



State Emergency Medical Services Board
October 11, 2022
Via Video Conference Call Only
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*

*410-706-5074
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Board Members Present: Clay B. Stamp, NREMT P, Chairperson; James Scheulen, Co-Chairperson; Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN; Sally Showalter; Stephen Cox; Dany Westerband, M.D.; William J. Frohna, M.D.; Molly Marra; Wayne Tiemersma

Board Members Absent:

OAG: Mr. Malizio; Ms. Sette; Ms. McAlister

MIEMSS: Dr. Delbridge; Ms. Gainer; Mr. Abramovitz; Ms. Abramson; Dr. Barajas; Mr. Bechtel; Mr. Bilger; Ms. Chervon; Dr. Chizmar; Mr. Ebling; Mr. Huggins; Mr. Legore; Mr. Linthicum; Mr. Parsons; Mr. Tandy; Ms. Witmer; Dr. Wooster; Ms. Wright-Johnson; Ms. Goff

MFRI: Mr. Cox

MSPAC: Major Tagliaferri

RACSTC: Dr. Snedeker

Others: Ms. Lisle;

Chairman Stamp called the meeting to order at 9:03 am and proceeded with calling the role.

Chairman Stamp asked for approval of the September 13, 2022, minutes.

ACTION: Upon the motion made by Mr. Scheulen, seconded by Dr. Frohna, the EMS Board unanimously approved the September 13, 2022, minutes as written.

MIEMSS Report

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Delbridge said that the number of hospitalized COVID patients is down slightly with approximately 400+ adult patients including along with between ten and fifteen children at any given time. There is a prevailing concern that an up-tick is possible due to upcoming holiday gatherings.

Critical Care Coordination Center (C-4)

Dr. Delbridge said that the number of patient cases handled by the C-4 has risen to over 3700 in the past 22 months. Every hospital in Maryland is a referring and receiving facility.

Pediatric cases continue to increase. In the past 24 hours the C-4 has received 7 adult and 16 pediatric (non-COVID) cases with 11 dispositions (3out of state). The pediatric C-4 is staffed by pediatric intensivists, hospitalists and emergency physicians. Dr. Delbridge said that the C-4 had its busiest month, since opening in 2020, in September 2022 mostly due to pediatric patients with respiratory illnesses.

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.

A discussion on daily bed count availability data requests ensued. Dr. Delbridge said that if 4-5 pediatric beds could be opened and staffed daily it would significantly reduce the need for patient transfers to out-of-state pediatric facilities.

Yellow Alerts

MIEMSS continues to see an up surge in Yellow Alert status in great part due to ED boarding of patients. Approximately 80% of hospital EDs are full between 10am and 11am each day.

Emergency Department Advisory System (EDAS)

Dr. Delbridge gave an update on the Maryland EDAS. He said that in conjunction with the @HA dashboard, EDAS will assist EMS clinicians to identify how busy an ED actually is based on bed availability. He added that EMS would be able to monitor how many patients are in the ED vs. how many designated treatment spaces the ED has, allowing the EMS unit to know what they should experience when they arrive at the ED.

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.

A discussion regarding data access by end users ensued.

Emergency Medical Technician Education Stipend

Dr. Delbridge said that all 500 stipends have been allocated to EMT students amounting \$2000 each. Dr. Delbridge gave a breakdown of the educational institutions that the students are attending. The funding will be distributed to students as they complete various milestones, culminating when the student passes the NREMT exam. Any unused funding will be redistributed to students on a waiting list.

EMS Clinicians

Dr. Delbridge said that MIEMSS is participating with the National Association of EMS Officials' EMS Clinician workgroup studying the causes for and possible mitigation of the declining numbers of EMS clinicians. This is a national issue facing the EMS clinician workforce.

2022 Legislative Reports

MIEMSS has two legislative reports due before the end of the year; one on the use of Ketamine and a second on Ambulance Transportation for non-emergent Medicaid patients.

Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group

An Active Assailant symposium on will be hosted by the Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Work Group on Friday, October 14, 2022.

Hospital Re-designations

Perinatal Level III Centers (5-years)

- Howard County General Hospital
- Frederick Health Hospital
- Greater Baltimore Medical Center
- UM St. Joseph's Medical Center
- Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
- Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

Primary Stroke Center

- Montgomery General Hospital

Dr. Delbridge introduced Todd Abramovitz as the new Director of Media Services and Public Information at MIEMSS.

MSPAC

A written report was disseminated.

Major Tagliaferri gave the history of and a detailed report on the current failures with the display units in the AW139 helicopters. There have been 53 display unit failures at a cost of \$2,244,279.21 since 2017. The OEM (Honeywell) has devised a solution to Parylene coat the power supply microchip from ionic contamination causing the chip to overheat and shut down the display unit. Repairs of the display unit takes approximately 45 days. Upgrade/repairs will span 25 months and should be complete by the end of 2023. There are no available new/used or refurbished display units available and no approved FAA certified substitutions.

RACSTC

Dr. Snedeker thanked everyone for their attendance and support at the STC event and celebration in honor of Dr. Tom Scalea's 25 years of leadership at Shock Trauma.

SEMSAC – Mr. Tiemersma

Mr. Tiemersma said that the SEMSAC did not meet in October.

The MIH Committee is working on a statement of explanation/justification document for insurance reimbursement purposes. A discussion ensued on how this will fit with the EMS optional protocol for MIH.

Mr. Tiemersma said that a committee of SEMSAC members discussed the recommendation by the Commercial Ambulance Services Advisory Council (CASAC) to have National Registry conduct all initial and re-certifications for EMS licensure. The consensus of the SEMSAC members, the MSFA and jurisdictional services is that the current system of licensure should prevail. Linda Dousa, Chairperson of the BLS Committee, will be working with the Committee and MFRI on how best to improve the current system for re-certification. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of National Registry for EMT re-certifications.

The SEMSAC EMSOP regulation workgroup, tasked with defining the roles of EMSOPs, are in the process of completing a draft document. Mr. Tiemersma gave a brief overview of some of the definitions to be included.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS – N/A

Chairman Stamp thanked the MIEMSS team under the leadership of Dr. Delbridge. He commended Dr. Delbridge and the MIEMSS staff on their efforts to bring new and innovative initiatives that enhance the Maryland EMS system.

Adjourn to closed session to carry out administrative functions, to consult with counsel, to obtain legal advice on pending disciplinary actions under General Provisions Article §3-305(b) (7), and to maintain certain records and information in confidence as required by Health Occ. Art. §14-506 (b) under General Provisions Article §3-305 (b) (7).

ACTION: Upon the motion made by Ms. Showalter, seconded by Mr. Scheulen, the EMS Board unanimously voted to adjourn to closed session.

In closed session:

Board Members Present: Clay B. Stamp, NREMT P, Chairperson; James Scheulen, Co-Chairperson; Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN; Sally Showalter; Stephen Cox; William J. Frohna, M.D.; Molly Marra; Dany Westerband, M.D.;

Board Members Absent: Wayne Tiemersma, NREMT P

MIEMSS: Dr. Delbridge; Ms. Gainer; Dr. Chizmar; Ms. Abramson; Ms. Goff; Ms. Chervon; Ms. Witmer; Mrs. McAllister

MFRI: Mr. Michael Cox

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The Board considered:

- (1) EMSOF partner budgets; and
- (2) disciplinary matters