

**Rappahannock EMS Council Board of Directors Meeting  
Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Department  
Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

**Board Members Present:**

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County  
Ed Bonham, Caroline County\*  
John Brandrup, At-Large  
Joseph Cardello, Stafford County  
Jordan Coleman, Fauquier County\*  
Patricia Copeland, Stafford County\*  
Mark Crnarich, At-Large\*  
Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg  
Kevin Dillard, At-Large  
Pat Fitzgerald, Westmoreland County\*  
David Garvin, King George County  
William Harrington, Spotsylvania Citizen\*  
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg  
Joey King, At-Large\*  
Debra Marinari, At-Large\*  
David Moody, King George County\*  
Maurice “Bud” Moody, Orange County  
Nathan Mort, Orange County  
William Ooten, Culpeper County  
Lisa Palmer, Rappahannock County\*  
Jacob Parcell, At-Large  
Michael Pearson, Culpeper County  
Joseph Williams, Fauquier County

**Board Members Excused:**

Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

**Board Members Absent:**

Susan Dietrich, Caroline County  
Mike Grubb, Spotsylvania

**Staff Members Present:**

Wayne Perry, Regional Director  
Lara Traylor, Regional Field Coordinator\*  
Andrea Prokop, Office Manager  
Tatiana Pedroza, Technical Resource Specialist\*  
Kelsey Rideout, Regional PI Specialist  
Dr. Karen Owens, Deputy Director OEMS\*  
Chigeme Onyirimba, Health Informatics Intern

**Guests Present:**

David Myers, President Brandy Station VFD  
Tanya Ison, President Angel Rides  
Timothy Schilling, President Guardian Medical Ser.  
Ray Harvey, Deputy Chief of EMS, Lake of the Woods Vol. Rescue Squad

\*On Zoom call

**Agency Presentation** – President David Myers, Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Department welcomed the REMS Board of Directors. The department was chartered in 1951 after the community experienced a death related to a house fire that was less than a mile from the current station. The department has a roster of 44 operational members and a fleet of 9 vehicles. Last year the department responded to 840 emergency calls and maintained an average arrival on scene time of 9 minutes. The department hosts an annual fireman’s fair (August) and a car show (Oct.).

**Call to Order** – Kevin Dillard, President

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Dillard at 7 PM at Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Department.

**Public Comments/ Presentations from Guests** – None.

**Approval of Minutes** – February 21, 2024, minutes were approved as submitted.

### **Officers' Reports**

**President** – Kevin Dillard

Kevin thanked President David Myers of Brandy Station Volunteer Fire Department for hosting the meeting and Culpeper County Director Bill Ooten for providing the meal for the meeting.

Kevin recognized outgoing board member Maurice “Bud” Moody of Orange County for his twelve years of service to the board. Bud was presented with a plaque commemorating his service to the Rappahannock EMS Council.

Kevin provided an update on the Office of EMS. He stated that Fitch & Associates recently conducted a survey that closed this past Friday. They are gathering information from surveys and meetings with stakeholders over the next few weeks as they put together their report for the VDH. We anticipate a draft report being released by the consultants on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Currently the OEMS is still operating in a deficit according to the report that was given at the EMS Advisory Board meeting. Leadership continues to work on reducing expenses so that we can have a balanced budget to operate with.

An update on the activities related to Ukraine was provided. Kevin stated that he returned to Ukraine for the third time in April. They have been able to get over 75 ambulances into Ukraine and about a half dozen fire engines. The need is still great for vehicles, as many of the emergency vehicles have been destroyed due to shelling by the Russians and the secondary attacks when they respond to the scene of the first emergency. In military terms this is known as a “double tap” and is aimed to hit rescuers. The line of duty deaths for fire and EMS providers is very high due to this.

20% of the attacks in 2024 have targeted Emergency Medical Services.

Since the war started in February 2022, there have been 1,682 verified attacks on health care in Ukraine, resulting in 128 deaths and 288 injuries of medical personnel and patients. One of the LifeCare ambulances that was taken over was shelled by the Russians and four people in the ambulance lost their lives.

If you have a usable vehicle that you plan to take out of service and would like to consider donating for this effort, please reach out to Kevin. Also, there is an immediate need for fire hoses. If anyone is aware of a department that has usable hose that they will no longer be using, it can be put to good use in Ukraine.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EMS Week is this year on May 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the 2024 EMS Week is “Honoring the Past. Forging the Future.” The theme reminds us to acknowledge the foundational work of those who came before us, while also striving to build and lead the EMS System we envision for our future.

On Monday May 20<sup>th</sup> during EMS Week, there will be a state EMS awards presentation. This year the Governor will present the awards at the Governor's Mansion. This is an invitation only event and will honor the 2023 award winners.

Kevin wished everyone a Happy 50<sup>th</sup> EMS Week!

Kevin introduced and welcomed Dr. Karen Owens to the meeting. Dr. Owens serves as the Deputy Director of Operations for the Office of EMS and one of her responsibilities is to oversee the Regional EMS Councils.

**Vice President – Jack Atkins**

Jack gave an overview of the events that have been occurring in Rappahannock County in reference to Flint Hill Volunteer Fire and Rescue and the Board of Supervisors.

**Secretary—Mark Crnarich (No report.)**

**Treasurer—John Brandrup**

The financial report has been sent out to the board. He stated that we are still in need of some of the area localities to submit their funding levels for the upcoming budget.

**Standing Committee Reports and Action Items**

**Strategic Goal #1 Expert Clinical Care**

**Medical Review Committee**

**Coordinator-** Mark Crnarich

**Staff-** Kelsey Rideout

Medical Review met April 23rd. The group reviewed the draft proposals that are being submitted by the Protocol Workgroup and supported the updates.

**Heart and Stroke Workgroup** – Joe Williams

Gave an update on the Stroke Smart in the Schools program. This program is going very well. Schools are looking to put this in their curriculum. Working with Lara Traylor on this and hope to expand to small businesses and the YMCA.

**Performance Improvement Workgroup** – Mark Crnarich

Stated that they are having issues with pulling data on ESO.

**Pharmacy Workgroup** – Bill Ooten

Stated that we are on the third draft of guidelines on the FDA regulations. Requested changes that were made to the Board of Pharmacy were approved. Discussed examples of how the medication exchanges could occur and stated that there is a tool kit on the REMS website with guidance. The tool kit is provided as a template for use around the state.

There was a discussion about Regional EMS Council involvement with the medication exchange. Also, discussion about doing a council-wide survey on the needs of the agencies. President Kevin Dillard directed the committee to proceed with the survey and referred the item of the Regional EMS Council involvement in the medication exchange to the committee to investigate further and report back to the Executive Committee.

**Protocol Workgroup—**

Kelsey Rideout reported for the workgroup.

**ACTION ITEM – Cardiac Arrest – Unknown Rhythm update- APPROVED.**

**ACTION ITEM – Respiratory Distress (Croup) update – APPROVED.**

**ACTION ITEM – Clinical Procedures Section IV update – APPROVED.**

**Strategic Goal #2 Health and Wellness**

**Incident and Threat Mitigation Committee**

**Coordinator - Joe Williams  
Staff—Tatiana Pedroza**

Did not have a quorum at the last committee meeting. Staff support will be switching from Lara Traylor to Tatiana Pedroza in FY25. Will be surveying committee to see who is interested in continuing to participate. Also need someone to serve as secretary for the committee. A large-scale exercise is being planned.

**CISM Team** – Patricia Copeland  
A written report was submitted.

### Strategic Goal #3 Cultivating Talent

#### Guidelines and Training Committee

**Coordinator** – Ed Bonham  
**Staff**—Kelsey Rideout

Participated in the April 23<sup>rd</sup> group meeting.

#### ALS Release Workgroup --

**ACTION ITEM—ALS Release Handbook updates – APPROVED.**

**ACTION ITEM—Culpeper County Preceptor reciprocity – APPROVED.**

#### Cultural Diversity Workgroup – Bud Moody

The workgroup met on Monday. Good participation from the various religions. Will start work on a video in June/July timeframe and anticipate completion in November.

### Strategic Goal # 4 Driving Innovation

#### Executive Committee

**Coordinator** – Kevin Dillard  
**Staff**—Wayne Perry

Executive Committee members participated in the group meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Next meeting will be on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### Grant Workgroup—Kevin Dillard

The last two grant cycles were cancelled; however, the upcoming Fall grant cycle will occur. The grant cycle will open on August 1<sup>st</sup> and close on September 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a change to the hardship funding level beginning with the Spring 2025 cycle. Instead of the previous 80/20 hardship funding, it will change to 70/30 hardship funding. The other change is anyone applying for hardship funding will only be graded on that request and will not have the option of dropping down to 50/50 funding like

previously allowed.

**Regional Awards Workgroup** – David Moody

Encouraged people to nominate your personnel. This is a great way to recognize people. The regional awards ceremony will be held on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8pm at the JF Fick Center on the Mary Washington Healthcare Campus.

**Personnel Workgroup** – David Moody (No report.)

**Strategic Goal #5 Healthcare Collaboration**

**Strategic Planning Committee**

**Coordinator – William Ooten  
Staff – Tatiana Pedroza**

We met along with the other committee chairs during the April 23<sup>rd</sup> group meeting.

**ACTION ITEM—Strategic Planning Committee Charter—APPROVED.**

**By-Laws Workgroup**—Jack Atkins (No report.)

**Nominating Workgroup**—Jack Atkins

Jack stated that the Orange County Board of Supervisors is recommending Chief Ray Harvey for the Orange County position that will become open on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The board unanimously approved Ray Harvey’s appointment to the board.

There are three At-Large positions to be voted on tonight.

John Brandrup has expressed interest in reappointment to the board.

Joey King stated he will not be seeking reappointment at the end of his term.

Mark Crnarich also expressed interest in reappointment to the board.

One person expressed interest in an At-Large position, Chief Ryan Kendrick of Stafford County Fire and Rescue. He is the EMS Chief for the County.

Jack Atkins, chair of the nominating committee asked for any nominations. No other nominations were made. A motion was made for John Brandrup, Ryan Kendrick, and Mark Crnarich for the three At-Large board positions. Motion approved for each unanimously.

The nominating committee chair, Jack Atkins then presented the slate of officers for the upcoming two years.

President- Kevin Dillard

Vice President- Jack Atkins

Secretary- Mark Crnarich

Treasurer- John Brandrup

The floor was open for any other nominations. No other nominations were made, and Jack then made a motion that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers presented. Motion passed.

**Finance Workgroup-** John Brandrup

Participated in the group meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. President Dillard has added two new members to the workgroup, Tanya Ison and Ray Harvey.

**EMS Governor's Advisory Report** – Joe Williams

Joe stated he was unable to attend the last EMS Advisory Board meeting and asked President Dillard to report.

Kevin Dillard reported that the board met on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Karen Shelton, the State Health Commissioner, was present along with Christopher Lindsay, the Chief Operating Officer of the VDH.

Received a report from Fitch & Associates. They reviewed the organizational structure that is now in place at OEMS.

- o Rachel Stradling is the Interim Director of the OEMS
- o Dr. Karen Owens is the Deputy Director for Operations
- o Scott Winston is the Deputy Director of Compliance & Education
- o Cam Crittenden is the Deputy Director of Trauma & Administration
- o This new structure will improve communication and cross-division interactions.

- OEMS is still operating at about a \$2.4MM deficit. Continuing efforts to get expenses under control.
- Looking at staffing for OEMS to determine if the number of people is the correct number.
- Fitch day-to-day onsite ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Received a report from the EMS Next Steps Workgroup, to include the Regional EMS Council Workgroup and the Regional Medication Kit Transition Workgroup. There is a lot of detailed information on the Rappahannock EMS Council website with the latest information about the changes to the Virginia EMS Drug Box Exchange Program. We also have staff available at REMS to assist any agency with this transition.

#### **Staff Report—Wayne Perry**

Wayne introduced the intern we have for six months, Chigeme Onyirimba, Health Informatics Intern.

Had a meeting with Mark Crnarich regarding the 990 form. There was a suggestion to change how we track items in QuickBooks to align with a new 990 reporting format. Staff will be taking the suggestion of using projects for tracking spending starting in FY25 to the Finance WG.

REMS has a staff member who in the process to become a Spanish medical translator for VDH. REMS is also working with another local not-for-profit to have access to Urdu and Farsi translation services for COPE outreach events.

The last NREMT test site in May was cancelled and the June site is likely going to be cancelled due to low enrollment. NREMT is sunseting psychomotor testing starting in FY25.

The data manager, Byan Hodges, at OEMS has resigned.

Discussed cases of measles in Virginia.

Staff assisted Stafford County with Airway PI program. Received great reviews.

OEMS is recommitting to Mental Health and will be producing monthly safety alerts again.

Update to the VA CEU tracking to align with NREMT changes was approved by the

State EMS Advisory Board.

Discussion on upcoming legislation that will require specific Geriatric training for EMS providers.

All VDH sites will be required to have Narcan on site.

Need for electric vehicle training. Waiting on confirmation.

### **Unfinished Business—**

Joe Williams complimented Lara Traylor on the Child Safety Seat Program.

David Garvin brought up questions about the elections.

- President Dillard asked Regional Director Wayne Perry to put information about the board seat elections and officer elections on the REMS website.
- President Dillard stated that approximately one third of our board is up for election each year.
  - For 2025 there will be ten board slots open.
  - For 2026 there will be eight board slots open.
  - For 2027 there will be eight board slots open.
  - Officers are elected for two-year terms on even numbered years.

The following board openings will occur in 2025—

1. Caroline County – seat held by Captain Ed Bonham
2. Fauquier County- seat held by Lieutenant Jordan Coleman
3. Stafford County- seat held by Patricia Copeland
4. At-Large- seat held by Kevin Dillard
5. King George County- seat held by David Garvin
6. Spotsylvania County- seat held by William Harrington
7. City of Fredericksburg- seat held by Chief Mike Jones
8. At-Large- seat held by Jacob Parcell
9. Culpeper County- seat held by Michael Pearson
10. Regional Medical Director- seat held by Dr. Tania White

**New Business—None**

**Next Meeting/ Adjournment—**August 21, 2024, at Caroline County Fire & Rescue

The final meeting of 2024 will be held on November 20, 2024, at Salem Vol. Fire &

Rescue in Culpeper County.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.