

Maryland Institute for
Emergency Medical
Services Systems

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Kathy Jo Marvel
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Region IV EMS Advisory Council Agenda

Wor-Wic Community College, Guerrieri Hall Auditorium
32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804

Meeting Agenda for May 20, 2025

Join with Google Meet

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/mny-zpqy-xhv

Phone Number

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PIN: 286 377 070#

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Attendance (virtual role call/in person sign roster)
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Regional Medical Director's Report
5. Pediatric Medical Director's / EMS-C Report
6. EMS Board Report
7. SEMSAC Report
8. Mobile Integrated Health Programs
 - Caroline County
 - Cecil County
 - Queen Anne's County
 - Salisbury
 - Talbot County
9. Regional Affairs Report
10. MIEMSS Report
11. Agency Reports (Circle "yes" on the roster if you wish to make a report)
12. Old Business
13. New Business
14. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on September 16, 2025 @ 1330 hrs.

REGION IV EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 20, 2025

Minutes

Attendees:

In Person – Chris Truitt, Bryan Ebling, Michael Parsons, Cyndy Wright-Johnson, Dr. Chizmar, Dr. Delbridge, Zach Yerkie, Dr. White, Dr. Todd, Amanda Bunting, Shari Donoway, Derek Simpson, Tina Kintop, Doug Walters, Christian Griffin.

Virtual – Nicole Leonard, Mark Bilger, KJ Marvel, Joel Dixon, Danny Webster, Logan Quinn, Dwayne Kitis, Dr. Uribe, Mark Sheridan, Kristie Hull, Falon Beck, Bobbie Jo Trossbach, Jonathan Larsen.

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 by Chris Truitt

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Dr. Todd to approve the March 18, 2025 minutes as written, seconded by Amanda Bunting and passed.

Regional Medical Director's Report:

No Report.

Pediatric Medical Director's/EMSC Report:

Dr. White – The Pediatric Emergency Medical Advisory Committee met on May 7th and there were continued discussions regarding the protocol for unstable pediatric critical patients. We also discussed the usage of Droperidol in patients older than age 12 regarding the usage of marijuana.

Cyndy Wright-Johnson – We have launched our Pediatric Readiness Program. We met with the nurses and walked them through the online application. For the hospitals who are online, I am going to start doing office hours once a month for the next five months.

We have champion meetings scheduled every quarter and in July the champion meeting will be done jointly with EMS and nursing. It will focus on the resources and checklists for pediatric disaster preparedness. That seems to be the policy statement that the nurses are struggling with the most because their hospital has a disaster policy, however a number of them don't mention children at all and that doesn't meet the federal guidance.

We have a new grant award, but it is at 45% for all states and territories. What that is going to mean is you will still have all of us to work with you. If the cable breaks on one of the mannequins, we will work with you and get those things replaced to keep all those moderate and high-fidelity mannequins working. However, new initiatives are currently on hold. We will continue to do lectures and we have pediatric faculty and we will continue to support all the conferences. The difference is if all of us don't get fully funded by Congress for this fiscal year, I can't pay for all the pediatric faculty hotel rooms. So, each individual conference will have to decide if they're going to increase those fees.

Safe Kids Month is in Maryland again we will celebrate it through Facebook and social media posts. Our big event is in Ocean City where we will do three days of steps to safety. So, if you're in Ocean City for the MSFA convention, come up to room 210. I think we're going to have about a hundred bike helmets gifted to us by Safe Kids Worldwide to give away again.

EMS Board Report:

No Report.

SEMSAC Report:

No Report.

Regional Affairs Report:

Dwayne Kitis – Regional Affairs met the first Thursday in April. We sent out a report to SEMSAC for the 2024 grant closeout. The new grants will be coming out around the end of September.

MIEMSS Report:

Dr. Chizmar – The protocols for 2025 have been posted online as of this morning. The PDF document is up; however, it is not the hyperlink version which is coming soon as are the video updates. They have made it to our YouTube channel; however, we are still working on the technical side of getting it into our online training center.

There is a separate base station update and it is a little longer this year to cover all the updates as well as to cover some of the issues that have been occurring between the EMS hospital interface. So, both of those are available on the Maryland EMS YouTube site and they will be in the online training center for field ALS and BLS clinicians.

We are looking at making a couple mid-year changes, one of which was to address the shortage of amiodarone. There's been some recent literature showing that lidocaine and amiodarone for most of the things we use it for are relatively equivalent. So, there is a sort of a backup protocol where we basically brought back lidocaine for jurisdictions that are not able to secure amiodarone.

I did hear about a potential impending shortage of Cardizem or Diltiazem and the protocol review committee has been debating between Esmolol or Metoprolol as a backup.

We did an extensive roll out on Labetalol for hypertensive crisis or hypertensive emergencies in pregnancy and we're going to endeavor to expand that a little bit working with the stroke improvement committee in 2026.

Dr. Delbridge – The new regulations for education programs will go into effect January 31, 2026. We anticipate having to do a lot of cross-walk for people who have already completed their Con-ED to recertify in July. We do not want to put any additional burdens on our

Clinicians, so we will mesh what they have previously completed with what needs to be completed when the new regulations go into effect on January 31, 2026.

We had a meeting with the medical examiner the other day and one of the things that we discussed a little bit was when EMS determines that someone is deceased, what is the latitude to remove the individual after they have been declared deceased? The answer is do not move them until the medical examiner has examined the body and scene where the death occurred.

If you're in your favorite restaurant or grocery store, you should ask where their AED is located. As of January 1st., all restaurants and grocery stores that meet the criteria outlined in the Joe Sheya Act are required to have AEDs. Eventually every library will be required to have an AED as well. If I am not mistaken as of October 1, 2027, every AED in certain public places will be required to have naloxone co-located with it. We actually proposed during that legislation instead of mandating that naloxone be co-located with these AEDs in certain places, we would do some analysis of where overdoses occurred relative to the locations of AEDs but that was considered not a strong enough initiative or not proactive enough. Public places are high schools and above, public transportation places that are supported by taxpayer money or public buildings that are improved for recreation, so like a county recreation center.

The only other thing I really wanted to touch on is EDAS, the Emergency Department Advisory System. I understand it is ready to launch, so hopefully we will turn on by the end of the week. We have all but one hospital left to verify.

Bryan Ebling – We had a very nice awards ceremony this morning for the Stars of Life in the Region IV. Thank you to those who were able to attend.

Worcester County is moving along with the elite single service conversion and we are on track for a July 1st cut over. So, if there are any questions, please let us know.

Somerset County recently took over EMS operations from the Princess Anne Fire Department and they are moving towards a single elite service as well.

The new standards for the Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program start on July 1st. They will be published just prior to July 1st on our website, however if you need the updated checklist ahead of time, let us know.

We completed the lower Somerset rescue squad inspection a few days ago and that's the only one that is actually complete. We've conducted a couple other inspections, but there were some things that needed to be fixed on those particular units and we have not received information to do a reinspection at this time.

We are continuing to test and develop the Image trend inspection module for the voluntary ambulance inspection program. It's going fairly well. We are not ready to roll it out across the state, we are testing it heavily in Region IV and it seems to be working fairly well. There will be more to come on that particular project.

A Topics in Trauma Conference being held at TidalHealth on September 19, 2025 and it is being offered in-person and online.

There is a Critical Incident Stress Management class being held on May 28th, 29th and 30th hosted by Salisbury and Ocean City Fire Departments it is full with 35 students and we have 4 or 5 people on the waiting list. So, if somebody from your agency can't attend, please let me know so we can fill that seat, before May 28th.

Michael Parsons – We do have the full-size protocol books for each jurisdiction and each hospital. For the folks that are here, we will give them to you before you leave. Everybody else will be out visiting in the next week or two.

Bryan Ebling – The spiral protocols were being delivered to MIEMSS this morning and we will go up probably Wednesday or Thursday next week and pick them up.

MIH:

Caroline County:

Kathy Jo Marvel – We have a meeting scheduled on June 2nd with to go over our policies and procedures and we're still slated to hopefully go live July 1. I have the optional protocol papers filled out and I am just waiting for Dr. Uribe to sign them and send them back to me so that I can send them up to Dr. Chizmar.

Cecil County:

Christian Griffin – We have received grant funding and we are moving forward with advertising for the hiring of the MIH manager who's going to oversee our MIH program.

Queen Annes County:

Zach Yerkie – Nothing real significant to report, we did have our senior summit last week and we saw 58 patients and did 13 different A1C point of care tests so it was pretty successful.

Talbot County:

Tina Kintop – We used all of the grant money and we are right on track with everything. We are sponsoring a GEMS class through MFRI that will be held on June 27th at the Easton fire house. If anyone from the other MIH programs would like to attend, you are certainly welcome.

Worcester County:

Dr. Todd – I attended the last meeting and the program seems to be robust and doing well.

Salisbury:

Chris Truitt – Miranda Webster will be taking over the role as the MIH coordinator and we are internally trying to identify one or two folks to do the MDCN program.

Agency / Regional Reports:

MSP:

Jonathan Larsen – Currently our fleet is six sections right now, we don't have a helicopter at trooper six on the upper shore and we haven't for the past couple days. We have been covering that area with troopers one, two, four, and seven and we will continue to do that until we start to get some helicopters back out of heavy maintenance.

Cecil County:

Christian Griffin – For anyone who does not know me, I'm the new Deputy Director at Cecil County after retiring 28 years from Baltimore County where I was in charge of the EMS division. I oversaw the EMS division for five years as a Chief Officer amongst other duties. I now have oversight of operations, the 911 center, training and education, and logistics. Steve is still the primary here, he is just not here today. Also, I'm still the JAC chair and I'm still the JAC representative for the protocol review committee until you guys get rid of me or somebody wants to take my job.

Wicomico County:

No Report.

Ocean City:

Derek Simpson – I am a Deputy Chief for Ocean City Fire Department and I have been placed in charge of Operations. Chief Shafer is still your Deputy Chief until he retires and he is still your Vice Chair.

Amanda Bunting – For any of those who have not met me yet, I am a Battalion Chief for Ocean City Fire Department.

Salisbury:

Chris Truitt – We have had a few leadership changes. I have moved up to the Deputy Chief of Administration and my successor will be named by the end of this week. We will bring that person to the next council meeting. Other than that, we're still trying to pursue whole blood.

Somerset County:

Joel Dixon – We are looking to bring on a Deputy Chief and four Assistant Chiefs as soon as possible. So, if you know anybody that would be a good fit for us, by all means send them our way.

Talbot County:

Tina Kintop – In conjunction with emergency management we are preparing for a jurisdictional active shooter drill that will take place in October.

We have had some turnover recently so we are doing RTF training through MFRI. We have a couple people retiring so we are down a couple of Paramedics and a couple EMTs so we'll be hiring soon.

Caroline County:

Kathy Jo Marvel – We are finishing up our IV pump training and rolling them out June 1st. So, they're getting ready to hit the streets and everybody's super excited about that.

Kent County:

Logan Quinn – Nothing to report.

Tidal Health:

Dr. Todd – I will mention that since your last meeting it has been officially announced that Tidal is affiliating with Atlantic General Hospital and it's going to take a year or so for that to come to fruition and they advocate that there's not going to be any changes in clinical services. So, from the EMS standpoint, I think we certainly have several years at minimum before there's any potential changes in service lines of Atlantic General Hospital. Tidal Health is not going to cut back on any of the service lines, but in theory, I could envision in maybe four, five, six years, there'd be some additional service lines that may impact destination sites for the eastern part of the lower shore.

SRH:

Bobbie Jo Trossbach – Happy EMS week everyone. We are working on our relationships between nursing and EMS and we are trying to make some improvements. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me for any of the four sites if you need anything or have any questions or concerns.

Tidal Health Nanticoke:

Kristie Hull – We are really working on patient and staff security. So, the ambulance door keypad number that we've had for 20 years will be changing. I will send that out to Dawn so she can distribute that once I know what that number will be. That code will be changing every 90 days so, I'll make sure you guys get that code when it changes. If you have a key card that you use at Peninsula, that should also work here.

Old Business:

Zack Yerkie – Everyone should have gotten an updated version of the changes made to the bylaws for review.

Chris Truitt – I hope everyone has taking the time to read through the proposed changes. Is there any discussion on the changes made? Hearing none, is there a motion?

Joel Dixon – Motion.

Chris Truitt – We have a motion, is there a second?

Tina Kintop – Second.

Chris Truitt – Any opposed to the new bylaws? Hearing none, we have new bylaws. Anything else under Old Business?

Zach Yerkie – We discussed encryption of the talk group MED 3 a couple meetings ago, and we haven't discussed it since. However, we have had a couple hot button incidents in my county so we are in favor of encryption at least from the DES side.

Chris Truitt – I know we have some push back about the encryption as well, but it's definitely needed at least for a couple of operational channels for everyone.

New Business:

Zach Yerkie – I have some new business and it is good that Dr. Delbridge is here today because he is probably the best person to speak on this. I sent out a draft proposal for a change to COMAR 30.03.04.04, and I hope everyone had a chance to look over the proposed change. Basically, the proposal would be to change COMAR for EMEDs reporting to be required for any EMS unit that responds to a call within the state or that responds to a call from within the state. It rewords it and breaks out suppression units and only requires them to complete and submit an EMEDs report when they provide an EMS clinician for transport where they apply any assessment, medication or procedure outlined in the Maryland medical protocols for the emergency medical services. Outside of that, the body of the document remained unchanged other than I changed the word provider to clinician.

Dr. Delbridge – I think we understand what you're trying to do and I think Tim and I are both in favor of one report one patient. All of these things are ending up in the patient's medical record and it doesn't make sense to contribute a lot of noise to the medical record and EMS data. I'd submit we got the message and you don't need to do anything else. Ultimately, what happens is a lawyer writes these regulations and you know that these things aren't always the quickest.

Zach Yerkie – So, is this something we should table and ask about every once in a while?

Dr. Delbridge – Yes, and send a message periodically to see what progress has been made.

Chris Truitt – The only other new business is nominations. The three positions that need to be filled, Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. I would love to stay on as Chairman, but with my new job role, I don't know that I can commit the time needed. I have an idea of who would be a great replacement so I would like to nominate Zach Yerkie.

Chris Truitt – Any other nominations for Chair? Hearing none, Zach what do you say?

Zach Yerkie – I'll accept the nomination.

Amanda Bunting – We will nominate Chris Shafer to remain as Vice Chair and if he declines or retires, we will let you know.

Chris Truitt – KJ Marvel, would you like to stay as Secretary?

KJ Marvel – If no one else wants the position, I will stay on as Secretary.

Chris Truitt – We have our nominations; can I get a motion to approve our nominations?

Amanda Bunting – Motion.

Chris Truitt – We have a motion, is there a second?

Tina Kintop – Second.

Chris Truitt – Any opposed? Hearing none, passed.

Happy EMS Week everyone and enjoy your summer.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:06pm.