

Rappahannock EMS Council Board of Directors Meeting

Ladysmith Volunteer Rescue Squad

Wednesday, November 15th, 2023, 7pm

Board Members Present:

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County Volunteer
Debra Marinari, At-Large
Patricia Copeland, Stafford County Volunteer
Mark Crnarich, At-Large
Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg
Susan Dietrich, Caroline County
Lisa Palmer, Rappahannock Count
Jacob Parcell, At-Large
Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania County

John Brandrup, At-Large
David Moody, King George County
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County
William Ooten, Culpeper County
Kevin Dillard, At-Large
Joseph Cardello, Stafford County
Jordan Coleman, Fauquier County
David Garvin, King George County
William Harrington, Spotsylvania Citizen

Board Members Excused:

Pat Fitzgerald, Westmoreland County Volunteer
Ed Bonham, Caroline County Career
Maurice “Bud” Moody, Orange County Volunteer
Michael Pearson, Culpeper County Volunteer

Joey King, At Large
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg Career
Nathan Mort, Orange County Career
Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

REMS Council Staff Present:

Wayne Perry, Regional Director
Kelsey Rideout, PI Specialist
Andrea Prokop, Office Manager
Lara Traylor, Regional Field Coordinator
Tatiana Pedroza, Technical Resource Specialist

Guests:

Raymond Hennessey, HCA SRMC BHU
Kelly Barill, Caroline Fire/Rescue
Scott Winston, Assistant Director OEMS

Agency Presentation

The Agency presentation was given by Kelly Barill.

Caroline is home to 31,000 people and is comprised of 537 square miles, where 120 of those miles are dedicated to Ft. Walker. We work closely with them to deliver services to the county. There are currently 6 fire stations, four are staffed 24/7 with career personnel, and the others are volunteers.

Call to Order - Kevin Dillard, President

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7PM at Ladysmith Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Guest Speaker

Raymond Hennessey, Director of the Behavioral Health Unit at Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center, talked about a program for Substance Abuse and Mental Health that is available for first responders and law enforcement.

Q: Chief Cardello- who pays for it? **A:** Insurance

Q: What is a typical stay? **A:** Mental Health is 5-7 days, while substance disorders may be 4-5 days

Approval of Minutes- August 16th, 2023

The Minutes for the August 16th, 2023 were approved as presented.

Officers' Reports –

President Kevin Dillard

Introduced Andrea Prokop as the new Office Manager.

The Strategic Planning and Pharmacy Committees would benefit from more board members on the committees.

Kevin expressed that the REMS Council is interested in hosting a showing of the movie 'Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat' in the region for 1Q 2024. He discussed the YIP grant application and thanked the staff (Lara Traylor, Tatiana Pedroza, and Wayne Perry) and board members (Jacob Parcell and Kevin Dillard) who participated in the application process. We received a \$10,000 grant for creating a youth-centric emergency preparedness program.

On December 1st, Gary Brown is retiring from the office of OEMS after 43 years. Cam Crittendon is the acting director.

It was shared that there are internal and external investigations going on. There will be a more in-depth meeting on Friday at the EMS Advisory Board. Overall, expenditure has been greater than revenue and changes are needed. Kevin said everyone should expect major changes and asked that everyone be as flexible as possible. If you are available on Friday, there is a meeting at the Embassy Suites in Richmond, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Vice President - Jack Atkinson - No report

Secretary - Marc Crnarich - No report

Treasurer - John Brandrup- Financial statements were sent out with the meeting announcement, there were no questions from the Board.

Strategic Goal #1 Expert Clinical Care - Coordinator Mark Crnarich; Staff Support Kelsey Rideout

Medical Review Committee has met twice and will present several action items for the Board tonight.

Heart and Stroke Workgroup – Joe Williams. The next meeting will be 01-18-24 at 1:30pm. We have been working with Orange County schools to get the heart and stroke information out to the students. Lara Traylor continues to work offline with expanding the program for education in schools.

ACTION ITEM – Updates to the Regional STEMI Plan – motion carries/APPROVED.

STROKE plan objective is to identify stroke centers and update.

ACTION ITEM – Updates to the Regional Stroke Plan – motion carries/APPROVED.

- Performance Improvement Workgroup – Mark Crnarich. The next meeting will be 01-18-23. Kelsey shared a high-level overview PI data from the first quarter of FY2024. The region ran just over 30,000 calls, 99% passed and were accepted by the state repository. The average submission score was 99.06%. There was discussion surrounding patient refusals, staff will look for any link to a certain day of the week or time of the day. Don't forget that primary impression MUST be included in all reports as the state is watching for that data integrity.
- Pharmacy Workgroup – Bill Ooten. The next meeting for the workgroup will be 01-11-24 and they last met 10-12-23. There was discussion under old business about the previous collection of data regarding drug box inventory. The pharmacies are interesting in collecting data, but they believe that the weekly reports would be too much information. Still some discussion around this and further discussion will happen at the next meeting. In the meantime, hospital pharmacies will be reaching out to EMS agencies and asking for data from them.
 - There has been no further issues regarding STAT kits and this item has been removed from our agenda. There is current a medication shortage of Cardizem and Ketamine (most critical shortage). The Virginia Board of Pharmacy has been invited to the January workgroup meeting to have a discussion about future changes to hospital supplied medications. There was an OMD that reached out to Bill Ooten directly for some discussion about Schedule VI medications and equipment items. This will be on the topic of items to discuss in January. EMS in Culpeper County is working to start a Whole Blood Program. There was conversation about Blood being provided by hospitals, but it isn't under the

purview of the pharmacy as it isn't considered a medications. Generally, this is handled under the laboratory services sections of the hospital.

- Protocol Workgroup – Tricia Derr

A summary update of the protocol changes was sent out with the BOD packet. There were no questions.

ACTION ITEM – Updates to Regional Patient Care Protocols – motion carries/APPROVED.

Strategic Goal #2 Health and Wellness – Coordinator Joe Williams; Staff Support Lara Traylor

Incident and Threat Mitigation Committee - next meeting 01-19-23 at 3:30 pm.

Continuity of operations plan was discussed. The new COOP was updated after the REMS Council moved to the new location and it was used in May 2023 after the burglary. Subsequent discussions and following guidance from OEMS there are some updates that were requested.

ACTION ITEM – Updates to the COOP Plan – motion carries/APPROVED.

- CISM Team report - Patricia Copeland

The CISM Team has proposed updating their SOPs; they were submitted with the BOD packet and there were no questions from the group.

ACTION ITEM – Updates to the CISM Team SOP – motion carries/APPROVED.

REMS will be offering a class in January for mental health EMDR looking for RSVP to know how big of a location is needed. Tatiana will forward information about the location once it is finalized. The Fick Center was a suggestion put forward for hosting the class.

The next meeting for the CISM team will be 01-15-24 at 7:00 pm.

Strategic Goal #3 Cultivating Talent – Coordinator Ed Bonham; Staff Support Kelsey Rideout.

Guidelines and Training Committee- next meeting on 01-23-24 at 7pm.

There have been a few updates and changes in workgroup memberships. We have 2 new people beginning next quarter. The Guidelines and Training Committee voted to move their meeting time from 7pm to 4pm, and have therefore updated their charter and submitted it as an action item. There was some discussion around this. Changing the time from the evening to the afternoon, especially that late in the afternoon, creates a challenge for members who work daytime hours to attend the meeting.

ACTION ITEM – Updates to the G&T Charter - motion to TABLE / charter update NOT APPROVED.

Strategic Goal #4 Driving Innovation - Coordinator Kevin Dillard, Staff Support Wayne Perry

Executive Committee – the next meeting will be 01-29-24 at 09:00 am. The Executive Committee last met on 10/30/23 where they discussed REMS Council finances, the FY22 audit and some personnel issues.

- Grant Workgroup – Kevin Dillard. We anticipate hearing more about the RSAF program this Friday 11/17/23 at the EMS Advisory Board meeting.
- Regional Awards Workgroup – David Moody. The next meeting has not been set. Regional Awards can be submitted at any time during the year, you don't need to wait until the end of the year to submit. If you liked the Fick Center for the ceremony please provide the workgroup with some feedback. If you have another place in mind, let us know.
- Personnel Workgroup - David Moody. Chief Moody thanked everyone for coming out to celebrate Linda Harris' retirement after 21 years with REMS. There are a lot of moving and dynamic parts with the state, and there remain a lot of unanswered questions. As of this point, all vacant positions and all contractual positions are on hold. Shout-out to Lara Traylor for starting the weekly dispatch with information updates from the REMS Council.
- **Grant Workgroup - Kevin Dillard.** The workgroup met last month and reviewed the grants. We anticipate updated information about the grant program on Friday (11/17/23).

Strategic Goal #5 Healthcare Collaboration – Coordinator Bill Ooten, Staff Support Tatiana Pedroza

Strategic Planning Committee - Bill Ooten. The next meeting will be 01-18-24 at 2:00pm. REMS has created a communication plan. Tatiana is doing a wonderful job at communicating with PSAPs. Communication plan is intended to help disseminate consistent information with our stakeholders and partners, including the health districts. There was a suggestion to organize local events for STB, and spring was selected to hold events in PD9. There are multiple ongoing collaborative projects with PD9 and PD16 and Tatiana provided some updates.

No updates from workgroups.

- By-Laws Workgroup - Jack Atkins- No report

- Finance Workgroup – John Brandrup- No report

EMS Governor’s Advisory Report – Joe Williams

The next meeting is Friday, November 17,2023 at 10:00am

OEMS Updates - Scott Winston – OEMS found themselves in a financial predicament at the beginning of the fiscal year where there were expenditures that outweighed the revenue for FY23. As a result, OEMS hasn’t paid out EMS scholarships; hasn’t paid regional councils invoices, which are currently well over \$1M dollars. OEMS is working hard to try to remedy the situation, but it is a pretty large hole. Scott thanked Kevin for his engagement. Dr. Karen Shelton, State Health Commissioner, is extremely supportive. Christopher Lindsay, Chief Operating Officer (COO) for VDH, appointed by Gov. Youngkin, is also working with OEMS on the issue.

OEMS now has a full-time Business Manager named Phil Peter and he has been a great help. There is a lot of discussion occurring at the regional council level and the fire chiefs' have also been vocal. Letters have been written. Regional councils have been very proactive and communicating with Health and Human Resources Secretary John Lytell apprising him of their concerns and the impact of not receiving payment. Many conditions have changed over the course of the last three months; OEMS has internal auditors working at the direction of the Commissioner to identify where things came off the rails. There is also an external investigation being conducted by state and federal agencies regarding potential financial irregularities. Any charges, if brought, would be at the felony level.

OEMS asks that you stay informed, be flexible, remain engaged, ask questions if you have them and seek answers. There is a lot we need to share and there will be a statement made on Friday by the Commissioner, but probably not to the extent that people would like. We acknowledge that answers are not coming quickly enough.

There has been no significant increase in funding for EMS in Virginia since 2002 and we are very limited in the options that are available to cover shortfalls.

Staff Report – Wayne Perry-Director

The REMS Council’s FY24 Q1 report is linked in the agenda.

Regional directors group has met and discussed the financial situation with lack of payments to regional councils. The REMS Council is in a better position than some other councils. We are currently operating on contingency funds and saving. REMS will need to look at funding options moving forward, including training expenses. If anyone has ideas, please see Wayne or John, they are interested in hearing all input and options. So far, the COPE program has secured \$11,000 in donations and they continue to seek alternate funding sources.

The REMS Council has also changed from GoTo Meetings to Zoom due to the financial impact at OEMS. Monday.com has been discontinued by OEMS, but the REMS Council was able to

leverage the council's non-profit status and retain the program. We will continue to use the platform, but now each council has a separate and segregated account.

The staff report details information on the 'Everyone goes home' Program offer to provide training to the region.

Lara Traylor and Tatiana Pedroza are now trained and certified as child car seat installers. The REMS Council can do hybrid courses.

The REMS Council is hosting an Anatomage tournament. REMS is working with MWH to use the Fick Center for the tournament on 02/07/2024. There is no fee for use and MWH will provide food.

The REMS Council training center remains very active. There were 59 classes and training events in this past quarter.

The Public Safety Memorial Ceremony will be held 11/18/23.

In the interest of time, please review the REMS Quarterly report and the remainder of the staff report digitally.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be at Richardsville Fire/Rescue in February. We are looking for a sponsor from Orange County or Fauquier County for May's meeting.

Q: Are the state employees covered?

A: Yes, we eliminated a contract position, and we froze and did not fill a full-time position.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

There was a discussion that training programs and classes are being held during the week instead of weekends which makes it harder for people to attend. There will be training made available on weekends starting with the third quarter of FY24.

Next Meeting will be February 21, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Richardsville Volunteer Fire & Rescue

29361 Elys Ford Rd, Richardsville, VA 22736

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm