

RAPPAHANNOCK EMS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mountain View Rescue Squad, GoToMeeting
Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Board Members Present:

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County
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
Donald Gore, Rappahannock County
Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania County
Mary Hart, Fauquier County
Phyllis Hurlock, Culpeper County
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg
Joey King, At-Large
Jeffrey McClure, Stafford County
Fred Messing, At-Large
David Moody, King George County
Maurice Moody, Orange County
William Ooten, Culpeper County
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County

Board Members Absent:

William Harrington, Spotsylvania County
Nathan Mort, Orange County
Louise Rollins, At-Large

Board Members Excused:

Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

Staff Members Present:

Margot Moser, Office Manager
E. Wayne Perry, Regional Program Manager

Guests Present:

Pamela Bertone, EMS Education Program Director, Germanna Community College
Adam Harrell, Associate Director, Virginia Department of Health, Office of EMS
Lori Knowles, White Oak Rescue Squad
Daniel Linkins, Regional Program Manager, Central Shenandoah EMS Council
Kelsey Rideout, Fredericksburg Fire Department
Scott Winston, Assistant Director, Virginia Department of Health, Office of EMS

Agency Presentation:

Assistant Chief Rebecca Raines made comments regarding the agency. Mountain View Rescue Squad began in 1982. Members originally ran from home then eventually rented space in the Community League building. The agency became incorporated in 1973 and purchased their first unit. In March of 1984 they added their first ALS unit. In September of 1986, the agency bought the land their current building is on.

In 1993, the agency completed an addition to give the members more space with bunk rooms, offices, a training room, and a day room. The agency also has a support unit and a rehab unit. Prior to the pandemic, the agency used BINGO to help financially support the agency but have had to put that on hold because of COVID.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM at Mountain View Rescue Squad.

Approval of minutes:

Minutes for the June 16, 2021 meeting approved as presented.

Public Comments/Presentations from Guests:

Pamela Bertone, Program Director for Germanna Community College EMS Education spoke to the board. The program is in the process of accreditation, and they are working to ensure that their program is designed to serve their stakeholders. Pam asked if the board would be willing to respond to surveys regarding scheduling needs. The program is also looking for agencies, especially volunteer, who would be willing to precept students.

Kevin recognized Lori Knowles for her years of service to the REMS Council Board of Directors by presenting her with a plaque. Lori said that it has been her pleasure to serve on the board.

Kevin then introduced Scott Winston, the Assistant Director from the Virginia Department of Health, Office of EMS. Scott expressed his pleasure at working with Wayne and Daniel as the new Program Managers for the Regional Offices of EMS.

Kevin also introduced Adam Harrell, Associate Director of the Office of EMS. Adam stated that they are happy to be working with us to create a Regional Office of EMS and support our distance meeting needs. He reminded everyone that Symposium registration is open and rooms are available. The RSAF cycle is also about to close on September 15; he reminded the board that there is special assistance for hardware replacement for those agencies that need to get their hardware compatible with ESO.

Daniel Linkins spoke to the board next, stating that he is excited to work collaboratively to synchronize processes with the REMS Council and other Councils as they come on board.

Grant Committee:

The fall grant cycle opened August 1; the deadline for applications is September 15. Some jurisdictions in Virginia do not have EMD for dispatch centers. While 100% of the REMS region does, some in the state do not and that is currently funding priority. He also

encouraged the Board to remind agencies to utilize the Council to help guarantee the quality of their applications.

Regional Office of EMS Update:

As of this week, the Council now has a fully executed lease with 250 Executive Center Parkway. The landlord will be notifying us soon when the necessary improvements are completed and we can take full possession of the property. Kevin thanked Adam and Scott for their assistance.

National EMS Memorial Service:

The National EMS Memorial Service was held July 24 in Arlington. 144 EMS providers were honored.

Nominating Committee: Donald Gore

No report.

Secretary's Report—Mark Crnarich

Performance Improvement Committee:

The PI committee attempted to meet on August 12 but did not have a quorum. The next meeting will be on November 11.

Treasurer's Report—John Brandrup

Finance Committee:

Financials were sent out previously; John asked for questions and received none. Only two localities remain to give their funding determinations, Westmoreland County and Culpeper.

Guidelines and Training Committee:

The charter has been updated and approved by the committee. It is an action item before the board tonight. Motion carried with no discussion.

ACTION ITEM—Updated Guidelines & Training Committee Charter APPROVED

The committee also updated the ALS Release Program. Motion carried with no discussion.

ACTION ITEM—Revisions to ALS Release Program

APPROVED

Committee Reports

CISM Committee: Patricia Copeland

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

Incident and Threat Mitigation: Phyllis Hurlock

The committee will meet the day after the board. Victor Podbielski has been working on shortening the MCI plan and sent two drafts to the committee for review tomorrow. It will be brought to the next board meeting.

Medical Direction Committee: Wayne Perry for Dr. Tania White

COVID cases are continuing to rise and those that are unvaccinated have a higher rate of hospitalization and complications.

The state medical direction committee met and discussed DEA regulations and how medications will be stored; all agencies are encouraged to obtain a CSR. The committee also discussed a process for EMS providers with previous substance abuse struggles to reenter the system. There was also discussion regarding the appropriate level of THC for providers; the committee determined that providers should not be positive at work and that providers should not be altered while on the job at all.

Personnel Committee: Chief David Moody

The staff transition to state employees is moving forward. Wayne notified the committee on August 7 that the Performance Improvement Specialist position is to be listed. Some errors were made on the initial announcement and it has since been corrected. Please encourage people to apply.

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. The committee is also offering on-site “trial” inspections for agencies who are interested. Please contact him or Wayne if interested.

Strategic Planning Committee: Fred Messing

The next meeting is tentatively set for September 14, most likely virtual.

Heart and Stroke Committee: Chief Joe Williams

The committee met and discussed middle or high school education program regarding stroke awareness. There is a volunteer at Lake of the Woods who is interested in heading up the program and the committee is working on coordinating this.

The committee has a meeting scheduled for September 1. Joe is working on getting more participation from other localities and hospitals.

There are stroke awareness magnets available to agencies at the Council offices.

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 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.
- Orange County is starting a pre-hospital whole blood program on July 1.
- There is a consensus statement from the American Academy of Neurology, AHA, and several other entities regarding regional stroke destination plans for pre-hospital stroke

disposition. This has been forwarded to the heart and stroke committee for review and is available in the DropBox.

- The document that was sent out regarding the May 2021 Colonial Pipeline disruption is available in the DropBox.
- Matt Cronin has resigned as the Exercise and Training Coordinator for the NWRHCA effective May 5.
- 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.
- 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 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 last training event was on the topic of chest trauma and was held on June 7.
- 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 will be hosting the next panel discussion for MIH-CP on the topic Stages of Caring on June 17. Here is a link if you'd like to attend.
- 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.
- The staff attended a presentation on community response and drone technology to improve outcomes from rural and remote cardiac arrest on Friday April 23. We will be reviewing information to determine if any such technology could be leveraged in the region. The NVEMS Council, for example, has considered the use of drones to drop supplies such as blood products at scenes.

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 preparing the 4Q FY21 report which is due by the end of July.
 - 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 regularly attends the Northwest and Northern Virginia Healthcare Coalition events and meetings. The June 2021 meeting was cancelled and a newsletter was issued; available in the DropBox.
- The RUW conducted a survey to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on families and ALICE; available in the DropBox.
- EMS1 has reported that hacking attempts on healthcare agencies saw an increase of 9,800% in 2020.
- Program Reps and staff from OEMS have been using the regional training and simulation center for various meetings.
- Staff attended the newly created Northern Virginia Resuscitation and Time Sensitive Coalition (NOVA ReTSCo) which brought together hospital personnel to discuss trauma, stroke, and STEMI care. They will continue to meet quarterly. The agenda from this meeting, their PI Trauma meeting minutes, and the NVERS and NVHA newsletter are available in the DropBox.
- 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. However, MWHC felt that some repairs were needed. They have sent over personnel from a roofing company and they have made some additional repairs to the roof; we have already been billed for the repairs.

EMS at the National Level

- 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 National EMS Memorial Service will be July 23-25 at the Hyatt Regency in Crystal City.

EMS at the State Level

- The RDG meeting for May was held in a hybrid format due restrictions from the pandemic; the RDG is still 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 online.
- Mike Miller is no longer a contractor with OEMS.
- 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>
- 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.
- 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.
- Effective July 1, 2021 no PAPER processing will be accepted at OEMS, this included CEU cards, course announcements, etc. Everything will occur digitally.
- Tiffany Ford will be the new VDH Deputy Commissioner for Administration, starting on June 10. Ms. Ford comes from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, where she serves as its Director for the Office of Management Services. Starting May 25, Dr. Jaberri will be the Chief Deputy Commissioner of Community Health Services and Bob Hicks will be the Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and Preparedness.
- 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. 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 8:08 PM.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held in Planning District 9 on November 17, 2021.