

Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting

January 15, 2026

The Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting was held on January 15, 7:00 p.m. Members attending were: Jeff Hobbs, Wendy Helms, Kim Gordon, Scott Whetsell, Jonathan Dayton, Roger Bennett, Justin Orendorf, April Morgan, Allison Robinson, Lori Peck, Doug Beitzel, Rick DeVore, Al Ward, Jennifer Ritchie, Shannon Adams, Mike Salvadge.

The meeting was called to order by Alison Robinson at 7:01 p.m.

Welcome Guests

Cyndy Wright Johnson, Aaron Edwards, Alex Kelly, Dwayne Kitis, Wayne Tiemersma.

Approval of October 16, 2025 Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved as corrected.

President's Report – No report.

Committee Reports

Prehospital Care System – Wayne Tiemersma

Have not yet met. Regular meeting is May.

Quality Improvement – No report

Bylaws/Membership – Wayne Tiemersma

Vacancies in Pediatric Medical Director, Garrett County Emergency Services Board,

Education Representative Allegany County nominee Carrie Caporale. Sought and received nomination and second as well as affirmative vote.

Current appointments for review:

Jonathan Dayton - Allegany-Garrett County Vol. Fire and Rescue Association.

Roger Bennett – Allegany County Dept. of Emergency Services – Emergency Management and Communications

Michael Salvadge - Allegany County Dept. of Emergency Services - EMS Division

Justin Orendorf - Garrett County Emergency Management & Communications

Steven Smith - Garrett County Emergency Management – EMS

April Morgan – Commercial Ambulance

Rick DeVore – MSP Aviation Division

Move to appoint Lori Peck as President.

Selection of Vice President, Jeff Hobbs, and Secretary / Treasurer, Doug Beitzel, both were unopposed.

ALS Advisory Committee / Garrett College – Doug Beitzel

Written Report Submitted.

2024-2026 Cohort (Class #23)

- Program Duration: 2 years
- Start Date: September 5, 2024
- Program Format: Evening program
- Progress: Started final semester, will graduate in spring.
- WVU education is open with PICU, NICU, Peds ER & Birthing Center.
- Class will end on May 5th with graduation.
- Current Enrollment: 13 students

2025-2026 Cohort (Class #24)

- Program Duration: 1 year
- Start Date: August 20, 2025
- Program Format: Hybrid
- Progress: Currently in clinicals.

begin November 24th.

- Applications: 13 applications
- Current Enrollment: 10 students.

Accreditation

Reaccreditation not due until 2030.

2 new grants – purchased 2 UE video laryngoscopes. iSim cardiac monitors are being replaced.

Applications will open in March for fall cohort. Both 2 year and 1 year hybrid will start in fall.

MFRI ALS Classes

List of upcoming refresher courses presented.

MIEMSS ALS Education Grant moved and accepted.

Region I Emergency Services Education Council, Inc. – Wayne Tiemersma

Registration is open for Miltenberger. Finalizing details for seminar. Thanks to Jeff Hobbs for all his help.

Garrett County Activities

WVU Medicine Garrett Regional Medical Center – Kim Gordon

Flu season / respiratory illness keeping census full. All departments getting new education in spring.

Garrett County Emergency Services Board / EMS / Emergency Management & Communications – Submitted **Emergency Management**

New Chairman of ESB is Bill Ingram. Processing of grants. Funding for IV pumps for all EMS units.

Emergency Medical Services

Approved for 5 additional EMS full-time clinicians. All stations in Garrett county have paid county employees. Anticipating delivery of one remounted and one brand-new EMS units. 5-year strategic plan being formulated. County applying for academy status for training.

Garrett County Health Department – Lori Peck

Received Maryland Responds funding. Planning POD drill in spring. Updating COOP, risk management, shelter-in-place. Chemical incident drill in May in Baltimore.

Allegany County Activities

Allegany County Emergency Management / Communications – Roger Bennett

Ready to open the George's Creek ambulance station at end of the month. 4 EMS crews will cover new station. Continuing to work with flood recovery efforts.

Allegany County Emergency Services Board – Scott Whetsell

County has switched to Chief 360 alerting and reporting software. 508 monies being held due to federal auditing. County ethics training mandate issued for all members who sit on county board. Two policies approved – Response Index and Exposure for Carcinogens for Firefighting. Two open Citizen at Large seats.

Discussions for Officer Standards failure to meet standards. Proposal initial failure to meet ESB helps to meet standards for first 30 days, after 6 months of failure to meet Department is taken out of service to respond to calls for service.

Al Ward – Taking entire department out of service seems severe and increases burden on adjacent departments.

Johnathan Dayton – How many departments are currently not meeting standard? Commissioners have final say over funding – what role is ESB playing?

Scott Whetsell – Commissioners have granted ESB authority to disperse funds on their behalf. Do not know how many departments are not currently compliant.

Shannon Adams – Met with commissioner representative, county attorney in December with understanding goal is to help departments become compliant without sanctions. Currently 3 or 4 departments in county do not meet Officer Standards – a small number.

Mike Salvadge – Looking for a way to ensure compliance with standards without being punitive but concern is some departments will be non-compliant.

Group moved to support policy.

Allegany County EMS – Mike Salvadge

New George's Creek station open and unit in service. 8 new hires to staff have been hired. 4 new hires anticipated. Sprinkler system testing final step prior to station going in service.
PS Tracks inventory system is in place.
Two new ventilators in service in Flintstone and Tri-towns.
Sue Clark-Cecil retiring May 1.
County applied for cancer screening grant.
New training program Phone Frat for all employees.
Whole Blood program state grant funding is approved.

Allegany County Health Department – Alison Robinson

Maryland Strong grant recipient. Full-scale drill for mass casualty / mass fatality. All-Clear Consulting will coordinate drill. Planning Committee has been established. Have not had full scale exercise in county in years.

UPMC Western Maryland and Region I Specialty Centers – Jeff Hobbs

Very busy with respiratory illness, increased ED boarders. New patient registration policy with registrar waiting for patient arrival.

Allegany College of Maryland – No Report (Vacant)

Regional Reports

Regional Medical Director – No Report

Jurisdictional Medical Director – No Report

MFRI – Todd Dyche

Written Report Submitted.

Medevac – Rick DeVore

2025 Busiest year 166 medevacs, 28 searches, 11 LE missions. 8 hoists. Maintenance pushing to keep Section open due to lack of overlapping coverage.

CISM – Al Ward

Regular team meeting January 26th. Thanks for having Dr. Mitchell speak at Miltenberger.

AGCVFRA – Jonathan Dayton

"Care Closet" up and running in Rawlings. Approved for space in Cumberland as well. Utilized as far away as Washington County. Anonymous request for supplies for first responders in need. Video for recruitment and retention underway. Legislative work continues.

Region I & II Healthcare Coalition – Jeff Hobbs

Final interviews next week for new coordinator. Pediatric immobilizers should be purchased and in field shortly. New industrial generator in-service.

Career Fire & EMS – Shannon Adams

Record number of fire and EMS calls for 2025. Average 22 calls in 24-hour period. Several ALS clinicians have been promoted resulting in engine assists to EMS. 7 retirements. Hiring in progress to replace. Doug Beitzel is now Battalion Chief. Vector Solutions new training program and inventory system.

Commercial Ambulance – April Morgan

April introduced herself.

MIEMSS

EMSC - Cyndy Wright Johnson

Written report submitted.
STABLE Course will be at Miltenberger.

Pediatric Readiness Conference at MITAGS in February.
Right Care When It Counts / Stars of Life awards are open.

Clinician Services – Aaron Edwards

Discussed upcoming expiring clinicians in Region 1.
Discussed process for recertifying should a clinician expire.

Region I - Wayne Tiemersma

Please sign and return Cardiac Device Grant documentation ASAP.

MIEMSS Mission Support – Dwayne Kitis

No report.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Jonathan Dayton asked about Open Meetings compliance. All information resides on MIEMSS website.
Shannon Adams reported on new members to the Fire Chief's Committee – Bobby Ritchie is chair, Jim Coleman is vice-chair, Scott Yates member-at-large, Emily Perkins alternate. EMS Committee – Vince Pyle is chair, Allen Ruby vice-chair, Jerry Broadwater is member-at-large, Dotty Ruby is alternate.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.