

Rappahannock EMS Council Board of Directors Meeting

Virtual Meeting Only

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (Indicates Virtual)**

**Ed Bonham, Caroline County Career
**John Brandrup, At-Large
**Patricia Copeland, Stafford County Volunteer
**Mark Crnarich, At-Large
**Scott Davis, City of Fredericksburg Volunteer
**Kevin Dillard, At-Large
**Pat Fitzgerald, Westmoreland County Volunteer
**David Garvin, King George County Volunteer
**William Harrington, Spotsylvania County Citizen

**Ray Harvey, Orange County Volunteer
**Ryland Kendrick, At – Large
**Christopher Lonzo, Spotsylvania County Career
**David Moody, King George County Career
**Nathan Mort, Orange County Career
**William Ooten, Culpeper County Career
**Lisa Palmer, Rappahannock County Volunteer
**Jacob Parcell, At – Large
**Joseph Williams, Fauquier County Volunteer
**Dr. Tania White, Regional Medical Director

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

**Wayne Perry, Regional Director
**Andrea Prokop, Office Manager
**Lara Traylor, Regional Field Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED

Jack Atkins, Rappahannock County Volunteer
Susan Dietrich, Caroline County Volunteer
Jordan Coleman, Fauquier County Career

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Joseph Cardello, Stafford County Career
Mike Jones, City of Fredericksburg Career
Debra Marinari, At – Large
Michael Pearson, Culpeper County Volunteer

GUESTS

**R. Christopher Lindsay, Chief Operating Officer VDH
**Dr. Maria Beermann-Foat, Director, OEMS
**Dr. Gregory Woods, Deputy Director of Operations (Acting),
OEMS

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| Call to Order | Meeting was called to order by the President at 19:00 Special thanks to everyone’s flexibility as inclement weather forced a virtual only meeting. |
| Approval of Minutes | Minutes for November,2024 were approved as presented |
| Public Comments / Presentations from Guests | <p>President recognized Mr. Christopher Lindsey, who was appointed by Gov. Younkin as the Chief Operations Officer for the Dept. of Health as well as an active ALS member of Tuckahoe Volunteer Rescue Squad. Mr. Lindsey commented on his recent visit to the REMS Council Office as well as the Anatomatage Tournament in Stafford. He was very impressed with the educational opportunities provided by the Council.</p> <p>President next recognized Dr. Maria Beermann-Foat, the newly hired Office of EMS Director . She was selected after an eextensive nationwide search of over 150 candidates. She started on January 25 and has been very active in outreach since then. Dr. Beerman-Foat gave an overview of her experience with nearly 30 years of EMS experience including hospital-based EMS, Fire-based EMS, Battalion Chief of Training, Community Education, and various Boards & Associations at the National Level. She’s also been an author and scientific reviewer to national journals. Her belief is that regardless of where somebody lives, they deserve the best possible EMS care.</p> |
| Officers’ Report | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● President – Kevin Dillard | <p>Kevin gave an update on the activities and actions at the OEMS level. Governor’s Advisory Board work group action reports were distributed previously. What's not going to be able to continue is the current hybrid system that we're in. This impacts REMS, Blue Ridge, Central Shenandoah, Southwest Virginia EMS Councils as they are considered a hybrid office. As of July 1st, that particular structure will no longer exist.</p> <p>Current approach is to reduce the number of councils from eleven to seven, and consider other models. The traditional council model where 501(c)3 is under contract or a state model. The state model was compared to providing decentralized services similar to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Key points from discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The current REMS facility lease is about \$15,000/month for 10 years. Not looking to change that. ● Looking for better access and sharing of innovations across the state. ● Non-profit organization would be closer to an advisory board to focus on local protocols and other EMS needs. ● Concern raised about level of local participation. The current council leaders have been actively involved, along with the appointed State EMS Advisory Board. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another concern raised was on expectations of non-profit organizations. New entities require a longer timeline to be recognized as tax-exempt, but even mergers would have challenges if not done correctly. |
| | Kevin discussed the recent Antamotage Tournament that was held at Colonial Forge High School in Stafford on February 14, 2025. 42 teams applied. Kudos to Lara Traylor and Wayne Perry for organizing the event. Special Thanks to Mr Lindsey and Dr. Beermann-Foat for participating as well. A brief video presentation summarized the event. |
| | Concerted Care Group opened their office in the Woodlawn Shopping Center in Southern Stafford County. REMS Council was invited to attend open house on February 26, 2025. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice President – Jack Atkins | Nothing to Report |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary – Mark Crnarich | Nothing to Report |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasure – John Brandrup | Finance statements were distributed in the board packet. No additional updates with respect to Locality Funding. |
| | Thank you to Wayne and Jacob for putting together the FY budget comparison. |
| Standing Committee Reports and Action Items | |
| Strategic Goal #1 – Expert Clinical Care – Coordinator – Mark Crnarich | |
| Medical Review Committee (Mark Crnarich) | Did not have a quorum but discussed the need to revisit all workgroup and committee charters. The committee also wants to focus on improved asynchronous collaboration on work products within the workgroups. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heart and Stroke Workgroup (Joe Williams) | No quorum but members discussed the need for alternatives to streamline work group meetings and participation. |
| | Also had a couple of long time active members with Stroke Smart take a step back. Looking for new members to help keep the activity going with the school systems. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Performance Improvement Workgroup (Mark Crnarich) | <p>No meeting. Focusing on April for next workgroup session.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pharmacy Workgroup (William Ooten) | <p>No meeting this quarter, but targeting April meeting. Only lingering item is the EMS drug kit exchange program with the April 15th deadline lingering for those agencies that have not transitioned.</p> <p>At the state level, the Regional Directors Group has stood up the Medication Kit Transition Group to provide some assistance with any agencies needing help with building out their system. One of that group's tasks is tracking investigating the potential hazardous materials designation of certain medications. Epinephrine that is SALT-BASED is not considered hazardous. Nitroglycerin spray is currently considered hazardous because of the aerosol container. IV nitroglycerin is currently considered hazardous because it is flammable.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protocol Workgroup (Patricia Derr) | <p>No Report</p> |
| <p>Strategic Goal #2 – Health and Wellness – Coordinator – Joe Williams</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incident and Threat Mitigation Committee (Joe Williams) | <p>Thanks to Lara and Tatiana for all their work supporting the committee. Looking for collaboration initiatives to help with the committee participation.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CISM Team report (Patricia Copeland) | <p>Report was emailed separately</p> |
| <p>Strategic Goal #3 – Cultivate Talent – Coordinator – Ed Bonham</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidelines and Training Committee (Ed Bonham) | <p>Will discuss future of Regional ALS Preceptor Program. Right now it looks like only Lake of The Woods would have a need as other agencies are running their own programs.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cultural Diversity Workgroup | <p>Nothing to Report</p> |

| Strategic Goal #4 – Drive Innovation – Coordinator – Kevin Dillard | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee (Kevin Dillard) | Met January 20 th to discuss latest on OEMS events. Much of the information was presented earlier. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Workgroup (Kevin Dillard) | Grant applications are due March 17 th for the next RSAF cycle. Agencies that review grants with REMS have had a higher success rate for an award |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Awards Workgroup (David Moody) | Office of EMS has requested that we hold off on promoting 2025 EMS awards. 2024 State awardees may have a recognition event during EMS week in May. . REMS council is still set up to receive nominations at any time, but the workgroup is holding off on any media promotions. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Workgroup (David Moody) | Nothing to Report |
| Strategic Goal #5 – Healthcare Collaboration – Coordinator – Bill Ooten | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning Committee (Nathan Mort) | Nothing to Report |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By-Laws Workgroup (Jack Atkins) | Nothing to Report |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating Workgroup (Jack Atkins) | Nothing to Report |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Workgroup (John Brandrup) | Nothing to Report |
| EMS Governor’s Advisory Report (Joe Williams) | As previously reported, there are six (6) workgroups appointed to look at various actions. The actions of each workgroup were summarized. The white- papers produced by each workgroup were distributed previously |

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| | Reminder of the VAVRS Rescue College being held this June in Blacksburg. |
| Staff Report (Wayne Perry) | <p>Highlighted items from the Staff Report provided in the Board Packet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VAVRS is accepting applications for the Germany EMS exchange program 4 Police Officers and 4 EMS providers will be selected to go to Germany for a few weeks in May. ● REMS hosted second cohort of interns for Stafford high schools. We had 2 students spend a week in the office and visit various agencies, in support of Recruitment & Retention efforts. ● Assessing impacts from cuts to Federal funding and grants. ● The CDC Public Health Advisor that was assigned to REMS for a 2-year term starting October 28 had their position eliminated under Federal cuts. ● Discussion on RSAF Grant Cycle. Reminder that only FDA approved items can be request on grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$3.5M awarded to 34 agencies last cycle ● Office of EMS will be creating an externally facing web page to advertise Return to Locality funding that has not been claimed. There is over \$8M in funds that have not been requested by localities. ● Dr. Alan Yee has been named interim State Medical Director. State OMD training will be resuming with 1 in-person class and 1 virtual class ● We have 1, possibly 2, interns from Norfolk State health informatics programs joining REMS this summer. ● Medical Reserve Corps has been making progress in digitizing old council records. ● REMS submitted application for Regional Council designation in December. Awaiting next steps for site visit or alternate review. ● All FY26 Locality Funding requests have been submitted ● Attended Blood Product Administration best practice webinar. There may be some changes coming as more and more regions across the country adopt protocols ● Supported the successful Anatomatge Tournament in Stafford ● Numerous public encounters with training, car seat safety checks, Medical Reserve Corps, Office of Family Health Services, UMW. ● Hosting Stroke Smart and Healthcare roundtables with North Stafford and Mountain View High Schools. ● The Phoenix School is our first potential school to pursue Stroke Smart designation ● Flowing out additional performance measures as identified by the State provider, health and safety committee |
| Unfinished Business | No unfinished business |

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| New Business | Concern was raised about the lack of metric reporting to substantiate budget activity. Issue was tabled to Executive Committee for further assessment and action. |
| Adjourn | The meeting was adjourned at 20:12. Next meeting will be held May 21, 2025 @ 1900. Location will be at New Baltimore Volunteer Fire/Rescue |

KEY DATES

March 2025

- RSAF Grant Application Due, 17 March

April 2025

- Pharmacy Workgroup, 10 April
- CISM Team Meeting, 14 April
- Heart and Stroke WG, 16 April
- Performance Improvement WG, 17 April
- Incident and Threat Mitigation Committee, 17 April
- Strategic Planning Committee, 17 April
- Guidelines and Training Committee, 22 April
- Medical Review Committee, 24 April
- Protocol Workgroup, 28 April
- Executive Committee, 28 April

May 2025

- Governor's Advisory Board, 2 May

June 2025

- VAVRS Rescue College, 6 – 15 June

August 2025

- Governor's Advisory Board, 1 August

November 2025

- Governor's Advisory Board, 7 November