



# The Connecticut EMS Advisory Board

John Quinlavin, Chairman

Minutes of the  
**Legislative Committee**  
**Wednesday, February 19, 2014**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
at the  
Hunter's Ambulance  
450 West Main St., Meriden, CT

Present: Charlee Tufts, Janice Carbonneau, David Bailey, Doug Dole and Jonathan Lillpop.

Called to order at 1140.

Minutes from the January 2014 meeting approved by consensus.

Chairpersons Report: Charlee Tufts

- Charlee was unable to arrange a meeting with the Public Health Committee chairpersons. Beverly Henry is back as staff for PH this year and may be able to assist. Charlee asked that anyone with legislative contacts should ask for help in getting the meeting scheduled.

Legislative initiatives:

- ❖ Discussion of Committee's legislative initiatives:
  - ✚ The PSA issue is the most important concern. It should be the committee's top priority this session.
  - ✚ David looked online at the CGA website and there not any EMS related bills posted for the Public Health committee at that time.
  - ✚ Doug brought some questions up for discussion that the paramedic committee had concerning background check the initiative.
    - a) What would be the threshold for withholding certification or licensure?  
Language exists for other healthcare professions. The language for EMS personnel would be borrowed from that existing language. Each case is unique and would be individually evaluated. Some thought was expressed about firearm exclusion language also being helpful.
    - b) Would background checks be repeated? How often?  
The proposal is for initial certification/licensure only. We may look at expanding it at some point in the future, but getting initial checks is the priority.
    - c) Would the results be shared with other EMS agencies?  
No. A certification or license would not be issued based on acceptable history. It probably would not be legally possible to share info. DPH will take action against the certification or license which would ultimately be posted online through e-license.
    - d) Why isn't DPH or OEMS taking the lead on this?  
As we understand it, DPH will back the initiative. Further information about DPH initiatives must be directed to the management at DPH.

- e) Why EMS providers and not other healthcare providers? Have there been issues that would have been identified by these checks? Do other states do this?  
There are other healthcare providers that have checks and restrictions. CMS has some exclusionary criteria (through attestation of the service). Daycare providers have mandatory checks. The intent is to keep inappropriate people from being certified/licensed. There have been multiple high-profile cases in the media that would have been averted by checks. We don't have data on what other states are doing.
- f) Who should pay for background checks- individual providers or EMS agencies?  
Ultimately the student/candidate will be responsible for the expense. EMS organizations may cover the cost for their members. It is possible to request the legislature to include funding to cover the expense.
- g) Position: The Paramedic Committee is not in favor of providers paying.

✚ The committee discussed costs and methods of reimbursement for background checks.

Adjourned: 1245.