

REGION I EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 2024

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Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting

October 17, 2024

The Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting was held on April 18, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Members attending were: Alison Robinson, Derek Crippen, Doug Beitzel, Dwayne Kitis, Janelle Martin, Jonathan Dayton, Lori Peck, Mike Salvadge, Richard DeVore, Scott Whetsell, Wendy Helms, and Wayne Tiemersma

The meeting was called to order by Alison Robinson at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of July 18, 2024 Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Welcome Guests

Paul Harman NGCRS; Colin Graham, MHA; Cyndy Wright-Johnson and Elizabeth Wooster, MIEMSS

President's Report – no report

Committee Reports

Prehospital Care System – No report

Quality Improvement – No report

Bylaws/Membership

The Council Membership list was voted on and approved.

ALS Advisory Committee / Garrett College – Doug Beitzel

- ☐ An update on ALS training in the Region was provided, please see attachment.

Region I Emergency Services Education Council, Inc. – Wayne Tiemersma

- ☐ The committee met just prior to this meeting for final planning on the Miltenberger Seminar scheduling; hopefully we'll have that out in December.

Garrett County Activities

WVU Medicine Garrett Regional Medical Center –Kim Gordon

- ☐ We've been doing quite a few things here during the fall months. We did do an active shooter, drill the end of September, it was a more low-key drill. All staff were very prepared for it and it went well. We have made a game plan with the Garrett County Sheriff's Office to do these drills, probably once a year and to increase the challenge of the active shooter drills, too. Kendra and I are going to be working with them, probably quarterly with different active shooter drills for the nursing departments that are 24/7.
- ☐ Today, we did a hazmat drill. We had our trailer out. We ran six patients through DECON scenario for having diesel fuels sprayed all over them; it went very well. And again, we're going to increase the frequency of how often that we're having those drills.
- ☐ The Director role for ER and ICU was open; Amber left the end of July. So I've been the interim, director and ICU director. We have hired Kristin Dealy. She will be coming to us from Frederick Health and will be starting in December, so we will get her on board.
- ☐ IV. Fluids. - We're having daily meetings Monday through Friday with our system, folks, and then for the hospital locally, we meet twice a week. We're doing very well. All of our IV supplies do not come from North Carolina from Baxter, so we haven't really been affected. We do get our mini bags from them, but we had plenty in stock and we're just kind of running it as if it were any critical situation, that way we reserve the fluid, so that we don't run into a critical situation.

Garrett County Emergency Services Board / Emergency Management & Communications – Derek Crippen for Justin Orendorf

- ☐ Justin Orendorf was appointed as the Acting Director of Emergency Management. An update on Sam Grant's condition was provided to the committee.
- ☐ Working on Hazard Mitigation Plans that have been approved; meeting on the Hazard Materials Plan to update it. As well as the cold weather and inclement weather plan.
- ☐ They've had some meetings with MEMA and are getting weather internet stations put into Garrett County to try to help with the weather for Trooper 5, as well as some other ones to get more accurate information to help improve the weather forecasting a little bit in the county.

- Communications: The phone lines are in at the backup 911 Center. They ran their first test on that this week and it went well. Hopefully, by the end of the month they'll have the radio system installed and it will be a fully operational backup 911 Center.
- They also working with Somerset County and Fayette County to improve interoperability with radio communications due to Internet dead spots; working on getting more patches and some additional towers.

Garrett County Emergency Medical Services – Derek Crippen

- We've had improvements with our staffing since the County put all our fulltime people on shift work. We have also added some additional staffing to station three in Friendsville to improve response times. Now, we've got ALS coverage; that's a big increase in our service delivery.
- Also changed our scheduling program around to make it easier for members to fill spots for work

Garrett County Health Department – Lori Peck

- We are still giving out COVID test until the end of the year. After that, Garrett County HD will not be providing free COVID tests.
- As far as Lori knows, their Health Officer Position is still open.

Allegany County Activities

Allegany County Emergency Management / Communications – Mike Salvadge

- They're going to be using the backup 911 center for somewhere between two and three months, they're getting all new pod layouts and stations, so they'll all be moving down there near the beginning of December (not exactly sure the date).
- We also did take delivery of five of the new touchscreen and talk radios. So right now we're kind of like beta testing those to see how we like them.
- They finished updating the hazard mitigation plan.

Allegany County Emergency Services Board – Scott Whetsell

- The last couple meetings have been fairly calm; a couple of fire related policies passed through but nothing affecting EMS.
- Georges Creek has ceased Ambulance Operations and Allegany County EMS has taken over that area.

Allegany County EMS – Mike Salvadge

- Director Piles has decided to pursue different endeavors. Roger has been named the interim director. So if anybody's looking for the director, that's who it is for now.
- In November, we will have our MIEMSS visit with Dr. Delbridge and Dr. Chismar to look at our program.
- We just finished our first year with Hands Heavy; that program was renewed. If any providers or departments that do not have that downloaded or would like to get training on it, we're getting ready to send some of our people through the actual training pipeline. So, we can train people for especially the pediatric side of Hands Heavy. If anybody needs that or wants assistance getting that on their stuff, just get with me or with Lt. Krauss.
- The vents are all up and running. There are two in the county now; one on the supervisors Chase truck and one on the truck in LaVale with the Sergeant. Also, we have conducted one successful RSI since that program went live a handful of weeks back, so that service is also available.
- In the next few of days, we expect to take delivery of our first life pack 35. We're trying to figure out a way to switch the rest of them out, but don't know financially if we will be able to do that. We're looking at doing more of a lease program than actually purchasing the units.

Allegany County Health Department – Alison Robinson

- We have a new Health Officer now; a new Director of Admin and a Deputy Health Officer of Operations.
- The Reproductive Health Program has come back to the Health Department.
- They are still giving out COVID tests and will continue to do so after the December timeline is done.

UPMC Western Maryland – Wendy Helms

- IV fluids - we're on restricted IV code; are getting shipments every two days and we haven't ran out yet. We're doing pretty well, but we are using different methods of all hydration and keeping those fluids for the more critical patients. They are looking for a contract with other companies because they did use Baxter.
- The CBU unit in the upcoming month is going to be going to a cardiac stepdown unit.
- We did close a Med Surge unit temporarily a couple months ago because we were having staffing challenges.

- In November we're going to be celebrating the 5,000 open heart surgery since 2020 and also the 15th Anniversary of the organization being part of the Hospital.

Allegany College of Maryland – No Report

Regional Reports

Regional Medical Director – Dr. Janelle Martin

- An IV fluid memo was sent out by MIEMSS regarding usage during the shortage in reference to reserving IV administration to patients in shock and sage of a saline lock for stable patients.
- A reminder was given regarding prohibited conduct. Reporting guidelines and QA/QI polices were referenced that were distributed by MIEMSS (COMAR 30.02.04.01, Prohibited Conduct). Specific areas covered were criminal charges, unprofessional conduct, protocol variations and positive marijuana test reporting guidance). Please distribute to clinicians.

Region I Specialty Centers – Jeff Hobbs

- Maryland Trauma Net is in the process of collecting nominations for the RN and EMS Clinician of the Year award in terms of trauma care. It is something we started this past year, where across the state nominations are made for a trauma nurse and also EMS provider who performed extraordinary care in the field and in the hospital for a trauma patient, doesn't have to be same patient can be two different ones, and then they bring these folks into Baltimore in May and give them the award. So for 2025, the nomination period is now open. You can go to Trauma Nets website or the MEIMSS website and access the nomination form. The nomination period is open until January 15th.

MFRI – Todd Dyche

- A handout was provided on EMS classes in the Region.

Medevac – Rick DeVore

- Whole Blood Program is still doing well; MSP distributed Whole Blood to 147 patients
- They purchased new radio systems to be installed in aircrafts. It's called polycons system and it's a wireless ICS system. When we actually get out and we're in an LZ at the ambulance, we're still going to have direct contact with our pilots.

CISM – Al Ward

- They had 3 calls since the last Council meeting, including one for a civilian who was first on cleaning of a fatality. They were requested to interface with them and did. They've also been a contacted by officials in Morgan County, WV; may be providing some services there.

AGCVFRA – Jonathon Dayton

- Building a new website just went through that two years ago, but got the changes there.
- The relief fund - for many, many years had a fund setup for death benefits for active volunteers. It disbanded in 2024 for a variety of reasons. The dues for that were set up in 1970 and they've not changed for years. It's no longer sustainable to bring in the funding that we've had funded in it. The program's not going away in its entirety. We are going to more of a need based application program that will come back later. Probably in 2025. The folks that do have needs for funeral expenses or are sick in the hospital, or ICU for an accident can apply for a benefit review. The committee will make an award based on what they feel necessary. So, we're coming there, lots of things that have was, obviously
- The last thing that I have on behalf of MDEM is the Governors and Advisory Committee will have an election briefings here, on October 30th. The number one thing that's been talked about is election security and to hear what that process will look like. So we're having a briefing with his office in the Governor's office.
- Next meeting is to be held on 2nd Sunday of December

Region I & II Healthcare Coalition – Colin Graham

- We are publishing our RFP. We are going to contract with a provider to do our annual mercy requirement so it is more tailored for our region. We will be expecting RFPs to be back by November 15th. Then we will reach out to all of our stakeholders to start having meetings working with our vendor to ensure that we are making our mercy exercises (patient surge exercises) those required, by our Asper grant to be more regionalized, more so than what we did last year. It will be a functional operation, not a full-scale exercise but we do intend to do a full skill exercise in the next four to five years.
- We are expecting our final radiation or portal monitors in our vehicle adapters to arrive by the end of next week.

- ☐ We have pushed through recruitment for receiving our care cubes and our mass decon kits that we are providing for our regional partners.
- ☐ We are working on our risk assessment for the region and also the cybersecurity assessments that are dictated by the Asper grant as well.
- ☐ Our next HCC meeting is in December the first Wednesday. As always, please let me know if anybody ever needs anything

Career Fire & EMS – Doug Beitzel for Chief Shannon Adams

- ☐ Two ambulances finally arrived in February and are online.
- ☐ We have an engine that will probably show up soon in spring.
- ☐ We'll finish an academy with three new employee. They went to crew last week.
- ☐ We were able to get a Safer Grant; that grant is for 4 years. They are in the process of hiring 9. That will add firefighter positions back to both engines.
- ☐ I know everybody's got their physicals already scheduled. They start within the next 2-3 weeks.

Commercial Ambulance – No Report

MIEMSS

Wayne Tiemersma

- ☐ The CDG Grant Applications closed; will be working on prioritization this next week and getting it out so we'll make notifications on that shortly.
- ☐ We do have the EMSOFT reverifications coming up as well, too.
- ☐ The VAIPs for both Garrett and Allegany County have been completed. There are a few follow up so we need to make. That we should have all that wrapped up by this next week.

Cyndy Wright Johnson

- ☐ Our EMSC's update now has two pages. The other document I was going to send you is the calendar of conferences that we have from now through May of next year and I will get all of those out to you.
- ☐ What is new is that we are doing a PEP course tomorrow in Hagerstown with Washington County. The plan is to offer a PEP course every Fall which open to Regions I & II and this time we included Carroll County and then in the spring, they will offer a closed course for their paramedic class.
- ☐ We have finished our nursing sort of ConEd series with the CPAN Review course last month down in Salisbury, probably run another one in two years.
- ☐ We have a couple webinars which are almost up online. One was cuts and crashes and we will have our physician forum this October 30th at noon with a guest speaker from Hopkins talking specifically to Maryland data on suicide to unprotected gun access.

Elizabeth Wooster

- ☐ On a couple things that we're doing, we're in the rewriting the Adult Trauma COMAR to try and align it from the new variables, a little bit. And one of the biggest things within that is there are some measurements for pediatric readiness within the new ACFDOT gradebook.
- ☐ Injury Prevention Subcommittee - looks at statewide injury prevention. The number one mechanism of injury is a fall.

Old Business – None

New Business - None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.