

**REGION I EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**APRIL 17, 2025**  
**Agenda**

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Approval of Jan. 16, 2025 Minutes
- III.** Welcome Guests
- IV.** President's Report
- V.** Committee Reports
  - a.** Prehospital Care System
  - b.** Quality Improvement
  - c.** Bylaws/Membership
  - d.** ALS Advisory Committee / Garrett College – Doug Beitzel
  - e.** Region I Emergency Services Education Council Inc. – Wayne Tiemersma
- VI.** Garrett County Activities
  - a.** Garrett Regional Medical Center – Kim Gordon
  - b.** Garrett County Emergency Management / ESB – Justin Orendorf
  - c.** Garrett County Communications – Justin Orendorf
  - d.** Garrett County EMS
  - e.** Garrett County Health Department – Lori Peck
- VII.** Allegany County Activities
  - a.** Allegany County Emergency Management / Communications
  - b.** Allegany County Emergency Services Board – Scott Whetsell
  - c.** Allegany County EMS – Mike Salvadge
  - d.** Allegany County Health Department – Alison Robinson
  - e.** UPMC Western Maryland – Wendy Helms
  - f.** Allegany College of Maryland
- VIII.** Regional Reports
  - a.** Regional Medical Director – Dr. Janelle Martin
  - b.** Jurisdictional Medical Director – Dr. Rameen Shafiei
  - c.** Region I Specialty Center – Jeff Hobbs
  - d.** MFRI – Todd Dyche
  - e.** MDEM
  - f.** Medevac – Rick DeVore
  - g.** CISM – Al Ward
  - h.** AGCVFRA – Jonathan Dayton
  - i.** Region I & II Health Care Coalition – Colin Graham
  - j.** Career Fire & EMS – Shannon Adams
  - k.** Commercial Ambulance – Scott Flaskamp
- IX.** MIEMSS
  - a.** Region I Report
- X.** Old Business
- XI.** New Business
- XII.** Adjournment

# Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting

**April 17, 2025**

The Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting was held on April 17, at 7:00 p.m. Members attending were: Alison Robinson, Doug Beitzel, Janelle Martin, Jennifer Ritchie, Jonathan Dayton, Lori Peck, Mike Salvadge, Richard DeVore, Scott Whetsell, Shannon Adams, Wayne Tiemersma and Alex Kelly.

The meeting was called to order by Alison Robinson at 7:04 p.m.

## ***Approval of January 16, 2025 Minutes***

The minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

## **Welcome Guests**

Paul Harman, NGCRS; Colin Graham, MHA; Marissa Arnone, MDH; Dwayne Kitis, MIEMSS.

## **President's Report – *No report***

## **Committee Reports**

Prehospital Care System – No meeting held. At the next meeting being held in May, we will discuss the Hall of Fame awards which is held in July; the link will be sent out to place names for consideration. We will also be looking at protocol rollouts at the next meeting.

Quality Improvement – No report

Bylaws/Membership – No report

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

- We had our after-action meeting this last Tuesday night. We do have some money out yet from sponsorships, but once we get that in, we'll still probably have a deficit of around \$1,500. So, we're taking a look at what we can do to bring more people into the conference, bolster up sponsorships, and keep our costs in check in order to continue to have a seminar that is financially strong.
- Planning for next year has begun. We started compiling a list for keynote speakers.
- We did put out a vote for officers - Doug Beitzel will continue as chair, Mike Salvadge will be vice chair, Phil Rook will be secretary, and Jeff Hobbs will be treasurer.
- We also redid our signatories for the education council.

## **Garrett County Activities**

WVU Medicine Garrett Regional Medical Center – No report

Garrett County Emergency Services Board / EMS / Emergency Management & Communications – No report.

Garrett County Health Department – Lori Peck

- Their DEMSTEL phones aren't working at the Grantsville office or at our Oakland office. MIEMSS is working on that to try and get those functional again. Our FEP group's talking about having a communications drill where we test out those phones. Wayne added that there have been problems with the phones throughout the state and that is being looked into.
- Staffing for the HD - Brianna Graham, is our new accountant at the health department. Jennifer Hare was the head accountant and now she is our Health Officer. They're still looking to backfill the accountant position.
- We had a case of measles that was thought to be the measles, but it wasn't actually the measles. A couple came to the HD to be given a titer test, because they thought they had the wrong diagnosis and it turns out they did. It was not the measles. They were not tested for titers at an urgent care center. So, just a little note to everyone to kind of be on the lookout for that. In case of measles, make sure you get a titer test.

## **Allegany County Activities**

### Allegany County Emergency Management / Communications – Mike Salvadge

- They are wrapping up the final touches on the primary center. They're still at the backup center. As soon as they get done with that, they'll make that switch back over to the primary and shut the backup down.

### Allegany County Emergency Services Board – Scott Whetsell

- Update on EMS Officer Standards proposed changes – The changes have gone through the Standards Committee and are currently out to the Chiefs for department review. Then they come back to the next Chief's meeting to vote on if it's going to be submitted back to the ESB with the changes.
- Update on proposed changes to the Ambulance Response Policy – The change concerning trying to remove lights and siren has still not made it back through the process; it is still pending and they're trying to get a couple other revisions put in it in regards to how fire departments are going to be responding for various types of calls and get that rolled into a single response policy.
- We had a special meeting for the Chiefs in the area in regards to the elimination of the Box Card discussion that was brought up before and with the desire to go to GIS dispatching instead of the Box areas. The main takeaway that we got was that the mapping data is nowhere close to being ready for GIS dispatching. So, that's not going to be a realistic option within the next several years.
- Frostburg Fire Department is splitting into two separate logistical companies, but they're still one physical company. They're going to be using two different company numbers, 16 and 26, for their two stations instead of just 16.
- Discussion was brought up about the enforcement of the Officer Standards that the ESB adopted several years ago, which went into effect officially January 1, 2024. There was discussion about how to enforce the Officer Standards because there are a number of departments that don't meet the standards right now. An option offered was withholding allocation money until they met the standards. Following a lengthy discussion at the Chief's meeting, the recommendation was sent to the Emergency Services Board to not withhold funding and continue working with the departments to get everybody trained. Shannon Adams is doing a good bit of work trying to get a lot of those companies trained up so that they can meet the standards, but there's not going to be any official enforcement action at this point.
- Linda Hufferberger, the District Engineer from State Highway, came and spoke with the group. They've been doing meetings trying to get feedback on transportation plans for the next 5 years. Both Allegany and Garrett counties had requested a State Highway Chart Truck to be available in the area. Right now, the closest Chart Truck is down around Hagerstown and they don't come up here. It would be a huge help for transportation incidents on the highway to have that Chart Truck here and available. We made it clear that what we're looking for, at least to start, is a single truck primarily focused on the interstate, but they can go on any State roadway. Initially, it would be after normal working hours, and during normal working hours State Highway should be able to send a road crew out that they have already working here.
- T-Mobile was in and did a presentation on their T Priority Service, which is their version of FirstNet. One of the big selling points that they're pushing now is their service will include satellite uplinks to Starlink

### Allegany County EMS – Mike Salvadge

- We went through the 5-year MSOP reverification and just recently got our paper that said that we did pass that. We're good to go as far as the State is concerned for another five years.

### Allegany County Health Department – Alison Robinson

- The HD have several internal exercises that we would like to plan. Mainly, we have a code yellow, which is our disaster response group that we're going to be testing at the end of this month. We've had a lot of turnovers in the last 5 to 10 years and not a lot of our staff know what incident command is. They aren't familiar with the

terminology, not exactly sure when we should activate the EOC, or when we should actually meet in person. It's going to be a tabletop exercise for internal staff. We are also going to be doing two different Point of Dispensing drills; one will be at the Allegany County Fairgrounds on June 17-18 for internal staff. The other POD drill will be with HRDC at their facility.

- The FEP group is looking to do some communications drills, one with the DEMSTEL phone. We're also looking at doing the Maryland First Radios; each health department was given five radios around 6 years ago. As of right now, I have possibly 2 of the remaining radios and they do not function because their batteries are dead. The Office of Preparedness and Response is working on getting new batteries for them. I would be certainly willing to test these radios with our regions, not only with the FEP group, but also with Emergency Management, EMS, and the hospitals, if anyone is interested.
- OPNR has a quite an extensive list of items that they have in their Curtis Bay warehouse that's available to everybody and anybody that wants it within our fields. I strongly encourage everybody to check out that list that I sent out. It has a lot of clinical items and all sorts of stuff. Everything was new and it's just been sitting in a huge warehouse in Baltimore. If anybody is interested in checking out this list, I can resend it out and all the stuff is free. All you have to do is drive down to Curtis Bay to coordinate with them, pick it up, and it's yours. No questions asked. There's a lot of stuff that I think anybody and everybody in this group could benefit from.

UPMC Western Maryland – No Report

Allegany College of Maryland – No Report

## Regional Reports

Regional Medical Director – Dr. Janelle Martin

- MIEMSS is attempting to reactivate the HUD, the Helicopter Utilization Database. It was a system that was put into place after the 2008 crash, to review all air medical transports for appropriateness. They have asked us as Medical Directors to work through every air transport and essentially putting those patients into the categories, trauma, medical, specialty, whether it meets protocol, and if it was a trauma patient if it was the appropriate category. And, then really looking at time differences, so ground transport versus air transport, figuring in the ETAs for the air crew to get to the scene, that type of thing to make sure that we're utilizing our resources appropriately. The Clinicians may start to see more intentional feedback. I think a lot of these cases do get reviewed because they're high priority calls, but more intentional review just to hit these points as MIEMSS is asking.

Jurisdictional Medical Director – No Report

Region I Specialty Centers – No Report

MFRI – Todd Dyche

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

Medevac – Rick DeVore

- Since blood inception in May of 2023, the aviation command has given 250 units of blood and had just shy of 200 patients. In 2025, Trooper 5 has only given blood one time, but we've given blood 12 times in total since inception, and 71% of those cases are from NVC's and pedestrian trauma. Current year to date, Trooper 5 has been requested 83 times. Over the course of the last 5 years, Trooper 5's call volume has actually increased by 50%. So, we're roughly 150 calls a year.
- The early activation policy has been going really well. We've been on scene numerous times very early and that actually benefited the patient. So, we need to continue the early activation and again if we're not needed then we can be cancelled and immediately convert to a training flight.
- Effective yesterday, Corporal Picket received her transfer to Trooper 3. I will now be taking over as the Section Supervisor at Trooper 5. If anybody needs anything from the hanger or MSP, just let me know.

CISM – Al Ward could not be here, but provided an update

- If anybody would like to start working with the CISM team, please let them know. There is a training coming up for orientation for CISM work, and he'd like to see if there's somebody available from up here to go down for the training in Salisbury. Because of the demand, they're going to do pre-registration. A flyer was sent out to be distributed. It is May 28th through 30th in Salisbury and will be 8-9 nine hours a day, but there is no charge to attend if you're selected.
- They had one activation that they helped do a debrief on since last meeting.

#### AGCVFRA – Jonathon Dayton

- Smoke alarms are available for distribution to volunteer agencies including EMS departments that are members of the Association. We have several hundred now in our stockpile thanks to partnership with Lowe's in Montgomery County.
- The scholarship program is open. It was expanded a couple of years ago to include those who are volunteering in health system capacities. Primary consideration will go to volunteer firefighters and EMTs. We're accepting applications until about May 1st.
- We still have autism bags that are available, if folks want them.
- Southern Garrett High School has put out another call for recruitment for their Cadet Program. If there is enough interest, we'll get that up and running.
- There is a bylaw proposal that's going in at the convention in June to reestablish the Relief Fund. The Bylaw Committee and the Association want to expand that Relief Fund to everyone; opening it up to anyone in emergency services that's going through hardships that they'd be eligible to apply for funding.
- Scott mentioned the chart vehicle. I've had some additional communications with the Governor's office and Senator McKay is still going to push for that particular program getting up here to Allegany and Garrett counties.
- The convention is happening the first Saturday of June in Midland. Midland Volunteer Fire Department is heading that up. If you want meal tickets, ads, anything like that, contact Midland. We'll be starting in the morning, will have a full lunch available and then we'll have the awards dinner.
- The awards nomination process is open. I went ahead and opened it up online last night. It was paper copy only per the bylaws. However, submissions were low, so I went ahead and suspended them and opened it up electronically. If you know anyone that's worthy of an award, encourage the department leadership to put them in.

#### Region I & II Healthcare Coalition – Colin Graham

- Our MRSE exercise is coming up on May 6<sup>th</sup>; all of our regional EMS partners have registered.
- In the new budget period for BP2, the Coalition executive team has determined a need for pediatric restraint devices for partners. We've allotted funding for BP2 and also to finish the project in BP3. We are purchasing Pedi-Mate Plus Pediatric Restraint Systems, five to eight per county, and we also included the City of Cumberland. Then we are going to purchase two NeoMate Pediatric Restraint Systems for your neonates for 14 pounds or under, two per county. We're going to purchase two KangooFix Neonate Restraint Systems, two per county. Then we'll finish out and see where we stand with each county at the end of funding. We'll finish the project in BP3 to ensure the most coverage for pediatric restraint devices for our community partners. The tentative project plan is to try to have these all purchased by the end of this year by December for delivery. Our budget period will begin in July 1<sup>st</sup> and usually our funding becomes available in the later stages of September. And I'll keep you guys a breast of the tentative timeline on that project. If you do want more information or you want specifics about that feel free to call or email me.

#### Career Fire & EMS – Chief Shannon Adams

- We have been working through a Safer Grant for the last six months or better, since the first part of November. They finished off all their fire training and hazmat training. Then we took on a task starting this past January of doing an EMT class for them. Doug Beitzel, Eli Crow and Braden Pennington took on the task of teaching six people to get them through EMT class in about a three-month period. They did a lot of work five days a week, a lot of testing, studying, and as of last week all six passed the Practical State Exam and four of the six passed the computer exam through National Registry. Doug and his instructors did a very good job. I want to commend him on that because it was a challenge.
- We just received one new ambulance this week and we are due for the second one here on Tuesday. They're going to replace some old ambulances here at the city. It's going to take us a couple weeks to do some drivers' training, do the equipment switches, and radios in order to get those ambulances in service.

#### Commercial Ambulance – No Report

### **MIEMSS**

#### Region I - Wayne Tiemersma

- Protocols should be out about the middle of May.
- Let your BLS Clinicians know that if they're recerting in July, they need to have their three previous years of protocol updates done in order to complete that, and also to make sure they go online and do the recertification application.

- The Cardiac Devices Grant has been out. If your company's involved with that, please be working on making sure those are purchased and getting the paperwork in so that we get the reimbursements done.

### **Old Business – None**

### **New Business - None**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.