

RAPPAHANNOCK EMS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Spotsylvania Company 1, GoToMeeting
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Board Members Present:

John Brandrup, At-Large
Joseph Cardello, Stafford County
Mark Crnarich, At-Large
Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg
Susan Dietrich, Caroline County
Kevin Dillard, At-Large
Pat Fitzgerald, Westmoreland County
Mark Garnett, Caroline County
David Garvin, King George County
Michael Grubb, Spotsylvania County
Mary Hart, Fauquier County
Phyllis Hurlock, Culpeper County
Jeffrey McClure, Stafford County
Bud Moody, Orange County
David Moody, King George County
William Ooten, Culpeper County
Louise Rollins, At-Large
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County

Board Members Absent:

Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg
Nathan Mort, Orange County

Board Members Excused:

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County
Donald Gore, Rappahannock County
William Harrington, Spotsylvania County
Fred Messing, At-Large

Staff Members Present:

Margot Moser, Office Manager
Wayne Perry, Regional Program Manager

Guests Present:

Patricia Copeland, CISM Team Coordinator
Joey King, Regional Pharmacy Committee Chair
Kelsey Rideout, Fredericksburg Fire Department
Erin Sutton, Chief Deputy, Virginia Department of Emergency Management

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM at Spotsylvania
FREM Company 1.

Approval of minutes:

Minutes for the October and December meetings approved as presented.

Public Comments/Presentations from Guests:

Chief Erin Sutton from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management spoke to the
board about the role of VDEM and their recent activities. The organization has been

activated for four hundred days due to the COVID pandemic. There has been a reorganization at VDEM to spread duties out; there is now a Finance Bureau, Mission Support Bureau, Disaster Services, and VEST (Virginia Emergency Support Team) and a roadmap for moving forward has been created.

Chief Sutton may be reached via e-mail at erin.sutton@vdem.virginia.gov or via phone at 804-516-5779.

President's Report—Kevin Dillard

Kevin thanked Chief Mike Grubb and Spotsylvania FREM for hosting the meeting and providing the meal.

Four members have been renewed by their jurisdictions and need to be ratified: Chief Cardello, Chief Fitzgerald, Chief Bud Moody, and Director Bill Ooten. Motion from Scott Davis, seconded by John. With no further discussion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—Ratification of Members

APPROVED

There will be several At-Large positions up for renewal or replacement in June. People may apply by submitting a resume and letter of intent by one week before the meeting (June 9).

Grant Committee:

Ten grants were submitted from our region. There was a total request of \$14.8 million; usually there is about \$3.4-4 million to award. Awards will be announced in July.

Regional Office of EMS Update:

We have made progress towards getting a new building at 250 Executive Center Parkway; located near Mary Washington Hospital. Currently OEMS is working with the Division of General Services and Real Estate Services to finalize a lease agreement. The lease will be for fifteen years. Once this has been signed, Kevin will notify the board about a projected moving date.

Regional Awards:

Please submit your nominations for this year's Regional Awards. The deadline will be June 4. OEMS recently held an online event to honor last year's Governors Awards winners.

National EMS Memorial Service:

This year's service will be at the Hyatt Crystal City from July 23-25. It will be a hybrid service, so online attendance is possible. 135 people will be honored this year.

Kevin made a recommendation that the board move to quarterly meetings in light of the by-laws revisions. Meetings would be held after Governor's Advisory Board meetings and allow members to receive the best information possible. Kevin entertained a motion; Chief David Moody made a motion to move to a quarterly meeting schedule starting July 1, seconded by Scott Davis. With no further discussion from the board, motion carried. The meetings for FY22 will be August 18, November 17, February 16, and May 18.

ACTION ITEM—Board Meetings on Quarterly Schedule

APPROVED

Secretary's Report—Mark Crnarich

Performance Improvement Committee:

The next meeting is May 13.

Treasurer's Report—John Brandrup

Finance Committee:

Financials were sent out previously; John asked for questions and received none. Only two localities have responded to funding requests thus far; John asked that board members try to push that through.

Guidelines and Training Committee:

The committee met on March 9 and discussed the Whole Blood Pilot Program. Currently the committee is looking for funding for this program.

Committee Reports

CISM Committee: Patricia Copeland

The team remains busy. Trisha hopes for the team to be involved in the National EMS Memorial Service. On October 9 the team will be working with Stafford County to host the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Incident and Threat Mitigation: Phyllis Hurlock

The committee met on February 18. Had a discussion about downsizing the MCI Plan to increase its utility. Mark Garnett, Victor Podbielski, and Pete Orioles will be working to create a draft plan for the committee meeting May 12.

Medical Direction Committee: Dr. Tania White

Nothing to report; the next meeting should be in the next month or so.

Personnel Committee: Chief David Moody

The committee met last Wednesday and had much discussion about the transition of the regional office positions. The committee reviewed a variety of VDH Employee Work Profiles. There were two categories: performance improvement specialist and technical resource specialist. If the Council were to create its own custom employee work profiles, it may take eighteen months for review and could possibly not be approved after that timeframe. At this point, the committee is planning to submit for three full-time positions and two part-time positions. The state is having some discussions about multiple Regional Offices sharing an employee/FTE.

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.

There has been an addition to the Narcotics SOG; an item requiring quarterly inventory of drugs by agencies to be reported to the Council.

ACTION ITEM—Medication SOG	APPROVED
ACTION ITEM—Restock Exchange Agreement	APPROVED

Heart and Stroke Committee: Chief Joe Williams

Joe Williams introduced himself as the new chair of the committee; Greg Leitz had to step down due to work obligations.

Stroke Smart of Alexandria sent Alan Stillman to do a presentation about stroke indicator magnets to be distributed to the public through the Council.

Joe thanked Linda for her many years of service and dedication to the Heart and Stroke Committee. She has been preparing the minutes while the committee continues to look for a secretary.

Two additional changes have been made to the Regional Stroke Plan. The stroke screening tool FAST was changed to BEFAST. CPSS/FAST was also changed to BEFAST.

Motion from John Brandrup to approve the plan as presented. Seconded by David Garvin. With no further discussion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—Stroke Plan Updates	APPROVED
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EMS Advisory Board: Kevin Dillard

May 7 will be the next Advisory Board meeting. Only members and staff support will be allowed to attend in person. The Office of EMS website has information about how to observe.

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 are working with OEMS on the development of employee work profiles for additional positions through the regional office of EMS.

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 2020 Governor's EMS Awards presentation was made virtually on March 20.
- There was a presentation from the Emergency Preparedness Director of the VHHA regarding a PPE exchange network. This presentation and the exchange information documentation from VHHA is in the DropBox.
- The Mobile Integrated Healthcare project continues to move forward. We have had several meetings and documents and minutes are available in the Drobox. In addition, we are having conversations with a local hospital to start a pilot program in PD16.
- Several current regional PI data reports are available in Drobox.
- EpiRite syringes are NOT able to be stocked by the hospitals. If an agency is interested in ordering, please contact the REMS Council and we'll provide the information for obtaining the item through Amazon.
- The most recent Heroin and Opioid Report (January 2021) 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. I 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 is 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. Their next training event discusses responding to patients with Autism and will occur April 26.
- The Regional Training and Simulation Center continues to be requested 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 2021 based on the COVID-19 situation; the requirements due to restrictions from Executive Orders are prohibitive at this point.
- The REMS Council hosted, at the request of MIH-CP stakeholders, a panel discussion on primary care access during the pandemic.
- 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.
- There will be a presentation on community response and drone technology to improve outcomes from rural and remote cardiac arrest on Friday April 23. [Click here to register and learn more information.](#)
- On May 11, EMSWorld is hosting a webinar on High-Performance CPR (An Insider's Story).
- 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

- 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 finalizing the 3Q FY21 report 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.
- Staff attended a presentation on “Healthcare System Cybersecurity Response” and the presentation materials are available as is the recording from the event.
- Staff regularly attends the Northwest and Northern Virginia Healthcare Coalition events and meetings, including a Burn Surge tabletop drill April 8. Documents related to the meetings for are available in the DropBox.
- Mary Washington Healthcare announced a leadership change effective April 1. The new MWH ED Nurse Manager is Adam Funke and Wheezie Rollins is now the LHED Nurse Manager.
- We still have COVID-19 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 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.

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 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.
- The US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) is providing an April 27 encore presentation of their March presentation on Averting Targeted School Violence. It is a presentation that reviews their report on disrupted plots against K-12 schools.
- In the new National Scope of Practice – IM injections are considered standard daily practice at the EMT level. Other changes include the addition of immunizations and the removal of SGA at the EMT level. AEMT has been changed to “all medications as approved by their EMSP”. Paramedic level has not changed. This change has created discussions about the need for a VEMSES again that elaborates or expands upon the NEMSES. TCC and MDC are going to take this up as an agenda item.
- The National EMS Memorial Service will be July 23-25 at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City.

- The Center’s for Medicaid and Medicare Services’ Center for Clinical Standards and Quality has issued an update for Appendix Z of the State Operations Manual. The update is included in the DropBox.
- CoAEMSP is extending the original guidelines associated with CAAHEP Standards III.A.2 and III.C.3 through December 31, 2021.

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.
- Staff participates in the VDH partners’ weekly conference calls; meeting notes from the events are available in the drop box. Updates can also be found on <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus>
- At the last MDC meeting, the scope of practice was amended to include EMT being able to administer Narcan AND Epi in clearly-marked dose-limiting syringes. Further discussion pending about expanding to other medications.
- There was a significant debate about the size and role of VILT training in Virginia and more will be coming from TCC and/or MDC in future meetings.
- The meeting minutes from the various state committees – although many meetings are currently on hold due to the pandemic – are available online.

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.
- As a reminder, if an agency has no incidents to report for patient contact/transport, they still must submit “no incidents” to OEMS.
- Consolidated Testing for BLS providers has been suspended through 2021. OEMS and the TCC are reviewing potential changes for if/when this testing returns.
- Adam Harrell was nominated for the 2021 StateScoop 50 Award: State Up & Comer.
- Wayne Berry has announced his retirement, effective June 1, 2021. Cam Crittenden has left OEMS and taken a position with VCU Health.
- A Public Health Emergency was declared 11/21/2016 in response to the opioid crisis. It has been amended and re-issued; a copy of the new document is available in the DropBox.
- Make sure that your agency has a Virginia BOP CSR in order to be in compliance. It cannot be a partial or limited version – must be the COMPLETE certificate that allows for storage of scheduled VI items.
- VDH has issued a press release stating that the Commonwealth will pause the administration of the J&J vaccine until the investigation into several cases of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis with thrombocytopenia is complete.

- The Virginia EMS Scholarship is in its 3rd year and working towards the FY22 program (4th year). A new scholarship program will start 01 June 2021.
- OEMS has issued the first EMR scholarship and will be exceeding \$1M mark in money allocated for paramedic programs. The scholarship program has an established \$2M budget that is shared amongst EMR, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic programs.
- OEMS had suspended collection efforts during the pandemic for students in default of their contracts, but collection efforts have now resumed to recoup funds for future students.
- Education Coordinator candidates' eligibility have been extended through June 30, 2022.
- Effective July 1, 2021 no PAPER processing will be accepted at OEMS, this included CEU cards, course announcements, etc. Everything will occur digitally.
- Included in the DropBox is a draft Executive Order which states, in part:
 - Within 120 days of the date of this Order, all state agencies and their concessioners shall discontinue buying, selling or distributing disposable plastic bags, single use plastic and polystyrene food service containers, plastic straws and single use plastic water bottles that are not for medical, public health or public safety used
 - Within 180 days, all state agencies shall develop plans to eliminate the buying, selling or distribution of non-medical single use plastic and expanded polystyrene objects.
- Provisional NREMT testing must occur by 30 June 2021 to obtain provisional certification; otherwise, students will have to wait until they take a psychomotor test to gain certification. Any CE completed during provisional certification will be reset upon gaining full certification. Any hours not obtained during the certification period will not be eligible towards NREMT recertification. The psychomotor exam date will be full certification date.
- ESO was awarded the contract for the Virginia's statewide patient care record. The transition starts now and will become complete on June 30. Information on the partnership with ESO and Virginia is available here. One of the modules includes an alerting feature for hospital notification. If you are interested in other modules beyond the state contract, here is a link to a form to contact ESO. If you an interest in their fire module, please review their 2021 Fire Service Index.

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 June 16, 2021.