

**REGION IV EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**January 20, 2026**  
**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

**In Person:** Bryan Ebling, Michael Parsons, Zach Yerkie, Clay Stamp, Tina Kintop, John Dennis, Kathy Jo Marvel, Doug Walters, Dr. Ciotola.

**Virtual:** Chris Shaffer, Debbie Wheedleton, Dr. White, Shari Donoway, Bobbie Jo Trossbach, Logan Quinn, Amanda Bunting, Angie Lord, Cory Polidore, Cyndy Wright-Johnson, Joel Dixon, Lisa Lisle, Aaron Edwards, Dwyane Kitis, Lorenzo Cropper, Patrick Campbell, Zach Phillips, Jonathan Larsen, Dr. Chizmar, Nicole Leonard.

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 by Zach Yerkie

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Chris Shaffer to approve the November 21, 2025 minutes as written, seconded by John Dennis and passed.

**Regional Medical Director's Report:**

**Dr. Chizmar –**

- We are going through all of the protocol submissions for the year in preparation to present those to the EMS Board. Our goal is to have the protocols out online in April and then have the education completed by June.
- The highlights are that there are no new devices and no new required medications.
- There was an interim change where we had to make metoprolol the backup for diltiazem instead of verapamil which has went live and can be used.
- The most substantial update this year is increasing the use of labetalol for stroke patients and select patients with chest pain where an aortic dissection is suspected.
- We have some regulatory requirements like the inclusion of a statewide hotline for abuse or neglect of children and adults.
- Meg Stein has rejoined us after a brief retirement in the capacity of Protocol Administrator.
- I would like to ask that we reinforce our message to clinicians to ask patients if they have been recently admitted and released from a facility so that we can get that patient back to that facility. This will help to prevent us from doing an interfacility transfer for this patient and get them to the right facility the first time.
- The primary portion of SB159 would require the Executive Director, Dr. Delbridge to issue a required list of equipment and medications that will need to be kept on board each ambulance. We have done this on a voluntary basis for many years with 911 Jurisdictions and we have done this on a mandatory basis with commercial services and interfacility transport. The other major components of this bill are the quarterly submission of performance reports to MIEMSS from each of the Jurisdictions which would include a

variety of different indicators. Also, each Jurisdiction would designate a person or way for the resident or visitor to offer suggestions or complaints about their care.

- I did want to mention that this bill did not originate with MIEMSS nor is this a MIEMSS sponsored bill, however we will be following this bill closely.
- For the hospitals online, we have migrated the initial EMS base station course to an online format. Hopefully this will make your lives easier and will help you train your new nurses and new physicians. You are welcome to supplement that with hospital specific information either virtually or in person, but the MIEMSS material is already online. Hopefully all of you have received this information but if you have not, please let me know and I will get it to you.

### **Pediatric Medical Director's/EMSC Report:**

#### **Cyndy Wright-Johnson:**

- Star of Life and Right Care When It Counts awards are due by February 1, 2026.
- A save the date has gone out for the Pediatric Ready 2026 Conference at MITAGS on February 25, 2026. Details and registration to follow.
- We will be running a S.T.A.B.L.E. course at the Winterfest EMS Conference 2026.
- Pediatric Readiness for Hospitals - we have had four hospitals / emergency departments on the eastern shore that have sent in letters of interest.

#### **Dr. White:**

- The recent PEMAC meeting was pretty quiet. There were no protocol issues, but we did talk about revamping the research forum in November to make it more inclusive and of more general interest.
- There will be a virtual Pediatric Physician Champions meeting held on January 28, 2026, from 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.

### **EMS Board Report:**

**Clay Stamp** – As the Chairman of the EMS Board, it continues to be my honor to represent EMS in Maryland. The EMS Board just had our annual meeting with SEMSAC the other week and we continue to be supportive to our EMS system and partners across the State of Maryland. We will continue to strike the balance between recognizing the importance of our past but not letting that dictate the future.

### **SEMSAC Report:**

**Zach Yerkie** – As mentioned, SEMSAC had a joint meeting with the EMS Board and Scott Haas will have a written report sent out later this week.

## **Regional Affairs Report:**

### **Dwayne Kitis –**

- The next Regional Affairs Committee will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026.
- If I am not mistaken all of the agreements for the Cardiac Devices Grants that were awarded to Region IV have been sent in except for one which is great and I appreciate everyone for all of your work.

## **MIEMSS Report:**

**Aaron Edwards** – We are nearing the end of this recertification cycle and I sent Bryan and Michael a list of the EMS Clinicians in Region IV that need to be renewed. We will be sending emails out all next week to these clinicians who are affiliated with an organization letting them know they need to renew.

### **Bryan Ebling:**

- VAIP – We are currently scheduling inspections for February, March and April. If you would like to get on the schedule, please contact our office or complete the online form which can be found on the MIEMSS website. We have had several agencies recently complete their inspections and I will update the council during our next meeting with that list.
- Winterfest is being held on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> and registrations have been closed.
- Miltenberger's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference is being held on March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 2026.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Mental Health and Wellness Conference is being held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2026 in Ocean City.

## **Agency Reports:**

### **Caroline County:**

**Kathy Jo Marvel** – We started our MIH soft launch in December and so far, we have seen six patients. We are working on our whole blood program and have some training going on this week.

### **Cecil County:**

**Patrick Campbell** – MIH is going well. I don't know the numbers to share at this time but we have had a couple of success cases. We just started our whole blood program a few weeks ago and everything is going well. March 20<sup>th</sup> will be our big blood drive to support that program with the blood bank.

**Dorchester:**

**Zach Phillips** – We have recently updated our CQI system and our QA/QI policies. We had one EMT finish paramedic school and one CRT finish paramedic school. We are still short about six ALS providers and will continue to work on that.

**Kent County:**

**Logan Quinn** – We are still critically understaffed and I am on the unit most of the time. We have moved into a new headquarters at the end of November and we are still settling in and working out our operations.

**Ocean City:**

**Amanda Bunting** – The route 50 bridge coming into town is currently closed as of 9 AM this morning and will be closed until February 3, 2026. We have increased staffing in West Ocean City and in town and have updated our mutual aid agreements to reflect the lack of ability to get in and out of town right now. We are starting to pursue the whole blood program and laying down the foundation. We were able to hire a new firefighter paramedic who will be starting next week. We have a full time EMT who graduated last month and is now a paramedic and we have two more who plan to graduate this spring. We have a fire chief process and a battalion chief process open right now. Hopefully we will have a fire chief by the end of next month and a battalion chief by the first week of March.

**Queen Annes County:**

**Zach Yerkie** – We are getting heavy into the budget process for capital and operational. We are keeping an eye on the State budget which will most likely dictate our budget.

**Dr. Ciotola** – We are looking forward to having a pre-Winterfest meeting on Friday with MIH and the Board with panel discussions.

**Salisbury:**

**John Dennis** – We are still working on whole blood we have one or two more small things but we are almost there. Our LP35's are in and we have training on them most of next week. The refusal follow-up program that I mentioned at our last meeting is going well.

**Somerset:**

**Cory Polidore** – Things are moving forward here; we have an interview for another paramedic on Thursday and hopefully that will go well and we will be able to up our staffing. We have four EMS supervisors that were recently put into that role and they are going through the clearance process right now to supplement our daily responses. We did apply for the whole blood grant and hopefully we can move forward with that. We are working with David Phippin from Tidalhealth

and hopefully we will be applying soon for a MIH program which we could really benefit from in Somerset County.

**Talbot County:**

**Tina Kintop** – We did a medical supply drive not that long ago and it was a huge success. We also incorporated blood pressure screenings in that drive that as well. We are in the final process of working out and MOU with Choptank Health. We are also in the works of submitting for blood draws 12 lead EKGs for the MIH program.

**Wicomico County:**

No Report.

**Worcester County:**

No Report.

**MSP Aviation:**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Sgt. Larsen** – I do not have anything to report out. However, I did want to say with regard to the weather that is coming in this weekend feel free to give us a call if you are having a logistical nightmare as far as getting your patients in or out for care. If we can be of assistance to help shed some of the workload, we would be more than happy to help facilitate.

**Tidalhealth:**

**Doug Walters** – Planning is currently underway for the 2026 Topics in Trauma Conference that will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> and we are in the process of finalizing the speakers. The save the date should be going out in the spring so keep an eye out for that.

**Shore Regional Health:**

**Bobbie Jo Trossbach** – I do not have any updates at this time.

**Angie Lord** – I just want to remind everyone that the Cardiac Steering Committee meeting has been moved to the fourth Wednesday of every month.

**Old Business:**

None.

## **New Business:**

**Zach Yerkie** – The whole blood grant did close today and I was just curious how many jurisdictions put in for this grant.

**Bryan Ebling** – We had eight jurisdictions apply for the whole blood grant and one jurisdiction that is already grant funded.

**Zach Yerkie** – Okay, we have a total of nine jurisdictions so I guess something to entertain here on the floor for the council is do we want to establish a whole blood subcommittee to address how these programs are running on the shore and look at training and metrics?

**Bryan Ebling** – I think it is a great idea and Dr. Chizmar and I were talking about something very similar this morning.

**Dr. Chizmar** – I would second that and we are happy to share education that some of the other jurisdictions have produced; however, as I was discussing with Bryan a lot of the training is logistics heavy. Most of the shore will source blood from the Blood Bank of Delmarva or Tidalhealth and the processes there may be a little different than what they are on the western shore. So, I think to the degree that we can pull efforts and work together on the training and logistics on the shore would really benefit everybody and help you get going a little faster too.

**Patrick Campbell** – I am okay with entertaining the idea of having a committee, I think it works well when we can share resources and ideas to help others move along smoothly.

**Zach Yerkie** – Since this is not going to be a standing committee, we technically do not need a motion, however since no one is opposed I am going to need to have someone to lean on as the chair of the sub-committee.

**Patrick Campbell** – I think Steve Cummins would be great for the committee; however, he is not here today for me to ask. If you send me the information, I can get it to him.

**Zach Yerkie** – The grant application process just closed and it is going to MDH at the end of the day so we will see what the awards are and we can set a date to work through the logistics. The second order of business is the educational committee and ALS grant fund disbursement and awards so I will turn the floor over to Patrick Campbell.

**Patrick Campbell** – The training committee met last week and we completed the review of all the applications submitted for the FY26 ALS education grant. We had applications in excess of \$92K and we were able to get that down to \$68K which was our allotment. Each of the requests aligned with the regional training priorities, our ALS readiness and the overall benefit to the EMS system. We unanimously recommended the approval of the projects and funding amounts and our recommendations were sent out to the training committee.

**Zach Yerkie** – I will put the proposed awards on the screen as well as read them off for those who may not be able to see them. Does anyone have any questions? Hearing none I would like to entertain a motion to submit this to Regional Affairs as our priorities and awards.

**Patrick Campbell** – I will make a motion.

**Kathy Jo Marvel** – I will second the motion.

**Zach Yerkie** – Anyone opposed? Hearing none the motion carries, thank you all. Any other new business?

**Tina Kintop** – I was informed by our 911 center for EMRC that within a months' time the MED 4 channel was going to be more encrypted for things that you want to keep extra confidential. Also, 911 Talbot center wanted to remind everyone that when Easton is put on reroute that the remaining unit take them off of reroute.

**Adjournment:**

A motion for adjournment was made by Doug Walters seconded by John Dennis the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.