

RAPPAHANNOCK EMS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Rappahannock EMS Council, GoToMeeting

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

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
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
Louise Rollins, At-Large
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

Board Members Absent:

Mary Hart, Fauquier County
Nathaniel Mort, Orange County
Bill Ooten, Culpeper County

Board Members Excused:

Mark Garnett, Caroline County

Staff Members Present

Vivian Delts, Regional Field Coordinator
Linda Harris, Regional Ed. Coordinator
Margot Moser, Office Manager
Nana Noi, Regional Systems Coordinator
Wayne Perry, Regional Director
Kelsey Rideout, PI Specialist

Guests Present:

Patricia Copeland, CISM Team Coordinator
Debi McGhee, Chief, Fredericksburg Rescue Squad

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM at the Rappahannock EMS Council.

Approval of minutes:

Minutes for the November 17, 2021 meeting approved as presented.

Public Comments/Presentations from Guests:

None.

President's Report—Kevin Dillard

The Executive Committee will review the Annual Report on Monday, February 21; Kevin asked that board members please review the document and send any feedback at that time.

Germanna Community College will be having a Virtual Gala on April 30. They plan to recognize local heroes, to include EMS and hospital personnel. If any directors know of a provider who has done something heroic during the recent blizzard or during COVID, let Kevin know and they will be selecting several providers for Germanna to produce a video about.

Grant Committee:

The Spring Cycle is open and closes March 15. The REMS staff can offer assistance with grants if needed and help increase agency chances for receiving awards.

Regional Office of EMS Update:

Council staff has made a lot of progress moving the Council to the new building. Some items are still on backorder, so not all of the technological resources are currently available, but we've made great strides in pulling everything together. New training equipment has been ordered and most has arrived, to include the Immersive Interactive room that will serve as a replacement for the training ambulance from the old building. This room allows the user to create any scenario they please with video from the company or self-shot footage. Newer, more realistic manikins are now available for use in the training center as well. The Council is also ordering an Anatomage table. [The board watched a video about the Anatomage table in action.](#)

Regional Awards Committee:

Kevin asked that board members reach out to their staff and nominate people to ensure that the great providers of our region get recognized. The deadline is June 1 for nomination submission. Council staff can help write the nominations if individuals require assistance.

Vice President's Report—Donald Gore

By-Laws Committee:

Nothing to report at this time, but Don reminded the committee that any suggestions for changes may be sent to him at Donaldgore59@cs.com.

Nominating Committee:

No report.

Secretary's Report—Mark Crnarich

Performance Improvement Committee:

The PI committee met on February 10 and worked on revisions to the Trauma Triage Plan. This is a late addition to the agenda, so physical copies were distributed to the board along with the meeting minutes to explain which changes have been made.

The state Trauma Triage Plan has not been updated since 2011, but the committee wanted to update the plan to better reflect practice in the region, to include the updated CDC guidelines for Trauma Triage activity. Some definitions and Trauma resources were updated. With no further discussion, the motion was put to the board to approve the plan as recommended by the committee; motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—Trauma Triage Plan

APPROVED

The next PI committee meeting will be on May 12. The committee is looking into how to submit recommendations for updates in the electronic care reports, specifically when it comes to data collection regarding stroke patient care.

Treasurer's Report—John Brandrup

Finance Committee: Wayne Perry for John Brandrup

Financials were sent out previously; Wayne asked for questions and received none. We have heard back from one locality, Spotsylvania, regarding funding for FY2023. The committee has been discussing programs and services that will remain underneath the designated Council. We are currently waiting for feedback from the state regarding how the funding and structure will work in future and how to support programs that will not be part of the Regional Office of EMS. Once that information is available, the staff can create a budget and business plan for review.

The Council has received confirmation that we will still be required to seek outside funding equal to a percentage of state funding provided, which means the continuation of requests for locality funds.

Kevin asked whether there were any questions regarding locality funding and received none.

Guidelines and Training Committee:

The committee will meet again on March 8. Nothing new to report.

Cultural Diversity Workgroup: Bud Moody

This workgroup is underneath the Guidelines and Training Committee. They have met several times and are trying to find a date for the actual Cultural Diversity Roundtable, but had to cancel the original date as it conflicted with PACES. The workgroup is currently seeking one more individual from an Eastern religion (such as Hinduism), but is otherwise complete. This will be a forum where some chosen religious leaders will cover the high points of their religion when it comes to medical treatment and what needs to be considered by providers in respect to their religious and cultural practices.

Committee Reports

CISM Team: Patricia Copeland

The team is holding a Suicide Awareness Class on March 12 here at the Council; there's also a GRIN class June 10-12 (this is a combination of group and individual, to make it a three-day class instead of a four-day class).

The team also responded to Spotsylvania County for Chief Campbell's funeral.

The next meeting will be April 11. The state team paperwork is due this year; please let members know they need to submit their information to Trisha for the renewal.

Incident and Threat Mitigation: Phyllis Hurlock

The committee met January 20. Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District has closed down the vaccine clinic at Reva Fire Department due to decreased demand. The website has all the information regarding vaccination and testing.

Spotsylvania Fire and EMS will be holding drills at the nuclear power plant this summer; anyone interested in observing the drills or participating in the training should contact Mike Grubb.

Fredericksburg Fire and EMS is focused on the Marine Corps Half on May 22 and continuing to monitor flooding of the river with sensors. Mary Washington Healthcare peaked at 200 COVID patients mid-January.

The next committee meeting is April 21; the committee voted to bring forward the new MCI Plan for Board approval. With no further discussion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—MCI Plan

APPROVED

Medical Direction Committee: Dr. Tania White

COVID cases are decreasing state and nationwide. ICU beds are opening and many ERs are off of diversion; things are looking up.

Personnel Committee: Chief David Moody

Chief Moody welcomed Kelsey Rideout as the most recent member of staff.

There are two additional positions that have been approved for the Regional Office at this point; the state employment process is very slow so the next phase will be advertising those positions and setting up interviews for the position, then hiring in the next three to five weeks after that.

Pharmacy Committee: Joey King

The committee continues to meet regularly with a quorum and work closely with the hospitals. The last meeting was February 3. No action items for the board tonight; the next meeting will be April 7. The subcommittee is putting the final touches on the document to implement the regional inventory checks. Joey will be sending out information once it's finalized and will let the board know.

The current hot topic for the committee is DEA updates, but no new updates have been issued recently.

Strategic Planning Committee: Fred Messing

The last meeting was December 15; the committee met at the REMS facility. The committee is working to update the regional EMS plan, but require more information from the state before they can move forward with major updates. As chair, Fred is bringing forward the plan with no changes for approval in order to satisfy contract requirements. Motion from Fred to approve the Strategic Plan as presented; seconded by Mike Jones. With no further discussion, motion carries.

ACTION ITEM—Strategic EMS Plan

APPROVED

Heart and Stroke Committee: Chief Joe Williams

The committee has been working on stroke education in regional schools. There are two action items to come before the board; the Regional Stroke Plan and small revisions to the charter in order to allow for in-person, virtual, or hybrid meetings. The board voted on the charter first. With no additional discussion, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—Heart and Stroke Committee Charter Update

APPROVED

The committee also brought forth the Regional Stroke Plan with no changes. With no further discussion from the board, motion carried.

ACTION ITEM—Heart and Stroke Plan

APPROVED

Staff Report—Wayne Perry

- HR/Personnel and Funding Updates
 - Performance Improvement Specialist interviews have been completed and the position has been filled by Kelsey Rideout.
 - Technical Resource Specialist advertisement is pending; awaiting additional information on the regional council status and positions and how this will fit with the regional office.

- Regional EMS System
 - 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 March 2022 for a start date.
 - Mineral Rescue Squad in Louisa closed on December 20, 2021

- Training and Program Updates
 - Planning to have the state CEU educator come to the REMS Council on a quarterly basis. If you have any training needs or ideas for topics, please let Wayne know.
 - The REMS Council was approved to become both an AHA and an NAEMT training site. The plan is to offer ACLS and PALS courses to REMS Council EMS providers at no cost. The council hopes to use the training center as much as possible, and we have a few things already on the schedule. Please let Wayne know if your agency would like to schedule time to use the facility.
 - EMS Physician workshop – one event was held Feb 9 at REMS; the next event is March 3 at NVEMS Council
 - We will be offering ICISF courses here at the Council in the new training center. See CISM report.
 - COPE program – Nana Noi provided an introduction to the program and overview. Panel discussions with stakeholders continues. January was a discussion on the impact of human trafficking and February was dental health awareness. We've seen a huge increase in attendance at community stakeholder meetings and plan to launch a new website soon. Board

Members were provided with the 2021 annual report which highlighted the impact of the programs throughout the year, such as:

- 50% increase in MIH-CP Stakeholder Monthly Meeting Attendance based on 3 month average attendance from Sep 2020 to Nov 2021.
 - Total MIH-CP Stakeholder Meeting Attendees: 166
 - Total health and social wellness checks provided by REMS partners: 532
 - The percentage of the addressable population served by REMS and the community partners was 62%
 - There were a total of 66 Community Partners participating with REMS in addressing health and social wellness
 - Health screenings (118) and interventions provided by community partners including RACSB and the Lloyd Moss Clinic included COVID-19 Vaccines (25), Flu Shots (23) and two Narcan Training Programs. There were 55 AccessMeCare Guided Demos/Referrals.
- Executive Director Update
 - OEMS Sim Trailer update – still awaiting delivery
 - We have received more COVID test kits and they are available to agencies.
 - 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. Regarding the statewide HDE project OEMS/ESO has begun assigning VA Hospital Systems / Hospitals into engagement phases based on a first come, first served basis.
 - National Registry Cognitive Exam changes that will begin April 15, 2022 were reviewed.
 - We received final approval on A/V equipment to make all the classrooms wired for audio and video conferencing; awaiting a timeline for installation.
 - There was a discussion about the recent conversation at Virginia MDC regarding the role of EMS providers in acting at off-duty events and incidents.
 - The REMS Council is utilizing a volunteer from ReEmployability and they are working on projects in the training center and administrative tasks such as scanning and shredding.
 - Agency-level ESO data is now available.
 - Symposium 2022 call for presentations has been issued.

- A reminder regarding the criteria for EMS providers operating in a student role with a Virginia EMS agency; the student must be enrolled in VIRGINIA APPROVED EMS training program.
 - 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.
 - Updates on the old REMS site at Hunter Street. Agencies and providers have been collecting equipment and items. There will be another visit from the movers to complete a dump run and Wack construction is working on cleaning up the building, replacing ceiling tiles, and preparing the building for turnover back to Mary Washington Healthcare.
 - Dropbox – There are 60 documents included with the link including:
 - COVID-19 modeling and surveillance meetings
 - OEMS Customer Satisfaction Feedback Data
 - VDH Agency Forum meetings slides and other communication from various regional meetings and events.
- EMS at the State and National Level
 - National Registry Cognitive Exam Changes Coming. Beginning April 15, 2022, the National Registry will be transitioning to a new software platform for administering its examinations. This software upgrade comes with a few modifications to examination scheduling and delivery that candidates may notice. Some of the updates to highlight that go into effect on April 15 are:
 - Candidates logging in to schedule examinations will notice they cannot schedule any online proctored (OnVUE) examinations beyond April 11, 2022. This temporary inconvenience is necessary as part of our software upgrade.
 - Testing center examination scheduling will not be impacted.
 - On April 15, 2022, candidates will be able to resume scheduling their examinations via OnVUE.
 - Candidates will select their delivery method (testing center or online proctored) and schedule their examination on Pearson VUE's website.
 - The EMR level cognitive examination will be available as an online proctored examination starting April 15, 2022.
 - Both EMR and EMT providers will be able to use OnVUE testing for recertification by examination beginning April 15, 2022.
 - Our EMT OnVUE examination will be updated to use our computer adaptive format (CAT) and reflect the same experience as the testing centers. This will change the length of the OnVUE examination from a fixed set of 110 questions to a variable between 70-120 questions.

- The AEMT level cognitive examination will no longer be available as an online proctored examination. AEMT will be administered at Pearson VUE testing centers only.
- BLS Certification Testing
 - Cognitive Exams – Normal processes are in place for the National Registry cognitive exam. Beginning April 15, 2022, all Basic Life Support (BLS) examinations will have an online proctored (OnVUE) in addition to the testing center options. Pearson VUE OnVUE is available for candidates who are unable to access testing at a Pearson Test Center due to lack of available seats. Please direct your candidates to learn more about Pearson OnVUE Remote Proctored Exams by visiting:
<https://home.pearsonvue.com/nremt/onvue>
 - Psychomotor Exams – The Office of EMS Management Team has suspended indefinitely BLS psychomotor testing pending decisions by the Training & Certification and Medical Direction Committees. Use of the TR.999 will serve as the verification of competency until further notice.
- ALS Certification Testing
 - Cognitive Exams – Normal processes are in place for the National Registry cognitive exam. Beginning April 15, 2022, all Advanced Life Support (ALS) examinations will only be administered at Pearson VUE Test Centers—remote proctoring via Pearson OnVUE is not permitted for ALS candidates.
 - Psychomotor Exams – The ALS Testing Calendar on the OEMS website can be found at:
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/virginia-national-registry-psychomotor-examination-schedule/>
- The 2021 National EMS Educator Standards (NEMSES) has been released. The document can be located on www.ems.gov. The ACE Division will be working with the Training & Certification and Medical Direction Committees over the next couple of months to develop a rollout plan for these new standards in Virginia. We will notify you of the rollout schedule as soon as we have it developed. You should not anticipate any changes regarding the 2021 NEMSES until at least the fall of 2022.
- Education Coordinator and ALS-Coordinator Updates
 - ACE Division staff will not be traveling as much in 2022 as we did in the second half of 2021. Education Coordinator Updates for 2022 will be scheduled once NHTSA releases the 2021 NEMSES document in order to coordinate EC Updates with rollouts of the 2021 NEMSES and certification testing changes.
 - Registration is required to attend all EC/ALS-C updates.
<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/ems-educator-update-schedule/>
- New Online Continuing Education Option

- The Office is in the final stages of developing a rollout plan for a new, free continuing education opportunity for Virginia EMS providers. We have invested significant money and resources into developing this partnership which will allow Virginia EMS providers to choose from 100 different continuing education courses in Vector’s catalog in order to meet their requirements for recertification of their Virginia and National Registry certifications.
 - Blackboard Rollouts
 - ACE Division staff will begin the process of rolling out the Virginia specific processes and requirements for making use of Blackboard for initial certification and continuing education programs. This rollout will be approx. 2 hours in length and will only cover Virginia specific requirements. Dates and times of these sessions are posted below. You must register in advance to attend. Each session is limited to a maximum of 100 participants.
 - New Prehospital Pain Management Evidence-Based Guidelines Published
 - New evidence-based guidelines to help prehospital clinicians effectively manage patients’ pain have been published in the journal Prehospital Emergency Care. The guidelines and related training materials will help ensure safe, effective and equitable people-centered care.
 - An expert panel reviewed existing scientific literature to develop the evidence- and consensus-based guidelines for managing pain, as well as a model EMS protocol and performance measures for evaluating adherence to the guideline as well as outcomes. The creation of the guideline was led by the National Association of State EMS Officials, with funding from the NHTSA Office of EMS and the Health Resources and Services Administration.
 - Principal investigators representing NASEMSO, the American College of Emergency Physicians and the National Association of EMS Physicians headed up the panel, which also included EMS clinicians, EMS educators and others with expertise in emergency medicine, pediatrics, pain management, pharmacology, trauma care, guideline development methodology, patient advocacy, and EMS data. You can learn more about the panel and the project and access the model protocol and training materials on NASEMSO’s website.
 - The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced that Gamunu Wijetunge, NRP, will assume the role of Director of the Office of EMS effective January, 29, 2022. Gamunu “Gam” Wijetunge, who has worked within NHTSA’s Office of EMS for more than 20 years, is also a volunteer paramedic, fire captain and the president of a volunteer rescue squad in Maryland. He will assume the director role — which is also responsible for the National 911 Program housed within the Office of EMS — following the retirement of Dr. Jon Krohmer.

- Wijetunge has a Bachelors' Degree in Emergency Health Services from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a Master of Public Management from the University of Maryland, College Park. He has several professional affiliations and has been recognized repeatedly for outstanding performance and federal service, including most recently the HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Pandemic Civilian Service Medal in 2021.
 - Several regulatory and guidance updates include:
 - Currently, guidance is changing at a rapid pace similar to what we saw at the beginning of the pandemic. We recommend designating a staff member to monitor federal and state agency updates. For questions regarding CDC guidance, please consult your Local Health District.
 - CMS Guidance for the Interim Final Rule; Healthcare Staff COVID-19 Vaccination. CMS has issued updated guidance on the Healthcare Staff COVID-19 Vaccination IFR. Virginia is not a plaintiff in any cases to block the mandate and, per OLC, Virginia will move forward with enforcement within 30 days of the memo release (12/28).
 - CDC Guidance for Healthcare Workers: Clarification from VDH. There has been understandable confusion regarding the conflict between the CDC guidance for healthcare workers and the general population. Per the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the 12/23 guidance for Healthcare Workers supersedes the general population guidance. More details are in the December 29, 2021, Commissioner's Letter, which supersedes the one shared earlier this week.
 - Information on the effects of SARS-CoV-2 mutations on COVID tests can be found on the FDA website.
 - The HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and FDA released a joint statement discussing the effect of variants on the effectiveness on monoclonal antibodies. Based on the latest information, ASPR will pause any further allocations of bamlanivimab and etesevimab together, etesevimab alone, and REGEN-COV pending updated data from the CDC.

Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on May 18, location TBD.