



State EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC)

November 3, 2022

Via Conference Call Only

Meeting Minutes

State of Maryland

**Maryland
Institute for
Emergency Medical
Services Systems**

653 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21201-1536

*Larry Hogan
Governor*

*Clay B. Stamp, NRP
Chairman
Emergency Medical
Services Board*

*Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH
Executive Director*

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SEMSAC Members Present: Wayne Tiemersma, Chairperson; Eric Smothers, Vice Chairperson; Justin Orendorf; Scott Haas; Kathryn Burroughs; Linda Dousa; Michael Cox; Kathleen Grote; Lisa Tenney; Lisa Lyle; Tim Burns; Kristie Snedeker; Jim Matz; Wayne Dyott; Major Tagliaferri; Gordon Wallace; Michael Millin, MD; Alan Butsch; Erik Abrahamson; Jeffrey Sagel, DO; Jeffrey Fillmore, MD; Elliott Haut, MD; Tim Kerns; Rosemary Kozar, MD;

SEMSAC Members Absent: Michael Rosellini; Linda Young, MD; Jennifer Anders, MD

MSFA:

OAG: Ms. Sette; Mr. Malizio

NSC: Dr. Roumen Vesselinov

MIEMSS: Ted Delbridge, MD; Pat Gainer; Tim Chizmar, MD; Jeannie Abramson; Todd Abramovitz; Kenny Barajas; Mark Bilger; Bryan Ebling; Doug Floccare, MD; Jeff Huggins; Scott Legore; Randy Linthicum; Michael Parsons; Luis Pinet Peralta; Patrick Tandy; Bev Witmer; Elizabeth Wooster; Barbara Goff

Chairman Tiemersma called the meeting to order. The roll was called.

Chairman Tiemersma asked for approval of the August 4, 2022, SEMSAC meeting minutes.

ACTION: A motion was made by Dr. Sagel, seconded by Mr. Haas, and unanimously voted upon to approve the August 4, 2022 SEMSAC minutes as written.

SEMSAC Report

Chairman Tiemersma said that the EMSOF partner budgets would be presented at the November EMS Board meeting.

EMSOP Designation

Chairman Tiemersma provided the JEMSOP designation document drafted by the EMSOP Workgroup for discussion and comments. After reviewing the document, Chairman Tiemersma said that the draft plan is a map that will be used to create the verbiage for regulation.

Dr. Delbridge thanked Chairman Tiemersma for his leadership and accomplishments over the last three years as the SEMSAC chairperson.

MIEMSS Report

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Delbridge said that the number of COVID-19 patient hospitalizations is hovering in the low 400's with an average of 10 pediatric COVID patients.

Critical Care Coordination Center (C-4)

Dr. Delbridge reported that the number of RSV patients has increased dramatically over the last few weeks. He said that with the increase in RSV cases the C-4 has been extremely busy with pediatric cases; 33% of C-4 pediatric requests have been transported to out-of-state facilities.

The C-4 has CDC grant funding through June 2023. MIEMSS is investigating a no cost extension and other avenues for continuing funding to this well received initiative. MIEMSS received additional funding to stand up a pediatric C-4 (C4P) to assist with managing pediatric cases. The C4P pediatricians have provided invaluable guidance for managing pediatric patients in the ED.

Emergency Department (ED) Patient Boarding

Dr. Delbridge said that boarding patients in the ED continues to be problematic. 25-30% of patients are boarded in the ED after completing their emergency department care. Dr. Delbridge presented the current available numbers and types of patients boarded in the ED. He added that there are a couple of different efforts regarding pediatric behavioral health patients requiring hospital admission. This continues to be a concern that MIEMSS is working with hospitals to find solutions.

Yellow Alerts

Dr. Delbridge reported that utilization of Yellow Alerts continues to be extremely high. The average hours of yellow alert for Maryland hospital is approximately 700 which equates to 2/3 of hospitals being on yellow alert at any given time. This renders the alert as meaningless.

Maryland Emergency Department Advisory System (EDAS)

Dr. Delbridge said that he and Dr. Chizmar continue to visit hospital EDs across the state. The intention is to visit all Maryland hospitals to tour the ED's, to ascertain bed availability, and to discuss the EDAS with staff.

Dr. Delbridge said that EDAS will provide an advisory level from 1-4.

- (1) ED has a patient census of less than 70% of ED capacity
- (2) ED has a patient census of 70% - 100% of ED capacity
- (3) ED has a patient census of 130% of ED capacity
- (4) ED has a patient census above 130% of ED capacity

Patient census includes patients in the waiting room. Hospitals needs to agree to the capacity of the ED.

Dr. Delbridge discussed the different types of census data needing to be captured within EDAS to achieve the most accurate patient census data. He added that CRISP continues to work on the data feed to assure accuracy.

Emergency Medical Technician Education Stipend

Dr. Delbridge said that MIEMSS has funding Stipend program, to provide a stipend for qualifying EMT students up to \$2000 each. All 500 students have applied for the stipend. Funding will be distributed to students as they complete various milestones, culminating when the student passes the NREMT exam. This stipend, which is funded by MDH through support provided by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, is available through June 2023. Monies allocated to student who do not complete the course will be reallocated to students currently on a wait list.

EMS Clinicians

MIEMSS is one of six states working with NASEMSO to strategize ways to increase participation in the EMS workforce.

Maryland “Use of Force” Statute

Dr. Delbridge said MIEMSS continues to work with Crisis Scene Collaboration Workgroup. EMS and law enforcement converge on scene incidents. Law enforcement is seeking additional clarification from the AG’s office on the “Use of Force” statute, amending Public Safety §3-524, effective July 1, 2022, that codifies “common sense” and places some perfunctory tasks in the purview of law enforcement agencies. The Crisis Scene Collaboration Workgroup is working on a guidance document.

Legislative Reports 2022

Dr. Delbridge said that MIEMSS is working on two legislative reports to be submitted by December 1, 2022. One report will focus on the use of Ketamine by EMS Clinicians and the other will report on the Hospital Interfacility Transport of Medicaid patients.

Data Transmission to EDs

Dr. Delbridge said that there is interest among Stroke Centers for HIPPA-compliant patient information data transmission to the emergency departments by EMS. MIEMSS has reviewed several approaches and is seeking to establish pilots.

Dr. Delbridge reminded everyone that the Governor’s State of Emergency regarding the augmentation of the emergency medical workforce ended and we can no longer relax regulations for EMS clinicians to enter or stay in the workforce.

MSPAC

A copy of the MSPAC written report was distributed.

Major Tagliaferri highlighted items on the written report including EMS clinician and pilot recruitments, ongoing projects and initiatives, including missions and response times. Two notable hoists were conducted in early October. He added that positive movement has been made on the Whole Blood program.

MSFA

A written report was distributed.

Mr. Smothers said that the MSFA is beginning to ramp up for the 2023 legislative session and added that there are many new legislators. Part of the session will be educating the new legislative members on who we are and what we do for the state. He added that the next MSFA Executive Committee meeting will be held the first weekend in December on the Eastern shore.

SEMSAC Committee Reports

Regional Affairs Committee (RAC)

Mr. Smothers said that the Regional Affairs Committee met this morning. The jurisdictions will survey and prioritize equipment needed for requesting assistance under the 50/50 cardiac grant. He added that Stryker will no longer provide maintenance on a level #1 device. Parts are no longer available for the

older models. Mr. Smothers gave an update on the expenditures under the current grant. All reallocations need to be submitted prior to November 10th.

RAC members will be investigating possible funding for Active Assailant exercises from state or federal partners.

ALS Committee

Dr. Fillmore said that the ALS Committee met did not meet in September; the next meeting will be held in two weeks. He added that the state content courses are available online and include changes in protocols.

BLS Committee

Ms. Dousa said the BLS Committee met briefly on September 16, 2022 and discussed the stages in processing EMT students.

January 2022 EMT Provisionals have until November 30, 2022 to complete process for becoming a fully licensed EMT.

The next BLS Committee meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2022.

Chairman Tiemersma said that there will be discussion forthcoming regarding BLS and National Registry renewals.

MIH Committee

Chief Matz said that work continues on the CRISP integration.

Clinician credentialing is being added to the licensure system. A two-year renewal is required.

Old Business

Election of SEMSAC Officers

Ms. Goff said that there is only one nominee for Chairperson, Eric Smothers, and one nominee for Vice Chairperson, Jennifer Anders. Ms. Goff requested that SEMSAC approve the nominees for the 2023 calendar year.

ACTION: Upon the motion of Ms. Burroughs, seconded by Dr. Fillmore, the SEMSAC voted unanimously to approve the Eric Smothers as Chair and Jennifer Anders as Vice Chairperson of SEMSAC for calendar year 2023.

Chairman thanked everyone for their support during his tenure as Chairman of SEMSAC for the past 3-years. He said he will continue member of SEMSAC representing the Region I Advisory Council. Mr. Smothers thanked Chairman Tiemersma for his leadership during the tumultuous COVID years.

SEMSAC adjourned by acclamation