Reflections on a Third of a Century in & around EMS

Peter Moyer  MD,MPH
Medical Director
Boston EMS, Fire & Police
Eagles 2009
- NYC  1976 -1984
- Boston  1984-present
NYC

Taught NYC paramedic classes 3-14
- learned how to teach
- enjoyed EMT’s / medics

Chaired NYC EMS Medical Advisory Committee
- gained citywide view
- saw significance of EMS in the medical care continuum
- saw influence of collective physician input
Boston

- 1984-5: medical director Boston EMS
- 1984 – 2000: ed director Boston City Hospital /Boston Medical Center; chair BU School of Medicine Emergency Medicine
  - Boston’s first EM residency and first academic department of EM
Boston Medical Center
2000-present: medical director Boston EMS, Fire & Police

- 911: lost stepson FDNY Lt Manuel DelValle
- 2005: MPH
- Worked with AHA on stroke and STEMI
- Medical travel to Nicaragua, Mozambique, Armenia, Puerto Rico, Germany, India
Lessons

-Vision/Passion/Persistence

***role of Eagles***
Lessons

- Risk taking - being a medical director can be a lonely job
- Moral compass - what is best for the patient
- Personnel:
  - involved in all hiring and promotion of uniform personnel
  - discipline only for attitude
Practice what you preach
Lesson

Teamwork

- team player, builder, leader
- interagency-EMS, Fire, Police
- don’t forget dispatch
- support in times of crisis
July 28, 1993

Dear Dr Moyer,

I want to thank you for the very thoughtful care I was given over the past few weeks. As you probably know, I had the recent tragedy of losing my baby at 12 weeks gestation. This proved to be a more difficult experience than myself or my husband had imagined. Being the faithful surgical resident that I am, I entertained the thoughts of immediately returning to work (even the day we learned that the pregnancy would not survive). It was the level-headed and caring thinking of your staff that allowed and even insisted that I take some time to be with my husband and process this difficult information. They made it easy for me to be human and suffer in a place where no one was making demands on my time. My husband and I were able to spend three days together in Maine after my discharge from the hospital. I can’t tell you how important that was to me and to my marriage.

My return to the Emergency Department was equally sensitive, with attendings, residents and nurses very interested in my well being.

I am convinced this type of behavior stems from the top down and knowing you both personally and by reputation supports this. So, again thank you for your kindness and please note the quality of care your staff administered to me.

Sincerely,
Lessons

- Keep learning
- Be evidence based (BU School of Public Health and BUSM)
- Find mentors
- Have a good time
  - enjoy patients and staff
  - do things you like to do
Lesson: turn crisis into opportunity

- STEMI point of Entry
- Overcrowding/Diversion
- Marathon induced hyponatremia
- Friction between Boston EMS and Fire - single public safety medical director
- My stepson’s death
28 yo woman died in 2002 Boston Marathon of hyponatremia

-just completed thesis on marathon running as grief release

-heart transplanted into 14 yo who ran marathon 2 yrs later
Manuel DelValle, a firefighter with FDNY Engine 5, was killed during the 9/11 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center. His father, Dr. Peter Moyer, is Medical Director for Boston’s Public Safety Agencies.
WMD / HAZMAT TRAININGS
Lessons

- Learn other languages
- Travel