



**International Association of Fire Chiefs  
EMS Section Board of Directors – Conference Call  
January 9, 2020**

*Attendees: McEvoy, Riley, Croom, Shimer, Becker, Davis*

Chief McEvoy called the meeting to order at 3:00pm ET

### **FRM 2020 Planning Update**

Chief McEvoy updated the group on a conference call that the FRM Program Planning Committee held earlier in the day. Chief McEvoy also updated the EMS Section Board on the responses that were received from the survey for suggestions that was shared with past members of the FRM PPC. Lastly, Chief McEvoy updated the group on the latest sponsorship totals and exhibition sales.

### **Legislative Update**

Evan updated the group on several EMS-related issues before Congress:

- **FY20 Appropriations Bill:** In December, Congress passed legislation to fund the federal government through the end of FY 2020. This bill contained several fire service priorities including \$5 million for the SIREN grants and a one-year reauthorization of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act.
- **Balance Billing:** The Senate HELP Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee generally have reached an agreement on legislation to end balance billing for patients. However, the House Ways and Means Committee recently came out with a second proposal on the topic. Neither proposal would prohibit fire departments from billing patients for ground ambulance service.
- **Non-Emergency Transportation:** Yesterday, the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing to examine a bill to preserve Medicaid coverage of non-emergency medical transportation. This bill would require all states to include non-emergent medical transportation as a mandatory benefit for Medicaid beneficiaries. The bill also would require states to implement a prior authorization program for non-emergency medical transportation. While the hearing generally was supportive for the bill, it is unclear when Congress may vote on the bill.

### **NEMSAC Update**

Chief Becker reported that he will be attending the NEMSAC meeting in Washington, DC next week. NEMSAC is expected to discuss both the issue surrounding EMS nomenclature as well as the concept of requiring degrees for entry-level paramedics. Chief Becker hopes to have a representative from AMR in attendance at the meeting to join him in opposing the degree requirement concept.

### **IAFC Board of Directors Update**

Chief Croom reported that the IAFC Board of Directors held a conference call this afternoon. The IAFC Board accepted Chief Croom's nomination for Deputy Chief William Hyde (Rogers, AR) to replace Chief Croom as the IAFC's representative to the CPSE Commission on Professional Credentialing. IAFC President Gary Ludwig will inform the CPSE of Chief Hyde's nomination.

**2020 CFSI Dinner**

The EMS Section Board discussed their plans to attend the 2020 CFSI Dinner. The group has asked Evan to confirm that AMR will purchase a table or two for the group at the dinner. Evan reported that he will check on this and updated the group once he has information from AMR. The EMS Section Board agreed to begin planning for the trip once there is confirmation of AMR's plans for the dinner.

Chief McEvoy adjourned the call at 3:25pm ET