

MINUTES
Palm Beach State College
EMS Programs
Partnership Council Meeting
October 13, 2016

ITEM 1. Welcome and sign in – Director Jamie Smith, welcomed members.

Meeting start time: 2:45 pm

Discussion: as per CoAEMSP our accreditation we will be hosting the EMS Partnership Council Meeting every 6 months moving forward. CoAEMPS is here to improve the quality of our programs which we welcome.

Action: Meeting set for every six months was accepted.

ITEM 2. Student Success –

Discussion: Our students have participated EMS Challenge at Clin-Con 2016 in which they were a winning team.

Action: J. Meskiel (WPB), D. Burke(PBCFR), S. Garay (PBCFR) all agree the students that graduate from PBSC Paramedic program are “job” ready and among the best they see completing local Paramedic Programs.

ITEM 3. Approval of Minutes -

Discussion: Motion made and seconded to approve.

Action: The minutes for **October 16, 2014** were approved without changes.

ITEM 4. Old Business –

Director Jamie Smith:

- Regarding application point system, we received a letter today from the Fire Chief’s Assoc. concerning the diversity at Palm Beach State College and their intent to encourage students to seek their training elsewhere. We have been working with Limited Access/Amy McDonald to create a more co-adhesive point system which are page 2-3 of the handout.
- Assistant Chief Darrel Donatto commended us for giving points for Military as he says that is the right thing to do for anyone who served/serves out country.
- Assistant Chief Darrel Donatto from Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue, speaking on behalf of the Fire Chief’s Assoc., expressed his concern about the educational points, which would only consider a College degree, that they will limit the pool of applicants in terms of diversity, since percentage of people with a college degree in Palm Beach County is low, and considering that departments do not require a higher education for hiring. Stating that the job of an EMT/Paramedic/Firefighter should be more of a “technical training program” as appose to degree program.
- Director Smith stated that he agrees with the technical training, however that is not the vision of the college and while we continue to work toward the goals of our Business Partners we need to get the College on board.
- John Meskiel, WPBFD agreed that he thinks that students need some type of pre-college if not “college” at least 3 core EMS based course to expose students to what the job is about so they can determine if it is truly a field they want to get into.
- Director Smith stated that Gov. Rick Scott says that students graduating high school at this time S/B “college ready” and that many students are not being successful with NFSI because of their math, reading and writing skills, and students are not “high school” ready.
- Sandra Savia from Boca Raton Regional Medical wanted to know if there was any services that student go obtain to help with helping students be more successfully. Patti Drake explained that the college has the tutoring lab for any student that is registered with the college and that there is notification all over campus explaining that this service is available. Student just needed to be proactive.

- Again Chief Donatto felt that the NSFI was an obstacle for minority students however at this time Director Smith feels that is still the fairest tie-breaker and that the previous Date/Time stamp was not effective.
- Student input Daisy Buitrago: while did not get in on her first attempt she decided to complete some of the core classes while waiting to re-apply. She said once she completed the EMS program by taking those core classes she had an AS degree which was a huge accomplishment for her. Courtney Matarazza: came in with a degree and for her it was what gave her the extra points needed to secure a spot within the program.
- Dr. Scheppke would like to see student that are re-applying after not getting in receive some type of credit.
- Amanda Vomero PBCFR is the diversity officer with the county and her main focus is recruiting minorities for the Fire Service. She works with other departments within the community to get the word out about jobs within the EMS/Fire field attending job fairs and local events. She would like to see PBSC work closely within the community at events to recruit. She thinks that it would be beneficial for PBSC to visit the local high schools and speak to the seniors that will be graduating. While she has been doing this for the past three years she is hoping to “soon see the fruits of their labor pay off”.
- Statics were provide to members and even though it was only the 20171 EMT class the EMS program was meeting the needs of our community.

ITEM 5. Program Status/updates –

a. EMS Program – Director Jamie Smith reported:

- When was appointed to Director back in Jan. 2016 he was asked what he thought the program needed and he stated that additional personnel was one thing he felt the program lacked. He was able to add additional support to the EMT with another Occupational Skills Evaluator (OSE) position as well as a Paramedic Assistant Professor.
- The Paramedic program begin a part-time night class for students that could not attend days do to obligations. The night program runs 4 semesters as appose to the full time which is 3.

EMS Program – Director Jamie Smith:

- The EMT/Paramedic program has been really focused on patient assessments using training and testing, as it was identified as a weak skill. OSE/Adjuncts have been working with students to make sure they are using the “A, B, C, D, E’s” (Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability and Exposure) along with other skills to prevent students focusing on only ONE diagnosis. By doing this we students are increasing their critical thinking and improving history taking.
- Dr. Scheppke would like students to be able to perform like a “PA” in the field. Using critical thinking to identify more than the standard such as trauma and physical assessment. He would like for them to also be able to identify some of the disease recognition. Student’s need to correct pattern recognition and be looking for clues.

EMT Program – Director Jamie Smith

- 20171 the EMT program went from 250 hours to 300 to meet requirements set by The Department of Education (DOE).
- The EMT program has utilized these hours by holding assistance labs each morning giving students more time to utilize their hands on skills.

Clinical-Director Jamie Smith for Bruce Arbeit

- Students that work a patient and are part of saving their life are honored as part of our Save a Live Recognition Program. They are given special recognition and receive a frame plaque along with a special “Save a Life” pin that they are allowed to wear on their uniforms.

ITEM 6. New Business – Director Jamie Smith

- Looking at the Fire/EMT track to see how it is working for Valencia and IRCC. Thinks this would be beneficial to students. The transition would start with one EMT class to work out in issues.

ITEM 7. Other Business –

- State Test is having issues with getting students through due to lack of personal in the office.
- The test fees were to be \$45.00 and now are \$110.00
- State average for passing rate is 42% and National Average is 85%. PBSC passing rate for State is 100% and our National 77%.

ITEM 8. The next meeting date is on an exact date to be announced on **April, 2017.**

ITEM 9. The meeting was adjourned at **4:30 pm.**

Person in Attendance	Representing
Baker, Sean	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Buitrago, Daisy	Paramedic Student, PBSC
Burke, David	Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Cunningham, Christine	Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Davanzo, Michael	Boca Raton Fire Rescue
Donatto, Darryl	Town of Palm Beach Fire Rescue
Drake, Patricia	EMS Administrative Assistant, PBSC
Garay, Sebastian	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue
Jimenez, Ali	Former Paramedic Student, PBSC
Matarazza, Courtney	Paramedic Student, PBSC
Meskiel, John	West Palm Beach Fire Department
Myers, Neil	EMS Faculty, PBSC
Rogers, Jacqueline Dr.	Dean of Public Safety, PBSC
Savia, Sandra	Boca Raton Regional Hospital
Schepke, Kenneth Dr.	Medical Director, PBSC
Smith, James	EMS Director, PBSC
Summers, David	PBC Healthcare District
Vomero, Amanda	Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Submitted by:
Patricia Drake, Scribe