

Region IV EMS Advisory Council

Chris Truitt, Chair
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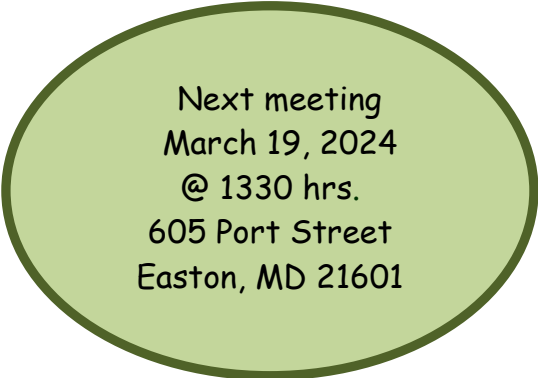
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AGENDA **January 16, 2024**

1. Call to Order & Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Regional Medical Director's Report
4. Pediatric Medical Director's/EMSC Report
5. EMS Board Report
6. SEMSAC
7. Regional Affairs Report
8. Mobile Integrated Health Programs
9. MIEMSS Report
10. Agency/Regional Reports (Circle "yes" on the roster if you want to make a report)
11. Old Business
12. New Business
13. Adjournment



Next meeting
March 19, 2024
@ 1330 hrs.
605 Port Street
Easton, MD 21601

REGION IV EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 16, 2024
Minutes

******Due to inclement weather this meeting was held virtually******

Attendees: Chris Truitt, Bryan Ebling, Michael Parsons, Rick Loch, Pete Landon, Mark Bilger, Matt McCormick, Dr. White, Beverly Witmer, Bobbie Jo Trossbach, Cyndy Wright-Johnson, Dr. Ochsenschlager, Danny Tyndall, Doug Walters, FX O'Connell, 1st Sgt. Larsen, KJ Marvel, Dr. Pearl, Logan Quinn, Morganne Castiglione, Nicole Leonard, Scott Haas, Zach Yerkie, Dr. Chiccone, Dr. Chizmar, Tina Kintop, Wayne Tome, Yelitza Davis-Hernandez.

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 by Chairman Chris Truitt

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Matt McCormick to approve the November 21, 2023 minutes as written, seconded by Zach Yerkie and passed.

Regional Medical Director's Report:

Dr. Chiccone – The Protocol Review Committee meeting was postponed until January 31, 2024. Therefore, I do not have a report to share at this time. However, thanks to the home office for sending out the list of new protocols and revisions for 2024 from Dr. Delbridge and Dr. Chizmar as presented to the EMS Board and SEMSAC. Everyone should have received this two-page document dated January 8 th. Bryan Ebling was kind enough to inform me that this information has been passed to the EMS Board who has deferred to SEMSAC for a recommendation. SEMSAC will now hear from its membership and past recommendations to the EMS Board on each of these items for the EMS Board's next meeting.

I would just like to revisit a memo that was sent out by doctors Dr. Delbridge and Dr. Chizmar that was dated December 29th, which advised that Maryland's hospitalizations due to the combined effects of Covid, Influenza and RSV is currently greater than 10 per 100,000 residents. Therefore, they have reinstated some recommendations that I would like to go over with you.

- Employ universal facemask use for all clinicians and patients as tolerated during care encounters.
- Utilize PPE including a fit tested n95 mask, eye protection and gloves for suspected Covid infections.
- Appropriate PPE should be worn prior to performing airway procedures. Gowns should be utilized if there is anticipated contact with secretions or body fluids.
- Wash your hands frequently or use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

Chris Truitt – I have a quick question, we were talking to our Assistant Medical Director, Dr. Jarriel about Caynokit. Do you know of any agencies either in the state or elsewhere that just use the Hydroxocobalamin straight and inject it into a 150 bag and give it that way instead of the prepackage type Caynokit.

Dr. Chiccone – I do not know, however, is there someone on the call who knows the answer to Chris's question?

Dr. Chizmar – I would just offer that the kits are very infrequently used. I am only aware of only one administration this year, which I believe it was in Howard County. I can find out but typically, most of the kits that are out there for the jurisdictions unfortunately expire, but I can ask how they gave it recently.

Chris Truitt – The Caynokit tends to be very pricey whereas a vial of Hydroxocobalamin is around \$30.00. I was wondering if that would be an alternative way that we could carry the Hydroxocobalamin or does it have to be the prepackaged kit.

Dr. Chizmar – I think the Caynokit contains more than just the Hydroxocobalamin; therefore, I will need to look into that and let you know.

Pediatric Medical Director's/EMSC Report:

Cyndy Wright-Johnson – We need nominations for Stars of Life and Right Care When it Counts Awards. We talked about doing direct Outreach to the 911 centers and working with our colleagues in EMRC.

Registration for Winterfest is still open until the end of this week. I know that skills is quite full. I emailed everyone the flyer of the seminar we are doing on Friday, and then there will be faculty on Saturday and Sunday at the high school.

I do not have an update on EMS Care; however, I believe the Miltenberger brochure was released early this morning.

From an injury prevention standpoint, we still have bike helmets for those that are participating through their Safe Kids Community Partners; we will be completing that grant in June. I have funding for over 700 bike helmets, so if you have a Safe Kids Coalition or you are a community partner, please reach out. We will not be applying for that grant again. It was to be a five-year project to develop educational materials and identify where local communities needed helmets. If you would like to have some funding for bike rodeos and bike helmets, please reach out to me and I will put you in contact with Cynthia Spriggs.

EMS Board Report:

No Report

SEMSAC Report:

Scott Haas – The EMS Board and SEMSAC had their annual joint meeting this morning. There was some very good updates given by multiple agencies during this joint meeting. The updates will be posted on their website so I encourage everyone to look at them. Dr. Delbridge did an update on the overall standing of the State. I want to thank Dawn for pushing out the information from the joint meeting so quickly. I want to highlight two of the items from the meeting that was included in the information Dawn sent out.

- A memo that lists all of the proposed protocol updates from the meeting. The EMS Board said for SEMSAC to review the proposal at their next meeting, vote on it, and send it to the EMS Board for final approval.
- A change for Base Stations, which would allow for video consultations subject to requirements in COMAR 30.03.06.04-01 “Limited Scope Medical Direction” <https://dsd.maryland.gov/regulations/Pages/30.03.06.04-1.aspx>. This change was voted on by the EMS Board and approved to move forward.

Regional Affairs Report:

Rick Koch – Regional Affairs met last week and we went over the FY24 cardiac device grants. At that time, three companies still needed to send in their signed agreements. I spoke with Jim Springer the other day and he assures me that there will not be a delay in equipment being sent.

Bryan Ebling – I just wanted to add that the three companies that Chief Koch mentioned have submitted their agreements to the finance office.

Mobile Integrated Health Programs:

Zach Yerkie – Just a reminder for the jurisdictions that are participating in MIH, next Thursday is the in-person meeting at 10am in Anna Arundel County. At 9am, they are going to do a pre-meeting session with an educational component for MIH Clinicians and all are welcome to attend.

MIEMSS Report:

Dr. Chizmar – We are looking forward to the formal approval of the protocols at the upcoming SEMSAC / EMS board meeting. You all have that outline and perhaps the only fiscal impact this year would be a small vial of Esmolol. We did not roll the v-fib v-tach protocol as any kind of Optional Supplemental Protocol; it would be a standard protocol. Therefore, that would be an expectation on advanced life support units moving forward. The recommendation is just going to be for one vial of that; so, it should be a negligible cost impact.

There is a bill, Senate Bill 210 that MIEMSS has in through the Governor to extend the COVID-19 and influenza vaccination capability. Many of you may remember that was started during as part of the executive order during the pandemic and then was extended through legislation. That legislation sunsets on January the 1st of 2025. It is my understanding is that the first Committee hearing will be held on January the 24th at 1:30pm. and Dr. Delbridge will be there to testify in support of that.

I am supposed to receive the form letter and process from Pat Gainer. Once received, I will provide it to those that feel that they would want to support that bill. I will also circulate the letter and process to the JAC as well as to Matt Bergen to circulate to the entire MIH committee.

I will add that without the passing of this bill, we would still maintain our ability to deliver the flu vaccine as well as hepatitis and PPD. The only way we get to continue to vaccinate for Covid19 is through this legislation.

Lastly, there has been long-term discussions regarding the Maryland EMS Operations Fund. I think most of you are aware that the solvency on that is projected to be late 2025 or early 2026. It seems like there will be opportunities for discussion with legislators during this cycle. There is a small possibility a bill could go into this 2024 session, however, it is more probable that it will go into the 2025 session.

Beverly Witmer – I was asked to give an update on the renewal regulation and the BLS psychomotor exam. Regarding the renewal regulation, we have an information flyer that we are going to share with everybody as soon as the EMS Board does the final approval of the regulations.

There seems to be a lot of anxiety that we are increasing the hours, but in fact, we are decreasing the hours a little bit and making it easier for clinicians to choose what Con Ed programs they take within the parameters of Dr. Chizmar's advice on how many hours he wants for renewals. It was 24-hour refresher; or four, four and four; or the 12 and 12. They are still going to be able to do that if they so choose. What I mean by that is taking an organized course; they will still be able to do that. I am sure some education programs will still create that but it will not be 12 hours of didactic.

We have decided that many times when we are in skills class we may do two hours of skills, and the rest of the time, we are standing around in the class. Therefore, what we want to do is push those hours over to Con Ed where we think people will benefit the most. So the hours will be 20 hours of continuing education and then the EMSOP or a MIEMSS approve BLS program will be able to sign off on the skills. A lot of chiefs and medical directors have shared with us that if there is an active EMT Clinician in their region, jurisdiction, or program they would be willing to review the skills that they have completed during that particular cycle and sign off on their skills. On the other hand, if you have people that are not as active, they may need to come in and do an hour or two of skills. We are leaving that up to the EMSOPS, Medical Directors and the education programs to make that decision. We are also making it a requirement that everybody complete the annual EMS protocol updates. In the past, it was not required statewide; however,

in some Jurisdictions, they did make it a requirement. Therefore, we are going to make it a statewide requirement, and that will be for the local hours. They can pick up these hours at Miltenberger, Winterfest, EMS Care, or any of the EMS conferences. They can also go to the online training center through MIEMSS, or they can do a formal course through an education program.

Rick Koch – Will this sign off be done electronically?

Beverly Witmer – It will be set up electronically, you will just go in and click a button.

Beverly Witmer – The second thing I was asked to talk about was the psychomotor exam. We created a newsletter called the Educator News, which gives a monthly insight into the BLS psychomotor exam trends. We have put out two issues so far, one in November and one in December. However, we have found that not all the instructors have been able to gain access to this, so we are working on ways to get this down to the instructor level.

What we have found is that there is a learning curve with the new exam. The new exam is focusing on entry-level competency, critical thinking but more importantly it is focused on the protocols and since it is a Maryland state exam, we want it to be focused on our protocols. Therefore, when we are going through scenarios, we are using all the old ones but we are also sprinkling in some new ones as we create them. We meet once a week and Dr. Chizmar is at almost all of these meetings. We spend a lot of time on these scenarios, we review them, and we tear them apart and once we come up with these good scenarios, we give them to a group of students and then we have the results be unofficial for three to five days. We see the patterns, we look at every failed attempt, we come back weekly and we review those and if there is anything that we see as a pattern positive or negative, we reach out to Dr. Chizmar.

We do realize that some of the fail rates have increased which we anticipated because it is a new style of testing. The change in testing is a positive one, however, there will be some growing pains in the first time pass rate. Once the students see how the scenario runs, they nail it the second time and the pass rate jumps high. We will continue to focus on the trends and address them in the Educator News newsletter.

Bryan Ebling – We are monitoring the Transfer of Care reports that come out every Monday from Dr. Chizmar's office. We are seeing some improvement in the documentation, we just want to make sure the Clinicians understand how the time should be documented and that they are being documented accurately. Some systems are using CAD to send the information over to Elite; in those cases, I ask that you double-check the time to make sure it is accurate. In some cases, we have found that the time is not being transferred correctly from the CAD system to Elite.

Rick Koch talked about the Cardiac Devices grant; the only thing I want to add is that we still have 13 recipients of the FY23 grant that have not received reimbursement. I will be looking to see which recipients are pending reimbursement from the finance office, and which ones have not applied for reimbursement. Just a reminder, if you are one of the recipients that has received your device, please request reimbursement as soon as possible.

November and December were busy months regarding VAIP. We inspected the Westside Fire Department, Parsonsburg Fire Department, Willards Fire Department, Hebron Fire Department, Powellville Fire Department, Sharptown Fire Department, Mardela Springs Fire Department, and Allen Fire Department and they have all received their Seal of Excellence Certifications. We also inspected Ocean City Fire Department and their Seal of Excellence is pending some documentation.

I want to share some upcoming Hospital Preparedness Program exercises. Just so that, the activity is going on.

- The Pediatric surge exercise will be held on January 23rd at TidalHealth from 10am to 2pm.
- The Chemical surge exercise will be held on March 7th from 9am to 1pm in Queen Anne's County.
- The Medical Response and surge exercise is going to be a virtual. That will be held on April 23rd from 9:00 to 1:00.
- A Crisis Standards of Care exercise will be held either mid-April or early May. It has to be completed by the end of June, so we will wait to see when that is scheduled.
- The Medical Counter Measures Throughput exercise has been changed from an exercise to a roundtable discussion, which is scheduled for March 13th at Chesapeake College.

The last thing I will say about the hospital preparedness programs is that there is an unannounced communications drill. If you believe that you or someone in your organization should be receiving the communication drill notices and are not, please reach out to me and I will put you in touch with the folks that can put you on the list.

The Winterfest brochure has been released; we need to make sure we are getting the word out to the clinicians so that we can get them registered.

The Miltenberger conference is scheduled for March 7th through the 9th.

The 2024 Mid-Atlantic transport conference hands on workshops will be held on February 26th and February 27th.

The TidalHealth Trauma conference is scheduled for September 20th 2024.

The last thing I wanted to mention is that National EMS week is May 19th through May 25th this year.

Agency / Regional Reports:

Cecil: Morganne Castiglione – Nothing to report.

Kent: Pete Landon – Nothing to report.

Queen Anne's County: Zach Yerkie – Nothing to report.

Caroline County: Kathy Jo Marvel – Nothing to report.

Talbot: Tina Kintop – Nothing to report.

Dorchester: Dr. White – Nothing to report.

Wicomico County: No report given.

Salisbury: Chris Truitt – Nothing to report.

Worcester County: Danny Tyndall – Nothing to report.

Ocean City: Rick Koch – Nothing to report.

Somerset: Matt McCormick – Back in December, PRMC went on divert and I just want to say thank you to the crews from Caroline and Talbot that were there to assist when we transported and took time to show us where everything was located. So again, thank you it was greatly appreciated.

MSP Aviation: 1st Sgt. Larson – Nothing to report.

TidalHealth: Doug Walters – Nothing to report.

Union Hospital: No report.

Shore Regional Hospitals: – Nothing to report.

AGH: Yelitza Davis-Hernandez – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Chris Truitt – I know I said I was going to send out an idea about an in person and virtual meeting. I promise I will send that out to everybody this week.

New Business:

Cyndy Wright-Johnson – The Annual Public Educator Life Safety conference is being held at MFRI on March 23, 2024. Registration opened about a week and a half ago and I will send everyone the details in an email.

Thomas Chiccone – I have spoken with Bryan Ebling about putting together a Shore Medical Directors meeting. This is not a new idea, just one that has yet to come to fruition. This would be an informal meeting to exchange information and bounce ideas off each other. We were thinking about piggybacking this meeting off the State Medical Director phone call that occurs on the second Tuesday of every month. Since I am uncertain of what the interest is among the Medical Directors here on the shore, I would ask that either you contact me by email or telephone if you think this would be of interest.

Scott Haas – I asked some questions a few months ago about HC standard, what the status of it is, where it is going, and what direction MIEMSS is going with it. Would it be possible to get an update on that at the next meeting?

Bryan Ebling – Absolutely, I can give you a partial update today, however, we will work on getting Jeff Huggins on for the next meeting. We have been meeting with the hospitals across the state, we have already met with all the hospitals in region IV, and they are working with us to get the names of their contacts updated. It is going to be a two prong approach, the first approach for notification is going to be through an off the-shelf product called Single Wire. The second approach is the reporting piece and that will be through Smartsheet. The Plan is to roll this out towards the end of March first part of April.

Scott Haas – Is this going to be tied into the Triage system?

Bryan Ebling – I do not think it will. I think that is a system that has expired; however, we will ask Jeff Huggins about that for an official answer.

Rick Koch – Just two things for the order, the Google from that Beverly sent out for your 2023 Education report is due by the end of the month. In addition, the QA report was due yesterday, so if you have not done completed it, please do so.

Chris Truitt – I did want to mention that as of January 1, 2024, Rob Frampton is the new fire chief of Salisbury.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Zach Yerkie, seconded by Rick Koch and the meeting was adjourned at 2:27pm.