



## Spring 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting

### Emergency Medical Services

11:00 am - April 22, 2021 – Century City Center Room 605 and Teams

#### **Members present:**

Kenny Hoffman, AMR  
Don Hughes, Assistant Fire Chief – City of WF  
Ryan Matthews, TranStar  
Tonya Price, CNO – Wilbarger General Hospital  
Roger Ritchie, Director - Air Evac  
Dr. Ram Selvaraj, Medical Director  
Kim Stringfellow, Director of Emergency Services -  
URHCS

#### **Guests:**

Cory Brinkley, Vernon College EMS Student  
Gary Griffith, DSHS Representative

#### **Members not present:**

Charles Grady  
Mark Hale  
Dwayne Jackson  
JJ Oznick  
Eduardo Dominguez  
Greg Neal  
Jason Baber

#### **Vernon College**

#### **Faculty/Staff:**

Shana Drury  
Nick Long  
Karen McClure  
Michelle White

*Nick Long thanked the committee for attending today and introduced the members present virtually through Microsoft Teams.*

*Since Jason Baber was unable to attend today's meeting Donald Hughes, vice-chair, began the meeting with old business.*

*Nick Long began by asking the DSHS representative, Gary Griffith, questions. Starting with where does the 1,000 hours for contact paramedic start? Do the hours from advanced class count towards the hours for paramedic? Gary Griffith stated that those hours do count; classroom, lab, and field experience.*

*Nick Long did ask for clarification about the approvals and when we can post information on our website. Gary Griffith stated that colleges will have the ability to post during the approval processes. Due to the need to have information posted to get perspective students.*

*Nick Long stated he did attend an EMS course coordinator course online last week so as soon as he finishes his two years as an instructor, in September, he will qualify as a basic course coordinator. Brain is qualified as an advanced course coordinator currently and in two years Nick will qualify for that also.*

*In addition, Nick attended a CoAEMS Workshop two months ago. This will allow him to file for an LOR and all the information needed to file for accreditation.*

*Shana Drury reminded the committee that all of the approvals are dependent on the SACSCOC accreditation approvals.*

#### **Curriculum Changes:**

*Nick Long discussed some ideas for curriculum changes to address in the fall. He started by addressing the current program, the advisory committee approved in the fall of 2019 to go to an 8-week course. We have implemented that for two semesters, with in class four nights a week for 4 hours a night for basic and four nights a week for four and a half hours a night for advanced. Also including two Saturdays for basic and three for advanced. The lecture time and seeing the students daily did improve the test scores the students were not able to have the students do more things at home and do more skills based activities during class time. Nick talked with several coordinators throughout the state and they have a process where the students come in and about week 5 in a 16-week program, they have a respiratory test, a cognitive exam and a respiratory psychomotor exam and CPR certification then they are allowed to go into the clinical setting. They have limited skill set but they are still learning in clinical and teaching two days a week. About week 12, they are tested again. Nick discussed the option of going back to a 16-week course may allow students more time to study at home and do a flipped class allowing students to have more hands on time for practice in lab.*

*Nick Long also discussed that we are under the maximum hours allowed for the program and would like the committee to consider increasing contact hours for the class time. This would allow for a little more time with the students.*

*Another possible addition would be a PHTLS course to add a one-semester credit hour for the advanced program. It would give the students a PHTLS certification and 1.5 hours of more class time.*

*Nick also discussed what is considered a program completer for the college. Students are required to complete 15 hours of semester credit, which the EMT Basic program does not meet these requirements. Possible additions could be an EVOC class, a workforce A&P I (basic) and II (advanced), and a workforce Pathophysiology (paramedic).*

*Donald Hughes asked what would the start date be for all the changes being discussed. Nick Long stated that these changes would have to be brought to the committee for a vote and after that if everything is approved possibly fall of 2022.*

*Shana Drury asked the committee their thoughts on all of the possible changes.*

*Ryan Matthews asked about the number of hours for a 16-week course. If the course was a 2 hour course, for example the EVOC course, does that mean they would be teaching that for 32 hours over the semester. Nick Long stated that is correct. For the standard course for an EVOC driver is closer to a 40 hour course. It would also consist of coursework and driving hours. Shana Drury stated that the minimum hours is 32 and max of 48 and those are actual clock hours. Nick Long stated that Mark Hale is going to be certified as an EVOC instructor. Nick and Brain Deason would go through the course at a later date.*

*Nick Long asked committee members if this would make a student more hireable, help with insurance. Ryan Matthews stated that AMR and TranStar had to do their own EVOC training for*

*insurance purposes. Gary Griffith stated that some programs offered it but as an external course students could take in addition to the program courses.*

*Ryan Matthews also stated he was an advocate for an A&P course. It would be a great addition and so helpful learning the fundamentals. EMS has done enough to pass a test but not necessarily understand why they are doing certain processes. Not just why protocol tells you to do something but also the full why. Ryan stated that he thought this would also make them better at testing, it would give them the basic level to work through critical thinking questions and work through the beginning processes. Ryan also stated that biochemistry would give students a good base for reasoning through problems. Ryan also stated he would be happy to help anyway he could.*

*Dr. Selvaraj shared that the thought the addition would be a good choice. Applied physiology and anatomy connecting the bridge between clinical decision-making and anatomy. How to connect applied physiology and anatomy and what you actually do at the basic level. Dr. Selvaraj think it is a very valid point, that you start with A&P and move up and by the time you are 4 years out you have forgotten all the stuff you learned in the first year.*

*Nick Long did stated that the nursing department has a standard for how recent the student has had A&P before entering the program. Shana Drury stated that the student has to have taken A&P within the last three years to be eligible for the program. Nick stated that he would like to recommend that be an additional requirement for the EMS program, he would like to be a pre-requisite or a co-requisite or within the last three years.*

*Roger Ritchie stated that he would like to see the PHTLS course added it is one of the requirements for AirEvac. Those courses are hard to find around this area. Nick Long stated that this would be added to the advanced program so that students will be certified once they complete the course.*

*Nick Long also stated that he would like to see the program host a Critical Care Paramedic course. This would allow Vernon College to host CE hours for current paramedics and could be an addition to a current students certifications. This would be a discussion after we have the paramedic program up and established.*

*Nick Long provided the committee with a student minimum competency form. This was information for the committee to look at and review prior to the fall meeting. There will be an action item for this during the fall meeting. On the handout provided was the previous competency with the minimum hours approved by CoAEMSP.*

*The committee members were invited to tour the lab facility for the program. This allowed the committee members to see what we are currently using in the lab and allow them to make suggestions for upgrades or additions of necessary equipment.*