

RAPPAHANNOCK EMS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Port Royal Volunteer Fire Department

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Board Members Present:

John Brandrup, At-Large
Mark Crnarich, At-Large
Susan Dietrich, Caroline County
Kevin Dillard, At-Large
Pat Fitzgerald, Westmoreland County
Mark Garnett, Caroline County
David Garvin, King George County
Donald Gore, Rappahannock County
Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania County
Lori Knowles, Stafford County
Jeffrey McClure, Stafford County
David Moody, King George County
Maurice Moody, Orange County
Louise Rollins, At-Large
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County

Board Members Excused:

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County
William Harrington, Spotsylvania County
Mary Hart, Fauquier County
Phyllis Hurlock, Culpeper County
Fred Messing, At-Large
Bill Ooten, Culpeper County
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

Board Members Absent:

R.J. Arft, Fauquier County
Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg
Nathan Mort, Orange County

Staff Members Present:

Margot Moser, Office Manager
Wayne Perry, Executive Director

Guests Present:

Erin Jenkins, Remington Volunteer Fire Rescue Department
Charles Rollins, Fredericksburg Fire Department (Retired)
Dr. Joe Saita, Rappahannock Area Health District
Diana Wills, Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads, District 10

Agency Presentation:

Chief David Jenkins gave a presentation about Port Royal Volunteer Fire Department. The agency was founded in 1961 with funds from the Ruritan Club. The agency runs both EMS and fire calls and they are in the process of updating their equipment. One new engine was recently purchased. The agency is all volunteer.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM at Port Royal Volunteer Fire Department.

Approval of minutes:

Minutes for the June 17, 2020 meeting approved as presented.

Public Comments/Presentations from Guests:

Kevin introduced a video from Karen Owens, Virginia Office of EMS Emergency Operations Manager. Karen covered updates and general information about the COVID-19 Pandemic along with information on hurricane season. To view the video go to <https://youtu.be/i-npqQdrqpk>

Kevin introduced Dr. Joe Saitta from the Rappahannock Area Health District. Dr. Saitta is a former REMS board member and has come out of retirement to work with RAHD during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Saitta explained that the Rappahannock Area Health District serves all of Planning District 16. Right now there are 15 full-time employees in the district office. There are many Medical Reserve Corps volunteers assisting with contact tracing and other issues that have arisen due to the COVID pandemic.

Dr. Saitta explained that as students are going back to school we are seeing a recurrence of outbreaks across the country. Planning District 16 has done well with avoiding outbreaks, but nursing homes and other long term care facilities are of special concern. The RAHD is working to establish better communication with Social Services and long-term care staff through the area EMS chiefs.

Internal organization for eventual vaccination is underway. There are only twenty nurses on the Health District's staff, so vaccinators will be needed. EMS providers are likely to be tasked.

President's Report—Kevin Dillard

Kevin thanked Dr. Saitta and Karen Owens for their time and contribution to the meeting. He also thanked Susan Dietrich, Port Royal Volunteer Fire Department and Caroline County Board representative, and Port Royal Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the meeting and providing the meal.

Grant Committee:

There was a webinar regarding the RSAF Awards program on August 19 which went into great detail regarding how to complete a grant application. The FARC awards ro5pmfive PMKevin reminded board members that council staff and OEMS are available for

application assistance and feedback. Kevin reminded board members that council staff and OEMS are available for application assistance and feedback. 2020 Regional Awards are given annually and the fall cycle is open until September 15 at .

Regional Awards:

The Council held a Facebook Live event for the award winners and nominees. Numbers were small in order to minimize risk. In the past, award committee membership has remained secret, but some of the feedback received from the board after the last meeting indicated that directors would like to know who is making the awards. This year, Tina Rauch chaired the awards committee. She is the former REMS Executive Director and Mary Washington Healthcare EMS Liaison. The other committee members were Joe Williams, Planning District 9 and current Board member representing Fauquier County; and Jim Schepmoes, Planning District 16 and former REMS Vice President and former Board member were the 2020 Regional Awards committee.

Kevin tasked the committee to answer the following questions:

- How can the REMS Council better promote the Regional EMS Awards Program?
- What can the REMS Council do to make sure that the program is prestigious and credible moving forward?
- How can REMS get the next generation of providers more engaged as well as inspire all to participate in the Regional EMS Awards Program?
- How can we bring more value to the Regional EMS Awards Program so that people have a desire and a want to participate?
- How can REMS bring more pride to the Regional EMS Awards Program?

A copy of the committee suggestions to the questions is attached with these minutes.

Starting with this meeting, Kevin stated he will be asking one or more of the award winners to be present so they can be recognized for their award in front of the board and so that we can hear about why this particular person or agency won the award. This is in an effort to continually promote the regional awards program. Tonight we will hear from the award 2020 regional award recipient for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety. Kevin introduced Lori Knowles of Stafford County Fire and Rescue. **Tonight we will hear from the award 2020 regional award recipient for Outstanding Contribution to EMS Health and Safety. Kevin introduced Lori Knowles of Stafford County Fire and Rescue.**

Lori Knowles addressed the board, explaining measures Stafford County has taken during this COVID pandemic as well as several department accomplishments, to include being the first HeartSafe community in Virginia. The department also placed mile markers along the river to assist in water rescues. Community response to the COVID pandemic has been remarkable and the department has been collecting donations of PPE from the public. They have also been assisting with fit-testing for N95 masks and advanced

operating procedures for decontamination have been put in place for the duration of the pandemic. The department is still performing all of its normal tasks during this time, to include smoke detector inspections, etc. Only four staff members have contracted COVID-19 and these were not from work-related exposures.

Regional Office of EMS Update:

Kevin gave an update regarding the transition into a Regional Office of EMS. The Council will be receiving a new vehicle and trailer soon. Right now the Office of EMS does not have any Full Time Employee positions to be able to transition any additional Council employees to state employment. Kevin suggested a resolution from the Council to go to the state senate regarding adding 10 FTE positions into the staffing at VDH without any financial impact to the budget. Motion from Lori Knowles to submit a resolution to add 10 FTE positions at no additional cost to the Commonwealth. Motion seconded by John Brandrup. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously. Resolution attached to the minutes.

ACTION ITEM—Budget Resolution

APPROVED

Vice President—Donald Gore

By-Laws:

Several suggested changes to the By-Laws were read at the June meeting and distributed with the June minutes for board members' consideration. A memo is attached to these minutes delineating all of the specific changes, to include the addition of possible virtual meetings and the option to meet quarterly rather than bimonthly. Motion from Pat Fitzgerald to accept the changes as presented, seconded by Lori Knowles. With no further discussion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—By-Laws Update

APPROVED

Treasurer's Report—John Brandrup

Finance Committee:

Financials were sent out previously. The Council is still waiting on budget determinations from some localities.

The accountant failed to file for an extension on the Council's 990, resulting in a fine from the IRS. The accountant is working to resolve the situation since they are at fault.

Guidelines and Training Committee:

The next GTC meeting will be on September 8. Nothing further to report.

Secretary's Report—Mark Crnarich

Performance Improvement:

The next committee meeting will be on October 8; Mark has been working on getting automated reports to run as scheduled. The Performance Improvement plan is up for reaffirmation this year. No revisions at this time. There is a motion from the committee to approve the plan as presented; with no further discussion, motion carried. The plan may be found on the REMS website [here](#).

ACTION ITEM—Performance Improvement Plan

APPROVED

Committee Reports

Medical Direction Committee: Kevin Dillard for Dr. Tania White

There was a major overhaul to the protocols this year. A new format featuring color-coding for levels is being implemented. The airway protocols still need to be reformatted

to match the new style and some other small revisions need to occur, but the document is otherwise complete.

Motion from John Brandrup to approve the protocols, seconded by Susan Dietrich. With no further discussion, motion carried. The Regional Protocols can be found [here](#).

ACTION ITEM—Regional Medical Protocols

APPROVED

Personnel Committee: Chief David Moody

The committee has nothing new to report at this time.

EMS Advisory Board: Kevin Dillard for Lori Knowles

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the EMS Advisory Board meeting was cancelled, therefore not report. “[Due to the ongoing pandemic, the EMS Advisory Board meeting was cancelled, therefore not report.](#)”

Staff Report—Wayne Perry

HR/Personnel and Funding Updates

- The council continues to use the electronic timesheet program. Details are also now included in the Council’s OEMS quarterly report to identify areas of work and quantities of manpower devoted to specific projects. If you have questions about a specific project or work that we do for your jurisdiction, please talk with Wayne.
- We have a community service volunteer who is working to digitize our records and documents; we also have a Governor’s School intern who is working on social media for MIH and preparing our Google Suite for regional committee activity.

Regional EMS System

- The REMS Council implemented their COOP on April 1 due to the recommendation from OEMS for staff to work remotely; we continue to operate under the COOP based on guidance from OEMS with REMS Council staff in the office during the week for scheduled appointments.
- The RAHD community health assessment for Caroline County has been postponed due to changes and shifts in manpower due to COVID-19. The REMS Council attended the initial planning meeting and will be participating in the process once the health department resumes the project.
- Philips released a recall and failure notice for the HeartStart MRx Monitor/Defibrillator – Therapy Selector Switch. Details are available in the Drobox.
- We are transitioning to a Google-suite for digital file management and will be using GoToMeeting as our new meeting platform.

- The Southwest EMS Council is hosting a Virtual 5K in partnership with WIZE solutions. It will be held during the week of September 6-12. Registration and additional information is available in the Drobox.
- The Mobile Integrated Healthcare project continues to move forward. We have had several focus groups and Heudia is analyzing call data for mental health, substance use, youth violence/injury, primary care/preventable incidents, and age-related incidents. Meeting minutes are available in the Drobox.
- The REMS Council was invited to participate in development of a healthcare coalition preparedness plan for Northern Virginia. We are working with the coalition and providing feedback.
- The State VHAC meeting was held on July 22. Information from that meeting is available in the Drobox.
- Various documents from Northern and Northwest Hospital Coalition events and meetings are available in the drop box. Staff attended an update August 13. The coalition received a COVID-19 support grant which has led to a discussion about temporary isolation, single-room temporary isolation, and portable structures that are available for decontamination through various vendors.
- There was also an update from VDH on their COVID-19 app. As of the meeting there have been more than 316,000 downloads.
- BOD representatives from PD9 were invited to participate in a survey of the COVID-19 impact on operations.
- Staff participated in a Pediatric Surge Annex training offered through the NW Regional Healthcare Coalition on June 18. They have created a pediatric patient surge plan.
- We have sent out and posted numerous updates on COVID-19. We have been in regular communication with VDH, OEMS, and the VHHA coalitions. Recommendations from the state, CDC, and WHO are available on their websites.
- Several current regional PI data reports are available in Drobox.
- The FBI and Virginia Fusion Center has continued to issue public safety, cyber, and other threats related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Copies of the various documents were available for in-person review at the BOD meeting.
- The staff is participating in the Virginia Opioid Addiction and Virginia Palliative Care ECHO Tele-clinics sponsored by VCU, UVA, and Carillion. The goal of the bi-weekly sessions is to present evidence-based methods to support recovery from opioid use disorders and relate how to integrate these methods with medication therapy. Some of the presentations and materials are included in the Drop Box.

Training and Program Updates

- Training announcements are listed on the REMS website and Facebook page, as well as provided in updates via social media. Please encourage providers to follow us on Twitter, like us on FB, and check the website periodically.
- REMS has provided 31 National Registry test sites – We are holding off on scheduling dates for CY 2020 based on the COVID-19 situation; the requirements due to restrictions from Executive Orders are prohibitive at this point.

- Staff is participating on the EMS Advisory Committee for Germanna Community College's new goal of creating an EMS Education Program.
- We were contacted by FRS asking about doing a project on pelvic binder training. They are working with LifeCare to create and distribute a provider survey.
- The Centers for Disease Control has published information to assist retirement community to help control the spread of COVID-19.
- The REMS Council attended a Department of Labor update sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce regarding business and commercial response to COVID-19. The temporary standard and a sample infectious disease plan is available in the Drobox.
- The fall 2020 RSAF grant cycle is open through September 15. We stand ready to provide technical assistance and feedback on any grant needs of agencies in the region.
- Given the current state of affairs and all of the activity and stress related to COVID-19 we encourage agencies to re-affirm their efforts to support the mental health and wellness of their employees. The CISM team has provided documents on stress management and resilience, which are available in the Drobox. The Council also continues to offer Stress First Aid training. Please contact Wayne to schedule.
- The REMS Council has partnered with the Virginia Center on Agency, Geriatric Education Center at VCU with plans to provide EMS providers with POST, DDNR, and end-of-life education. The original plan was to offer an in-person version of the final training at an EMS Night Out through Mary Washington Healthcare and follow-up with asynchronous training offered through the statewide LMS. They will be previewing the training at the September MIH meeting.

Executive Director Update

- The REMS Council has submitted the first report as a hybrid office of EMS. The report is available in the Drobox.
- We continue to operate under the previous Designated Council MOU. For that contact the quarterly report from 4Q FY20 has been submitted and was accepted. We are currently in 1Q FY21 the report for which is due by the end of October.
- The staff participated in a conference call with a discussion on methods to encourage HeartSafe methods and education during the current COVID-19 restrictions. There are HeartSafe Community resources available online for review and additional links in the Drobox
- We received and executed a contract modification for the FY21 OEMS MOU.
- NW Regional Healthcare Coalition updates and situation reports for the recent protests are available in the Drobox
- The REMS Council has applied for a CARES Act Local Government grant through Stafford County
- Researchers at University of Washington's Baker Lab are using computer models to predict the structure of proteins important to COVID-19 and to produce new mini-proteins to be used as potential therapeutics and diagnostics. It takes a great deal of computational power to accurately model the structure of proteins and design new ones.

- To support this effort, the regional councils are contributing a portion of computing resources to a distributed computing network currently consisting of 3,288,889 computers worldwide.
- Our contribution along with many others will help expedite COVID-19 research to assist in development of therapeutics and possible vaccines.
<https://www.ipd.uw.edu/coronavirus/> ;
<https://www.ipd.uw.edu/2020/02/rosettas-role-in-fighting-coronavirus/>
- The REMS Council participated in a seminar sponsored through the United States Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center on mass attacks in public spaces. AAR and debrief information from several events was provided and details are available on their website.
- The REMS building has had numerous roof leaks in the past. With the large amount of rain, we have had a return of leaks and water damage to the ceiling tiles.
- If you have any feedback or updates on the customer service initiative please let me know. I have not heard of any problems, so I feel confident that the changes that we made are making a positive impact. This continues to be a priority and a standing agenda item for our staff meetings. In addition, the Office of EMS has included a link for customers to provide feedback. This is sent out in the staff's e-mail footers and available on the website. We have very small amounts of data back so far for FY17 or FY18 but it is all positive

EMS at the National Level

- The national database for sentinel and near-sentinel EMS events is up and ready to receive information. There is information about the E.V.E.N.T. program in an attachment on the e-mail and the reports are accessible through the REMS Council website as well. The 2nd and 3rd quarter 2018 Patient Safety Reports and Violence against Paramedics Reports are published on their site.
- Staff participated in the latest FICEMS meeting which was held June 10. Documents referenced in the meeting are available in the Drobox. In addition, the latest information is available online at <https://nemsis.org/>, <https://www.ems.gov/nemsac-meetings.html> and <https://www.ems.gov/> . One significant topic at the meeting was, of course, COVID-19.
- The NAEMT annual report is available online. Earlier this year, NAEMT conducted a survey of members to understand what agencies were doing to prevent and respond to acts of violence against their personnel. The results of this survey were published in the NAEMT National Report on Violence against EMS Practitioners. This report provides a very clear picture of this ongoing challenge and provides recommended actions that EMS agencies can take to protect and support practitioners.
- A summary of appropriation discussions for Phase 4 is included in the Drobox. This includes numerous topics included below in the summary information
- The US Senate has approved legislation to include LODD benefits for first responder deaths related to COVID-19 if they meet certain reporting criteria.
- Recent ASPR TRACIE updates are available in the Drobox.
- H.R. 1309 (Workplace Violence) passed in the House of Representatives on November 21, 2019. It's now currently pending action in the Senate.

- The NHTSA Office of EMS has published the EMS Agenda 2050 and the Education Agenda for the Future. This document portrays a vision for the future of EMS along with companion documents of the updated National EMS Scope of Practice Model and the National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines. These documents will be woven into the regional committee structures as well as the strategic planning moving forward.
 - EMS at the State Level
- Opioid data reports for March are available in the Drop Box
- Our next regular RDG meeting that was scheduled for the beginning of August has been cancelled due restrictions from the Executive Order/Governor. The meeting minutes from our last meeting are available in Drobox. A copy of the last Office of EMS Quarterly report is included in Dropbox and previous reports are available here.
- Governor Northam has appointed Curtis Brown to lead Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- The Board of Health has approved the State EMS Plan.
- The staff is now included in VDH weekly updates and reports to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources (SHHR) – updates are included in the Drop Box for your review.
- There was a COVID-19 Healthcare Coordination Committee meeting on May 27 and the meeting minutes are available in the Drobox.
- Staff participates in the VDH partners weekly conference calls; meeting notes from the events are available in the drop box and/or through this link. Updates can also be found on <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus>
- Results of a recent mass fatality management survey are available in the Drobox.
- Opioid overdose summary reports are posted in the Drobox.
- Draft legislation has been introduced concerning coverage of EMS providers and other from COVID-19. The document is available in the Drobox – please let me know any feedback that you'd like to be passed along.

VDH and OEMS Updates:

- The REMS Council participates in a weekly conference call with OEMS and other VDH stakeholders to share information related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Keep in mind this is a rapidly changing and evolving situation.
- Karen Owens is the POC for ANYTHING related to COVID-19. If the request or question involves another department, such as ACE or regulation and compliance, she will coordinate that communication and provide a collaborative response. Please direct anyone with questions for OEMS to Karen Owens.
- As a reminder, there is access to online CEU through TrainVA.
- Legislation Includes:
 - HB 661 - Workgroup to improve response to exposure prone incidents and the ability to perform post mortem testing for infection with HIV, HBV, HCV.
 - HB 727 and SB 720. Telecommunicator CPR and EMD. Karen Owens and Rich Troshak are leads.
 - HB 1332 - Develop statewide telehealth plan. Dr. Carol Pratt is lead.
 - SB 301 - Develop regulations for transporting patients to 24-hour urgent care facilities in medically underserved areas (MUA). Ron Passmore is lead.

- SB 386 - Disclosure of certain confidential data in EMS Patient Care Information System. Cam Crittenden is lead.
- Sections were added into the infectious disease presumption section for COVID-19 – the draft language is posted in the Drobox.
- There has been legislation introduced regarding the penalty for assault and battery on law enforcement, fire, and EMS providers.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 7 PM on October 21, 2020, at Catlett Volunteer Fire/Rescue.