

**Rappahannock EMS Council Board of Directors Meeting
Falmouth VFD and GoToMeeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2023**

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
Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania County
William Harrington, Spotsylvania Citizen
Joey King, At-Large
David Moody, King George County
Nathan Mort, Orange County
William Ooten, Culpeper County
Michael Pearson, Culpeper County
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County
John Brandrup, At-Large
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg
Louise Rollins, At-Large

Board Members Excused:

Donald Gore, Rappahannock County
Fred Messing, At-Large
Maurice Moody, Orange County
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

Staff Members Present:

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

Guests Present:

Ronald Newton, Falmouth VFD
Matthew Russell, King George Fire and Rescue

Agency Presentation – Ronald Newton, President Falmouth Fire Department

Since 1941, The Falmouth Volunteer Fire Department has taken great pride in providing the best fire, emergency medical, and rescue service to the citizens of Falmouth and Stafford County.

Call to Order – Kevin Dillard, President

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM at Falmouth Fire Department at 250 Butler Road, Fredericksburg.

Approval of Minutes – [November 16, 2022](#)

Minutes for the November 16, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Public Comments

None.

Presentations from Guests

Matthew Russell from King George Fire and Rescue presented an after-action review of the successful whole blood pilot program sponsored by the Council.

One of the concerns brought up after the presentation was the need for continued education for medical control because, despite multiple notifications of the program, field providers ran into some inconsistencies when calling in for orders.

Jordan Coleman shared two points; Fauquier is able to run their program with standing orders for EMS supervisors, and they have not had issues with pregnant females getting O+ blood.

Officers' Reports

President – Kevin Dillard

Kevin expressed best wishes to Donald Gore who was out for medical reasons. He also expressed thankfulness that John Brandrup was present for the meeting as he too had been out due to medical concerns.

Kevin reviewed the **new agenda format** which is better oriented with the recent REMS strategic plan and by-law changes. It is also in alignment with the state EMS advisory board's organization. Each strategic goal has a coordinator who chairs the corresponding flagship committee. The coordinator will report on the committee and share workgroup actions.

The **National EMS Memorial Service** will be held on Saturday, July 22 in Crystal City near the National Airport.

Ukraine Update: Since March of 2022, Kevin has been networking with other providers and agencies to stock and ship ambulances to the Ukraine. The units and supplies have been coming from all over the United States but Virginia has lead the way in donations. Some of the agencies that have donated include LifeCare, Stoney Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad, Fair Oaks Volunteer Rescue Squad, Richmond Ambulance Authority and others.

The ambulances were stocked by donations from EMS agencies and sheriff's offices. A total of 30 ambulances were sent over. Kevin recently accompanied a shipment of 10 ambulances and a fire truck to the Ukraine. The process of getting the units to the Ukraine is very intricate and expensive. Kevin reported that the transportation costs alone topped \$140,000. He noted the stark and immediate differences between Poland and the Ukraine as they entered the country. The Ukrainian people are grateful and optimistic although the war certainly has taken a grave toll on them. There is still a need for assistance and Kevin continues to coordinate these relief efforts.

Kevin noted the passing of **Susan McHenry**, a former Virginia State EMS director. Susan served in that position for 20 years before retiring and working for NHTSA. One of her legacies is NEMESIS. There will be a Celebration of Life event, details TBA.

Regional Office of EMS Update. The original MOU sent out in December was found to be problematic and revisions were negotiated. Due to the timing of an outgoing Health Commissioner, the Executive Committee voted to accept the revised MOU so that it could be submitted and signed. Kevin asked for the full Board to ratify the decision of the Executive Committee.

There was no discussion or questions regarding the proposed change. Motion by Joey King, seconded by Ed Bonham. Ayes were unanimous.

ACTION ITEM – Hybrid MOU – APPROVED

The next action item was the approval of the **Annual Reports**. There was clarification that there are two different reports – one from the COPE Program and one from the REMS Council.

A motion was made by John Brandrup and seconded by Jack Atkins to approve the COPE 2022 Annual report. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM - COPE 2022 Annual Report - APPROVED

A motion was made by Jack Atkins and seconded by John Brandrup to approve the REMS Council 2022 Annual Report. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – REMS Council Annual Report - APPROVED

Vice President – Jack Atkins

No report

Secretary – Mark Cmarich

No report

Treasurer – John Brandrup

Financial statements / locality budgets update given by Wayne. All Locality funding for FY 2024 was sent out and the Council is still processing FY23.

Standing Committee Reports and Action Items

Strategic Goal #1 Expert Clinical Care

Medical Review Committee

Coordinator – Mark Crnarich

Staff Support – Kelsey Rideout, Linda Harris

The MRC is still formulating charter goals to reflect the change. The most recent meeting for the committee did not reach a quorum. The next meeting will be on April 24th which will include all of the flagship committees.

Heart and Stroke Workgroup – Joe Williams

Jack Kelly met with Orange County middle school personnel and provided a train the trainer for stroke recognition education.

The stroke plan was sent to protocol workgroup. Heart and Stroke is also working on revising STEMI plan.

The next meeting will be 04/19/23

Performance Improvement Workgroup – Mark Crnarich

There are a number of initiatives being worked on. One that is being tracked is the implementation of HDE (hospital data exchange). As the hospitals are coming online, it appears that they are signing up for different levels of data exchange. This will clearly impact the level of follow on feedback EMS will be able to receive.

Several aspects of care in the PI plans, such as cardiac, pediatric, airway, advanced procedures, etc are being reviewed for system improvements and the workgroup is strategizing to bring onboard a variety of stakeholders to broaden appropriate representation.

With regards to ESO, each agency is supposed to have a quality management program. There is a procedure for small agencies that don't run a call to report. Kelsey shared that OEMS released Sept/Oct/Nov data. Kelsey will be reaching out to agencies with errors to assist with correcting validation errors.

The next meeting will be 05/11/23

Pharmacy workgroup – Joey King

The last meeting did not have a quorum but the group is still active. A main focus is coordinating with the hospitals to let EMS know about med shortages and substitutes.

The next meeting will be 04/12/23

Protocol workgroup – Tricia Derr (Report by Kelsey Rideout)

The protocol workgroup has been revising its charter and the composition of the workgroup. There are changes being evaluated in the administration section of the protocols. The changes are scheduled to be submitted to the next Board of Directors meeting. The ACTION ITEM on this meeting's agenda was withdrawn without consideration.

The next meeting is TBD.

Strategic Goal #2 Health and Wellness

**Incident and Threat Mitigation Committee
Staff Support: Lara Traylor, Kelsey Rideout**

Coordinator - Joe Williams

The ITM Committee met with quorum and developed a new charter to reflect the broader status of the committee as it is now responsible for more than exclusively disaster preparedness.

Several workgroups were created and they include an MCI workgroup, Hospital Diversion/Patient Surge/Non-Transport Protocol workgroup, Prevention and Preparation workgroup and the COPE (Community Outreach and Patient Education) workgroup. The CISM Team also falls under the ITM umbrella.

The Council is updating its COOP plan. It is written in draft form and is awaiting the final template input from the state. Once the state finalizes its preferred form, the Council will be reaching out to agencies that would like assistance with updating their own COOP.

Under new business, Bill Ooten shared there will be a full-scale high treat active shooter drill in Culpeper County at one of the public schools. They are expecting the drill to occur in April.

Wendy Lane from VDH shared that the region received a fully stocked mobile medical unit donated by Abigail Spanberger's team. The plan is to be able to use the unit to go to underserved and rural areas.

The Committee made a motion to approve the new ITM charter. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – ITM Committee Charter - APPROVED

CISM Team – Patricia Copeland

Membership is in the process of changing the SOP which will be brought to the Board for approval. Spotsylvania just did a four-day peer training which brings their team up to fifteen members. Patricia is putting together another four-day training at Culpeper hospital. The next six-week equine therapy session will start in March.

The next meeting will be 04/10/23

Strategic Goal #3 Cultivating Talent

Guidelines and Training Committee

Coordinator – John Brandrup

Staff Support - Linda Harris

ALS Release Workgroup - Lenore Halkowich (Report by Linda Harris)

The ALS Release workgroup met and revised the ALS Release Handbook. The handbook covers not only what providers have to achieve to before being released, but it also lists the qualifications of the preceptors. The workgroup added the prerequisites for train-the-trainer to ensure the future preceptors are consistently trained in their roles.

The workgroup made a motion to approve the revisions to the ALS Release Handbook. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – ALS Release Handbook - APPROVED

The next ALS Release Workgroup meeting is TBD.

Cultural Diversity Workgroup – Jack McGovern

Cultural Diversity workgroup has been meeting for a year trying to conduct an in person panel event, even offering CEUs to participants but there was not enough provider advanced commitment to host the session. One of the panel members, Pastor Adam, is willing to record panel and REMS will post it online via You Tube. An announcement will be made when that happens.

The next Cultural Diversity Workgroup meeting is TBD.

Strategic Goal # 4 Driving Innovation

Executive Committee

Coordinator – Kevin Dillard

Staff Support – Wayne Perry, Linda Harris

Executive Committee – met earlier in the week, reviewed ongoing projects and will begin to

meet quarterly rather than as needed.

The next meeting will be April 24, 2023

Grant Workgroup – Kevin Dillard

The Financial Assistance Review grant cycle for spring is now open with a deadline of March 15. All applicants of the Fall 2022 cycle were provided an after action follow up by Lara. Kevin encouraged applicants to reach out to the Council prior to package submission. REMS will host a workshop on June 22 from 4-6PM in advance of this year's Fall cycle.

The Advisory Board met and approved a rotation amendment which allowed extending some of the terms on the FARC to prevent the majority of the membership simultaneously cycling off.

The next Grant Workgroup meeting is TBD

Regional Awards Workgroup – David Moody

David recognized Tina Rauch who is stepping down after serving on the workgroup for many years. A previous REMS Director, she is now the EMS Coordinator at MWH. Her service and leadership is greatly appreciated.

A flyer for the Regional Award nominations was released. The deadline to apply is April 30th. David challenged agencies to submit a nominee for at least one award category. David also thanked Linda for her help as staff liaison. The Council can help with narrative, resumes, hi res photos as needed.

The next Regional Awards Workgroup meeting is TBD

Personnel Workgroup – David Moody

David gave an update on the two approved Technical Resource Specialist positions for the hybrid office. The hiring panel found the process to be problematic with changes deviating from VDH HR earlier hiring processes. The candidates screened in for interviews were not allowed to be included in the process as HR deemed several of the candidates as unqualified despite the strong objections from the hiring panel. Interviews were conducted on Jan 26th. Projects were given to the candidates and are still being evaluated.

The Personnel Workgroup will meet and consider other state positions (wage or contract) for future positions.

The next meeting of the Personnel Workgroup is TBD

Strategic Goal #5 Healthcare Collaboration

Strategic Planning Committee

Coordinator – Fred Messing

Staff Support – Tatiana Pedroza, Wayne Perry

Strategic Planning Committee – Fred Messing (report read by Kevin Dillard)

The Committee met and was well attended. They discussed the reorganization and expansion. They also discussed a Jan 30th drone demonstration that was held at REMS. The next meeting will be with the flagship Committees on April 24th.

By-Laws Workgroup and **Nominating Workgroup** were formerly lead by formerly Don Gore. Kevin asked Jack Atkins to take the lead on the workgroups. Don will stay in the workgroups but no longer chair them.

Finance Workgroup – John Brandrup

No meeting, no report. Next meeting is will be 04/24/23.

EMS Governor’s Advisory Report – Joe Williams (read by Lara Traylor)

Scott Wilson thanked people for attending/supporting legislative efforts. The session is still ongoing.

The Executive Committee met the night before with the GAB in a robust discussion of hospital/EMS diversion issue in Northern Virginia and Western EMS Virginia. Included was Doug Middlebrooks from OLC (investigative arm dealing with EMTALA, who is turning over results to CMS). Dr Yee presented a position paper for GAB support- voted and passed; Dr Ferrada also motioned to send that position statement to the BOH for public reading there as well.

The position paper reads as follows:

The Commonwealth of Virginia Governor’s EMS Advisory Board (GAB) recognizes the strain that EMS agencies and hospitals face daily. ED overcrowding is impacting safe care of patients.

The GAB believes:

1. Patient centered outcomes should guide policies and practices
2. Patients arriving via EMS should not be asked to wait on or off property before entering the ED to receive timely and appropriate medical screening exam. EMS may enter the facility immediately regardless of any such request from the facility
3. In accordance with federal regulation, the hospital has responsibility for the patient once patient presents to the facility
 - a. Presentation is defined as within 250 yards of the hospital campus
 - b. Hospitals should develop processes to assure the same standard of care for patients who walk into the ED and for those transported by EMS
4. Diversion is not an effective tool to reduce ED overcrowding
 - a. Hospitals should have the ability to “close” in events where facilities have loss of critical infrastructure (e.g. loss of power, loss of water, loss of CT capability) or potential for life safety issues (e.g. fire, active shooter)

- b. If facilities have a diversion policy, it is only a request which EMS may decline
 - c. Hospitals should not enact diversion if the facility is accepting patients via other entry points into the health system (walk ins, transfers)
5. Hospitals should work to reduce ambulance wall times in the ED to allow EMS to provide services in their respective communities
 6. EMS holding is a courtesy by EMS agencies in partnership with hospitals, as EMS resources allow. Hospitals should be prepared to immediately assume care to any patient presenting to the emergency department regardless of mode of arrival
 7. EMS providers are encouraged to advocate for their patients, particularly when a patient requires urgent or immediate intervention

Kevin Dillard added notes from legislation:

HB 4147 – Allow hospitals to utilize paramedics for patient care.

HB 1449 – Consider allowing EMS providers to assist a patient with his/her own medications when patient is unable to give oral consent to do so.

HB 2175 – Asking Secretary of Public Safety to establish a workgroup to survey Fire/EMS needs, funding, and review alternative funding models.

There is discussion to have the General Assembly recognize EMS is an essential service. During the pandemic, federal grant money was not available since the state did not recognize EMS as essential.

MedEvac Committee added four additional members on the committee so entities that serve Virginia each have a seat at the table.

The Next EMS Advisory Board meeting is May 5th at 10 AM in Richmond.

Staff Report - Wayne Perry, Regional Director

The FY23 work plans were submitted and approved in December, just in time for beginning the process for next year's plans. To prepare for this, the flagship committees are all meeting on the same day, April 24th to come together and plan for FY24.

The grant funding sought through RACSB was not successful, but the DBHDS did provide funding for two therapist positions to provide services in Fredericksburg and Caroline County public schools. In addition, the MWH Foundation has approved funding for an additional therapist.

REMS Staff attended a Nonprofit Security Grant Program and is now able to provide technical assistance to grant-seekers to train and prepare for emergencies. REMS staff also completed a FEMA class on social media use during disasters. If you would like additional information, please talk with Lara.

Devin Chinault has started with OEMS in Emergency Operations; he is working on EMS radio communication and communication technology. Amber Wells is the PSAP Telecommunicator Specialist.

Dr. Greene has concluded his service at the State Health Commissioner effective Friday February 10. Christopher Lindsay has been named the acting/interim Health Commissioner.

Regional EMS System

MWH has reported a shortage of Ketamine and Glucagon.

The Lois Fire Department has opted to not renew their EMS agency license.

REMS is applying to be a site and potentially host a public health intern from the CDC for two years.

The Training Center has been busy with classes and the calendar is filling. This past quarter, The Training Center has hosted 22 events, 11 agencies, and 350 visitors.

The Council is endeavoring to have the state CEU educator come to the REMS Council on a quarterly basis.

The TJEMS VILT training for February will be held on 02/27 and the topic is cardiac emergencies.

The Stroke Smart Task Force has an event on February 21 to launch the program and activities for the City of Fredericksburg. The City of Richmond was proclaimed a Stroke Smart City in January 2023, marking the first capital city in the nation to achieve this status.

CTS 2.0 – there is a new process for re-entry, legal recognition, and challenge. The other hybrid offices are planning to offer this service. REMS Staff brought the issue to the Board for approval.

Motion was proposed by Joey King and seconded by Ed Bonham for the Council to offer the testing. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – CTS Testing - APPROVED

Orange County is sponsoring a class for awareness of Human Trafficking in Virginia on March 13.

The CSEMS Council is hosting their 2nd annual Shenandoah Valley EMS Expo at Blue Ridge Community College of March 9-13.

REMS has been requested to assist with the PACES annual education event on April 1, we will be providing meeting space and also conducting several of the training sessions

during the day.

The REMS Council will be participating in the UMW Health and Wellness fair on March 14. If you'd like to help with the event or join us at the table, please contact Lara or Wayne.

The call for presentations for the 2023 EMS Symposium is open.

REMS is hosting a Neonatal Resuscitation Program class on 03/20/23 which is filled.

REMS has also started offering monthly critical care CEU. Kelsey is offering 4 hours a month of dedicated Critical Care CE. The ideal provider audience is entry-level critical care. There are 20 seats per month. The classes are a blend of didactic and hands-on. Dinner is provided but preregistration is required.

The Cadaver Lab is scheduled for March 24-26. If you have anyone who is interested, please sign up soon. We are opening the registration to more and more outside agencies, but want to give REMS agencies first choice. The first day, March 24 is geared towards entry level ALS providers. The two-day class is 25 and 26 and will review the information given in the one day and then expand with more advanced practice.

COPE program continues to have its monthly stakeholder meetings. December was healthy aging, January was housing and healthcare, and February was cancer awareness. COPE has about 50 partners that collaborate to identify gaps in the community and try to find services for the gaps. One issue being addressed is that SNAP benefits cannot be used to purchase personal care supplies. These items can be an extra expense that many low-income families cannot afford. We will be holding collections so we can support families through-out the year. We have donation lists for each quarter of the year.

The RAHD received a grant and has built a mobile health clinic. REMS is planning to collaborate and partner with them for outreach events.

OEMS Sim Trailer update – it is away for repairs again, the leak continues to be an issue.

DALY computer update – AV was supposed to be installed beginning in February but there are still products that are not available so the installation has been delayed.

The 2022 EMS Stroke Inventory Survey is available and it was presented to the EMS Advisory Board.

There have been multiple discussions about the type of triage that should be taught at the state level and the use of triage tags.

The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) released Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016 - 2020, a comprehensive report examining 173 incidents of targeted violence and highlighting the observable commonalities among the attackers.

The Logistics Manager for VDH COVID-19 Testing Team reported that they have 45,168 Ellume tests will expire on Feb 28, 2023. If you are interested in using Ellume tests, please reach out.

The NAEMT has released their 2022 National Report on Engagement and Satisfaction in EMS. Links were provided in the agenda.

The public health emergency declaration is set to expire on May 11, 2023. CMS is providing updated regarding the end of the including information on waivers. In addition, according to the FDA, the Emergency Use Authorization for PPE and other medical products may continue after the PHE expiration.

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), in partnership with State EMS Offices and NHTSA, has launched a real-time dashboard illustrating EMS responses to non-fatal opioid overdoses. The HIPAA-compliant dashboard uses state-submitted, de-identified data from the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) to allow local agencies to track EMS activations for non-fatal overdoses at the state and county levels. It also provides a better understanding of the need for and effectiveness of public health interventions like naloxone administration.

Jeremiah (“Jeremy”) Kinsman, MPH, EMT has joined NHTSA’s Office of EMS as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Specialist. Jeremy previously served in the Office of EMS from 2015 to 2019 as an Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Public Health Fellow and EMS Specialist. Jeremy will again support the administration of the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) program and the Office of EMS’s research initiatives. He will also work with the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) to provide EMS data technical guidance to public and private organizations at national, state and local levels.

A new report from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) aims to help educate EMS clinicians about the latest evidence on infectious pathogen exposure among the EMS workforce. Related to this, there has been an on-going topic concerning exposures that occur but the patient was not transported to a hospital but instead to a funeral home. Currently if there is an exposure and it’s a decedent, and is a medical examiner’s case, they will draw the specimen but they will not pick up and transport to one of two labs in the nation that can test. If it is not a ME case, there is no process adopted at this time.

Reminder: The 2021 National EMS Education Standards go into effect on January 1, 2023. As of December 31, 2022, there was only one EMT textbook on the market that reflects the contents of the new 2021 National EMS Standards. If you are using an old textbook or a textbook which does not minimally meet the 2021 National EMS Education Standards, it is incumbent on you as an Education Coordinator to ensure that you are appropriately covering the content in the 2021 NESMES. In most cases, this will mean additional work for you as you will need to research the new content and provide supplemental resources to your students. Some of the areas which will require significant updating and additional resources include:

- ♣ Behavioral/Psychiatric
- ♣ Cultural Humility
- ♣ Pharmacology
- ♣ Public Health
- ♣ EMS Safety, Wellness, and Resilience
- ♣ Patients with Special Challenges

The National Registry will debut three new item types, referred to as Technology Enhanced Items (TEIs) in the testing industry, on the ALS examinations beginning in late January 2023. These new items aim to create a more authentic, field-related, and engaging testing experience for AEMT and Paramedic candidates.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Kelsey Rideout – The Protocol Workgroup received a request from Heart and Stroke to update the reference section. Three of the state facilities have changed their stroke status going from primary stroke centers to thrombolytic capable centers and one went from primary to comprehensive. The Protocol Workgroup did approve that and the issue is being brought to the Board for approval.

Mike Grubb mentioned that while not pertaining to this change, protocols will need to be updated to include HCA’s freestanding ER.

Motion to approve the update to the regional patient care protocol reference section was presented by the Workgroup. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – Reference Section Change in Heart and Stroke Protocols - APPROVED

The next meeting will be at EMS Station 1, 210 Hospital Dr. Training Division – Basement Level, Warrenton, VA 20186.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.