Chairman Steve Eggnatz called the meeting to order at 09:15. Introductions were made to all guests.

**Presentations:** Greg Hohlness from BSOFRD logistics had to cancel his presentation on the drug exchange policy. Debbie Stanfield was there to present two new items from Medtronic. The first item was a Mobile Battery Service Station. This battery charging unit is a portable battery charging device that will charge any Lifepak battery from a 12V DC or 110V AC power source from inside a Rescue or ambulance unit. The charger which conditions the battery during the one hour recharging cycle, is made in Germany and has been used in areas of Europe for over a year.
The cost of the unit is $1,595 and includes a mounting bracket, cables and converter cords. The other item presented by Debbie was the AED defibrillator electrode (pads) for pediatric patients. The electrode pads are for use only with the Lifepak 500 and Lifepak CR Plus models that are made beyond the year August 2002. The pediatric defibrillation dose is reduced by a factor of four when using these pads. Because of lower pediatric dose requirements, the pediatric pads convert delivered energy down to 50, 75, and 86 J. Debbie mentioned that there is a way for AED’s (prior to 2002) to be upgraded to the Biphasic technology, for pediatric pad compatibility.

I. Old Business

The minutes to February’s meeting were approved as read.

Reports:

A. MCI – Julie Downey was present to announce that the MCI trailer purchase order was approved. The first trailer should be ready for delivery within the next 6-8 weeks, or in early May. The three trailers that will be ordered in the future will be given the same (successful) design specification as the first MCI trailer. Other news passed down from Julie, was that each Department will receive two large MCI fanny packs for use on the MCI scene. The large fanny packs will contain the new tags, ribbons and other items necessary to generate the MCI START system. Additional fanny packs can be purchased though American LaFrance for $34.00 a kit. Other items of interest for MCI: triage tags are available for Departments to purchase online at www.triagetags.com for $39.50 a package.

B. CISM – The next workgroup meeting will be held at Don Arturo’s restaurant on March 23rd, 2004. The next peer group meeting will be held at Sunrise headquarters at 19:00 hours, May 19th. The CISM organization will be giving out laminated debriefing and defusing sheets for peer counseling consistency and development purposes. There are still some members of the CISM team who have not taken advantage of obtaining their i.d.. cards from Holy Cross Hospital. Team members are encouraged to obtain their i.d.’s at the security office at any time of the night or day.

C. Trauma Management – George Danz reported no new business.

D. Broward EMS Regional Council – George Danz reported that Mike and Jenny Haygood had a honorary retirement party announcing over twenty years of successful performance.

E. Grants – Barbara Pomeranz is making time adjustments to the 2005 grant process this year. The time frames for grant project leaders this year will begin sooner to facilitate EMS Sub Committee input. Last year, it appears that the committee only gathered for the grant application process one time. This year more time is being allotted in order to favor the submittal process. The grant’s package will be delivered in mid April, hopefully in a pdf (write) format. The deadline to submit the grants application will be June 25th. The
grant applications will then be reviewed by the EMS sub committee to be listed for July’s- meeting. The official ranking will be on Thursday -September 30th, 2004. After the final rankings are approved they will be presented to the Fire Chief’s committee on Friday - October 1st, 2004.

F. Medical Issues Update -

1. Common Medical Issues – Michael Hohl said that that a copy of a draft protocol will be sent to all of the agencies this month. Once reviewed by all the participating agencies, it will then be given the approval for print by Jones and Bartlett publishers.

2. Hospital Diversions – Chairman Eggnatz reported from the Fire Chief’s meeting that certain agencies are not getting the support from area Hospitals in regards to acknowledging a no diversion policy. The Fire Chief’s committee will support any agency in Broward County that has not received this cooperation from any Hospital. Michael Hohl reported that all of the area Hospitals have not had the opportunity to allow the newly endorsed Fire Chief’s policy to trickle down to Hospital floor personnel, but given time – the policy will be adhered to by all.

4. Infection Control – The new infectious disease video has been passed out to all agencies. Andi Thomas will be out performing the lecture series and blood screenings to area Departments for the Hep-C Alert program. Host sites include Sunrise and Pompano included in the first round of training. Dates will be conducted throughout the remainder of the year in other municipalities. Andi Thomas can be contacted at athomas@hep-c-alert.org

5. Airway Committee – Steve Eggnatz reported that the SMART airway grant instructors are conducting the advance airway courses for the various agencies in Broward county.

6. Broward EMS Conference – Bruce Caruso reported that the committee may obtain other speakers for the EMS conference, one Doctor may be giving a lecture on capnography. The committee is still accepting letters and dollars for sponsorship for the conference as well – all vendor and sponsorship monies should be received in full by April 1st, 2004.

7. BCMA – Tom Sheridan passed down information on the research committee and cardiac catheterization. The committee is still looking into patients being transported to a cardiac catheter facility that does not meet inclusion criteria for fibrinolytic therapy. An additional item that the committee is looking at, is a device used as a clotting mechanism for open wounds. Currently the military is successfully utilizing the “Quick Clot” for wound care in the field. The Quick Clot is a powdery substance that comes in a package, ready to be poured onto the open wound, thereby rapidly stopping major and minor bleeding. It is
has not met approval or disapproval by the area trauma surgeons for pre-hospital use at this moment. On a different note, concerns are out regarding JAHCO’s criteria for having hospitals meeting Stroke Center approval.

H. D.O.H report – Lamar Davis reported no new legislative business other than EMT and Paramedic patches will not be issued out by the State any longer. Also, the patches will not be required to be worn on the uniform. It will left up to each Department to decide whether or not they will issue the patch to their personnel. Last, the State is looking at adopting the National Registry test for the EMT and Paramedic exams. The National Registry includes both a practical and a written test for the EMT and Paramedic examinations.

I. TCQI – Bill Huff reported that the committee is reminding everyone to pay attention to coumadin patients that fall and hit their head - to be aware of a potential bleed. These type of injured patients are on the rise statistically – please pass down to all personnel.

J. Domestic Security Task Force Region 7 – no reports.

I. Broward TAC Meeting – no reports.

III. New Business

The alternative date for the EMS Awards Committee meeting will be May 5th 9:00 a.m. at the M.E.’s office. George Danz reported that anyone that is interested in attending the Air Rescue (helicopter) meeting, that it will be held at the Executive Airport on April 7th. Lamar Davis mentioned that there are various openings on the EMS Advisory Council. Lamar reported that there is well over 3.5 million left in the State Matching Grant fund, he encourages anyone that desire grant support to contact him – for guidance purposes in the application itself. He will not be able to review any grant officially coming out of the Broward County area, but will be a strong resource for anyone interested in applying.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Galgano
Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue