

MINUTES

AMA TASK FORCE ON REGISTRY
COMMISSION ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

AMA Headquarters
Chicago, Illinois

Wednesday
January 21, 1970

Members Present

Oscar P. Hampton, Jr., M.D., Chairman
A. I. Doktorsky, M.D., Commission on EMS
H. E. Hendryson, M.D., ex officio, Chairman, Commission on EMS
M. Schnitker, M.D., Commission on EMS

Consultants Present

J. D. Farrington, M.D., Commission on EMS

Consultants Absent

Peter Safar, M.D., Commission on EMS

Guests Present

Ambulance Association of America

Mr. Roddy Brandes, Chairman, Medical Liaison Committee
Mr. Wilfred H. Leonard, Director
Mr. Kenneth R. Thompson, Jr., President

International Association of Fire Chiefs

Col. Joseph McCarthy, Chicago Fire Department Academy
Chief Curtis Volkamer, Fire Marshall, Chicago Fire Department

International Rescue and First Aid Association

Mr. George B. Johnson, President
Mr. Jack Liberator, Past President
Mr. David Slayback, Executive Director

National Ambulance and Medical Services Association

Mr. Donald Doepping
Mr. David Hill

National Forest Service

Mr. Richard Smith

National Funeral Directors Association

Mr. Howard Raether, Executive Secretary

Guests Present (continued)

National Park Service

Mr. Bruce Miller

National Safety Council

Miss Gladys Blodgett

National Ski Patrol

Allan Erskine, M.D.

Geoffrey Osler, M.D.

Guests Invited Not Present

American Heart Association

Col. Columbus J. Hyde, Chief of Police, Louisville, Kentucky

International Association of Chiefs of Police

AMA Staff

Mr. Chris N. Theodore, Director
Division of Health Service

Miss Betty J. Anderson, Legal Assistant, Health Service Law
Office of General Counsel

Mr. W. E. Burnette, Account Executive
Communications Division

Mr. James B. Cobb, Director
Department of Health Care Organization

Mrs. Kathryn G. Gasker, Research Associate
Department of Community Health

Miss Charlotte Kalenberg, Assistant Recorder

Mrs. Lillian T. Watt, Recorder

T. F. Zimmerman, Ph.D., Director
Department of Health Manpower

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Oscar P. Hampton, Jr., Chairman of CEMS's Task Force on Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, stated the medical profession has become increasingly concerned about the need to improve emergency medical services including the four basic components which make up the system. Well-equipped, well-designed emergency vehicles, staffed by well-trained ambulance personnel and adequate communications constitute the interrelated components.

Essential to the improvement of the system is the establishment of a freestanding registry of well trained and certified emergency medical technicians-ambulance. Ambulance attendants and drivers are allied health personnel as are laboratory and x-ray technicians, physical and inhalation therapists. These and other groups have established registries which attest to the proficiency of their members. It is believed that a registry of emergency medical technicians-ambulance would not only upgrade the quality of emergency care but also the pay and status of certified personnel engaged in its provision. However, it was emphasized the purpose of the meeting was not to force acceptance of the concept of a national registry, but to offer help with its formation if there is acceptance of the proposal by the organizations represented at this meeting.

To determine the attending organizations' receptivity to the basic concept of a registry such as described by Dr. Hampton, a representative of each was asked to indicate his reaction. All representatives in attendance endorsed the registry concept and agreed with the principles enumerated by Dr. Hampton. A listing of the organizations and their respective spokesmen follows:

Ambulance Association of America - Mr. Roddy Brandes

International Association of Fire Chiefs - Col. Joseph McCarthy

International Rescue and First Aid Association - Mr. Jack Liberator

National Ambulance and Medical Services Association - Mr. David Hill

National Forest Service - Mr. Richard Smith

National Funeral Directors Association - Mr. Howard Raether

National Park Service - Mr. Bruce Miller

National Safety Council - Miss Gladys Blodgett

National Ski Patrol - Geoffrey Osler, M.D.

As a preliminary to discussion about the process of forming a registry, Dr. Hampton outlined the issues which should be considered:

1. Exploratory meeting with all representatives of organizations currently providing emergency ambulance services (this meeting).

2. Founding of the registry:
 - a. Incorporated or chartered?
 - b. Sponsors?
 - c. Method of selection of governing board
3. Purposes of registry:
 - a. Encourage basic and continuing education
 - b. Elevate standards of emergency ambulance services
 - c. Mechanism for examining, certifying and registering eligible candidates
 - d. Publication of list of certified people
4. General qualifications of applicants for registry:
 - a. Citizen or declaration of intent to become citizen
 - b. Age requirements
 - c. High school education or equivalent
 - d. Good moral character
5. Application for registry:
 - a. Mechanism
 - b. Fee
6. Examinations for certification:
 - a. Levels of training
 - 1) "Grandfather" group
 - a) Refresher course to be required?
 - b) Hours of previous service required?
 - c) Examination required?
 - 2) New recruits
 - a) Prerequisite training
 - b) Basic training programs approved
 - c) Hours of service as EMT before certification
 - d) Examination, written and/or demonstration of skills
7. Personnel of board of registry:
 - a. Number
 - b. How selected
 - c. Tenure
 - d. How replaced

The chairman then invited discussion. Whether this registry of emergency medical technicians-ambulance would be concerned only with personnel currently engaged in ambulance service was considered at length. It was concluded that this registry is intended principally for any who wish to be certified, regardless of their current occupation.

When the amount of training required by a certified EMT was discussed, various training programs were mentioned, including those based on the recommendations in the NAS/NRC's publication, "Training of Ambulance Personnel and Others Responsible for Emergency Care of the Sick and Injured at the Scene and During Transport". Recommended curricula include that of American College of Surgeons (Farrington and Hampton) and that of the National Highway Safety Bureau (DOT) developed by Dunlop and Associates. The AAOS courses were considered excellent refresher courses. Using the ACS curriculum as a reference, various programs were considered. It was concluded that ARC's advanced course or equivalent should be established as a prerequisite to an approved basic training program. There were no objections to this amount of training. Eventually, the governing board of the registry would be responsible for the establishment of training requirements.

Organization and composition of the registry's governing board were considered. It was the consensus of the representatives of the several organizations in attendance that the majority of members of the board should represent the organizations who provide emergency ambulance services, but there also should be some physician representation. It was agreed that the physicians selected for the board should be chosen as individuals by the other board members and not on the basis of what organizations the physicians might represent.

Each organization was polled to determine if it wished representation on the governing board. Those indicating a desire to have such membership were (1) Ambulance Association of America (Brandes); (2) International Association of Fire Chiefs (Volkamer); (3) International Rescue and First Aid Association (Johnson); (4) National Ambulance and Medical Services Association (Hill); (5) National Funeral Directors Association (Raether); and (6) National Ski Patrol (Osler). It was determined that the National Sheriffs' Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police also should be represented. Regardless of size, each organization will have one member of the board.

The legal aspects involved in the organization of a registry were discussed by Miss B. J. Anderson of AMA's legal staff. She advised it is relatively unimportant whether or not a registry is incorporated. A formal arrangement covered by a constitution and bylaws is important as is a director with authority to manage and operate the affairs of the organization. It is more expensive to incorporate than to operate in a voluntary manner. Since the concept of having a registry is somewhat new, there may be more flexibility without formal articles of incorporation. The constitution and bylaws of a voluntary association are essentially the same as articles of incorporation of a corporation. Liability insurance can be obtained by an unincorporated association. Dr. Hendryson then offered the services of staff and the Office of the General Counsel of the AMA to prepare a provisional constitution and bylaws and to advise the members of the registry board regarding legal matters.

After discussion of the date of the next meeting, it was agreed March would be desirable since it would afford sufficient time to permit association representatives to report to their respective boards. Dr. Hendryson volunteered the use of AMA facilities and staff for the next meeting if the group indicated its interest in the offer. The proposal was readily accepted.

In his summary, Dr. Hampton stated the board of the registry would be responsible for all major decisions including: 1) adoption of constitution and bylaws; 2) composition of the governing board; 3) funding; 4) fees for examination; 5) approval of training courses; 6) selection of physician members of the board or advisors.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Ambulance Association of America	Mr. Roddy Brandes
International Association of Chiefs of Police	Mr. Norman Darwick
International Association of Fire Chiefs	Chief Curtis Volkamer
International Rescue and First Aid Association	Mr. George Johnson
National Ambulance and Medical Services Association	Mr. David Hill
National Funeral Directors Association	Mr. Joseph McCracken
National Sheriffs' Association	Mr. Dave Wooten
National Ski Patrol	Mr. Edward L. Ericson