

REGION IV EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

January 21, 2025

Minutes

Attendees:

In Person: Chris Truitt, Bryan Ebling, Michael Parsons, Dr. Chiccone, Kathy Jo Marvel, Zach Yerkie, Tina Kintop, Doug Walters, Arron Edwards, Matt McCormick, Mark Sheridan.

Virtual: Chris Shaffer, Dwayne Kitis, Bobbie Jo Trossbach, Yelitza Davis-Hernandez, Stephen Cummins, Logan Quinn, Morganne Castiglione, Stephanie Forbes, Kristie Hull, Patrick Campbell.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm. by Chairman Chris Truitt

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Zach Yerkie to approve the November 19, 2024 minutes as amended, seconded by Kathy Jo Marvel and passed.

Regional Medical Director's Report:

Dr. Chiccone – The annual Medical Director symposium is going to be the second Wednesday in April. It will be in Howard County and we are in the process of looking for speakers and topics. They are still open to hearing if anyone has a particular request on a topic.

Something came out from the Maryland Department of Health just recently that I want to share. On or about January 10th the CDC notified Maryland that it had exceeded the threshold of having greater than 10 admissions in the category of respiratory associated viral illnesses per 100,000 patient population. Once they crossed that threshold, I knew that MIEMSS would issue us a directive that says face coverings are to be worn on all calls and then you upgrade your protection appropriately according to your protocols.

Chris Truitt – Dr. Chiccone, is this coming from MDH?

Dr. Chiccone – Yes MDH has already sent this out and MIEMSS sent it out as well.

Chris Truitt – I was under the impression this was a suggestion.

Dr. Chiccone – Technically it is a suggestion, however I would strongly encourage that you wear the proper PPE.

Pediatric Medical Director's/EMSC Report: No Report.

EMS Board Report: No Report.

SEMSAC Report:

Zach Yerkie – Scott Hass is still waiting on the slides from the SEMSAC meeting to come out. Once received he will have them sent out to the Council along with his written report.

Regional Affairs Report:

Dwayne Kitis – The Cardiac Devices grant agreements were sent out and everybody should have received them. I believe everybody got something this last round and they should get those agreements back as soon as possible. If they have not gotten their agreements back, let Bryan and Michael know.

MIH Reports:**Queen Anne's County:**

Zach Yerkie – We are in a holding pattern right now. The new health officer, Mr. Brice Strang just started on the 6th and he has been in the process of meeting with all the programs. We will be having a sit down to figure out what our interface is going to look like going forward.

Caroline County:

Kathy Jo Marvel – Tetra Tech is ready to begin gathering the information to start getting our policies and procedures together. We have hired them to write based off what we think our program should look like. We will have an introductory meeting with them in the next couple of weeks. So, we are moving forward and hopefully in July we can start doing some little things.

Talbot County:

Tina Kintop – We are doing well, we just worked out a referral process under Epic with UMMS and that is going good. We just actually applied for a second grant for a vehicle through the Health Equities Grant.

Worcester County: No Report.**Salisbury:**

Chris Truitt - We received approval for buprenorphine and now it is trying to figure out all the logistics involved with keeping it, who's going to be on call, how are we going to respond. It is definitely trickier than we thought.

MIEMSS Report:

Aaron Edwards – We have a new person as our ALS coordinator, Kathleen Harne. She retired from Frederick and was involved in their paramedic program.

We understand that there have been many issues with finding and securing instructors, we are looking into how we can address the issue.

Bryan Ebling – Even though the education committee responsibilities have not made it through the bylaws review and approval yet, a new process was used to recommend the ALS Education Grant distribution. The committee utilized a Smartsheet form to gather information from folks interested in grant funds. Each applicant was asked to describe how the funds would be utilized and how the project supported the grant mission.

Nine programs were approved at the education committee level, and those nine programs are as follows:

1. Queen Anne's County ALS Airway and IO training \$3,755.50
2. Queen Anne's County ALS Airway and IO training (second opportunity) \$2,486.00
3. TidalHealth ALS refresher course \$1,320.00
4. TidalHealth Pediatric Scenario Drill for ALS Clinicians \$720.00
5. Chesapeake College support to initial Paramedic program \$7,140.00
6. WorWic Community College support to initial Paramedic program at \$15,946.00
7. Chesapeake College ISimulate licenses to support ALS education \$3,980.00
8. Cecil County Emergency Services support for initial Paramedic training \$22,666.00
9. Queen Anne's County ALS Airway and IO training for ALS Clinicians (third opportunity) \$2,530.00

There is about \$5,600.00 remaining and the three lower shore counties will be getting together to see if they can utilize these funds. If not, these funds will most likely be pushed back out to the Region to see if there are other opportunities for additional ALS training.

FY 2024 Cardiac Devices Grant – Please be sure to submit for reimbursement after you receive your equipment. The deadline for this is June 15, 2025.

FY2025 Cardiac Device Grant – All of the award letters have been sent out and received. If you are a recipient, please assure the award letters / agreements are signed and returned as soon as possible. Please keep in mind we want to close the grants out by June 30, 2025.

Congratulations to Singerly Volunteer Fire Company and Fruitland Volunteer Fire Company for successfully passing their Voluntary Ambulance Inspections.

Michael has made some tweaks to the ImageTrend inspection software and we are now seeking EMSOPS or individual EMS companies to test the process. If you are interested, we can set you up as a VAIP Coordinator in ImageTrend and you can apply for the VAIP using that process.

We have Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company scheduled for inspection at the end of this week. Dorchester County and Caroline County are up next to be scheduled for their inspections.

A Medical Response and Surge exercise (MRSE) is scheduled for May 13, 2025 beginning at 0900. It is my understanding that there will not be a centralized location and hospitals will be participating from their facilities. The Hospital Preparedness Group is asking for EMS participation this year. It does not have to be the EMS Chief, but it does need to be someone that can make a decision on behalf of your agency. So please put this on your calendars.

I have an extensive list of upcoming training opportunities that I will probably email out instead of going through them today. However, I do want to remind everyone that Winterfest is January

31st, February 1st, and February 2nd. They are still taking registrations and they are offering a Farm/Agriculture Rescue course that is being held on Sunday at the VFW. The course is \$30.00 and that includes some breakfast items as well as lunch. Again, I will email out the remaining training opportunities or you can also find them on the MFRI website.

Agency / Regional Reports:

Matt McCormick – Princess Anne Volunteer Fire Company made an announcement that they will end EMS coverage/services as of July 1st and this decision was made by their board of directors. It is my understanding that Somerset County has hired an EMS coordinator. This might be my last meeting, as they will be taking over my position as HJO. As of right now, I do not have any additional information to share.

Kathy Jo Marvel – I just wanted to remind everybody February 5th and February 19th is our training at Chesapeake College with the MSP Go Team. We looked at the roster this morning and we have several people from Queen Anne's County and Oxford Fire Department that have signed up for this training. Just a reminder, there is a Google sign up form that should have been sent to your HJOS's if you are interested attending.

I do not know if you are familiar with Fitch and Associates but they have a leadership workshop called Beyond the Street (BTS). We are looking to see about potentially bringing that to the shore. I am not sure what the cost would be, but we may be able to cover the cost and then you may just have to pay the registration fee. Depending on attendance, we may need a facility big enough to hold the workshop. Therefore, if someone has a facility that could potentially work, we might be able to partner up.

We implemented BLS 12 lead optional protocol and we are applying for OSP approval for BLS IV technicians now. We just purchased the Sapphire IV pumps and Montgomery County has been very generous in their training. Our goal is to have the pumps operational by the end of May beginning of June.

Stephen Cummins – Cecil County is going through a little transition period. Patrick Campbell is now the Director of Emergency Services and Christian Griffin is going to be the Deputy Director starting sometime in March.

In addition, I would like to ask the MIH folks if they could send me their MIH Paramedic job descriptions.

AGH: Yelitza Davis-Hernandez – The only thing I have is our EMS advisory meeting is being held this Thursday.

Chris Truitt – We had a joint meeting with MSP and we have set some pre-designated landing zones around Salisbury. This will take the guesswork out of where to land. Each landing zone has a specific name and they will be on file at SYSCOM. Therefore, if Trooper 4 is out and Trooper 6 or Trooper 2 shows up, it will show on their iPad where the landing zone is and how they are going to enter that specific location.

Chris Shaffer – I have a meeting at 15:30 today to finalize Rick Koch's memorial service here on Saturday. As soon as I get that document, I will get it out to everybody. Those who are interested are welcome to join us.

Old Business:

Zach Yerkie – The first thing I have is from Scott Haas regarding the bylaws. He did not get anybody reaching out so his plan is we are going to sit down and just go through them and hope to have that out for people to review and vote on at the next meeting.

The next thing I had was the MCI document for a vote. Brian, did your folks ever decide how you wanted to be alerted? I have you plugged in for level two and level three right now.

Bryan Ebling – We have a meeting coming up with Region IV EMRC sometime in February and we planned to go through it at that time. I do not want to hold up the MCI policy approval so just put something in there that says notifications to the Region IV Coordinators. We will work with each EMSOP as they develop their policies and get it figured out.

Zach Yerkie – I have updated the policy to say Region IV Coordinators so if everyone is good with it, I would like to open it up for a motion. Kathy Jo Marvel made a motion to accept the MCI plan; Matt McCormick seconded it and it passed with no opposition.

New Business:

Dr. Chiccone – I would like to enter a letter into the minutes, which I will read. I also have a copy for Mr. Ebling and I will post an electronic copy as well.

To the distinguished members of the Region IV EMS Advisory Council:

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Region IV's EMS Medical Director since 2010. To work beside the Advisory Council's representatives, the best and the brightest the state of Maryland has to offer its EMS community has been personally and professionally rewarding. I am grateful for this opportunity to have served the shore counties, but time marches relentlessly onward. I will retire in this calendar year 2025. I would be happy to assist the council in selecting a new Regional Medical Director if the council desires such assistance. I am also happy to step aside when a new Regional Medical Director is identified to facilitate this transition. Separately, I have notified Dr. Chizmar of my intentions.

Wishing you all the best in this New Year as ever,

Thomas Chiccone

Therefore, this is my official notification that 2025 is the end for me and I wanted to give you as much time as possible.

Kathy Jo Marvel – The upper mid shore is working with the University of Maryland with the Tele EMS that Dr. Chiccone brought me into when I became chief and has apparently been in the works for about five years. We were the first county to pilot it, we received iPads and they assured us that the hospitals were going to be readily available, however we have tried five times

and the hospitals are not readily available. Therefore, we are setting up a meeting with them. My providers are getting very frustrated that it is not working the way we were told it would.

Is anyone else other than us having issues with pediatric consults when trying to get them to the appropriate facility and are being told to go local?

Several agencies who also ran into this issue spoke up and there were talks on how to address this for future transports.

Zach Yerkie – The date for the Region IV airway lab that was approved through the Region IV funds is going to be held on April 2nd and our training coordinator is finalizing the details. It will be a morning session from I think 8 o'clock to 12 or 12:30 in Hanover.

For those jurisdictions that are doing the Rescue Task Force, do you guys use instructor credentials for that? Currently we use NTOA instructors, we put them through the rescue task force instructor course and then we have our own curriculum for what we teach. However, the instructor course is recognized across the board and I am looking to onboard at least 10 instructors because I need to start training our volunteer people. However, before I go through all of that, I wanted to see if anyone else is interested in trying to host a regional NTOA course.

Stephen Cummins – I will have Chief Lambert reach out to you.

Chis Truitt – I might have a couple that are interested. We usually use LSU's training stuff because WorWic is right in our backyard. Although there has not been a class at WorWic in two years. I will reach out to John Moses over there about that.

Patrick Campbell – Just to let you know LSU's budget was cut tremendously. They went from having 60 some classes in country to 23. We were trying to get one here in Cecil. We put a request to hold one here and we are apparently at the top of the list if one comes available. If we hear anything, I will send it out to the region.

Zach Yerkie – Thank you, I will put in a request for NTOA and just say we will do a regional one on it.

Bryan Ebling – Michael reminded me that we should get the recommendation of the Education Committee official by making a motion. Zach Yerkie made a motion to accept the Education Committee's proposal for ALS Education Funding distribution, Matt McCormick seconded it and it passed with no opposition.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:35