



*State of Maryland*  
**Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems**

Wes W. Moore  
Governor

Clay B. Stamp  
Chairman, EMS Board

Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH  
Executive Director

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

**AGENDA**  
**April 6, 2023 - 1:00pm**  
**Virtual Meeting**

- I. Call to Order – Mr. Smothers
  - Call the roll
- II. SEMSAC Chair Report – Mr. Smothers
- III. MIEMSS Report – Dr. Delbridge
- IV. MSPAC Report – Major Tagliaferri
- V. MSFA Update
- VI. Committee Reports
  - ALS Report – Dr. Fillmore
  - BLS Report – Ms. Dousa
  - MIH Report – Chief Matz
  - Regional Affairs – Mr. Smothers
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business





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***State EMS Advisory Council***

**April 6, 2023**

**Via Conference Call Only**

**Meeting Minutes**

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

**SEMSAC Members Absent:** Michael Rosellini; Linda Young, MD; Erik Abrahamson

**MSPAC:** Major Tagliaferri

**OAG:** Mr. Malizio; Claire Pierson

**Other:** Dr. Levy, Chief Koch, Mr. Cox

**MIEMSS:** Ted Delbridge, MD; Tim Chizmar, MD; Todd Abramovitz; Kenny Barajas; Chris Bechtel; Mark Bilger; Lisa Chervon; MD; Katie Hall; Kelly Hammond; Jeff Huggins; Alex Kelly; Dwayne Kitis; Randy Linthicum; Michael Parsons; Mustafa Sidik; Patrick Tandy; Bev Witmer; Elizabeth Wooster; Cyndy Wright-Johnson; Barbara Goff

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

Chairman Smothers asked for approval of the February 22, 2023 SEMSAC meeting minutes.

**ACTION: A motion was made by Ms. Tenney, seconded by Mr. Haas, and unanimously voted upon to approve the February 2, 2023 SEMSAC minutes as written.**

**SEMSAC Report**

Chairman Smothers congratulated Lisa Lisle on receiving the Emergency Nurse of the Year award at the ACEP conference last week.

Chairman Smothers said that the MIEMSS partners have presented a united front while engaging with legislators during this session, advising new legislators of the EMS system mission and the need for additional sustainable funding for the MEMSOF.

## **MIEMSS Report**

### COVID-19 Update

Dr. Delbridge said that the number of hospitalized COVID patients has decreased to the levels seen in May 2022. Statewide COVID efforts are ramping down. MIEMSS continues the daily hospital data queries to monitor any trend changes; hospitals have requested scaling back. The data collected from the daily queries is utilized by others and promulgated by CRISP to track ED patient trends. MIEMSS plans to transition to requesting data two times per week starting May 1, 2023.

### Patient Transfer of Care Intervals

Dr. Delbridge said that 90% of the time EMS should be able to effect a 30 minute transfer of patient care to hospital emergency department staff. Over half of Maryland emergency department struggle with attaining the 30 minute patient transfer of care time.

### Collaborative of Hospital Emergency Services (CHES)

MIEMSS reconvened the CHES in December 2022 and two workgroups were formed:

Workgroup #1 was tasked with drafting a policy for statewide adoption that would hopefully emulate the new EMS policies. The workgroup developed a draft guidance document for transfer of patient care from the hospital perspective. Subsequently, members from workgroup # 1 met with EMS jurisdiction personnel and MIEMSS leadership to discuss. Dr. Delbridge presented an amalgamation of the draft guidance document and the newly developed EMS transfer of care policies which is in the comment phase.

Workgroup #2 is in the process of collecting and creating an anthology of best practices, scientifically based with proven strategies.

Dr. Delbridge said that due to multiple EMS jurisdictions having varying transfer of care policies and transporting patients to a single hospital, a statewide policy is needed optimize patient transfer of care.

A discussion regarding the basis for the 30 minute transfer of care goal ensued.

### Emergency Department (ED) Patient Boarding

Dr. Delbridge said that boarding patients in the ED continues to be problematic. Approximately 30% of patients are boarded in the ED after completing their emergency department care. Dr. Delbridge said that there are approximately 2,025 active ED `treatment spaces each day. This does not correspond with the current number of licensed beds. There are approximately 600 patients boarding in Maryland hospital emergency departments by noon each day, nearly a third of ED space; approximately 100 are behavioral health patients. Maryland has the longest wait times in the country.

### Legislative Reports 2023

Dr. Delbridge agreed with Chairman Smothers on the excellent work and collaboration of the EMS system partners during this legislative session.

Dr. Delbridge gave an update on current legislative initiatives:

HB 266: Public and Nonpublic schools Bronchodilator and Epinephrine Availability and Use

- HB 266 passed. Senate still in committee.

HB 274 / SB 387: Task Force on Reducing Emergency Department Wait Times

- HB 274 passed. SB 387 still in committee

HB 493 / SB 675: Commission to Study Trauma Centers in Maryland - Establishes a commission to deliver a report to the legislature.

- SB 493 passed. HB 675 is progressing

HB 288/ SB 299: Food Service Facilities – AED Program - Requires grocery stores and restaurants to have AEDs and would exempt them from definition of “facility” in current AED statute and regulations.

- SB 299 passed. HB 288 is still in committee

Dr. Delbridge commented on the struggles trauma centers are facing regarding growing costs and limited reimbursements.

HB 351: Health Occupations Licensed Direct Midwives –Previous Cesarean Section

- HB 351 passed. Senate still in committee

SB 414/HB788: Commission to Advance and Strengthen Fire Fighting within Maryland

- SB 414 passed. HB 788 is progressing

### Maryland EMS 50 Years

Dr. Delbridge said that Governor Mandel signed the Executive Order creating the Division of Emergency Medical Services, responsible for developing and implementing a statewide EMS system in February 1973. He said MIEMSS will be commemorating during EMS week.

### **MSPAC**

A copy of the MSPAC written report was distributed.

Major Tagliaferri highlighted items in the written report including the Maryland State Police Aviation Command’s current numbers of EMS providers and pilots, current training, personnel recruitments (15 pilot vacancies), maintenance updates, mission data including IFR flights, and ongoing projects.

Major Tagliaferri will receive 2.6 million dollars from general funds to upgrade the fleet radio system. The current radio system is incompatible with the current Maryland FirstNet system.

Major Tagliaferri said that on April 4<sup>th</sup>, MSPAC responded to a call in Frederick for a two-year old with severe injuries due to a dog bite. As required for all scene helicopter requests, SYSCOM was called. Trooper 3 was down due to a mechanical failure, therefore, trooper 2 was launched. It was determined that trooper 2’s ETA was within the 10 minute arrival policy. Frederick County on scene clinicians believed a commercial air service should have been called. It was determined that the call was handled appropriately.

Dr. Millin asked if the policy for the MSPAC’s helicopter estimated time of arrival vs. a commercial service estimated time of arrival was based on scientific data and if not perhaps a review of the policy should be conducted.

### **MSFA**

Ms. Dousa said that the MSFA’s legislative committee met over the weekend. She said that the MSFA Continues to work on the convention scheduled in June 2023.

## **SEMSAC Committee Reports**

### BLS Committee Report

Ms. Dousa said that the BLS committee had a record number of attendees at the March meeting. The one-on-one testing pilot starting in July was discussed. Concerns surrounding the proposed changes to the testing schedule were also discussed.

### ALS Committee

Dr. Fillmore said that the ALS Committee met in March. He said that the state content courses are available online and include changes in protocols. To request access to ALS national registry content, contact Melissa Meyers at [mmeyers@miemss.org](mailto:mmeyers@miemss.org)

### MIH Committee

Chief Matz said the MIH committee is working through billing issues with Medicaid and managed care. He added that workgroup is working on ED credentialing.

### Regional Affairs Committee (RAC)

Chairman Smothers said that the Regional Affairs Committee welcomed introduced the newly elected Chairman of the RAC, Chief Rick Koch from Ocean City EMS. Chief Koch said he is honored to chair and be the RAC representative to SEMSAC.

Chief Koch said that RAC jurisdictions are prioritizing FY23 cardiac arrest grant funds. There is one re-allocation of FY22 funds in region 4 that will close out the FY22 grant.

## **Old Business – N/A**

## **New Business**

Dr. Delbridge said that MIEMSS is in the process of making proposed changes to COMAR 30.02.02 - EMS clinician licensure and certification regulations. As part of that effort, Dr. Delbridge said that MIEMSS would like to change to the historic expiration dates for EMRs and EMTs from December 31 or June 30 to January 31 or July 31 (there are two cohorts of expirees each year). As it is, the December 31 and June 30 dates are in COMAR 30.02.02.06 in terms of the duration of certificates for newly certified people. MIEMSS would like to, with the upcoming June 30 expirees, to request of the EMS Board to exercise its authority to waive the expiration dates and extend all EMR and EMT certificates by 31 days until they are synchronized to expire on either January 31 or July 31. The approval of a waiver by the Board will greatly simplifies the regulation revision.

Chairman Smothers asked if there were any objections to MIEMSS' request of a waiver for this cycle of EMT and EMR expiration dates. SEMSAC members had no objections.

The next meeting of SEMSAC will be held in person/virtual on May 4, 2023.

**SEMSAC adjourned by acclamation**