Rappahannock EMS Council Board of Directors Meeting Fauquier County Fire/Rescue and GoToMeeting Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Board Members Excused:

Board Members Present:

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County

Donald Gore, Rappahannock County

Ed Bonham, Caroline County Fred Messing, At-Large

John Brandrup, At-Large Michael Pearson, Culpeper County

Joseph Cardello, Stafford County

Louise Rollins, At-Large

Jordan Coleman, Fauquier County

Patricia Copeland, Stafford County Board Members Absent:

Mark Crnarich, At-Large Nathan Mort, Orange

Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg

Susan Dietrich, Caroline County

Staff Members Present:

Kevin Dillard, At-Large

Pat FitzGerald, Westmoreland County Linda Harris, Regional Education Coordinator

David Garvin, King George County

Tatiana Pedroza, Technical Resource Specialist

Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania County Kelsey Rideout, Regional PI Specialist

William Harrington, Spotsylvania Citizen Lara Traylor, Office Manager

Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg

Joey King, At-Large Guests Present:

David Moody, King George County Christine Capshew, Equine for Front Lines

Maurice "Bud" Moody, Orange County Greg Davies, LifeCare

William Ooten, Culpeper County Tricia Derr, Protocol Workgroup

Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director Ann Griffin, REMS CISM

Joseph Williams, Fauquier County Forrest Winslow, Pulsara

Agency Presentation – Battalion Chief Dale Kidwell serves in the Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management as Chief of Training. Prior to 1990, the county relied solely on volunteer responders. However, an increase in emergency calls and population led to the employment of full-time personnel. Presently, the department comprises approximately 150 dedicated providers. Fauquier County has implemented advanced protocols, including the use of hypertonic saline, whole blood, and other innovative approaches. As a result, the area has witnessed a notable improvement in patient survival

rates and achieved outstanding outcomes.

Call to Order – Kevin Dillard, President

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM at Fauquier County Fire/Rescue.

Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2023

Minutes for the February 15, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports

President – Kevin Dillard

Kevin officially thanked Chief Kidwell and Lt. Coleman for hosting the Board. He wished everyone a happy EMS Week that runs May 21 through May 27.

The National EMS Memorial Service will be held July 22nd at the Hyatt Regency, Crystal City at Regan National Airport. There are 59 providers from 22 states to be recognized.

The meeting's agenda has been modified to conduct voting business first because Kevin and John Brandrup will be leaving for the Ukraine with another shipment of 10 ambulances and 5 fire trucks.

BOD Elections:

Reappointments:

Two Board members were recommended by their localities for reappointment:

Orange County's Chief Nathan Mort and King George's Chief David Moody.

A motion was made to approve the reappointments. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM – REAPPOINTMENTS - APPROVED

At-Large (Filling Fred Messing's seat) – partial term ending June 2025

Jacob Parcell applied for this position, there were no other nominations from the floor.

At-Large (Full term vacancy) – term ending June 2026

Debra Marinari applied for this position, there were no other nominations from the floor.

Jack Atkins made a motion to close the floor for further nominations. A motion to accept both candidates was made with no discussion and unanimous approval.

ACTION ITEM - NEW APPOINTMENTS - APPROVED

Board member service recognition

Fred Messing – stepping down before end of his term. Served over six years. He has done a great job chairing the Strategic Planning Committee. He was instrumental in the new 2022-2025 Strategic Plan and the many upgrades we made to the plan. Bill Ooten has been appointed to be the new chair of Strategic Planning. Bill will also serve as chair of the Pharmacy Workgroup.

Thanks to Joey King for his service and the great strides the Pharmacy Committee has made under his leadership.

Wheezie Rollins – term expires end of June and not seeking re-election due to work and family obligations. Six years of service and was instrumental in the update of the regional STEMI triage plan.

Don Gore - been on the board for over 22 years. He was instrumental when we did the combining of the Rappahannock Rapidan EMS Council and the Rappahannock EMS Council. He has served as Vice President of the board for many years and also as chair of the bylaws and nominating committees. We certainly appreciate all his years of service to the council.

Captain Ed Bonham to serve as chair of the Guidelines and Training Committee. Kevin thanked John Brandrup for his leadership over the years with this committee. Under his leadership, the committee has made great progress in ensuring our EMS system is prepared to meet the challenges of the future by providing strong direction and an environment encouraging professional growth.

Executive Committee report (next meeting 07/24/23)

The committee met in conjunction with the **Strategic Planning Committee** on April 24th. This was an all-day meeting working also with the other committee chairs as we focused on our path moving forward.

Next meeting will be July 24th at 9 AM.

Grant workgroup

REMS will host a **grant workshop on June 22nd** from 4-6 pm. Each agency should send at least one representative to the workshop. Mike Berg, staff support to FARC will be present along with one or more of the current FARC committee members.

FARC is in the process of grading grant applications. Received 112 applications for 215 items totaling over \$19M and over \$12M in state funds.

FARC will meet next on **June 1st** to make recommendations on awards of the grants that were submitted in the Spring Cycle.

Vice President – Jack Atkins

No report

Secretary – Mark Crnarich

No report

Treasurer – John Brandrup No report

Standing Committee Reports and Action Items

Strategic Goal #1 Expert Clinical Care

Medical Review Committee

Coordinator – Mark Crnarich

Staff Support – Kelsey Rideout

Medical Review met as part of the work session on July 24th and began planning the next year. The first goal on the agenda is standing up membership representation so remain on the lookout for calls for appointments.

Performance Improvement Workgroup (next meeting 08/10/23) – Mark Crnarich The workgroup met and reviewed data and PI plans. Still working on regional access and reporting from ESO database. Conducted surveys on needs in the region – feedback resulted in identifying a need for documentation training and the workgroup is working to address that.

Heart and Stroke Workgroup (next meeting 07/19/23) – Joe Williams Heart and Stroke is also trying to boost active membership. The Stroke plan is being worked on but there is currently no action item with this.

Pharmacy Workgroup (next meeting 07/13/23) – Bill Ooten

At the April 13th meeting the workgroup could not address old business of medication updates and shortages because no pharmacies were on the call.

Under old business, the workgroup presented the ratification of the Regional Medication Re-Stocking Agreement. The motion did not require a second and was met with no further discussion. A vote was conducted, resulting in unanimous approval of the item.

ACTION ITEM – Regional Medication Re-Stocking Agreement – APPROVED

Under new business, the workgroup presented the new proposed charter. There was no discussion under the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

ACTION ITEM - Pharmacy Committee Charter - APPROVED

Also under new business, Mark reported that they are updating the roster with some members being dropped for non-participation.

Mark then led a discussion about Quarterly Inventory for Regional Medication Boxes and the need to continue the quarterly survey. Originally started at the request of pharmacies to provide additional oversight and accountability. However, after five quarters of reporting, the hospital

pharmacies said they weren't using the information in the provided reports and it served no practical purpose.

Director Bill Ooten made a motion that the Quarterly Inventory requirement be dropped. Lt. Jordan Coleman seconded the motion. No further discussion ensued. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – Discontinuation of Quarterly Medication Box Inventory – APPROVED

Protocol Workgroup – report by Kelsey

January 23rd meeting was very productive. The next meeting will be May 18th at which point the final vote for a revised charter will be taken.

The workgroup examined the proposed Heart and Stroke Field Triage Screen. There was a bit of concern for several of the items. The protocol workgroup created an alternative proposal that went back to Heart and Stroke. Deliberations are ongoing.

Updates were made to the reference guide on the capabilities of the stroke facilities in the region. That was approved at the last Board meeting so it will be updated in the protocols.

Other items that were approved at the workgroup level include adjustments to the CHF protocol, respiratory distress protocol, pediatric tachycardia with a pulse to be added to the Table of Contents, changes to the medication formulary, and updating VHASS language in the diversion section. These items are ready to be approved by the Medical Review Committee which unfortunately has not had a quorum.

Strategic Goal #2 Health and Wellness

Incident and Threat Mitigation Committee Staff Support: Lara Traylor

Coordinator - Joe Williams

ITM report by Joe Williams:

We met with the large group on April 20th. Milestones that were considered in ITM in FY2024 were:

- Consider addressing expanding CERT in the Region if unable to have agencies or localities manage volunteers, consider a Regional CERT-like cadre of volunteers
- Conduct a Regional MCI tabletop drill
- Look into best practices with regard to childcare for providers and child safety car seats
- Pediatric prevention identify preventable injuries in the Region and conduct outreach training
- Look into vests for providers find grant source?
- Pulse Point expansion
 - o Expand registered AED in localities that do use Pulse Point (Spotsy/Stafford)
 - o Grant source for Pulse Point for other localities
- Research APP CISM based/Peer Support CORTICO and other options
- HEAL program RAHD potentially targeting citizens in Spotsylvania who would benefit from the training
- Working on a draft to address patient non-transport in times of system overload and continue consideration of para-medicine.

CISM Team report (next meeting 07/10/23) – Patricia Copeland

CISM Team is supporting the Memorial and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. There is a suicide walk coming up on October 14th at Pratt Park.

Patricia brought Christine Capshew from Equine for the Front Lines to speak. The program details can be accessed here: https://www.hazelwildfarm.com/equine-for-the-front-lines

The CISM team is very supportive of the program.

Strategic Goal #3 Cultivating Talent

Guidelines and Training Committee (7/25/23) Staff Support - Linda Harris Coordinator – Ed Bonham

Ed Bonham has recently assumed the position of Chair for the Guidelines and Training Committee. As a newly appointed Chair, he is currently acquainting himself with the committee's operations and workgroups and therefore had no report.

ALS Release Workgroup (no report)

Cultural Diversity Workgroup (no report)

Strategic Goal # 4 Driving Innovation

Executive Committee

Coordinator – Kevin Dillard

Staff Support – Wayne Perry, Linda Harris

Kevin's report was delivered in the first part of the meeting.

Regional Awards Workgroup – David Moody

The nominations have been submitted and the workgroup will be meeting to make their selections. The award ceremony will be at the Fick Conference Center on June 7th. Chief Moody also wanted to reiterate recognizing the outgoing BOD.

Personnel Workgroup – David Moody

One of the two Technical Resource Specialist positions was filled by Tatiana. The state is going to follow a new process for the announcement of the second position because the second selected candidate declined employment. Currently, the workgroup is in the process of developing a diverse interview panel per state guidelines.

Strategic Goal #5 Healthcare Collaboration

Strategic Planning Committee Staff Support – Tatiana Pedroza Coordinator - William Ooten

Strategic Planning Committee – next meeting 07/20/24

Director Ooten is also a newly appointed chair of this committee and has no report.

EMS Governor's Advisory Report – Joe Williams

- Gary Critzer presented the State Board of Health EMS Rep Report. The board held a meeting in February, during which several regulatory votes and actions took place. The position paper on wall times was also presented, leading to the formation of a workgroup to review the issue.
- Joe offered to send out the Quarterly Report from OEMS to BOD members if they are interested.
- Legislative and Planning report from Gary Samuels: EMS as "essential" in some places; got "use of drugs and medical devices by EMS providers" in hospitals added/approved; EMS providers to administer meds to a patient under certain circumstances if an emergency added/approved.
- Workforce Development report from Valerie Quick: recent focus on EMT programs in high schools; working to develop a white paper; HS EMT instructor stats will be separated out from other EMT class stats.
- Interesting public comment: Bob Ramsey, VA College of Emergency Physicians Discussed new law effective July 1 requiring security/police to either be armed or have defense training in every ED in the state.

Staff Report – Linda Harris, Regional Education Coordinator

- Thank you to Jordan Coleman for the assistance in arranging this BOD meeting.
- The next BOD meeting that is scheduled for August 16, 2023 will be at King George County's Company 1 at 8122 Kings Highway King George, VA 22485.
- As of May 10, 2023, Tatiana is a full-time employee of VDH, Her title is Technical Resource Specialist.
- FXBG Stroke Smart— A Soft Launch event occurred on February 21, 2023, at Market Square in Fredericksburg, VA, focusing on health and wellness. Attendees received blood pressure and glucose checks, along with fresh fruit. Bilingual staff, volunteers, and stroke survivors were present to engage with Spanish-speaking patrons and provide insights. Notable speakers included Mayor Mary Katherine Greenlaw, Xavier Richardson from Mary Washington Healthcare, and Dr. Olugbenga Obasanjo from the Rappahannock Area Health District.

RESULTS

Over 2,600 stroke education materials were distributed in English and Spanish, reaching over 100 new stroke champions. The event facilitated population health engagement and regional partnerships. Additionally, 100 residents signed a pledge to distribute stroke information, potentially reaching 10,000 people. The project has been transferred to the Heart & Stroke Workgroup to expand awareness and establish new Stroke Smart Communities.

 February 16 the Cope Community Stakeholders meeting topic was Cancer Awareness. On the panel were 3 medical professionals from the Mary Washington Healthcare Cancer Center.

- April 19 the **Cope Community Stakeholders meeting** topic was Diabetes Awareness. The panelist was Stephanie Shultz, Diabetes Educator from Mary Washington Healthcare. If you have any questions, contact Nana Noi at REMS.
- All of the REMS Agencies did an excellent job responding to the request for **CLIA** waiver documents. All were completed and signed by the OMD before the end of March.

• Tatiana- Leadership Summit at American University.

REMS RFC attended Equipped's Technology and Leadership Summit at American University on March 14, 2023. The summit featured roundtable discussions on successful leadership styles, collaborative response techniques, data management, and AR/VR training tools. Attendees provided feedback, expressing interest in financial workshops, hands-on training on deploying technologies, expanded roundtable discussions, and events targeting all staffing levels.

During the summit, REMS RFC established initial contacts with ESGI, Twiage, Food on the Stove program, and Florian for potential collaborations. Invitations were extended to all three vendors to participate in the REMS Expo.

• Tatiana - Technology Expo was held at REMS on 4/19/23

The REMS Technology, Innovation, and Leadership Expo took place on April 19th, 2023, with participants from various agencies and organizations, including fire departments, rescue squads, and educational institutions. The event featured vendors such as Skydio, Twiage, ESGI, Lexipol, and REMS with presentations on drone technology, pre-hospital communications, patient tracking systems, leadership in EMS, and anatomage and immersive room technology.

Following the event, the vendors had a networking session and expressed interest in collaborating with REMS during future community events. This collaboration will help test the interoperability and effectiveness of their technology tools in the region.

• Tatiana - Opportunity Project

The Opportunity Project (TOP) is an initiative by the U.S. Census Bureau's Census Open Innovation Labs. It facilitates collaboration between technologists and community advocates to quickly develop digital solutions for public benefit.

Past initiatives include reducing plastic waste in oceans, helping people prepare for disasters using geospatial data, and catalyzing investment in Opportunity Zones. These projects resulted in innovative products and ongoing partnerships with various organizations.

In the TOP process, government and community organizations identify challenges, recruit external participants such as technologists and data experts, and guide them in building digital products based on community feedback. The 12-week sprint challenges involve user research and exploration. To learn more, visit the Census Bureau's website for The Opportunity Project. (https://opportunity.census.gov/)

• Lara – COOP Exercise and the coop event at REMS

April 4th began a virtual COOP drill simulating a response to a building fire. The drill aimed to address various aspects such as notification procedures, evacuation plans, classes, equipment, and insurance.

Kari Magner, Emergency Planner for OEMS set up a drill/exercise board on Monday under the Emergency Operations workspace at OEMS inviting all hybrid offices, Scott Winston and Dave Thomas. She added some injections into the drill and Scott and Dave weighed in. This is new to OEMS too so we are working out kinks with them.

In addition to the virtual drill, real-world situations like a flood in the sprinkler room, loss of internet and phone service, and malfunctioning entry badges have provided opportunities to exercise the COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan). Furthermore, the Regional Director is currently out of the country, adding to the complexity.

After the drill concludes, Kari Magner plans to visit REMS on July 6th for a review of the entire process.

Lara --UMW Health and Wellness Fair

The 12th Annual Health and Wellness Fair is a free event open to the entire Fredericksburg community. In the past, it has attracted up to 600 attendees. The fair aims to provide information, demonstrations, and samples of services and products that contribute to physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual wellness. The fair offered a great opportunity for program promotion, with the media section of UMW giving it significant attention. As part of their participation, REMS provided a door prize of four seats (two tickets for two) for a CPR/FA class valued at \$100 each. Four community members were trained on April 27th.

- Kelsey **Training announcements**: 3rd Quarter class schedule is live, and registration is available on the website. All super users were contacted and it was posted on social media channels. The Critical Care Class time has been updated and announced. Previously the classes were held 4-8 PM but they have now changed to 1-5 PM. We are in the final stages of getting approval to conduct an accredited 3-day IBSC Approved Critical Care review course.
- **Data Compliance** December/Jan/Feb reports had errors in them. Several agencies expressed concern about their data and that is confirmed that the reports were incorrect.
- **2023 ESO Index** report released annually. 11 million records were summarized and compiled into a report. Kelsey has that report if there is interest.
- **NREMT tests sites** will be June 10 & July 8 at the REMS Council—info is on the REMS website with registration.
- **Regional Awards** Workgroup received 21 nominations in 10 categories. The selection committee will meet to choose the award winners, which will be sent to OEMS for consideration in the Governor's Awards. The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for June 7th at the FICK Conference Center, and invites will be emailed to all BOD members.
- OEMS has advised that the Guidelines & Training Committee should no longer volunteer

- to audit EMS classes in the region. Any questions about EMS classes should be reported to VAOEMS.
- Localities are still working on funding.
- CTS 2.0 requires candidates seeking certification through Legal Recognition, Reentry, or Challenge to complete/pass psychomotor testing. There are multiple testing sites across the state, and candidates must pass both medical and trauma stations. They have three chances to pass, and if unsuccessful, they must take an EMT class.
- REMS Council is considering conducting sign language classes.
- **Orange County** will offer a Paramedic class from July 18, 2023, to September 14, 2024. Contact AEC for more information.
- Tracie Jones retired from the ACE division, and her position will be repurposed to the Accreditation Manager role. Course requests should be submitted 30 days prior for approval.
- NREMT changed its policy on CEU credit for college classes, allowing only Category 2
 CE for non-EMS college courses. Official college transcripts should be forwarded to
 Debbie Akers at OEMS for review and CEU credit.
- Initial certification courses starting from January 1, 2023, must use the 2021 National EMS Education Standards, and EMR & EMT courses should use the Virginia Student Minimum Competencies Matrix v1.2.2923.
- **Symposium** will take place from November 8th to 12th in Norfolk.
- National Registry will be transitioning to a scaled score report which will provider minimum-maximum and passing scores and the student score. This will also result in the removal of the topic area results above, near & below passing) from the student report. Sunset of NREMT Psychomotor testing has a goal date of July 1, 2024. Any student who has not taken the cognitive examination prior to this date will be exempt from the psychomotor test. Any that have already started testing will still be required to complete the psychomotor test. Final date of psychomotor testing is June 30, 2025.
- Dr. Karen Shelton has been appointed as the New State Health Commissioner.
- The Workforce Development Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Governor's Advisory Board, is addressing the educational challenges faced by Virginia High School EMS Programs. Dr. Yee submitted a white paper highlighting how the EMSGAB can support these programs. Requests were made to the EMSGAB, including the education of school administrators and counselors on policies and regulations. Additionally, there is a proposal to create a document outlining minimum eligibility requirements that all high school EMS programs must adhere to.
- COVID-19 is declared as "DOA" as of May 11, 2023
- During the Regional Directors Group Meeting, the issue of **hospital wall-time delays** was discussed. Following discussions with the EMS Advisory Board and the Virginia Board of Health, a workgroup was requested to evaluate the problem. The workgroup will review the last 12 months of data to prepare a report. The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) discovered significant issues with documentation, leading to the omission of 30% of records due to negative wall times (time spent delivering a patient less than zero). Additionally, the top hospital wait times of 1.1 million minutes and half a million minutes were excluded as they were deemed inaccurate. The overall documentation was found to

- be inaccurate and problematic. Another issue identified was the inconsistency in how different vendors calculate wall time. OEMS is seeking an extension until September to complete the report and plans to work with vendors and hold a town hall forum with agencies to address the identified issues and find solutions.
- On February 9, 2023, there was a virtual **Radiation Annex Tabletop Exercise** in collaboration with the Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition. The scenario involved a backpack left in an emergency department (ED) waiting room containing radiologic material that caused illness among individuals and posed a risk of contagion. Participants were divided into teams to discuss and strategize appropriate actions to be taken in response to the situation.
- NWRHCC conducted a **Medical Response & Surge Exercise at Culpeper Hospital** in April
- Due to fiscal concerns from VDH (Virginia Department of Health) and VHHA (Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association), it has been decided that the Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition will be integrated into the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System starting from July 1, 2023. As a result, the office in Ruckersville will be closed, and equipment and supplies will be relocated to the new office. With this transition, four positions will become available at the NVERS (Northern Virginia Emergency Response System), and it is anticipated that the current staff in Ruckersville will apply for those positions. However, Ron Clinedinst will not be continuing with the new office. Thomas Li has been appointed as the project manager for NVERS.
- A webinar titled "**Transforming Public Safety Leadership**" will be conducted on June 22, 2023, at 2 pm. The webinar aims to address the need for public safety leaders to adapt their approaches and strategies in order to effectively tackle the constantly changing external environment. With the primary objective of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of citizens and communities, public safety leaders face heightened challenges due to the rise in domestic terrorism and psychopathic acts. The webinar will provide insights into the necessary transformations that public safety leaders must undertake within their organizations to navigate these challenges successfully.
- Karen Owens announced the upcoming "Community Based Emergency Response Seminar (CBERS)," a one-day training event offered in nine locations throughout Virginia. The target audience includes school staff, childcare providers, jail, prison, and detention staff, hospital staff, long-term care staff, law enforcement personnel, and emergency management planners. The seminar aims to simulate discussions and preparations for an infectious disease outbreak scenario, allowing participants to learn the fundamentals of designing training exercises to better prepare for future pandemics. The seminar is free of charge.
- On April 3rd at 10 AM Eastern Time, a new 3.4 start Schematron file was released and implemented in the Virginia EMS repository. This file can be accessed on the Virginia State Page of the NEMSIS website, specifically under the Standard Implementation Tool section.
- Chapter 32 progress is available on VAOEMS website under Regulation & Compliance.
- From Chad Blosser- various providers have reported having problems accessing PDF reports in the EMS portal due to changes in the Chrome Browser. There is a quick guide available to assist providers.

- Chief Brian Hricik of Alexandria Fire Dept passed away the end of February. He was well known throughout the state.
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the National Association
 of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) have launched a new cooperative agreement project
 focusing on the safety of children during ambulance transport. This is a 15-month
 project that will focus on drafting crash test methods to evaluate the safety of
 commercially available devices used to secure children in the back of an ambulance
 including supine patients, seated peds patients & supine neonatal patients.
- The DOT has announced that the fiscal year FY23 Notice of funding **Opportunity for Safe streets and Roads** for all grants is open for applications through July 10, 2023. This is funding initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.
- During their recent meeting, the National EMS Advisory Council (NEMSAC) elected a
 new chair and appointed subcommittee chairs. The council is currently addressing several
 important issues, including crash scene safety for citizens and first responders, 911 mental
 health and crisis response, suicide prevention, EMS response to active shooter incidents,
 medication and supply shortages, helicopter landing zone safety, and the use of body
 cameras in EMS.

Public Comments / Presentations from Guests

Pulsara presentation (communication and coordination platform) by Forrest Winslow Executive Directors Recorded Demo

Other Regions (PEMS and TEMS) are using Pulsara and have written grants for funding.

Dr. White was asked if she had anything for the BOD meeting from Medical Review – her presentation time was inadvertently excluded from the agenda. She had no report.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

The next meeting will be at King George County's Company 1 Station at 8122 Kings Highway King George, VA 22485 on August 16th, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM