

RAPPAHANNOCK EMS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Salem Volunteer Fire Department, GoToMeeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Board Members Present:

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County
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
Donald Gore, Rappahannock County
Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania County
William Harrington, Spotsylvania County
Phyllis Hurlock, Culpeper County
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg
Joey King, At-Large
Fred Messing, At-Large
David Moody, King George County
Maurice Moody, Orange County
William Ooten, Culpeper County
Louise Rollins, At-Large
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

Board Members Absent:

Board Members Excused:

Joseph Cardello, Stafford County

Staff Members Present

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

Guests Present:

Laura Jenkins, Salem VFD, EMS Deputy Chief
Don Jenkins, Salem VFD
Andy Winn

Agency Presentation:

Deputy Chief Jenkins addressed the board and gave some facts regarding the department. It was established in 1979 and is now in its second building; the newer building opened in 2007. The department has 80 volunteers, one ambulance, and one response vehicle with seven EMS providers running and five more in EMT class. The department is considering a second ambulance to accommodate the growth on the EMS side; interest increased with COVID. The hall the meeting was held in was originally for BINGO which the department no longer holds. The room is instead being used for community concerts. The county training room is also hosted by the department and all the county training materials are housed there and classes are also held.

Call to Order:

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

Approval of minutes:

Minutes for the August 18, 2021 meeting approved as presented.

Public Comments/Presentations from Guests:

None.

President’s Report—Kevin Dillard

Grant Committee:

The fall grant cycle closed September 15. 10 million in requests were received with around 3 million to distribute. Awards will be made in January.

Regional Office of EMS Update:

The Council now has a fully executed lease with 250 Executive Center Parkway. Furniture should be arriving as soon as next week. If progress continues, the February board meeting may be held in that space.

The COOP Plan is up for approval. There have been no changes at this time. Motion from John Brandrup to approve the plan as presented. Second by Joey King. No further discussion. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—Annual Approval of COOP Plan

APPROVED

Kevin congratulated Joe Williams on his appointment to represent the Council at the EMS GAB.

The Finance Committee is currently reviewing the locality funding policies. The committee will meet on December 8 and anyone interested in participating should let Kevin know.

Kevin and Mike Jones took a moment to recognize Kelsey Rideout, Governor’s Award recipient from the REMS region. Kelsey thanked the board and said she was very surprised.

Vice President’s Report—Donald Gore

By-Laws Committee:

The By-Laws are up for review with no revisions. John Brandrup made a motion to approve the By-Laws as presented, seconded by Fred Messing. With no further discussion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—Annual Approval of By-Laws

APPROVED

Nominating Committee:

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 December 9. The committee will discuss the indicator schedule and longstanding projects. There was one Shared Concern Inquiry from Caroline County which has been returned to the agency.

Treasurer’s Report—John Brandrup

Finance Committee:

Financials were sent out previously; John asked for questions and received none. The audit is complete and the 990 will be done soon.

Guidelines and Training Committee:

The committee will meet again on December 14. Nothing new to report.

Committee Reports

Incident and Threat Mitigation: Phyllis Hurlock

The committee will meet the third Thursday of the first month of the quarter as of the August meeting. 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 February board meeting.

Medical Direction Committee: Wayne Perry for Dr. Tania White

COVID cases are decreasing state and nationwide. On October 29, vaccination of 5-11 year olds was authorized and said vaccination began November 3. There’s also a new Pfizer formulation for 12+.

Personnel Committee: Chief David Moody

The staff transition to state employees is moving forward. The committee conducted five interviews for the Performance Improvement Specialist. The Technical Resource Specialist position should be advertised soon.

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.

The Board of Pharmacy is currently conducting inspections of agencies holding a CSR. If concerned about compliance, please reach out.

The Board of Pharmacy also released a report about the current state of medication exchange in Virginia. It is available online.

Strategic Planning Committee: Fred Messing

The last meeting was September 14 and virtual. The next meeting is December 15, hopefully at the new facility.

Heart and Stroke Committee: Chief Joe Williams

The committee met on September 1 and again discussed middle or high school education program regarding stroke awareness. There is a volunteer, Jack Kelley, from Lake of the Woods who is interested in heading up the program and the committee is working on coordinating this.

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

There has been some discussion of reworking the stroke plan. Tina Rauch is working on gathering recommendations from the doctors at Mary Washington Healthcare.

EMS Advisory Board:

Discussion continues regarding the addition of more Trauma representation on the board. The governor reappointed 12 members and appointed seven new members. Symposium had a phenomenal turnout.

Cultural Diversity Workgroup: Bud Moody

This is a subcommittee from Guidelines and Training. The committee is working to get together a roundtable of individuals to inform EMS practices and allow first responders

to be sensitive culturally to those they may encounter in our communities. Currently seeking a venue and have commitments from some community leaders to participate.

Staff Report—Wayne Perry

- HR/Personnel and Funding Updates
 - Performance Improvement Specialist interviews have been completed
 - Technical Resource Specialist advertisement is pending
 - The Community Foundation is awarding an additional \$75,000 in grant funding through our Community Relief Fund to local nonprofits as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Application deadline Nov 22.

- Regional EMS System
 - The REMS Council and the Regional OMD have been working with Culpeper County to provide them with an EMS Physician contract during their transition.
 - MWH has reported a shortage of Epi PFS – they will be reducing the quantity in the regional boxes and making up the balance with kits comprised of ampules and saline.
 - Grant funding was approved for the EMS Whole Blood pilot program. The equipment has been ordered, but some items are on backorder and this has delayed the start of the program – looking at January 2022 for a start date.
 - King George County is under a Letter of Review and has started an AEMT training program.

- Training and Program Updates
 - Looking to have the state CEU educator come to the REMS Council on a quarterly basis – looking for training needs and ideas, please let Wayne know.
 - Emotional Survival for LE – Friday December 3 08-1200 or 13-1700 at Piedmont Virginia Community College.
 - ICISF Assisting Individual and Groups in Crisis – December 8-10 at Fairfield Rescue Squad.
 - Any objections to offering up the Regional Training and Simulation Center for hospitals and EMS agencies in the region? There will be a new scheduling process once the new building is fully up and running as there will be different options depending on what training is being provided.

- Executive Director Update
 - OEMS Sim Trailer update – still awaiting delivery
 - The VFSC Fire and EMS Stakeholder Legislative Summit occurred in October – we have some notes from the meeting, please contact Wayne if you're interested in information.

- At this time, VDH BinaxNOW antigen test kits supplied through the Federal HHS program have been exhausted, and VDH does not expect to get additional shipments.
 - The regional council designation packet was completed and submitted; waiting to hear how it will work in terms of a site visit and document review.
 - If agencies have needs for ESO training please advise. Update on the HDE project.
 - **Engagement Phases** - OEMS/ESO has begun assigning VA Hospital Systems / Hospitals into engagement phases based on a first come, first served basis. *(Note: Engagement phases, as well as the engagement process, is intended to be fluid/flexible, to best serve the needs of VA hospitals.)*
 - The REMS 1.0 building roof leaks – not currently leaking after the last repair; we will have the ceiling tiles and other touch-up paint completed after we completely move out.
- EMS at the State and National Level
 - Drobox – There are 53 documents included with the link including:
 - COVID-19 modeling and surveillance meetings
 - OEMS Customer Satisfaction Feedback Data
 - The RAHD community health assessment is now being conducted for PD16. The REMS Council staff is participating through Be Well Rappahannock and MWHC. Flyers with a QR code to complete the survey are available in the Drobox.
 - TXA study in the Drobox from Europe – n=4,500 seems to be positive for the continued use of pre-hospital TXA
 - VDH Agency Forum meetings slides.
 - The Northern Virginia Hospital Coalition held a meeting on November 16 – notes and information from the Medical Surge Workshop is available.
 - 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 in the Drop Box for your review.
 - Virtual meetings for state committees are no longer permitted after the expiration of the state of emergency, so state meetings are now in person
 - The OEMS Research Council has met and it working on criteria and options for IRB approval for various projects. Slides from the August meeting are available in the Drobox.
 - EMS GAB Executive Committee met twice and has discussed the composition of the EMS Advisory Board; they will be conducting

a retreat to review the components as compared to EMS Agenda 2050 and other state examples.

- NIOSH is accepting public comment on the topic of interventions for work-related stress through November 26
- Working on a statewide option for HandTevy which will occur after the ESO transition – sometime in 2022.
- Mindy Carter has been hired as the Trauma and Critical Care Division Director
- Frank Cheatham is retiring effective 12/30/21
- Rich Trojac has also announced his resignation
- OEMS is looking to add three policy analyst positions
- OEMS has worked to create a return pathway for providers that have encountered enforcement action due to impairment or drug related issues. It is similar to the HPNP program and required applicant wait one year after enforcement action; hoping to have a draft of the new policy sometime this year.
- The Legislative and Planning Committee meeting was held November 12. Documents and information is available in the Drobox.
 - HB661 – decedent exposure – recommendation have been signed off and submitted, waiting on response
 - HB727/SB720 – tCPR standards – a few center had not decided on whether to do full EMD or just tCPR – developing the regulations now
- The Medical Direction Committee met on October 7
 - They approved a white paper on whole blood – see Drobox
 - They discussed weather information stations for HEMS
 - They reviewed a needle thoracostomy study
 - Regarding Ketamine – they added specific language to the formulary
 - MDC is reviewing CMS guidelines and Virginia Scope documents to discuss creating a critical-care level certification. The focus is on care during inter-facility transfers.
 - AEMT providers are permitted to administer immune serum, but they are specifically prohibited by code to administer flu vaccine to minors; that must be I or P level.
 - Physician practice at the scene was a discussion
 - There was also a discussion about reentry of healthcare providers that have had a substance abuse issue
 - Lots of issues with hospital diversion – VHHA has confirmed wide variation with plans and a difference between perception and reality of what diversion means
 - Compress and shock foundation proposal. EMS GAB endorsed legislation for distribution of AED in the community

- "develop and establish a mental health awareness response and community understanding services (Marcus) alert system." – this is a legislative requirement as of July 1, 2021
 - Discussion surrounding CSR. BOP guidance document – lots of compliance issues; CSRC's at Council allow for one-for-one, but "shouldn't have done it". BOP will NOT permit any additional agencies to transition to one-for-one exchange and there will be NO new regional drug box programs added to the system. The goal is to make the agency responsible for the medications.
 - RSI and DSI and vent management upgraded to advanced practice – approved by the EMS GAB at the November meeting.
- The Training and Certification Committee met on October 6. The notes from this meeting are available in the Drobox.
 - Still awaiting the NEMSES document; expect to have changes to the EMT curriculum that will add vaccines and remove SGA and ETCO2 from the minimum training.
 - NEMSES, once approved, will remove clinical numeric requirements for EMT training. Once there is a new NEMSES, the VEMSES will be null and void. Everything will run through the NEMSES. TCC has formed a workgroup to create a minimum patient contact requirement for Virginia. It will likely be 10 contacts with a combination of live patients and high-fidelity simulation.
 - CentreLearn and EMSAT ended as of October 31. There will be a new content option once things are sorted out.
 - A workgroup was created to review the CTS testing process. The recommendation from TCC is to eliminate CTS

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 16 on February 16, 2021.