



*Statewide EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC)*  
**AGENDA**

**April 2, 2020**

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  
FAX 410-706-4768

- I. Call to order: Chairman Tiemersma
  - Call the roll: Ms. Goff
- II. MIEMSS Report: Dr. Delbridge
  - COVID-19 update
- III. New Business



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## **State EMS Advisory Council (SEMSAC)**

April 2, 2020

Via teleconference only

### **Meeting Minutes**

**SEMSAC Members Present:** Wayne Tiemersma, Chairman; Karen Doyle, Vice Chair; John Filer; Wynee Hawk; Eric Smothers; Michael Cox; Jeffrey Fillmore, MD; Michael Rosellini; Habeeba Park, MD; Justin Orendorf; Kathleen Grote; Tim Burns; Scott Haas; Keith McMinn; Murray Kalish, MD; Wayne Dyott; Melissa Meyers; Tim Kerns; Rosemary Kozar, MD; Kathryn Burroughs; Jim Matz; Lisa Tenney; Karen Vogel; Jennifer Anders, MD; Brian Frankel; Linda Dousa; Michael Millin, MD; Michael DeRuggiero

#### **Members Absent:**

**MSPAC:** Major Tagliaferri; Capt. McCoursey

**MSFA:** Joel McCrea; Kate Tomanelli

**OAG:** Mr. Magee; Ms. Sette

**MIEMSS:** Ted Delbridge, MD; Pat Gainer; Tim Chizmar, MD; Jeannie Abramson; Sherry Alban; Dave Balthis; Terrell Buckson; Randy Linthicum; Andrew Naumann; Cyndy Wright Johnson; Jim Brown; John Barto; Michael Parsons; Mark Bilger; Anna Aycok; Carole Mays; Dave Balthis; Barbara Goff

Mr. Tiemersma called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm and asked Ms. Goff for a roll call.

Mr. Tiemersma thanked everyone for the efforts during this health crisis. He said today's meeting would be a COVID-19 briefing by Dr. Delbridge and the MIEMSS staff.

#### **MIEMSS Report**

Dr. Delbridge briefed SEMSAC on the COVID-19 status and activities. He said that as of today there are 2331 COVID, with 340 hospitalized (43% in ICUs). He said that current models indicate that Maryland will hit peak number of COVID-19 cases around April 29, 2020.

Dr. Delbridge said, similar to the rest of the country, there are decreased volumes of EMS transports and ED patients. The low volume of ambulance transports is resulting in financial stress on commercial ambulance companies.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a major concern and conservation now will help availability as the COVID response continues. There have been concerns about health care personnel exposures in NYC due to the lack of PPE.

MIEMSS is monitoring the situation with COVID in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), Assisted Living Centers and other long-term care / residential facilities. Many SNFs have patients that have tested positive for COVID. The Maryland Department of Health is addressing issues with facilities declining to accept back their returning residents after hospitalization.

### **MIEMSS Actions**

Dr. Delbridge updated the SEMSAC on the Governor's Executive Order Number 20-03-19-03 augmenting the Emergency Medical Services Workforce.

The Governor's Executive Order underscored the need to maximize the availability of EMS personnel to respond to COVID-19. The Executive Order authorized the Chair of the State EMS Board and the Executive Director of MIEMSS to take action to suspend the effects of any provision contained in certain sections of Maryland's EMS statute (Education Article of the Maryland Code) including: Commercial Ambulance Services licensing, Licensing and certification of EMS personnel, Public Access AED Program; and Maryland's EMS regulations (Title 30 of the Code of Maryland Regulations).

The Johns Hopkins Health System and the University of Maryland Medical System have collaborated with state and local agencies to stand up the Baltimore Convention Center to augment hospital surge capacity as a post-acute facility for hospitalized patients. Other hospitals are in the process of identifying additional surge locations. Some hospitals are increasing surge capacity within their facilities or on campus with tents and modular trailers.

Hospitals are reporting daily through the MEMRAD system every morning by 10am to include the number of respiratory patients and ventilators. The report that is constructed from the data provides situational awareness and is distributed to entities throughout the state.

MIEMSS is holding COVID webinars on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for EMS jurisdictions. The webinars are well attended. MIEMSS is also having weekly calls with 9-1-1 centers to discuss dispatch protocols impacted by COVID.

Under the authority provided by the Executive Order, the EMS Board and MIEMSS modified Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) protocol to permit a single paramedic to provide care. The ProCare / Kaiser MIH Program has been approved on a provisional basis.

An emergency Pandemic Triage protocol was approved for EMS to use to identify which patients are able to "self-care at home." The protocol will help prevent ED overcrowding in appropriate cases.

Dr. Delbridge summarized recent events at the Pleasant View nursing home in Mt. Airy. MIEMSS coordinated the commercial ambulance response to transport patients from the facility to various hospitals.

Regarding EMS personnel, MIEMSS has extended to December 2020 the EMS licenses and certifications that would otherwise expire in 2020. In order to augment the EMS workforce, MIEMSS also implemented Provisional Status licenses / certifications for expired and inactive EMS clinicians; EMS clinicians seeking reciprocity; and EMS students who completed their EMS course between December 2019 and June 2020 but who are not able to test. MIEMSS hopes to develop a mechanism to retain these personnel within the EMS workforce when the emergency period ends.

MIEMSS is also credentialing Nursing and Respiratory Therapy students as Clinical Externs so they may be available to assist in hospitals, field hospitals and other clinical environments.

Dr. Delbridge said, at present, there is no COVID-19 testing for frontline personnel who are asymptomatic. Dr. Delbridge reiterated that the biggest challenge is acquiring personal protection equipment.

The UM Laurel hospital plans to stand up as a COVID-19 facility in a few weeks.

Dr. Chizmar gave a brief update on the Mt. Airy Nursing Home deployment.

In non-COVID related work items, MIEMSS is working with CRISP to develop a way to monitor ED volumes in real time that will provide meaningful information for EMS field clinicians. Work continues on the “@HA” (Ambulances at Hospitals) platform to provide real-time information on the number of ambulances waiting at hospital EDs. Jason Cantera is working with 911 centers for CAD feed information.

Dr. Delbridge said that the EMS Plan work is suspended during the COVID-19 healthcare crisis.

Due to COVID, MIEMSS will extend the due date to submit proof of purchase for defibrillators purchased under the Grant Program as requested on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Tiemersma thanked Dr. Delbridge and Dr. Chizmar for the updates.

**A motion was made by Ms. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Smothers and approved to adjourn the SEMSAC adjourned at 1:40 pm.**