

**EMS Board Proposal Meeting**  
**January 30, 2018**  
**Methodist Wesley Campus**  
**Woodworth, La**  
**10am-12noon**

**Attendance-** several individuals entered later but those in attendance for entire meeting were- Donna, Nancy, Susan, Maylyn, Rob, Curry, Tracy, Gary, Seth, Evon, George (Donna may need to add names if my memory failed)

There was a great deal of discussion among those in attendance as to the need to wait until 2019 to propose legislation to begin the process of creating an independent Board of EMS.

Most practitioners present do not believe in delaying what they see as not a big deal to present and have passed.

Some in the group voiced their concerns not only about timing but also readiness, community and stakeholder support, possible opposition and legitimate legislative sponsorship.

Much discussion ensued about the spread of affiliation among the EMS practitioners- ambulance, fire, industry, law enforcement and others. There was also an opinion expressed that the few are paying for the larger group of volunteers who are exempt at present from fees.

A vote was cast for the opinions of those in attendance at the subcommittee. The top two choices for the future of the Bureau were #1- a freestanding independent board of EMS and #2- a designated Office in LDH which would take the BEMS out of the Office of Public Health. Although there were dissenting votes as to when this proposal should be presented to the state legislature the decision was made to approach the issue in 2018. The group agreed that it would take at least 18 months, possibly up to two years to accomplish the transition.

It is expected that the staff, furniture, office equipment and EMS inventory would transfer with the Bureau as it has with the Capitol Area Human Services Board also under the general guidance of LDH.

The group also believes that the fees should be reviewed every year and adjusted to cover costs of operation, but that the fees would not be any lower than the currently set fees.

The group reviewed the minimal qualifications for each suggested position on the proposed Board. A set of minimal criteria for all positions as offered by Rob Daughdril was accepted. The group felt that the initial candidates for positions should be nominated by specific organizations as indicated in the template and vetted by the Task Force. These comments were stated in a motion made by Rob Daughdril and seconded by Gary Peters. The motion passed with no opposition.

### **Recap of the meeting:**

The subcommittee will work with the other members of the Task Force and their partners to propose a bill to develop a free standing Board as discussed.

The transition should be accomplished in 18 months with an option for 24 months to transfer the processes. An MOU will be developed with LDH similar in wording and intent to the Capitol rea Human Services Board.

The target for the installation of the new board will be January 1, 2020.

The mission of the board will be to assure continuity and consistency; legitimize the practitioners as health care professional; and to insulate the Board of EMS from politics.

The EMS Certification Commission will stay in place as the disciplinary body but the Task Force would rotate off as their terms expire and eventually the Task Force would cease to exist.

LDH would remain the fall back agency should the Board fail to meet its objectives, deadlines and the intent of the legislation.

The law firm of Brazile and others will be writing the language for the bill, and they are still looking for a sponsor. Donna suggested Justine Miller who is also a nurse practitioner.

To catch everyone up to date the handouts and reference materials that have been used and those under development for the legislative committee will be put in Drop Box by Donna. George Allemand will bring copies of the materials distributed today to the representatives of the IAFF and the LSFA.

Donna will work on the summary and the recommendation will be presented Task Force meeting on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mark Majors suggested that the EMS Certification Commission be asked to support the proposal at their next commission meeting on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The meeting adjourned with lunch at the cafeteria on campus.