

RAPPAHANNOCK EMS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Virtual / Online Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Board Members Present:

John Brandrup, At-Large
Mark Crnarich, At-Large
Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg
Susan Dietrich, Caroline County
Kevin Dillard, At-Large
Patricia Fitzgerald, Westmoreland County
Mark Garnett, Caroline County
David Garvin, King George County
Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania County
Mary Hart, Fauquier County
Phyllis Hurlock, Culpeper County
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg
Lori Knowles, Stafford County
Jeffrey McClure, Stafford County
Fred Messing, At-Large
David Moody, King George County
Bud Moody, Orange County
Nathan Mort, Orange County
Louise Rollins, At-Large
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

Board Members Excused:

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County
Donald Gore, Rappahannock County
William Harrington, Spotsylvania County

Board Members Absent:

R.J. Arft, At-Large
Bill Ooten, Culpeper County
Joe Williams, Fauquier County

Staff Members Present:

Vivian Delts, Regional Field Coordinator
Margot Moser, Office Manager
Wayne Perry, Regional Program Manager

Guests Present:

Allison Balmes-John, Public Information Officer, RAHD, Virginia Department of Health
Dr. Denise Bonds, Acting Health Director, RAHD, Virginia Department of Health
Edward Connors, CEO, Heudia Health
Patricia Copeland, CISM Team Coordinator
Joey King, Pharmacy Committee Chairperson
Jacob Parcell, Fredericksburg Rescue Squad
Christina Rauch, EMS Coordinator, Mary Washington Healthcare
Dr. Reese, Mary Washington Healthcare
Kevin Rexrode, King George County Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services
Dr. Joseph Saitta, COVID-19 Incident Commander, RAHD, Virginia Department of Health
Richard Szymczyk, LifeCare Medical Transports
Scott Winston, Assistant Director, Virginia Office of EMS

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 meeting to be approved at the next meeting. Technical difficulties caused issues with recording and board members were asked to e-mail reports and to correct attendance information.

Public Comments/Presentations from Guests:

Dr. Denise Bonds, Acting Director for the Rappahannock Area Health District, gave a presentation to the board regarding COVID vaccinations. Slides from this presentation have been included with the minutes. Vaccination of healthcare providers should start next week through Mary Washington Healthcare with Health Department assistance. PODs will be set up and the details are still being worked out.

Ed Connors from Heudia gave a presentation regarding AccessMeCare. AccessMeCare allows providers the ability to navigate resources and make appropriate referrals for individuals as well as share other pertinent information such as information regarding disaster preparedness or protocols. The goal is to strengthen collaborative linkages between respective organizations through REMS MIH-CP program to improve community health.

President's Report—Kevin DillardGrant Committee:

FARC met on December 3; over \$17M in funds were requested and a little more than \$4.7M was available for funding. The recommendations from the committee will now go on to the health commissioner for final approval and awards will be announced around January 1. The spring cycle will open the first part of 2021 and close March 15.

Regional Office of EMS Update:

The Council took delivery of a car and a pickup truck on Monday. The Council also now has use of a trailer. Kevin thanked our partners at the Office of EMS for their assistance in acquiring these pieces of equipment.

The building committee got together a week ago and toured several locations identified during the RFP process. At the end of the day, the committee had a unanimous consensus on a location in Fredericksburg that will meet its needs. Negotiations will be continuing and Kevin will be providing an update soon. It's in a very similar location, less than a mile from the current office.

Regional Awards:

The Council is continuing to recognize some outstanding people and agencies in the Council area. Four were invited tonight to introduce themselves and talk about the awards they received.

Kevin Rexrode was awarded the Outstanding Prehospital Provider award. He became a volunteer in 2011 with King George and within two years had attended basic fire and EMS training. In another year he became a paramedic. In 2019, he became a flight paramedic with MedStar. He's been recognized as employee of the year with King George. Mr. Rexrode thanked the Council and stated that he hoped to have an impact on the younger providers coming up so that they may one day receive similar recognition.

Dr. Reese received the award for Physician with Outstanding Contribution to EMS. He was nominated by and is Operational Medical Director for LifeCare Medical Transports. Dr. Reese has also served as Regional Medical Director in the past. He was a large part of creating the emergency stroke protocol allowing use of TPA. He has been an integral part in the local implementation of the Airvo 2. Dr. Reese spoke regarding his experiences in the REMS Council system and seeing it developed from a small town system to a system with brilliant, innovative programs. He noted that programs being implemented in the Council area are comparable to those in more urban areas based upon speaking with colleagues from Northern Virginia or Charlottesville. Kevin thanked Dr. Reese on behalf of the Council for his years of service.

LifeCare Medical Transports received the Innovation Excellence in EMS due to their progress with the AIRVO 2 and the emergency stroke protocols. Richard Szymczyk spoke to the group and noted that the use of the AIRVO 2 has been essential in the fight against COVID in preventing patients from requiring the use of a ventilator. Joey King commented that their partnerships with the Council and Mary Washington Healthcare have allowed LifeCare to provide quality patient care.

Jacob Parcell received the Outstanding EMS Leadership award. Jacob continually sets himself apart as a leader of the Fredericksburg Rescue Squad and authored the agency's strategic plan. He's also responsible for coordinating special events and he also leads the agency's response and preparedness efforts in the response to COVID-19. Mr. Parcell commented that a diverse group of individual working diligently can have a real positive impact as has been seen at his agency and with the board.

Kevin noted that the last item under his report was the FY2020 Annual Report. Jeffrey McClure made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Bud Moody. With no further discussion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—FY2020 Annual Report

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 PD 16 funding application is up for approval. John Brandrup made a motion to approve it as presented. Chief Jones seconded the motion. With no further discussion from the board, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—PD16 Funding Application

APPROVED

Guidelines and Training Committee:

No updates at this time.

Secretary's Report—Mark Crnarich

Performance Improvement:

VPHIB ReportWriter has started working again and producing report results. The committee will be working to update the Trauma Triage Plan prior to the February meeting.

Committee Reports

CISM Committee: Patricia Copeland

The team remains busy and has recruited three new members. Kevin thanked the team for their active support of the EMS community.

Heart and Stroke Committee: Greg Leitz

The committee recently met with Pulsara – an app that allows for a quick stroke assessment that can be sent to the receiving facility and starts a last known well time, etc., and allows the provider to follow the patient through the course of their stay. You can photograph a 12-lead and the hospital can have it within thirty seconds. The committee made a work group to meet again in January and will be working collaboratively with the hospital system.

The committee also needs members representing Culpeper and Fauquier hospital; Greg asked if board members would reach out to their contacts.

Incident and Threat Mitigation: Phyllis Hurlock

The Committee did not have a quorum at its last meeting and Phyllis is currently working on reaching out to committee members to try to improve committee participation. The committee next meets in February.

Medical Direction Committee: Dr. Tania White

Dr. White stated that many regional OMDs sent a letter to Dr. Norman asking that EMS be included in tier 1a of the vaccination schedule.

COVID-19 in the region: if you're admitted to the hospital COVID positive and you meet criteria, there are several drugs to be administered. Outpatient population may meet criteria to receive antibodies.

There are two basic vaccinations – weakened virus or RNA. The current vaccines were basically developed during the SARS outbreak in 2002; building on an mRNA vaccination is as simple as changing it to be specific to the targeted proteins. Dr. White gave a brief explanation of the science behind the vaccine to allow providers to ease patient concerns regarding the speed with which it was produced.

Personnel Committee: Chief David Moody

The committee has nothing new to report at this time.

Pharmacy Committee: Joey King

The charter has been updated and some small changes were made to fine-tune meeting dates and avoid holidays. The committee has been productive and three new members recently joined. The committee is recommending some changes to the Narcotics SOG and those will be coming to the board in February. Most changes are regarding inventory. Christina Rauch is working with a subgroup in conjunction with the Office of EMS regarding the new DEA guidelines.

Strategic Planning: Fred Messing

The committee met recently and the committee made a minor narrative change to the plan regarding the new relationship with OEMS and as more decisions are made broader changes will need to be implemented later on. Fred Messing made a motion to adopt the updated plan. Seconded by Mike Jones. No further discussion from the board.

ACTION ITEM—Strategic EMS Plan

APPROVED

EMS Advisory Board:

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 REMS Regional Heart and Stroke Committee received a presentation regarding [Pulsara](#), which is a technology platform intended to streamline, if not replace, the radio report to hospitals.
- The Mobile Integrated Healthcare project continues to move forward. We have had several meetings and documents and minutes are available in the Drobox. Heudia is offering to donate food to a needy family for the initial start-up agencies who complete the registration process.
- 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.
- A warning was sent out from the council on 10/27 regarding contaminated marijuana, if you did not receive it or need another copy please advise Wayne.
- The most recent Heroin and Opioid Report is available in the Drobox.

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.
- The [2020 Guidelines from the AHA](#) have been released and are ready to be implemented. Relevant protocol updates will be coming as needed.
- The Guidelines and Training Committee has created a workgroup to review the potential options for obtaining and administering blood products. This group has met several times and are crafting a draft policy and procedures document for review by G&T as well as Medical Direction Committee.
- 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

- The Regional Office and the State Office are now using Monday.com as a project management system. This, coupled with Google Suite we are working to improve the processes and efficiency of the regional EMS system. As committees meet and create work products, these documents will be maintained in the cloud and committee members can edit and review comments/suggestions from other.
- The REMS Council has started a process to build-out resources and include the topic of preventing human trafficking as an ongoing regional issue; if you have feedback or are interested in participating in this project please contact the REMS Council.

- The REMS Council Pharmacy Committee has created a workgroup to review the DEA regulations and upcoming changes to the regional pharmacy program.
- There are approximately 72,000 initial vaccine doses that will be received in Virginia this week. There are 16 facilities that have been identified to receive shipments, including Mary Washington Hospital. The RDG composed a letter and provided it to the councils that gave agency OMD's a template to send a letter to the health commissioner regarding the COVID-19 vaccination priority of EMS providers; this document was sent to the OMD committee. The RAHD EMS Vaccination Authorization guide is available in the Drop Box.
- The Virginia Fire and EMS Stakeholder 2021 Legislative Booklet is available in the Drobox.
- There was a question about the EMS Regulations requirement to have a copy of the protocols on each licensed vehicle. Per regulations and compliance "there is no rule that it has to be PRINTED, however if it is digitally available it must always be available and located within the ambulance, just as if it were printed."
- We continue to operate under the previous Designated Council MOU. For that contact the quarterly report from 1Q FY21 was submitted and accepted. We are currently in 2Q FY21 the report for which is due by the end of January.
 - 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.
- 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.
- Based on a survey of EMS officials in nearly every state and territory, the [2020 National EMS Assessment](#) provides a national overview of EMS systems across the U.S., building on the previous 2011 national assessment. The study, conducted by the National Association of State EMS Officials through a cooperative agreement with NHTSA, includes information such as the number and types of EMS organizations across the country and who staffs them.
- Members of the EMS community have been hard at work on several efforts to advance evidence-based EMS systems, including revising the field trauma triage guidelines, updating the [National EMS Education Standards](#), and developing

- evidence-based guidelines for airway management and treating pain in the prehospital setting. • The final draft of proposed revisions to the National EMS Education Standards is now available for public comment. Members of the EMS community and the public are invited to review the document and provide feedback to the team leading the effort by Monday, December 14, using this [online form](#).
- 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.
 - 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.
 - Staff has been participating in the HEARTSafe Community Champion webinars which are held each month.

EMS at the State Level

- The VDH Office of Health Equity is hosting [vaccine community conversations](#).
- Here is a link to the latest VPHIB data submission and validity score reports, including [agency compliance with VPHIB data reporting](#).
- The RDG meeting scheduled for November 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 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.
- 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:

- As a reminder, there is access to online CEU through TrainVA.
- There is NO RE-ENTRY PATHWAY for EMT-Intermediate certifications that expire. If providers do not obtain the necessary CEU prior to their expiration date, they will NO LONGER BE AN ALS PROVIDER.
- OEMS has been advised by Dr. Jaberri that the regional councils will be involved in the receipt and distribution of COVID-19 test kits. The kits would be made available to those agencies that have met the required criteria. OEMS is still evaluating the best process for distribution.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 7 PM on February 17, 2020, at Culpeper Rescue.