



## State Emergency Medical Services Board

May 11, 2021, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Agenda

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 Stamp
  - Call the role
- II.** Approval of the minutes from the April 13, 2021 EMS Board minutes
- III.** MIEMSS Report – Dr. Delbridge
- IV.** SEMSAC Report – Mr. Tiemersma
- V.** MSPAC – Major Tagliaferri
- VI.** RACSTC – Dr. Snedeker
- VII.** MSFA Update – Ms. Tomanelli
- VIII.** Old Business
  - BCCC Educational Program Update – Mr. Fiackos
- IX.** New Business
- X.** Adjourn to Closed Session

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) (13).



**State Emergency Medical Services Board  
May 11, 2021  
Via Video Conference Call Only  
Minutes**

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**Board Members Present:** Clay Stamp, Chairperson; Sherry Adams, Vice Chairperson; Stephan Cox; William J. Frohna, MD; Dany Westerband, MD; Sally Showalter, RN; Wayne Tiemersma; Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN; Mr. Scheulen; Dean E. Albert Reece, MD (arrived at 10am)

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

**RACSTC:** Dr. Snedeker

**MSFA:** Ms. Tomanelli; Second VP McCrea

**MSPAC:** Major Tagliaferri; Captain DeCoursey

**MIEMSS:** Dr. Delbridge; Ms. Gainer; Ms. Aycock; Mr. Bilger; Mr. Brown; Ms. Chervon; Dr. Chizmar; Dr. Floccare; Ms. Mays; Dr. Pinet Peralta; Ms. Wright-Johnson; Ms. McAlister; Ms. Goff

Chairman Stamp called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and proceeded with calling the role.

Chairman Stamp thanked the MIEMSS staff and our partner organizations that continue to do the hard work necessary to have a great EMS system in Maryland, especially during this past year. Mr. Stamp also commended the efforts of Maryland EMS clinicians who provide care every day and said that we recognize the impact the pandemic has had on our clinicians and their families.

Chairman Stamp asked for approval of the April 13, 2021, EMS Board meeting minutes.

**ACTION: A motion was made by Mr. Tiemersma, seconded by Ms. Vanhoy, and unanimously approved by the Board to accept the April 13, 2021, minutes as written.**

### **MIEMSS REPORT**

Dr. Delbridge said EMS Week begins on May 17, 2021. He said that, as occurred last year, MIEMSS would be taking the STAR of Life Awards on the road to present to the recipients. He added that there were a record number of nominees for each award this year.

### COVID-19 Updates

Dr. Delbridge highlighted the significant amount of time spent by MIEMSS staff compiling and validating the data provided by the hospitals through MEMRAD seven days a week. He said that, as of this morning, there were 799 hospitalized COVID patients with approximately 14% in alternative care sites at the Laurel in Takoma Park

and the Baltimore Convention Center. Discussions regarding the ramping down of alternative care sites are ongoing.

Dr. Delbridge said that MIEMSS continues to track the number of PUIs transported by EMS and the number of PUI contacts by EMS public safety and commercial services. Dr. Delbridge added that the collaborative paper, showing an approximate nine-day lag between the EMS encounters and the increase in hospitalizations of COVID patients, is scheduled to be published in the July 2021 edition of *Prehospital Emergency Care*.

#### Cardiac Arrest Termination of Resuscitation (TOR)

Dr. Delbridge said Maryland is the only state testing cardiac arrest TORs for COVID on a statewide basis. In some cases, the first symptom of COVID is cardiac arrest. He said that, although clinicians continue to test for COVID in TOR cardiac arrests, testing is not always consistent in all jurisdictions. He said that the most prolific testing has been in Montgomery County. The test positive rate was far higher during the winter months but has dropped off significantly since the end of March.

#### Yellow Alerts and Transfer of Care (TOC)

Dr. Delbridge said that Yellow Alert days had risen considerably over the last few weeks. The number of COVID patients is not a significant factor for the increase in yellow alert hours in most hospitals at this time. He said patients are backing up in emergency departments, which affects EMS. He added that the number of patients with TOC upward of 60 minutes is 6.2%. MIEMSS is working with hospital EDs on ways to improve current TOC rates. A few hospitals have improved their TOC considerably.

MIEMSS is in conversations with the Health Care Commission and HSCRC seeking objective evaluations of the capabilities of hospital emergency departments across the state to assure the emergency healthcare system is successful for treating patients especially for EMS arrivals.

A discussion followed regarding the need for non-punitive measures to correct length of time for EMS to transfer the care of a patient to ED personnel.

#### MIEMSS @HA (Ambulances at Hospitals Dashboard)

Dr. Delbridge provided screen shots of the @HA Dashboard from the @HA app showing locations of ambulances at hospitals. The system updates every minute, but relies on CAD data for accuracy. Due to variations in CAD feeds that are available to MIEMSS, data from a few jurisdictions cannot be viewed.

A discussion followed regarding the controlling of EMS traffic to hospitals.

#### CRISP

Dr. Delbridge said that, although the project is not as far along as originally thought, MIEMSS continues work with CRISP on the technical aspects for access to near real-time ED patient census data from hospital emergency departments submitted to CRISP.

#### Clinical Externs

Dr. Delbridge gave a status update on the Clinical Externs program. He said that nursing and respiratory therapy students continue to apply and request upgraded levels to be Externs. Externs continue to work in vaccination centers and hospitals. MIEMSS sends the updated list to MDH and Hospital executives weekly.

### EMS Clinicians

Dr. Delbridge gave a status update on Provisional EMS clinician licenses and certifications. He said that clinicians on extended certificates and licenses, issued under the Governor's Executive order, would end on October 31, 2021, for Paramedics and CRTs; and would end on December 31, 2021 for EMTs. He added that over 1200 provisional EMTs have been credentialed, with over 250 transitioning to become full status EMT clinicians.

### Vaccinations

Dr. Delbridge said that most EMS agencies have engaged with their local health departments assisting with vaccination efforts. 831 EMTs have completed the didactic training with 420 EMTs that have completed the process. EMS Clinicians are vaccinating and monitoring at Mass Vaccination sites.

The MIEMSS vaccination clinic has vaccinated over 6,000 people and has provided over 10,000 vaccines. The clinic is winding down and is only giving second doses of the vaccine. The clinic will close the last week of May.

### Public Notice #9

Under the Emergency Order, EMS Board Chair Stamp and Dr. Delbridge released Public Notice # 9 which allows a waiver to be issued to a Commercial Ambulance Service to staff licensed Basic Life Support (BLS) ground ambulances with (1) EMS Clinician to provide patient care and (1) non-EMS licensed or certified individual to drive the BLS ambulance if certain requirements are met. The Public notice is posted on the MIEMSS website. The Public Notice expires 60 days after the Governor ends the emergency order.

### Critical Care Coordination Center (C4)

Dr. Delbridge said that MIEMSS is facilitating communications for the referral and transfer of patients needing ICU care from hospitals without sufficient ICU beds to other hospitals with ICU bed availability. So far, MIEMSS has taken 945 calls requesting assistance with ICU patient transfer since the start of C4, averaging six calls per day. Every Maryland hospital has worked with the C4 in placing and receiving patients. The C4 assisted with the handling of about 40% of calls via physician consultation only, with no patient transfer required.

Dr. Delbridge said that there is provisional funding for C4 for the first few months of FY22, but a change in the compensation for the centralized intensivist positions is needed. On average, there are six cases per day with each case taking a couple of hours to resolve. There is interest in continuing this program after the Emergency order ends.

A discussion followed on the continuation of the C4 and future funding for the program.

### Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program

Dr. Delbridge said that MIEMSS has been working with MDH and CMS for over a year on the Medicaid Supplemental Payment Program. The Supplemental Payment Programs helps to rebalance reimbursement by calculating the appropriate portion of federal reimbursement for the unreimbursed costs of providing services to Medicaid patients. He gave an overview of the process for applying for reimbursement and the qualifying factors, including being a designated jurisdictional EMS operational program that is funded directly by public (tax) dollars; billing Medicaid for EMS transports; and documenting expenses.

## **SEMSAC REPORT**

Chairman Mr. Tiemersma said that SEMSAC met on May 6, 2021, and that Vice Chairman Smothers chaired the meeting. Dr. Seaman presented his work in Charles County on increasing cardiac arrest survival rates in the field.

## **MSPAC**

A written report was distributed.

Major Tagliaferri highlighted some of the items in the distributed written report including an 11% increase in MedEvacs from the same time last year, with a 5% increase in the number of patient transports; a 46% decrease in search & rescue missions; and a 4% decrease in flight hours.

MSPAC concluded their vaccine clinic on April 14, 2021.

Major Tagliaferri gave an overview of a few search and rescue missions.

The MSPAC training division is assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the ultrasound program.

Major Tagliaferri provided an update on MSPACs recruitment efforts.

Major Tagliaferri congratulated Shock Trauma on the incredible job hosting the virtual gala.

## **RACSTC REPORT**

Dr. Snedeker thanked Major Tagliaferri and said that the links to the gala are being sent to Board members. They are also being shared via social media.

## **MSFA**

1<sup>st</sup> VP McCrea shared greetings from the officers and members of the MSFA. VP McCrea said the MSFA is continues planning for the virtual Convention in June 2021. He thanked MIEMSS staff for their participation and training seminars for the convention.

VP McCrea said that 174 departments had applied for support to make up for lost revenue under the Maryland Relief Act.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Baltimore City Community College (BCCC)

The 90 report was distributed.

BCCC is currently on a remediation plan.

Mr. Fiackos gave an update on the positive actions that have been taken by BCCC which include:

- Securing a new Medical Director and adding core faculty
- Recent students brought back to properly prepare for National Registry process
- The development of program entrance requirements to ensure student success

- Revising course resources
- Implementing curriculum revision process which is anticipated to be completed within 18 months

Mr. Fiackos said that BCCC is currently:

- Creating a new full time paramedic instructor position
- Planning a program Advisory Board meeting
- Including a paramedic course for Fall '21 schedule
- Having the new Program Coordinator attend CoAEMSP Workshop early summer 2021
- Clinical site implementation and the negotiation of additional sites.

MIEMSS believes the new program director, Sherry Luck, has made great strides in re-establishing the BCCC EMS program.

**NEW BUSINESS** – N/A

**ACTION: The EMS Board adjourned to closed session by acclamation.**

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**In closed session:**

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**MIEMSS:** Dr. Delbridge; Ms. Gainer; Dr. Chizmar; Ms. Goff; Ms. Chervon; Ms. McAllister

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**In Closed Session:**

1. The Board considered disciplinary matters.