

**Rappahannock EMS Council Board of Directors Meeting
Washington VFD and GoToMeeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

Board Members Present:

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County
Ed Bonham, Caroline County
Joseph Cardello, Stafford County
Jordan Coleman, Fauquier County
Patricia Copeland, Stafford County
Mark Crnarich, At-Large
Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg
Susan Dietrich, Caroline County
Kevin Dillard, At-Large
Pat Fitzgerald, Westmoreland County
David Garvin, King George County
Donald Gore, Rappahannock County
Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania County
William Harrington, Spotsylvania Citizen
Joey King, At-Large
Fred Messing, At-Large
David Moody, King George County
Maurice Moody, Orange County
Nathan Mort, Orange County
William Ooten, Culpeper County
Michael Pearson, Culpeper County
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County

Board Members Absent:

John Brandrup, At-Large
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg
Louise Rollins, At-Large

Staff Members Present:

Linda Harris, Regional Education Coordinator
Nana Noi, Regional Systems Coordinator
Tatiana Pedroza, Regional Field Coordinator
Wayne Perry, Regional Program Manager
Kelsey Rideout, Regional PI Specialist
Lara Traylor, Office Manager

Guests Present:

Bradley Davis, Washington VFD
Lisa Palmer, Washington VFD
Ann Spieker, Washington VFD

Agency Presentation:

Lisa Palmer, EMS Chief at Washington County VFR gave an overview of the station. Washington Volunteer Fire & Rescue Inc. was established in Rappahannock County in 1939 as “Company 1.” The company was initially housed on Main Street, across from the Courthouse, and moved to the current location off Warren Avenue in the late 1970s. Chief Bobby Smoot has been with the agency for 48 years. There is a core group of volunteers who run calls and a wider group who support the station

with fundraising, etc. Rappahannock county was the last county in the region with an exclusive volunteer cadre but as of midyear, it has begun to integrate with paid career staff. Chief Palmer praised the cooperation between volunteer and career providers on scene – the bumps in the road seem to be focusing on administrative details – MOU, billing agreements, etc.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM at Washington Volunteer Fire and Rescue at 10 Firehouse Ln., Washington, VA 22747.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the August 17, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments / Presentations from Guests:

None.

President’s Report – Kevin Dillard

Kevin reported on the success of the EMS Symposium that was held last week and heralded it as a premier national conference. He reminded board members that the EMS Advisory Board will meet at 10 AM on Friday, November 18th in Richmond. It is an open meeting and all are invited.

Kevin recognized Louise Rollins for her 25 years of service as a trauma nursing core course coordinator.

Kevin is continuing to work with Ukraine relief - almost 30 ambulances have been sent over to date. There is a heightened need for building collapse-related equipment. The next shipment to the Ukraine will go out in the first week of December via cargo ship.

Grant Committee:

The fall cycle of financial assistance review closed on September 15, at 5 PM. The state grant committee will meet Friday, Nov 17, 2023. The committee is not grading at that time but rather a general meeting. The committee has until the end of the month to get the recommendations in before it goes to the health commissioner for approval. Announcements will be made by January first.

Regional Office of EMS:

REMS has received approval for two Emergency Services Coordinator positions. This is encouraging that we can have as many positions at REMS funded by the state as possible to increase stability in the work environment.

Staff Recognition:

Kevin recognized Linda Harris for 20 years of service to REMS. Linda has taught many EMTs in the region. She is also a longtime volunteer at the Spotsylvania Rescue Squad. Linda was presented with a season's pass to Riverside Theater.

Vice President's Report – Jack Atkins

No report.

Secretary's Report – Mark Crnarich

Performance Improvement Committee: (next meeting December 1, 2022)

The committee has been working on improved focused data improvement projects throughout the different topics. The first part of the process is identifying stakeholders for each project, be they trauma, stroke, STEMI, or system transport quality.

Treasurer's Report – John Brandrup

No report (absent).

Cultural Diversity Workgroup: -Bud Moody

The new date for the Roundtable is January 21st at the Fick center. The limit is 80 people. Bud noted that the religious diversity segment at Symposium was widely attended with good interaction. This workshop is hoping to replicate that experience here locally. Cat 1 CE credits will be offered for EMS providers. The workgroup is exploring CE for law enforcement but won't know until December.

The Board was joined by guests Bradley Davis and Ann Spieker, both from Washington VFD. Ann has been working in EMS for over 46 years. Kevin thanked her for her service.

Committee Reports

By-Law Committee – Don Gore

Wayne Perry explained: The goal is to restructure the committees into alignment with the new strategic EMS plan. This would change the organization to five core committees, with the other committees becoming workgroups under those five core committees. To make that legitimate, the bylaws that listed each specific committee needed to be updated and changed.

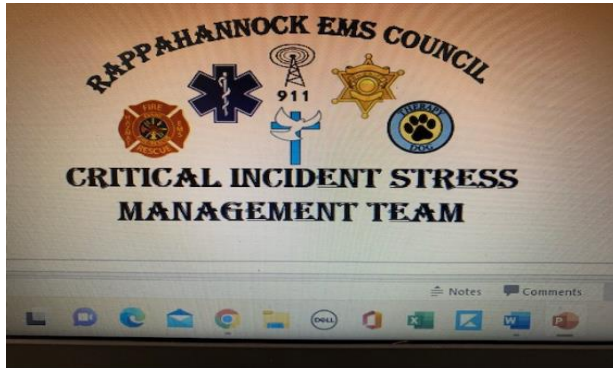
There was no discussion or questions regarding the proposed change. A vote was taken. Ayes were unanimous.

ACTION ITEM- Change in By-Laws – APPROVED

CISM Team (next meeting 01/09/23) – Patricia Copeland

The CISM Team has been doing more Outreach because core departments are starting peer support teams and are requesting training.

There is an upcoming opportunity for more Outreach - The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has asked for participation in the Loss Survivor Day on November 19, 2022 (11:30-1:30) at the downtown library in Fredericksburg.



Patricia shared a picture of a proposed change to the team patch to more accurately reflect the makeup of the CISM Team vs the current patch with only the Star of Life. Kevin indicated that it could be put on the agenda for the next meeting to be voted on. Any changes should be submitted to the Board no later than 10 days before the next meeting.

Patricia reported four new members – three are from Spotsylvania law enforcement and one new chaplain.

Equine Therapy program presentation (Equines for the Front Lines) Hazelwood
<https://www.facebook.com/EquinesfortheFrontLines/>

Discussion ensued including Scott Davis who is on the advisory team for the program and several board members, all of whom spoke well of the program. It is free for responders and medical personnel.

Incident/Threat Mitigation Committee (next meeting 01/19/23) – Joe Williams

The committee is being reformed to increase active members. Two meetings haven't reached quorum. To that end, at least two new members are interested in joining and actively participating in the committee. The committee has been tasked with a couple of projects but those will remain on the back burner until membership is addressed.

Medical Direction – Dr. T. White

i. Medication Shortages -

Ketamine is still on shortage.

ii. Infectious Disease Update

Currently at a high level of influenza A and a little of B. COVID is still active in the area. RSV is high in pediatric patients. Not seeing much Monkeypox. Ebola is still out there.

New information came from the state OMD meeting. In some facilities in Northern VA, EMS is made to wait in the bays without the patients registering until a bed opened. This seems to be regardless of the condition of the patients – heart attack, stroke, sepsis. Dr. White vehemently stated that will not happen in this region and if providers come across that situation, she gives them full permission to walk in and she will support that action.

Personnel Committee – David Moody

To clarify, the two new state positions Kevin mentioned, the Emergency Services Coordinator positions are the same as the Technical Resource Specialist – one is a working title and the other is a group category. The timeline currently is estimated to advertise for the positions in early to mid-December and interview early in 2023 with hopefully a February start date. This will be a big relief for the council's fiscal needs. Scott Winston from OEMS has explained that the delay is attributed to the state's HR changes in staffing and program administration.

Pharmacy Committee (next meeting 01/12/23) – Joey King

No report.

Strategic Planning – Fred Messing

No report.

Heart and Stroke Committee (next meeting 01/18/23) – Joe Williams

The committee is getting ready to restructure into a workgroup with the changes to the by-laws.

Jack Kelly has been working on stroke education in schools. The Commissioner for Orange County School Board is supportive. Linda added that the initial push was for a pilot program in one class, but one of the schools asked for all 700 students. Tina at MWH is working with REMS to provide a donation for printing costs.

The committee has been meeting with Tina and Susan from MWH regarding the stroke plan and revising the algorithm. The plan is to have the changes ready to present to the Board for approval by the next meeting.

Nana has been continuing to work with the City of Fredericksburg which became a Stroke Smart - City –the first in our Region. The workgroup is expanding education to the community and targeted groups (ex: receptionists at doctor's offices) on recognizing signs of stroke.

EMS Governor's Advisory Report – Joe William

Nothing to report. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/18/2022.

Brian Frankel, Deputy Chief of EMS from Stafford will also be joining the advisory board.

Staff Report – Wayne Perry, Regional Director

The staff will retool the meeting plans regarding scheduling for committees with the new change to the committee structure voted on tonight.

The FY 23 work plan items have been put into Monday.com, our work operating system. As far as first-quarter milestones, staff completed 90% of the items that were listed for the first quarter, other items were unable to be completed because of something outside the agency's control such as ESO data.

For the second quarter, 22.7% of the milestones have already been completed, with 29.5% that are in progress and nearly complete.

The state EMS Plan was sent to the advisory board on Friday for approval. Staff will match up those items compared to our strategic plan making sure all items line up.

A revised refund policy has been proposed and submitted to the finance workgroup to be voted on at the next Board meeting.

Planning District 16 funding application was submitted as well as the United Way application for membership. Documents that were not able to be included are from the auditor – an extension has been requested.

We have purchased a DocuSign account for future signatures to be E-signatures.

Kelsey Rideout gave an update on the whole blood program from King George.

The whole blood pilot program which began July 1, 2022, and will run to the end of this year, continues to be successful. They have now given blood three times, with three missed opportunities. The point of contact, Lieutenant Matt Russell, has been very diligent with providing reviews of each usage and suggestions for improvement and continues to do some ongoing training.

Once the program is complete, a review of all the data, the reports, and an after-action will be provided to the Council. It will be up to the board, and the other agencies throughout the Council region, if anyone else would like to do a pilot program or if we would like to turn it over into a full-fledged protocol.

REMS is developing several pilot programs across the region. Culpeper will be targeted for leadership training and development. Orange is working on stroke awareness. The smaller scale of the pilot programs is to ensure system and infrastructure is in place and working before expanding to other areas.

Tatiana Pedroza, the new Regional Field Coordinator was introduced.

The state has been discussing CSR certificates and the requirements of the board of pharmacy. The last survey that was done showed that agencies were less than 20% compliant. We are trying to assist agencies with meeting that requirement. Agencies must have a CSR if there is a Schedule 6 item on the property (ex: a box of syringes). Training equipment with a Schedule 6 item needs a CSR describing it as training equipment and a description of where it is stored. Distribution requires a different level of CSR. Agencies are encouraged to research what is needed before an inspection. The pharmacy should be issuing them however a challenge is that they are not issued with clear expiration dates requiring agencies to then look up the certificate to ensure the renewal is current.

On the federal level, the DEA has been tasked in a somewhat circular manner to look at the regulation and law that they have previously been tasked to provide.

Wayne referred the Board to Dropbox to review TCC meetings, agendas, and supporting documents. Red dot training is ongoing and held quarterly at REMS.

BLS Psychomotor Competency Verification Guide is being discussed regarding timelines and operation. The Regional Directors group is considering legal recognition, re-entry, and challenge. The certification committee has created the scenarios. The skills will be run like an IOOH station at Registry. The candidate will have a professional partner. Evaluators will document the performance and then submit it. The state will review the documentation and deliver a score of pass/fail.

There is a bill going to the General Assembly to recognize EMS as an essential service. It will require local government approval by ordinance which will specify the geographical boundaries. EMS Agencies must respond to medical emergencies in their primary area. If there's a DERA, they have to provide services defined by the EMS response plan. Additional documentation is in Dropbox.

Regarding the Ebola outbreak – one agency in our region is cable of doing Ebola transport.

There continues to be discussion to change the language to address paramedics working in the hospital environment. Currently, “paramedic” is a defined term that is tied to a certification linked to an EMS regulation that requires the three components of a licensed agency, EMS physician oversight, and certification. Legislation is being introduced to allow hospitals to use that term rather than simply a hospital employee to address risk management concerns.

REMS applied for and was awarded a mini-grant through MWHC Foundation - \$5,000 to start the Stroke Smart Fredericksburg Campaign. An impact and public health grant was not awarded.

Triage tags are not going to be provided by the state – agencies are still able to purchase them independently but there is consideration of their continued use or moving to a simpler “sick/not sick” designation because during actual events they are not used or not deemed functional.

This week is Crash Responders Safety Week and REMS is sharing that across social media. If agencies would like REMS to boost or promote training programs, please let Lara Traylor, the office manager know.

COPE/Table report: Just under 1,000 people have gone through the event with 500 of them specifically engaging with the COPE table. We are continuing to distribute information on healthy meals, stroke recognition, STB, Hands-only CPR and mental health.

The Freelance Star on October 23 featured COPE and the Fredericksburg Stroke Smart Campaign.

REMS is involved in the Rappahannock Marcus Alert stakeholder planning meetings.

Training: Lara Traylor and Tatiana Pedroza are being added as CPR and STB instructors to allow for increased community training. The first quarter training schedule has been posted and distributed. Kelsey Rideout is also offering monthly critical care training sessions.

Difficult Airway Cadaver Lab:

Kelsey presented costs and proposals for a three-day cadaver lab.

The total class cost for all three days - \$29,950. This is a discounted fee that will include five cadavers plus instructors and equipment. The class will be broken down into two labs.

Day 1 – Difficult Airway Cadaver Lab – max 30 students, \$330/student, \$9883.50 total

Days 2-3 – Difficult Airway Cadaver Lab +Extreme Airway Cadaver lab – max 30 students, \$670/student, \$20,066.50 total.

Kelsey proposed that the Council underwrite 1/3 of the cost of the training to keep the fee lower for providers and sponsoring agencies. This would total \$12,000. She also proposed a potential scholarship for 100% of the course fee being covered for select providers.

A lively discussion ensued with high praise for the training given by several of the board members. The value of the training was universally confirmed. Concern was raised about the amount of financial commitment that the Council will incur. Questions were raised if this would impact future locality funds and/or if state funds were available. Wayne elaborated that the Council currently covers the training and book fees for providers in many different classes, this is just a larger amount all at once, and currently, it is locality funds that are used. State funding could be pursued for future classes but to secure a spring date and time to advertise and fill the class, state funding could not be considered. Kelsey clarified that total or partial refunds can be pursued depending on the cancellation date if the class does not fill but she added that the instructor shared that the class has always filled and always has a robust waiting list.

A motion for the Council to defray 1/3 of the cost of the class (12,000) was made by Bud Moody with a second.

Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM- Cadaver Lab Support – APPROVED

National Fire Academy has vacancies in EMS Incident Operations Class. It's a six-day course covering incident command techniques for management and medium to large incidents. Details are in the Dropbox.

The protocols have had small updates consistent with the tiered system for making typo changes/updating contact information.

Bob Page's escape room will be on Saturday, January 7th – registration is through Eventbrite.

Billy Harrington brought up a discussion regarding hospital closures. Specifically, Spotsylvania Regional is almost nightly on diversion and telling providers to divert to MWH. Wayne clarified that a diversion is a request that a hospital can make for planning purposes but they are unable to refuse care to anyone who is on their property so EMS can choose to transport patients there. Dr. White added that it is a staffing issue and that the providers have to make the decision with the best interest of the patient in mind – if they are going to be waiting in the hospital without adequate staff, it may not be the best choice. She did iterate that they should not be in a situation where they are told to wait in the bays without being seen – ER can come out, assess the patient, and if stable request the patient be transported elsewhere. Wayne will reach out to Spotsylvania Regional and try to set up a meeting to start a dialog.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Kevin Dillard encouraged Patricia Copeland to seek increased participation on the CISM team from Planning District 9 agencies.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held at Falmouth Fire Department on Feb 15, 2022.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by Kevin Dillard at 8:34 PM.