



**State EMS Board
August 8, 2023
Virtual Meeting**

- I. Call to Order – Mr. Stamp
 - Call the role
 - Approval of the June 13, 2023 EMS Board meeting minutes
- II. MIEMSS Report – Dr. Delbridge
- III. SEMSAC Report – Chairman Smothers
- IV. MSPAC – Major Tagliaferri
- V. R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Report – Mr. Graves
- VI. MSFA – Mr. Smothers / Ms. Loveless
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
 - COMAR 30.02.02 – Proposed regulation changes – INFORMATION – Ms. Witmer
- IX. 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
August 8, 2023
Via Video Conference
Minutes**

Board Members Present: Clay B. Stamp, NREMT P, Chairperson; Dany Westerband, MD; Sally Showalter; Stephan Cox; William J. Frohna, M.D.; Molly Marra; Eric Smothers; Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN

Board Member Absent: James Scheulen

MSPAC: Major Tagliaferri

RACSTC: Justin Graves

MSFA: 1st VP Carey; Ms. Loveless

OAG: Mr. Malizio; Ms. Pierson, Ms. McAlister; Ms. McAllister

MIEMSS: Dr. Delbridge; Dr. Chizmar; Mr. Abramovitz; Dr. Anders; Dr. Barajas; Mr. Bechtel; Mr. Bilger; Ms. Chervon; Dr. Chizmar; Mr. Cooney; Mr. Ebling; Ms. Gainer; Mr. Fiackos; Dr. Floccare; Ms. Gainer; Ms. Hall; Ms. Hammond; Mr. Huggins; Mr. Kelly; Mr. Kitis; Mr. Legore; Mr. Linthicum; Mr. Parsons; Mr. Robertson; Mr. Sidik; Mr. Tandy; Ms. Wilson; Ms. Witmer; Dr. Wooster; Ms. Wright-Johnson; Ms. Goff

Chairman Stamp called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and proceeded with calling the role. He thanked Dr. Delbridge and the MIEMSS team for organizing the 50th anniversary of EMS event over the weekend. He thanked the EMS and fire fighters career and volunteers who responded to last night's severe thunder storms that wreaked havoc in Maryland.

Chairman Stamp asked for approval of the April 11, 2023 EMS Board meeting minutes.

ACTION: Upon the motion made by Dr. Westerband, seconded by Mr. Smothers, the EMS Board unanimously approved the June 13, 2023 EMS Board meeting minutes as written.

MIEMSS Report

Dr. Delbridge thanked everyone that attended the celebration to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the EMS system in Maryland. He also thanked the MIEMSS staff for their work in putting the event together.

COVID-19

Dr. Delbridge said that MDH is tracking an uptick in the number of COVID hospitalizations. Presently, 2% of Maryland hospitalized patients have COVID.

Critical Care Coordination Center (C-4)

Dr. Delbridge said that the number of C-4 patient referrals continues to receive a few calls each day. MDH continues to fund the C-4.

Dr. Delbridge said that since March of 2019 through the MEMRAD system, MIEMSS has queried hospitals with approximately 30 questions each day. MIEMSS is working with the recipients, currently utilizing the data captured from the daily queries, to scale back the frequency and possibly the number of questions asked.

Patient Transfer of Care Intervals

Dr. Delbridge reported that since January 1, 2024, EMS has transported 326,290 patients. Approximately 3.5% of patient transports are to out-of-state hospitals. Anne Arundel Medical Center is the busiest receiving hospital in Maryland.

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. Dr. Delbridge provided a graphic showing that more than half of Maryland emergency department struggle with attaining the 30 minute patient transfer of care time.

The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) is implementing three reporting measures for hospital emergency departments. On a monthly basis, MIEMSS will be reporting the EMS transfer-of-care times for each hospital (90th percentile times, based on a 30 minute transfer time for 90% of transports to the ED). HSCRC has indicated that they may base part of hospital reimbursements (incentive or penalty) on EMS to ED patient transfer-of-care times. It is imperative that statewide times used are uniformly measured

Emergency Department Advisory System (EDAS)

Dr. Delbridge gave an overview of the challenges that have arisen in launching EDAS. Hospitals do not submit data to CRISP in the same manner. MIEMSS continues to work with hospitals on proposed procedural/work flow modifications for providing data.

Emergency Department Throughput Workgroup

Dr. Delbridge said that, although legislation did not pass regarding creating a taskforce to work on ED wait times, legislators directed MHA, with MIEMSS' assistance, to work on policy initiatives regarding ED throughput. Dailey, approximately 25% of patients are boarded in the ED after completing their emergency department care; 20% are behavioral health patients waiting for transfer to another facility.

The first meeting was held on July 27th with the workgroup providing perspectives on how the issue of ED Boarding and throughput is viewed. The workgroup has 24 members including representation for HSCRC and MDH. Reporting to the legislature is due in December.

Commission to Study Trauma Center Funding in Maryland (SB 493 / HB 675) –

MIEMSS and the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) are co-chairing and staffing the Commission to study the adequacy of funding for designated trauma centers for their operating, capital and workforce costs. By December 1, 2023, the Commission must report findings and recommendations regarding changes in staffing, recruitment, compensation or other factors that

would impact the funding needed to operate a trauma centers, the amount of funding needed to adequately fund trauma centers, and other factors. The Commission includes every level trauma center and others as designated in the statute. The first meeting is scheduled for August 16th where Commission members will provide their perspectives on trauma funding and receive a primer on the Trauma Physician Services fund by MHCC. Distribution of trauma center funding is restricted by statute.

Dr. Delbridge provided a graph showing distribution by anatomic region to Maryland trauma centers with the majority of serious injuries to the head and neck. Most trauma patients are in the lower category of injury severity, ISS scores of 1-12, with a cadre of patients with ISS scores of 1-3 or no injuries. Dr. Westerband said it would be interesting to see data on anatomic region of serious injury by age.

Commission to Advance and Strengthen Fire Fighting and Emergency Medical Services Within Maryland (SB 414 / HB 788)

This legislation established a Commission to study and make recommendations regarding: (1) the effectiveness and viability of uniform incentives, offerings, or practices employed in other states to attract, support, and retain individuals in firefighting and EMS roles; (2) the suitability of comparable or similar incentives, offerings, and practices as compared to the landscape of the State; and (3) any other global issues the Commission may consider useful in enhancing and supporting career and volunteer fire fighting and EMS in the State.

The Commission, organized by the Department of Labor, chaired by Fire Chief Tiffany Green, PG County and Kate Loveless, Executive Director, MSFA includes MIEMSS, MFRI and two representatives designated by the MSFA. The Commission must report to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1, 2023. The Commission is gathering information via survey on other state initiatives regarding recruitment and retention.

Pediatric Facility Readiness Recognition

Dr. Delbridge said that, under the Federal EMS-C grant, facility recognition is a mandated measure for the EMS-C program in all states. MIEMSS' EMS-C program is building upon the work done as part of the C4-Pediatric to understand the pediatric capacities in the state. The MIEMSS EMS-C team, led by Cyndy Wright Johnson and Dr. Jen Anders, are working to create a hospital/emergency department recognition program that stratifies the capacity of the hospital with a designation of three levels of care for children. It is anticipated that the volunteer recognition program will start by the end of 2024.

Regulation Update

Proposed changes to the licensure regulations was distributed.

Dr. Delbridge gave an overview of the proposed changes to the licensure regulations including the change in expiration dates approved by the Board, clarifying continuing education hours, requiring annual protocol updates, clarifying the requirement for protocol orientation and skills along with removing a 12 hour skills class. Proposed changes will be presented to the Board for approval at the September meeting.

EMS Educational Program Renewals

Dr. Delbridge requested Board approval for the following educational program designation for 5-years:

Baltimore City Community College

- End of two-year provisional status as paramedic education program
- Receptive to “oversight” and recommendations
- Have eagerly filled important positions and updated training environment
- Maintained CAAHEP accreditation
- Recent site visit by Dr. Chizmar and Mr. Fiackos
- Excellent feedback by faculty and students
- Recommend approval for balance of 5 years (3 years)

Wisp Ski Patrol

- EMR education program

ACTION: Upon the motion made by Ms. Vanhoy, seconded by Ms. Marra, the EMS Board unanimously approved the Baltimore City Community College for the remaining 3-years of the 5-years designation as a paramedic education program.

Dr. Delbridge requested Board approval for a 1-years provisional designation the Community College of Baltimore County’s (CCBC) EMS educational program.

ACTION: Upon the motion made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Dr. Westerland, the EMS Board unanimously approved Wisp as an EMR education program for 5-years.

Dr. Delbridge announced the retirement of Pete Fiackos at the end of September. The EMS Board thanked Pete for his service at MIEMSS.

SEMSAC

Chairman Smothers said that SEMSAC met on August 3, 2023. The 50/50 grant was discussed as the Regional Affairs Committee is in the process of working on requests for funding.

SEMSAC is considering holding two in-person meetings a year.

MSPAC Report

A 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 (13 pilot vacancies), maintenance updates (two helicopters are at the vendor for heavy maintenance and 1 in-house), mission data including IFR flights, and ongoing projects. All sections are now carrying 2 units of whole blood on the helicopter. The state has extended the deferred retirement program to assist with retaining medics.

Major Tagliaferri said that the Office of Procurement has released an RFP to upgrade the fleet radio system. The current radio system is incompatible with the current Maryland FirstNet system. Major Tagliaferri said that all section aircraft are now carrying 2 units of whole blood. A press conference is scheduled to announce the Whole Blood Program.

Major Tagliaferri provided an update on the number of MSPAC mission's year-to-date, highlighting 10 IFR medivacs, and several hoist missions.

Trooper 3 Frederick celebrated its 50th anniversary over the weekend.

RACSTC

A copy of the RACSTC quarterly report was distributed.

Reporting for Dr. Snedeker, Mr. Graves highlighted the RACSTC's current statistics on patient admissions, occupancy rates, OR volumes, clinic volumes, and lost inter-hospital transfer volumes including air scene transport. Mr. Graves said that RACSTC has had a 5% decrease in capacity hours.

Mr. Graves gave an update go-team activations, and organ donation percentages and initiatives and provided information on the global outreach - the trauma observation program including a delegation from Ukraine, the Center for Injury Prevention & Policy outreach program and the EMS outreach and education activities.

MSFA

A written report was distributed.

Mr. Smothers that the MSFA Executive Director is part of the Commission for Recruitment and Retention. A meeting with MSFA committee chairs was held on July 30th to discuss bolstering recruitment and retention efforts.

The Cumberland Valley Association, a collaborative group of fire associations from Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, New York, Delaware, a West Virginia, convened at Singerly in Elkton and was well attended including Maryland EMS partners. Mr. Smothers said that the Cumberland Valley members stated that they are very impressed with Maryland's strong coalition working on collaborative efforts in advancing Fire/EMS initiatives.

MSFA continues to work on the SAFER and AFG grants. MSFA encourages everyone to reach out to Senator Van Hollen in support of SB977 and HB814 for rehabbing fire stations.

The MSFA Executive Committee meeting will be held at Liberty Town FD in Frederick on August 26th and 27th. Partner reports will be held on August 26th.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS – N/A

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) (7).

ACTION: Upon the motion made by Ms. Vanhoy, seconded by Mr. Cox, the EMS Board unanimously voted to adjourn to closed session.

In closed session:

Board Members Present: Clay B. Stamp, NRP, Chairperson; Mary Alice Vanhoy, RN; Stephan Cox; William J. Frohna, M.D.; Molly Marra; Eric Smothers; Dany Westerband, MD

Board Members Absent: Sally Showalter; James Scheulen;

MIEMSS: Dr. Delbridge; Dr. Chizmar; Ms. Goff; Ms. Chervon

OAG: Mr. Malizio; Ms. Pierson; Mrs. McAllister

The Board considered:

(1) Disciplinary matters