

Region IV EMS Advisory Council

Rick Koch, Chair
Chris Truitt, Vice-Chair
Brian LeCates, Secretary

VIRTUAL MEETING

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AGENDA August 31, 2021

1. Call to Order & Introductions:
 - Topic: To discuss a trial/pilot of No Red and Yellow Alert- Upper Eastern Shore.
2. Jurisdictional Round Table Discussion:
3. Adjournment

REGION IV EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
August 31, 2021
Minutes

Attendees: Michael Parsons, Rick Koch, Bryan Ebling, Dr. Chizmar, KJ Marvel, Dr. Chiccone, Dr. Ochsenschlager, Dr. Ciotola, Doug Walters, Tim Gunderson, John Donohue, Andy Budzialek, Dr. Jon Krohmer, Chris Lenz, Nicole Leonard, Brian LeCates, Josh Cherix, Mark Bilger, Dozia Rahilly, Dr. White, Scott Haas, Scott Wheatley, Lisa Lisle, Mary Alice Vanhoy.

Rich Koch called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

This special Region IV Council meeting was held to discuss the no red no yellow alert trial.

Dr Chizmar:

Dr. Chiccone and I were approached by Shore Health regarding the use of red and yellow alerts particularly by the Region IV Shore Health Hospitals. Some of the thought process behind their approach was that hospitals going on red or yellow alert would cause, or is already causing patients to be transported much greater distances. This could also cause a patient who may have been transported to Easton or across the bridge to be transported to a Freestanding instead. In discussions with Ken Kozel CEO of Shore Health Systems and a few other representatives from Shore Health, we were asked about potentially doing a trial where hospitals would not go on red alert or yellow alert. There has also been some discussion about doing something very similar in Anne Arundel County regarding hospitals not utilizing the red and yellow alert status. The goal would be to do this trial in conjunction with Anne Arundel Medical Center to help facilitate any issues that might arise between Anne Arundel County and Queen Anne's Emergency Center.

With that said, would the Council be willing to implement a trial run of no red and no yellow alert usage by the Shore Regional Health Hospitals? Dr. Chizmar stated, keep in mind this would only be a trial, if any of the parties recognize a problem; there would be a "safe word" to say we are done with this trial.

Council Discussion:

- There was discussion regarding what hospitals would be most affected on the Shore in regards to this trial. The consensus was that the Mid-Shore would be impacted the most.
- The Council agreed that this trial would not work unless it was in conjunction with the EMS programs in Anne Arundel, the Naval Academy and Annapolis.
- There was some discussion regarding how the alert status of a hospital affects EMS transport decisions currently. The answer seems to differ across the Region depending on the Jurisdiction.

- In 2016 there were changes being made to the current alert system that were put on hold due to other things going on within the Region; however, those changes most likely would not have impacted the topic of today's discussion.

Dr Chizmar:

I would really like the Council to propose a few outcomes that you would want to see measured if we move forward with this trial. We really do not want to get to the end of the trial and not have any measure of what improved, what did not improve, and what stayed the same. We have a month or so before Anne Arundel will be in the position to do this, however, I wanted to bring this to the Council now for consideration.

Conclusion:

The Council tentatively agreed to move forward with this trial with a possible start date of October 1, 2021 as long as Anne Arundel, the Naval Academy and Annapolis are willing to proceed as well. However, all motions for approval were tabled until the next council meeting, which will be held on September 21, 2021.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:33p.m., motion made by Mary Alice, seconded by Brian LeCates.