

RAPPAHANNOCK EMS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Virtual / Online Meeting
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Board Members Present:

John Brandrup, At-Large
Mark Crnarich, At-Large
Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg
Kevin Dillard, At-Large
Pat Fitzgerald, Westmoreland County
Mark Garnett, Caroline County
David Garvin, King George County
Michael Grubb, Spotsylvania County
Phyllis Hurlock, Culpeper County
Michael Jones, City of Fredericksburg
Lori Knowles, Stafford County
Jeffrey McClure, Stafford County
Fred Messing, At-Large
David Moody, King George County
Maurice Moody, Orange County
Nathan Mort, Orange County
William Ooten, Culpeper County
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County

Board Members Absent:

Susan Dietrich, Caroline County
Donald Gore, Rappahannock County
William Harrington, Spotsylvania County
Mary Hart, Fauquier County
Louise Rollins, At-Large

Guests Present:

Patricia Copeland, CISM Team Coordinator
Rick Hooper, Lake of the Woods Volunteer Rescue Squad
Joey King, Pharmacy Committee Chair
Kelsey Rideout, Fredericksburg Fire Department
Matthew Russell, King George County Department of Fire
Forrest Winslow, Pulsara
Scott Winston, Office of EMS
Dave Zaiman, Pulsara

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM on GoToMeeting.

Approval of minutes:

Minutes for the October and December meetings approved as presented.

Public Comments/Presentations from Guests:

Forrest Winslow and Dave Zaiman from Pulsara made a presentation about their software. This program focuses on network communication, easing communication between EMS agencies and hospitals. Slides from the presentation are included with these minutes.

President's Report—Kevin Dillard

Grant Committee:

The Spring cycle is now open and will close March 15. Anyone needing assistance with grants should reach out to the Council or the Office of EMS.

Regional Office of EMS Update:

The state put out a second RFP and presented the Council with additional building options which the committee is currently reviewing and hopes to present to the board soon.

Regional Awards:

The Council has contacted all the regional award winners and asked them to produce a video per the Office of EMS's request. They are currently working on a program to recognize the winners from last year's awards program as Symposium was not held.

Symposium will be occurring in November and recognition will occur at the Symposium banquet as it has in years past.

There are some changes to board membership upcoming; Kevin announced that RJ Arft submitted a letter of resignation so an At-Large position has opened up. Lori Knowles has also retired from Stafford County and will be temporarily replaced by Chief Cardello. Kevin thanked her for her years of service to the board and her hard work with various committees and the Governor's Advisory Board and congratulated her on her retirement.

Lori thanked the board for the support and mentioned she'd been very active with the Council during her time and that she intends to continue to serve in her retirement.

Secretary's Report—Mark Crnarich

Performance Improvement Committee:

The committee has met several times over the last two months and made several small updates to the Trauma Triage Plan. The committee is constrained by the limits of the state Trauma Triage Plan. The committee advises approving the plan as presented.

ACTION ITEM—Trauma Triage Plan

APPROVED

Treasurer’s Report—John Brandrup

Finance Committee:

Financials were sent out previously; John asked for questions and received none. The late filing fee for the 990 has been reversed.

Guidelines and Training Committee:

CLIA waiver agreements are due in March. Please encourage agencies to return the signed agreement.

Committee Reports

CISM Committee: Patricia Copeland

The team remains busy. Trisha mentioned several training opportunities are upcoming and if you have training needs to let her know. Kevin thanked the team for their active support of the EMS community.

Incident and Threat Mitigation: Phyllis Hurlock

The Regional MCI Plan and Surge Plan are up for approval with no revisions at this time.

ACTION ITEM—Regional MCI and Surge Plans **APPROVED**

Medical Direction Committee: Dr. Tania White

Regional Medical Direction met last week and discussed the Whole Blood products pilot program as well as updates on COVID status. UVA has had an uptick in cases though to be secondary to the new variant strain.

ACTION ITEM—Regional Patient Care Protocol Update **APPROVED**

ACTION ITEM—Whole Blood Pilot Program **APPROVED**

Personnel Committee: Chief David Moody

The committee has nothing new to report at this time.

Pharmacy Committee: Joey King

The committee continues to meet regularly with a quorum and work closely with the hospitals. There is also currently a subcommittee working to prepare for the revisions to the DEA guidelines.

Strategic Planning: Fred Messing

The committee met recently to discuss the progress in the OEMS transition and the current situation with COVID. A follow up meeting will be held in April and revisions will continue to the Strategic Plan.

Heart and Stroke Committee: Kevin Dillard for Greg Leitz

John Brandrup made a motion to approve the Regional Stroke Triage Plan as presented which was seconded by Jeffrey McClure. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—Regional Stroke Triage Plan

APPROVED

EMS Advisory Board: Lori Knowles

No 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.
- The spring 2021 RSAF Grant Cycle opened on February 1. The REMS Council remains available as a technical resource should you have any needs or questions while preparing your grant.
- The VHHA Hospital Status Grid has been removed from public access. You must now create an account and sign-in in order to access this information. As such, the link on the REMS Council website was removed.

- The Mobile Integrated Healthcare project continues to move forward. We have had several meetings and documents and minutes are available in the Drobox.
- 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; additional resources are also included at the end of this staff report.
- Several current regional PI data reports are available in Drobox.
- The most recent Heroin and Opioid Report is available in the Dropbox.
- The FBI and Virginia Fusion Center has continued to issue public safety, cyber, and other threats related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Wayne will have copies of the various documents available for in-person review if needed.

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.
- The REMS Council has become a designated webcast site for VILT through the Thomas Jefferson EMS Council. Training announcements will be posted on the website and Cat 1 CEU will be available for attending in person at the REMS Council training center.
- The Regional Training and Simulation Center continues to be used intermittently by hospital programs such as TNCC and ENPC, as well as community and EMS agencies for various testing and hiring processes. Enhanced cleaning measures are in place to comply with the current requirements for single-use between decontamination.
- 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 and we continue to work with the CAC for the Rappahannock Community College Paramedic Program. Documents and meeting minutes are in the Drop Box.
- 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.

Executive Director Update

- Blood Draws for Law Enforcement continue to be a concern, but there have been no particular updates since the last discussion.

- We continue to operate under the previous Designated Council MOU. For that contact the quarterly report from 2Q FY21 was submitted and accepted. We are currently in 3Q FY21 the report for which is due by the end of April.
 - PLEASE don't forget the quarterly meeting requirements so that we don't have to pay a penalty.
 - PLEASE submit meeting minutes and related documents in a timely manner. We are not able to submit them and have them posted unless we receive them.
- Community Relief Fund of the Community Foundation update. We continue to operate under a grant to partially fund the Heudia AccessMeCare app. We applied for additional funding and it was not approved.
- We were contacted by the local RUW to calm any concerns that the news reports on the national RUW do not impact the local agency and operations.
- We still have antigen testing kits available for any agency that would like to use them. There is a process, and the agency OMD must be involved in creating the process, but if you're interested contact the REMS Council.
- The REMS ROEMS was asked to present to the VDH stakeholder's group meeting regarding the MIH-CP program. This was done on February 2 and seemed to be well received.
- There were several individuals serving on the REMS Council CISM team that didn't have access to COVID-19 vaccine through other means (retired or non-healthcare professions). The council coordinated with the RAHD to have them included in the local vaccine offerings.
- The staff attended a webinar highlighting a program to [connect Veterans to care](#) using a MIH-CP model.
- Hampton Roads has received new Emergency Medical Response Vehicles and are updating their MCI buses which are staged around the region.
- OEMS has requested that we provide a weekly update on the status of EMS related to COVID-19 operations. If you have anything that you'd like for the council to submit with the report, please let us know.
- The Office of the Attorney General has issued guidance on liability and risk management for EMS personnel working at health department PODS. There is also a new MOU for shared response to a vaccination event as of January 24. Both of these documents are available in the DropBox.
- The REMS staff attended the NEMSAC meeting on February 10 and 11. Here is the [agenda](#) for the meeting and the discussions included updates from the committees as well as advisory documents on various topics.
- 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. We are not investing any additional funding in repairs or trouble-shooting in anticipation of the upcoming move to a VDH facility.
- There are options for Just in Time (JIT) Training for utilizing EMS providers in vaccination programs available on the COVID-19 resources page of EMS.gov.

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 quarter 2018 Patient Safety Report and Violence against Paramedics Report is published on their site, here is the link to the [Third Quarter Patient Safety Event Report](#).
- Recent ASPR TRACIE updates are available in the Drobox.
- The National EMS Management Association has released a 2020 EMS Trend Report, which is available in the Drobox. The Council is adding this as a discussion item to nearly all of the regional committees. If there are topics or issues that you feel would be a priority, please let the staff know.
- H.R. 1309 (Workplace Violence) passed in the House of Representatives on November 21, 2019. It's now currently pending action in the Senate where it has been read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, education, Labor, and Pensions.
- Multiple dark net vendors have been identified to be selling counterfeit COVID-19 vaccines as well as other international vaccines that have not received FDA approval.
- 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

- The RDG meeting scheduled for February was cancelled due restrictions from the pandemic; the RDG is meeting virtually bi-weekly with OEMS and with the RDG on the opposing week. A copy of the last Office of EMS Quarterly report is included in Dropbox and previous reports are available [here](#).
- The Virginia Fusion Center has issued their threat assessment for 2021.
- Virginia SB 1445 was enrolled February 8 and sent to the Governor in February 11. It was approved by the Governor and became effective on February 15, 2021.
- 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>
- The meeting minutes from the various state committees – although meetings are currently on hold due to the pandemic – are [available here](#).

VDH and OEMS Updates:

- The REMS Council staff is now included in VDH weekly updates and reports to the Secretary of Health and Human Resources (SHHR) – updates are included both in the staff report and also in the Drop Box for your review.
- OEMS is hiring a [trauma and critical care program manager](#).
- Here is a link to the latest VPHIB data submission and validity score reports, including [agency compliance with VPHIB reporting](#).
- The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has reported a 60.5% increase in drug-related fatal OD, a 6.6% increase in homicides, and a 14.1% decrease in motor vehicle deaths from 2019 to 2020.
- Agency #640 – “Community Rescue” – has gone out of business and is no longer an agency.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 7 PM on April 21, 2021 at Spotsylvania Company 1, 7200 Courthouse Commons Boulevard.