS has had an opportunity to meet with MoHLTC staff regarding improving communications systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - also mentioned that the CSA standard for psychological health and safety in paramedic services appears to on track for release sometime in Spring 2018. <p><u>R. Crossan</u> – mentioned that his service is trialling new style of helmets for paramedics.</p> <p><u>C. Stolte</u> – reported that his service has received some new power loading stretchers. Further to this discussion, W. Markell mentioned that there was a concern from at least one service with some problems with the loading mechanism of one manufacturer’s system; the problem can be resolved. For information purposes, he shared an email related to this. (Email was shared with members following the meeting).</p> <p><u>I. Nash</u> – reported that he has had an opportunity to visit some EMS stations related to the base paging systems. He reported that they were able to reduce the volume of base pagers so that they were not as loud in the stations. Crews appear to feel the volume is much better.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - also commented on an ongoing issue of increased call volume and not enough staff – appears to be having an impact on mental health issues among paramedics. <p><u>R. Mayo</u> – also observed that as call volume is increases in many services, the resources to deal with increase do not seem to match.</p> <p><u>M. Etherington</u> – stated that it appears that his workplace is moving toward a health and safety system that is more “proactive” rather than reactive; more in line with approach used in aviation safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mentioned that it appears that they may be able to get some power load, power assist stretchers for some of the aircraft in the future.
6	<p>PSHSA report (T. Metcalfe)</p>	<p>PSHSA offers courses on a variety of topics including certification, Part 2 certification, designated officer, traffic protection and electrical safety for Emergency workers. Training courses and e-training courses are posted on the PSHSA web site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tim also mentioned that they might develop a training course related to elevator rescues. This would primarily be for fire services but they may be looking for some involvement from EMS sector.
10	<p>Confirm dates for next meetings and Adjourn</p>	<p>Meeting dates for 2018 were set. For 2018 meetings will be held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 8, 2018 - June 14, 2018 - September 6, 2018 - November 29, 2018