

Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting

July 23, 2026

The Region I EMS Advisory Council Meeting was held on July, 23th 7:00 p.m. Members attending were: Doug Beitzel, Jeff Hobbs, Scott Whetsell, Alison Robinson, Janelle Martin, Mike Salvadge, Martin Kraska, Rick DeVore, Jonathan Dayton, Cyndy Wright-Johnson, Dwayne Kitis, Alex Kelly.

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hobbs at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of October 16, 2025 Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved.

President's Report – Jeff Hobbs

Thanks to MIEMSS and Garrett College for their efforts in this evening's Region I Hall of Fame awards.

Committee Reports

Prehospital Care System – Alex Kelly

Met May 22nd. Hall of Fame recipients were selected.

Quality Improvement – No report.

Bylaws/Membership – No report.

ALS Advisory Committee / Garrett College – Doug Beitzel

Written Report Submitted.

2024-2026 Cohort (Class #23)

- Program Duration: 2 years
- Start Date: September 5, 2024
- 5 students have received National Registry Paramedic certification.
- 6 students will be taking exam.

2025-2026 Cohort (Class #24)

- Program Duration: 1 year
- End Date: August 26, 2026
- Program Format: Hybrid
- Progress: Currently in clinicals.
- Current Enrollment: 8 students.
- Graduation August 31st.

Accreditation

Reaccreditation not due until 2030.

Personnel

Josh Hook hired as full-time director / lead instructor.

Jim Koon retired as program director after 30 years of service.

Steve Adams will stay on as clinical coordinator until end of September.

Received donation from Valley Storage in Hagerstown to purchase Sim Junior to replace older, non-functional simulator.

New 2-year and hybrid cohorts will start in fall. Acceptance letters (26, 13 for each program) going out tomorrow.

MFRI ALS Classes

ALS refresher in October 12-15.

JEMs class November 13.

TECC MFRI Training Center August 24.

Region I Emergency Services Education Council, Inc. – Dwayne Kitis

Miltenberger 2027 planning.

Garrett County Activities

WVU Medicine Garrett Regional Medical Center – No representative.

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

Written report submitted and distributed to membership.

Garrett County Health Department – Martin Kraska, Deputy health Officer, Operations

Lori Peck resigned. Funding for community paramedicine is available - working with Dir. Orendorf.

Allegany County Activities

Allegany County Emergency Management / Communications – No representative.

Allegany County Emergency Services Board – Scott Whetsell

Still debating Officer policy.

Allegany County EMS – Mike Salvadge

Continuing to work to finalize Whole Blood program. Waiting to hear from Garrett County Health Department about MIH funding. Working on refurbishing / purchasing ambulances. Hired two full-time personnel and part-time personnel.

Allegany County Health Department – Alison Robinson

Participating in Rural Health Transformation grant as well. State-wide Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) meeting earlier in week. Proposing Ebola table-top exercise for future.

UPMC Western Maryland and Region I Specialty Centers – Jeff Hobbs

UPMCWMD involved in Whole Blood discussion as well as MIH / community paramedicine and Pediatric Readiness. New orthopedic surgeon in-house (originally from Mineral County). New Vice President of Medical Affairs announced. Trauma, stroke and cardiac specialties have been busy. Base Station survey went well and re-certified for five year period.

Allegany College of Maryland – No Report (Vacant)

Regional Reports

Regional Medical Director – Dr. Martin

New protocols in effect since July 1st. Some corrections / clarifications have been released. Active measles cases in Maryland. Decontamination time for ambulance post-exposure is over two hours.

Jurisdictional Medical Director – No representative.

MFRI – Todd Dyche

Written Report Submitted.

MDEM – No representative

Medevac – Rick DeVore

Command purchased Hamilton ventilators to replace Revels. Lost two pilots to retirement / resignation.

CISM – No representative.

AGCVFRA – Jonathan Dayton

Smoke and CO alarms available. Website being updated for ADA compliance. Flooding tabletop exercise being planned for fall with focus on older adults. Planning a trip to West Virginia to distribute items from Care Closet to flooding victims.

Region I & II Healthcare Coalition – Jeff Hobbs.

Entering new budget period. Purchasing additional Care Cubes so each county has at least one available. Continuing to purchase and distribute pediatric restraint devices for ambulances. Working to integrate Star Link with existing Plum Cases for more capable devices when used in rural area such as ours. Alison and Jonathan mentioned availability of many cots and supplies from MDH OP&R.

Career Fire & EMS – No representative.

Doug advised new chief Steve Grogg was unaware of meeting, but will be in attendance for next. Doug advised on several new promotions within the Cumberland Fire Department.

Commercial Ambulance – No representative.

MIEMSS

EMSC – Cyndy Wright-Johnson.

Cyndy inquired about type of pediatric transport devices being purchased by HCC. NHTSA is evaluating standard (supine, seated, isolette) by crash testing various pediatric restraint devices this June, July and August. Cyndy also talked about the Ferno KagooFix neonatal restraint system.

EMSC CPS Project is assembling regional child safety seat display and information kit. Assembling new tripod type "Kids in Hot Cars" displays including one for Region I.

EMSC FAN committee is working on new safe sleep displays that will focus on messages for families and not use older data from MDH. New data must be cleared before they can publish, we will make these handouts and not metal displays.

American Academy of Pediatrics has released new course Neonatal Education for Prehospital Providers (NEPP) three-to-four-hour, five module online course. Course focuses on EMS role in initial delivery. Cost is \$25. Updated PEPP course and materials (book, videos and handouts) should be available by second week in September. Course orientation for Pediatric Champions is scheduled for October 28nd. OMB has released federal grant funds approved by congress. Monies now available for pre-conference and pediatric track at Miltenberger. EMS and nursing Champions met to discuss and review pediatric decontamination (laundry tubs with holes in bottom and plastic grocery carts) and JumpSTART triage including proper use of triage tags. Physician Champion virtual meeting is next Wednesday featuring a virtual trauma resuscitation.

Region I – No report.

MIEMSS Mission Support – No report.

Old Business – None

New Business - None

Adjournment

The next meeting will be October 15th at UPMC Western Maryland. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.