



Ohio Medical Transportation Board News Fall 2007



AS I SEE IT FROM THE CHAIR

by Rebecca Baute

It is an honor to serve you as chair of the Ohio Medical Transportation Board. The foundation of the board is its mission: "to ensure through inspection, certification, and licensure that all emergency and non-emergency medical services regulated by Ohio Revised Code 4766 provide appropriate care and transportation for the citizens of Ohio."

After appointment by the Governor, each board member is sworn to uphold the mission and vision of the Board. I can assure you that we are passionate about our duty to serve you as citizens. The board composition is diverse, bringing to the table expertise from all forms of medical transportation from various parts of the state. Working collaboratively with the staff, inspectors, Executive Director Ron Grout, and Assistant Attorney General Barb Pfeiffer, we are able to efficiently and effectively set and accomplish goals.

This year has been especially busy as we set out to write rules for ambulance and air medical transport. The challenge in writing rules is making sure we consider variations to standard practice within regions that are necessary to provide safe and appropriate care. We are committed to following through on complaints and welcome your comments and suggestions.

We are also in the process of designing an online satisfaction survey for the purpose of process improvement. We are interested in your feedback regarding your experience with the office staff, inspectors and the website.

Lastly, thank you for putting your faith and trust in our ability to carry out the mission of the board. Our meeting dates are published on our website and are open to the public. I encourage you to attend and/or contact us at anytime.

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State Of Ohio EMS Guidelines and Procedures Manual Available



On behalf of the State Board of Emergency Medical Services, the Regional Physician Advisory Board was charged with drafting proposed protocol guidelines that EMS agencies could use. **Please note:** the proposed guidelines are not mandatory for all Ohio EMS agencies. The guidelines and procedures

manual is meant to assist in the development of local protocols. These guidelines can be found at http://www.ems.ohio.gov/policies/EMS_Guidelines_Procedures07.pdf

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FAREWELL...

We wish a grateful farewell to Eric Johnson. Eric had been a Field Inspector for the Board since 07/27/2000 and most recently was the Board's lead investigator. Eric has chosen to devote more time to his family, his church, and his job and has therefore vacated the position of Investigator. You will be sorely missed Eric.

...and HAIL



to Michael Bidlack. Mike is a Field Inspector for the Board and together with Director Grout, will handle investigative issues from the Board offices in Columbus. Why not give Mike a call to say Hello or drop him an email at mkbidlack@dps.state.oh.us Hopefully you won't have to meet him on the wrong side of an investigation. More from Mike later...



to Sheena Costa. The board has contracted with Sheena to assist Diane with the front line work of the office. Just about everyone's first contact is with Sheena or Diane. She is currently working on renewal applications and new licenses and permits. If you haven't already said hello to Sheena, give her a call or drop her an email at stcosta@dps.state.oh.us

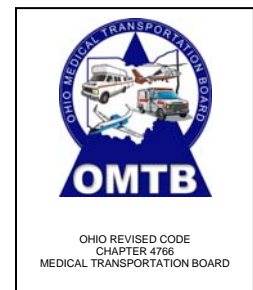
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PAPERWORK! PAPERWORK!

Ohio Administrative Codes (O.A.C.) 4766-2-01, 4766-3-01 and 4766-4-01 all require an application to be complete before the application is processed. Even with this requirement there are still issues with applications being sent in without all the required paperwork. Here are some of the problems we are encountering:

1. ALL ambulette applications must be submitted with the following information:

- Appropriate fees;



FOR MORE INFORMATION
CHECK OUT THIS DOCUMENT
AT [HTTP://MTB.OH.GOV](http://MTB.OH.GOV)

- A certificate of liability insurance with the Ohio Medical Transportation Board listed as a certificate holder showing both general and automotive coverage;
- A blank trip report;
- A color photo of the logo on the vehicle; and
- Completed DMA form.

2. NEW ambulance and MoICU applications must be submitted with the following information:

- Appropriate fees;
- A certificate of liability insurance with the Ohio Medical Transportation Board listed as a certificate holder showing both general and automotive coverage;
- A blank run report;
- A color photo of the logo on the vehicle;
- Pharmacy Board license;
- Protocol;
- Completed DMA form.

3. RENEWAL ambulance and MoICU applications must be submitted with the following information:

- Appropriate fees;
- A certificate of liability insurance with the Ohio Medical Transportation Board listed as a certificate holder showing both general and automotive coverage;
- Current protocol or letter from medical director;
- A color photo of the logo on the vehicle; and
- Completed DMA form.

Remember: Applications will not be processed until it is complete and all the information has been received. You will be notified that your application is incomplete only once by certified mail so make sure we have your correct mailing address at all times.

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Washington, DC — Emergency medical services and emergency medicine research received a significant show of support from Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) and Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA, 30th District) when they introduced the “Improving Emergency Medical Care and Response Act of 2007”

(S. 1873 and H.R. 3173) with the full backing of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The bill will support four regional demonstration programs aimed at designing, implementing and evaluating a regionalized, accountable emergency care system. Data gathered from these programs will lead to improved coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of EMS programs across the United States. This legislation will also establish support for emergency medical research throughout the federal government, ultimately leading to enhanced patient outcomes through improved medical service delivery.

The Access to Emergency Medical Services Act, introduced in February, calls for the creation of a national bipartisan commission on access to emergency medical services which will examine factors that affect and may impede the delivery of care in U.S. emergency departments. The proposed

legislation also recognizes the need for additional resources in support of care delivery. The Senate bill directs that a working group within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services be convened to develop boarding and diversion standards, as well as guidelines and incentives for implementation of those standards. The House bill requires hospitals to report to the Department of Health and Human Services statistics on how many patients are boarded and for how long. The legislation is sponsored by Reps. Bart Gordon (D-TN) and Pete Sessions (R-TX) and U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Arlen Specter (R-PA).

ACEP is a national medical specialty society representing emergency medicine with more than 25,000 members. ACEP is committed to advancing emergency care through continuing education, research and public education. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, ACEP has 53 chapters representing each state, as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. A Government Services Chapter represents emergency physicians employed by military branches and other government agencies.

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INSURANCE...WHO NEEDS IT?! If you are an Ohio Medical Transportation provider you do! Ohio Revised Code (O.R.C.) 4766.04 requires you to maintain insurance in the type and amount specified in O.R.C. 4766.06, Liability Insurance for as long as your MTO is licensed with the OMTB.

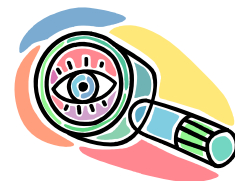
In addition, O.A.C. 4766-2-08, 4766-3-08 and 4766-4-08 requires you to have a certificate of liability insurance issued by an insurer licensed to do business in this state that includes a thirty day notice of cancellation to the board.

In addition to the cost of the insurance, this one could cost you a fine of up to \$1500.00 per day.

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AS PROMISED...MORE FROM MIKE:

Greetings from the Office of Investigations. Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Michael Bidlack, and I am an Investigator for the OMTB and am assigned to the Columbus office. My job here at OMTB is to handle complaints that come into our office regarding just about anything as it relates to Emergency Medical Transportation Organizations and Non Emergency Medical Transportation Organizations licensed to do business within the state. I can also be a valuable resource to you and your organization regarding requirements and compliance issues as they pertain to ORC and OAC 4766.



At the present time the board has 56 separate cases open on services throughout the state. When we receive a complaint a case file is started. Any and all complaints are investigated, and if the complaint is found to not be within our jurisdiction then it is forwarded to the proper agency. Keep in mind OMTB will only maintain an open case file against your service if there is an alleged violation of ORC or OAC 4766.

While we are on the subject of case files, many of you may be wondering what we investigate. The following is a list of the most common complaints and violations that have been noted:

- Insurance: Lack of or cancellation of binding insurance for your service. ORC 4766.06 covers the requirements for liability, vehicle, bodily injury and property damage insurance

requirements. These levels must be maintained throughout the time that your service is in operation and licensed with OMTB. Failure to maintain these levels can result in a fine of up to \$1500.00 per day during the period in which you did not have insurance.

- Operation of unpermitted vehicles: ORC 4766 and OAC 4766 require that all vehicles, transport or non transport, and aircraft be inspected and permitted regarding their roadworthiness or airworthiness whichever the case may be and equipment. This inspection must occur prior to you using this vehicle in revenue service. Failure to do this could result in a fine of \$1500.00 per vehicle trip.
- Operating from an unlicensed location: ORC 4766.04 covers the licensing of services that operate in the State of Ohio. Failure to license your headquarters or satellite locations can result in a fine of up to \$1500.00 per day that your service is unlicensed.

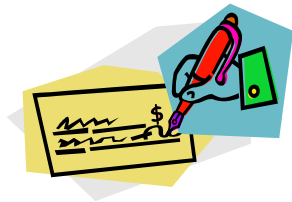
This is by no means a complete list of all our current investigations, just merely an example of the most common issues that we are handling.

The question then becomes “Mike, how do I stay compliant?” The answer is simple; don’t be afraid to call and ask questions. All too often a service will be found to have a serious violation of the ORC or OAC when a simple phone call to the OMTB office could have resolved the issue. The staff here at OMTB is here to help you and your service. Do not be afraid to contact me should you have any questions, or to report a violation. I can be reached at the OMTB office in Columbus at 614-466-9451 or toll free at 1-866-392-6252. I can also be reached via e-mail at MKBidlack@dps.state.oh.us

I look forward to hearing from all of you. Feel free to contact this office at any time.

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PAY TO THE ORDER OF...



Ohio Administrative Code has mandated a change to the way you fill out your checks and money orders. Your “Pay to the Order Of” or “Payee” line must read **Ohio Treasurer, Richard Cordray**. Checks received after September 1st with any other wording on that line may not be accepted by the Treasurer’s Office and will be returned for reissue. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Change to September Renewal Procedures...

We want to “streamline” the license renewal process so, beginning with the September 2007 renewals we are making a few changes.

Those of you who renew in September should have already received your renewal packages. There are NO CHANGES to that part of the process. The changes begin once your package arrives in our office. After we receive your package we will review it for accuracy. **(Remember the earlier article...it must be complete or we can not process it)** Once the application is complete, we will forward your package to an inspector along with your wall certificate(s) and vehicle permit(s).

If your facility and administration pass during the inspection process you will be given your wall certificate on-the-spot. You won't have to wait for it to come in the mail. If your vehicle(s) pass the inspection process the representative you have assigned to the inspector will be asked to remove the expiration sticker from the window and the inspector will place the new expiration sticker on the vehicle at the time of the inspection.

Should you not have a vehicle ready for inspection, or a vehicle requires a re-inspection, the inspector will attach the expiration sticker when he or she returns to complete the inspection. If a vehicle has an issue that must be resolved within 72 hours, the inspector will be instructed to supply you with an expiration sticker after we receive the certified violation notification in our office.

It is our hope that this will ease some of the anxiety associated with the renewal process and the mailing "wait times" for you to receive your wall certificate(s) and permit(s). Please let us know what you think.

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I ADDED A NEW VEHICLE TO MY FLEET...NOW WHAT?

Should you acquire a new vehicle or aircraft for your service, you are required to submit the appropriate form along with the appropriate fees to the board. Our office staff will review the information, and if complete, forward the paper work to a field inspector. The field inspector will contact you to schedule a date and time for inspection. All ambulance(s), non-transport(s) ambulette(s) and aircraft shall pass an inspection conducted by the board prior to being placed into operation.

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Homeland Security Threat & Risk Assessment - Ron Grout

This month I had the opportunity to participate in a three day workshop held in Bucyrus, Ohio. The workshop was designed to teach participants how to accurately determine potential threats within a region and then through a very concise measurement identify the risks associated with these identified threats.

This training was far beyond my individual expectations; I think we are accustomed to Police/Fire/EMS mitigating all public safety problems no matter what the situation might be. I now have a new perspective; the ability for public safety to mitigate an incident that involves terrorism is simply not realistic.

The program is designed to take you out of your comfort zone and help you recognize what the true needs will be in the event of a large scale disaster. Those with the preconceived notion that the feds will run to our rescue is just that, a notion. Mitigation of the incident will largely rely on the combined efforts of public safety, city/township/county government, county health departments, local water and sewer representatives, public utilities, department of transportation, local business owners, and media just to name a few of the countless

organizations and people needed to address the level of complexity that we may be faced with.

Understanding the approach of a terrorist is examined to determine the level of threat, the ability to deliver the threat, access to the threat and most importantly the method of delivery. Current studies and information available indicate the next attack on the United States might very well include chemical and/or biological weapons as the preferred means of creating true panic both locally and throughout the nation.

While the course is limited to only three days the amount of information and the supportive material distributed during the course is definitely worth the effort and time dedicated to the program. The course as presented was funded by the department of homeland security and is currently being taught nationwide based on availability.

If you find it being offered in your region please do yourself a favor, sign up and participate, the future safety of your own community and family may very well depend on you.

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Welcome to Jackson-Forest Joint Ambulance District



OMBT Director Ronald Grout (l) assists Chief Dean Hankins with his new decal.

Jackson-Forest was established in 1974 and began serving the public in 1975. Prior to the establishment of the EMS Division the fire department provided rescue services and the funeral home provided ambulance transportation. The department is headed up by Chief Dean Hankins RN, CEN, EMTP. The department relies mostly on local support for their operations and holds an annual festival which raises some \$18,000 dollars to help with the daily operations of the division.

Jackson-Forest Joint Ambulance District is a fully functional ALS service with two ambulances and one non-transport vehicle. They cover sixty square miles and handle approximately 300 calls annually. As much as 25% of the calls are trauma related to auto accidents. The department has two paramedics, three intermediates, eleven emergency medical technician basics and eight drivers that are also firefighters for the fire division. Their medical director is Dr. Michael R. Humphrey out of St. Rita's in Lima, Ohio.

Jackson-Forest is located in a small rural community, but has demonstrated they can meet or exceed State of Ohio minimum licensing compliance standards. By licensing, they are also subjecting their department to unannounced inspections thereby ensuring safe medical transportation for their community and outside accountability to the State of Ohio. Jackson-Forest Joint Ambulance District is the sixth publicly owned/publicly operated EMS service to voluntarily license with the Ohio Medical Transportation Board.



Chief Hankins (l) and Mr. Darron Moe, local Association President, proudly display their new license.

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS SWORN IN:



(l-r: J. Moore-Vice Chair, R. Grout-Director, H. Schwartz, T. Anteau, T. Allenstein and B. Baute-Chair)

Three new board members were appointed by Governor Ted Strickland and sworn in at the Ohio Medical Transportation Board's regular meeting on September 13, 2007. Newly appointed members are Tom Allenstein, Tony Anteau, and Dr. Hamilton Schwartz.

The board thanks the outgoing members Jack Popadak, Barbara Pasztor, and Dr. John Drstvenssek for their past dedicated service.



Tom Allenstein is the chief clinical officer at MedFlight of Ohio in Columbus, Ohio. MedFlight is a full CCT system with 8 helicopters and 4 Critical Care ground ambulances.

In 1985, Tom began his air medical transport career in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He served as a staff flight nurse for Mayo One in 1987 and the chief flight nurse of Rochester operation for Mayo Medical Transport in 1996. In addition to his duties at MedFlight, he is a grant reviewer for the Foundation for Air Medical Research and Education (FARE) and a site surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems.



Tony Anteau is the executive vice president of MedCorp Emergency Medical Service in Toledo, Ohio. He has over 22 years experience in the emergency medical service field and is still a practicing paramedic.

Over those 22 years, Tony has served as a firefighter, paramedic, Fire/EMS Chief, and as an administrator for private emergency medical service. Most recently he was named as the regional coordinator for the State of Ohio's Hazardous Materials Technical Advisory Committee.



Dr. Hamilton Schwartz has been at Cincinnati Children's Hospital for over 8 years. He is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and full-time faculty in the Emergency Department. Dr. Schwartz served as the assistant medical director for Cincinnati Children's Critical Care Transport Team and took over as Medical Director last month.

For the last 2 ½ years he has been the Pediatric Medical Director for Cincinnati Fire and Rescue.

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BOARD MEMBERS

REBECCA BAUTE - Chair
Mason, Ohio

JOHN MOORE – Vice Chair
Columbus, Ohio

TOM ALLENSTEIN
Columbus, Ohio

TONY ANTEAU
Toledo, Ohio

MICHAEL BAKES
Kent, Ohio

INDIRA MULLIGAN
Columbus, Ohio

DAVID VIOLA
Minerva, Ohio

TODD WALKER
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

DR. HAMILTON SCHWARTZ
Cincinnati, Ohio

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MEETING DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2007

- November 20th, 2007

Unless otherwise noted, OMTB meetings begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Board Office, 1952 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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OHIO MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Ensuring Safe Medical Transportation

September 13, 2007

Ronald Grout
Executive Director

Rebecca Baute
Chairperson

John Moore
Vice Chairperson

Board Members:

Tom Allenstein

Tony Anteau

Michael Bakes

Indira Mulligan

David Viola

Todd Walker

Dr. Hamilton Schwartz

To: All Medical Transportation Organizations

From: Ronald Grout, Executive Director
Becky Baute, Chairperson

Ref: Advanced Life Support -vs. - Mobile Intensive Care Unit Utilization

Ohio Licensed MTO's,

The Ohio Medical Transportation Board has experienced a significant increase of inquiries and complaints concerning the appropriate mode of transport of critical care patients. The most frequent concern relates to who should be transported in an Advanced Life Support ambulance and who should be transported in a Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MoICU).

The Board has reviewed existing statutes, rules, and established standards of care for critical care transports. The decision to utilize an Advanced Life Support ambulance versus Mobile Intensive Care Unit should be a coordinated decision between the transferring facility and the transporting organization. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the transferring physician to decide what level of transport is appropriate for the patient based on acuity, response time, required infusing medications en route, physician-ordered medical device, and other factors.

Prior to reaching a mode of transport decision, the physician should measure the benefit to the patient against the risks involved in the transfer. Patient safety and the continuum of care must be maintained at all times. The transferring facility must then weigh the benefit to the patient and the patient care requirements against the capabilities of the Medical Transportation Organization (MTO) selected. The MTO must consider its capability to maintain the required continuum of care without exceeding the scope of practice of its employees.

1952 W. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43223

Phone: 1-866-392-6252
Fax: 1-614-728-6040

mtb.oh.gov

An Advanced Life Support organization that knowingly accepts a patient that should be transported by an Mobile Intensive Care Unit may be in violation of 4766, more specific **OAC 4766-2-19(F), "Incompetence, negligence or misconduct in operating the licensed MTO or in providing emergency medical care to patients"**, and, **OAC 4766-2-19(P), "Action by the licensed MTO that is reckless or negligent so as to endanger the health or safety of patients and members of the general public while in the course of business as a licensed MTO"**. Such activity may be subject to fines, suspension and/or revocation of MTO's license to operate.

The decision to use an Advanced Life Support Ambulance in lieu of a Mobile Intensive Care Unit requires thoughtful consideration for the reasons cited above. The ultimate goal is to provide the level of care that is in the best interest of patient safety and care during transport.