

REGION I EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2025
Agenda

- I.** Call to Order
- II.** Approval of Oct. 17, 2024 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
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 - b.** Garrett County Emergency Management / ESB – Justin Orendorf
 - c.** Garrett County Communications – Justin Orendorf
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 - 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.** Region I Specialty Center – Jeff Hobbs
 - c.** MFRI – Todd Dyche
 - d.** MDEM
 - e.** Medevac – Rick DeVore
 - f.** CISM – Al Ward
 - g.** AGCVFRA – Jonathan Dayton
 - h.** Region I & II Health Care Coalition – Colin Graham
 - i.** Career Fire & EMS – Shannon Adams
 - j.** Commercial Ambulance – Scott Flaskamp
- IX.** MIEMSS
 - a.** Region I Report
- X.** Old Business
- XI.** New Business
- XII.** Adjournment

Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting

January 16, 2025

The Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting was held on January 16, at 7:00 p.m. Members attending were: Al Ward, Doug Beitzel, Janelle Martin, Jeff Hobbs, Justin Orendorf, Lori Peck, Mike Salvadge, Richard DeVore, Scott Whetsell, Shannon Adams, Wendy Helms, Alex Kelly, and Wayne Tiemersma.

The meeting was called to order by Lori Peck at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Oct. 17, 2024 Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved as written.

Welcome Guests

Dr. Rameen Shafiei, UPMC Western Maryland; Paul Harman, NGCRS; Colin Graham, MHA; Dwayne Kitis, Cyndy Wright-Johnson, MIEMSS

President's Report – No report

Committee Reports

Prehospital Care System – No report; the committee has not met in this last quarter.

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

- The brochure has gone out and the online registration site for the Miltenberger Seminar is up and running; go to miltenbergerseminar.com to get the brochure and register.

Garrett County Activities

WVU Medicine Garrett Regional Medical Center – No report

Garrett County Emergency Services Board / EMS / Emergency Management & Communications – Justin Orendorf

- Steve Smith was hired as the new EMS Chief. He'll be starting on the 26th of this month.
- EMS side - we did bring on a few more part-time staffers; hired a few BLS clinicians to help fill some of our gaps that we've been having.
- We are also ramping up for a potential request from Southern Garrett for another clinician 7 days a week/12 hours a day. We are hoping to get that finalized and have a clinician down there to help with some of the second line calls.
- We're seeing an increase in call volume in the county. We ended 2024 just over 5,000 calls, which was an increase for us. We're trending well, response times are great and fails are down.
- As for Quality Assurance, we've had a few cases here and there that the committee's reviewed.
- Communications - the backup 911 Center is completely finished and fully functional.
- We are still anticipating another Maryland First site to be online in the downtown Oakland area in the very near future, but we've been a little hampered by weather to access that tower site.
- Emergency Management - working through updating some plans that have been outdated for the last few years. We're working right now on our Hazardous Materials Response Plan which was last updated in 2015; should have that finished soon. We will be reviewing that with our Traffic Committee and hope to have it finished within the next two or three months.

Garrett County Health Department – Lori Peck

- There have been some staff changes. Our Director of Nursing has left and is now the Director of Reproductive Health at the Allegany County Health Department. The Deputy Health Officer position is not being filled now. Also, GCHD is bringing on some new people in the HR Department.
- Due to the respiratory hospital viral rate, we're up to 10.2 in the State of Maryland. So, we're recommending the use of masks in the building whenever we're dealing with patients.

- The HD is not providing over-the-counter COVID tests anymore; the tests acquired from the State of Maryland and the Federal Government expired at the end of December 2024. So, we are not offering anymore at this time.

Allegany County Activities

Allegany County Emergency Management / Communications – Mike Salvadge

- They were doing a big update to the backup center that is now done. Now, they have switched operations to the backup until they finish the update to the main center.

Allegany County Emergency Services Board – Scott Whetsell

- The EMS Committee is recommending a change to the EMS Officer Standards; it has to go back through the Standards Committee and through all the steps. Currently, it requires Hazmat Operations training for EMS officers which requires PPE and SCBA training, but EMS departments don't have access to that equipment. So, we're going to try and get that changed down to Hazmat Awareness, because generally EMS isn't going to be running the scene if it's a hazmat call anyway. We're going to try and stay out of the warmer hot zones if we can.
- There's also a couple proposed changes to the Ambulance Response Policy, which is also going to be going back to the Standards Committee to review and then back through the Chiefs to the Emergency Services Board.
 - First is deleting the mandate, which was put in the last provision that all calls must be responded to with lights and siren. That puts an undue burden on the departments and potentially causes safety issues when certain calls don't need to be responded that way.
 - Another proposal that came up is deleting fire departments as first responders on routine second due calls in their territory. They'd still be due on hot calls or echo level calls at dispatcher discretion, but it would take them off of the other ones because certain departments have seen an uptick where they're dispatched because the first due ambulance is already on a call, but the mutual ambulance is on scene before they get there. So, they're looking at a change in that.
 - There was quite the discussion on deleting box cards and that's something that there's going to be a further presentation on next month. And, also letting the CAD select whatever the closest units are.

Allegany County EMS – Mike Salvadge

- We've basically be asked by the County to do more with less. So, our call volume continually goes up every year, but now we are being forced to do the same amount of what we were doing before, and instead of having eight crews on, we're going to have seven crews on, minus the City who've got their own stuff to do.
- We have closed our LaVale station, but LaVale Rescue has been able to step up and help fill that void for us.

Allegany County Health Department – Alison Robinson provided a report

- New hire positions - Becki Clark has taken on the position of Deputy Health Officer in Operations. Dr. Corder will still be doing the role as Deputy Health Officer, sharing that with Allegany and Garrett counties. Becky was the LBHA Director. Justin Davis has since taken on that position. Jennifer Lee-Steckman has been hired as the new Director of Reproductive Health.
- COVID tests - the state issued tests have reached their extended expiration. They do not anticipate getting any additional tests from the federal government. However, they will order additional tests and have them on hand for community and for facilities should they experience an outbreak. They've not yet received the new batch of tests.
- The Allegany County Health Department has started recommending masks be used for class staff and clients in our clinical areas and any area where patient clients are seen. Again, this is a recommendation, not a mandate.

UPMC Western Maryland – Wendy Helms

- UPMC is going to be implementing the masking as well. That communication is going to be coming out in the next couple days.

Allegany College of Maryland – No Report

Regional Reports

Regional Medical Director – Dr. Janelle Martin

- A directive came out from MIEMSS yesterday, on the 15th, regarding the respiratory virus season and masking. Multiple healthcare facilities, both long-term nursing care facilities, as well as hospitals are now requiring masks upon entry to their buildings. We ask that our EMS Clinicians respect that. Due to the hospitalization rate at this point for COVID, influenza and RSV infections, we are recommending universal face masking for all Clinicians and patients during patient care encounters; including N95, eye protection and gloves for suspected COVID infections. The N95 eye protection and gloves does not extend over to influenza and RSV. But again, definitely consider encouraging your Clinicians to mask for all patient encounters during this season.

Jurisdictional Medical Director – Dr. Rameen Shafiei

- I'm looking forward to the Miltenberger Seminar here in a few months and don't know if anybody attends our Snowball, our annual fundraiser with the foundation, but that'll be taking place this Saturday.

Region I Specialty Centers – Jeff Hobbs

- Western Maryland Trauma Center reported a 26% increase in patient volume in 2024. So, we're seeing a lot more patients in our area with traumatic injuries.
- For the last several weeks, we've been asked to conserve IV fluids in response to the Baxter IV fluid shortage, secondary to the hurricane damage in North Carolina; that is still in effect. We're still keeping an eye on consumption of the IV fluids within the hospital and also prehospital. We've had a big uptick in use in the last few weeks because of a significant GI bug going around lately and needing some IV hydration for a lot of patients. But we got to be mindful that we're still keeping an eye on our stock because it's not up to 100%.
- UPMC is still committed to maintaining a good, healthy partnership with EMS and continuing to provide supplies through the Pyxis in the EMS room at the ED. In 2024, we gave out a little over \$106,000 in medical supplies free to our EMS partners. So, you guys keep up the good work and help us help you and we'll continue that healthy partnership and keep the county happy with their budget, too.

MFRI – Todd Dyche

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

Medevac – Rick DeVore

- The whole blood program is doing really well. I know there was a recent post on Facebook that there was 100 patients administered blood in 2024 and there's been 211 units administered.
- We have two pilots that are slated for Trooper 5 that will begin in March, bringing us up to eight pilots. We also currently have another medic in training; we will have nine medics here by March.
- Due to high winds there's been a couple missions that have been turned down outside of the state by other medevacs and there's a significant delay. However, due to our aircraft, we're not hindered by high winds like some of the smaller aircrafts.
- If anybody wants to get demos for springtime, reach out. And if you have any questions, let me know.

CISM – Al Ward

- Nothing new to report. If you need us, call us. We're always here.

AGCVFRA – Jonathon Dayton (sent an email to members regarding the items listed below)

- Our annual scholarship program is now accepting applications. The announcement was made on social media, but we are only accepting mailed copies and emailed submissions at this time. Please note that it is open not only to volunteer fire and rescue personnel but also to those who volunteer at local hospital facilities.
- The association has also released its first-ever local, state, and federal legislative and policy priorities and are taking a proactive approach to advance them. He will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in the coming weeks to meet with federal leaders and members of the incoming new administration.
- The association has been working closely with MFRI and the Garrett County Public Schools to help establish a Fire/EMS High School program.
- The leadership is working with the Midland Volunteer Fire Company, which is hosting this year's annual convention. More details will be coming out soon, but most importantly, please keep an eye out for the award nomination information.

Region I & II Healthcare Coalition – Colin Graham/emailed information

- Only major update is our MRSE will be held on May 6th and our BP1 regional HVA has been completed and will be distributed.
- The next HCC meeting will be on February the 5th.

Career Fire & EMS – Chief Shannon Adams

- The end of the year call stats - calls went up again, we finished out with 7,877 calls between fire and EMS, which was an increase of 186 from last year. But the one stat that was kind of interesting to find out from our 911 Center, is that we were actually alerted for an additional 382 calls that we couldn't handle because of our call volume, so the County came in and provided mutual aid. It's been a busy year.
- We were able to secure a Safer Grant late in the summer. We have nine people in the academy right now; three of them will probably turn loose here in the next two to three weeks because they are already EMS personnel. Three of them are going to be EMTs and can start on a crew and then six of them are going to go to an additional part of the academy starting an EMT class, which Captain Beitzel is going to be heading that up. So, he's got his hands full for

about 10 weeks getting them finished up so they can get to a crew. That takes our manpower from 48 to 57, which is much needed right now.

Commercial Ambulance – No Report

MIEMSS

Cyndy Wright Johnson – emailed updates to membership

- We are doing a pediatric pre-conference at Miltenberger. The beta test is at Winterfest. We're trying to make this into skill station modules that could then be done at the county or at the station level. Your Pediatric Champions will not only have trauma and medical skills and scenarios from the past two years, but this year we're focusing on the critically ill child who is not communicating. We're going to be really focusing on critical care interventions.
- Our Pediatric Champions met on January 8th. Our Nurse Champions met yesterday on January 15th. Our Physician Champions are going to meet on January 29th. These are statewide forums; most of them are virtual. Our April meetings are in person and our eight-hour training opportunities.
- In addition, we have been asked by the nurses and the EMS Champions in all the Regions to put them all together. So, we'll be doing regional meetings. The Region I & II meeting is March 26th. We're working on finalizing a location in Washington County, so it's fairly central. I think we'll be doing a lot more of the how can we help you implement and roll things out for Region I & II. If anyone else would like to join us, please email us.
- The application for hospitals is approved by the EMS board. Dwayne is helping me with the data collection portion of it. I met for a couple hours with IT today to create the HIPPA compliant share files so hospitals can put their applications in. We were hoping to have this live in December. It looks like it's going to be the end of January just to make sure that there are no computer technology issues. Also, there are three levels of hospitals - Peds ready ED; a pediatric resource hospital is able to have a child stay for 20 or 40 or even more hours, be admitted; and then a critical care hospital.
- At this time, I think we are not in a position to recognize hospitals out of state only because we are further ahead than DC, Western West Virginia or Pennsylvania are, but we're all working on it in the Mid-Atlantic area. The only state bordering us that has a similar recognition program is Delaware and there would need to be some data sharing agreements before we were to do that. West Virginia only recognizes emergency departments. They don't recognize higher levels, but that is being worked on there.

Old Business – None

New Business - None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



Garrett College
ALS Training report
Region 1 EMS Advisory Council

January 16, 2025 - 1900 hours

Virtual

2024-2025 Cohort (Class #22)

- **Program Duration:** 1 year
- **Start Date:** September 4, 2024
- **Program Format:** Hybrid
- **Progress:** Completed the fall semester and students are now being released for clinicals.
- **Current Enrollment:** 3 students

2024-2026 Cohort (Class #23)

- **Program Duration:** 2 years
- **Start Date:** September 5, 2024
- **Program Format:** Evening program
- **Progress:** Completed the fall semester and students will be released for clinicals next month.
- **Current Enrollment:** 13 students

2025-2026 Cohort (Class #24)

- **Program Duration:** 1 year
- **Applications Open:** March 1, 2025
- **Contact for Interest List:** Doug Beitzel (doug.beitzel@garrettcollege.edu)
- **Notes:** Students interested in applying should contact Doug Beitzel to be added to the interest list and receive the application packet when available.

Accreditation

- **Status:** 5-year reaccreditation process ongoing
- **Recent Activity:** Site visit conducted by CoA (Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions) on December 9-10, 2024.
 - The visiting team was pleased with the program's performance and identified no citations.
 - They described the program as "solid."

- **Next Steps:** CoA findings will be submitted to CAAHEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs) for review. The final accreditation decision is expected during the November 2025 meeting.
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MFRI ALS Classes

- **ALS Refresher**
 - **Date:** March 8-16, 2025 (Saturday/Sunday)
 - **Location:** MFRI WMRTC
 - **ALS Refresher**
 - **Date:** May 12-15, 2025 (Monday-Thursday)
 - **Location:** Garrett College CTTC
 - **Geriatric Education for EMS (GEMS)**
 - **Date:** April 28, 2025
 - **Location:** Garrett College CTTC
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Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute
 University of Maryland
 Western Maryland Regional Training Center
 Post Office Box 5153
 13928 Hazmat Drive
 Cresaptown, MD 21502-5153

EMS Class Update in Allegany / Garrett County

Report Date: January 2025

Class	Log Number	Location	Start Date	Days	# Students	Status
EMT	-	WMRTC	8/22/24	Th/Sun	28	Active
EMT Refresher	-	GCCTTC	10/19/24	Sat/Sun	16	Completed
EMT Refresher	-	WMRTC	12/7/24	Sat/Sun	11	Completed
EMT	EMS-106-S037-2025	GCCTTC	2/19/25	W/Sat	(13)	Open / Active
*EMR	<i>EMS-105-S013-2025</i>	<i>GCCTTC</i>	<i>2/25/25</i>	<i>T/Th</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>Open</i>
*EMT Refresher	<i>EMS-203-S026-2025</i>	<i>WMRTC</i>	<i>3/3/25</i>	<i>M/W</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>Open</i>
*EMT Refresher	<i>EMS-203-S025-2025</i>	<i>GCCTTC</i>	<i>4/5/25</i>	<i>Sat/Sun</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>Open</i>

Notes:

1. Numbers in parentheses indicate total preregistered students
2. *red color, bold, and italicized font indicates additional enrollment needed for class to start

