

Harford County EMS Standards Advisory Board Meeting

January 4, 2022

DES 2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill

Meeting Summary

Board members in attendance: John Donohue, Tami Wiggins, Larry Richardson, Ben Kurtz

Staff in attendance: DES Eddie Hopkins, Dr. Sward (Harford County Medical Director), John Richter, Sharon Blevins,

Public: Bill Dousa (Association VP), Carolyn Chewing and Kristin Harris (EMS Foundation), Bob Coliani (Co 13), Sam Sauers (Co 9), Mary Ann Baublitz (Co 5-9)

Minutes – John mentioned the November meeting minutes were emailed. There being no changes and a motion to approve the minutes by Tami Wiggins and was seconded by Larry Richardson. Motion carried.

Chair Report:

The board met with the County Executive just before the November meeting. Waiting for direction from the County Executive. DES was working on stats to prove the point to the County Executive.

Hopefully we are getting the attention necessary to move forward.

Ben asked if the Board and the CE could possibly have a follow up meeting. Director Hopkins said he would work on that after the State of the County address.

John was hoping to have more direction but he doesn't have it so he can't take any further action.

DES Report:

Positions approved by the CE (9 ALS and BLS clinicians starting with 6) for a third unit in the summer. Had 20 apply 18 qualified and 11 showed for testing. Four have been extended an offer. We now will be going to an ALS and BLS model.

Health Department is using several VFC's to be COVID testing sites.

RTF SOG was recirculated to agencies who had not signed off. Once it's signed it will be given to the VFC's so they can train accordingly. They did an after-action meeting on the UCMC incident and there was a disconnect between fire/EMS and LE resulting in lack of training.

The FY 23 budget includes one ultrasound device per company added to the SCBA/monitor fund via reimbursement process. The Emergency Services Transporter Supplemental Payment Program (Medicare Reimbursement) has been signed off by our department and Treasury and submitted that was due by 12/31. It is now goes through a 45–60-day auditing process. Could result in about a \$140,000 income. Going forward could enhance that amount.

County Executive state of County address is January 12 at 1900 and is planned to be virtual.

Looking at numbers CY 18 1551, CY19 3082, CY 20 3852, CY 21 through November 4203, and projecting 12,818 by the end of the year.

Looking at 2019 & 2021 (omitted 2020 COVID Year), the demand on calls for service has increased over 183/month, we are down 15 units, that are not in service/in reserve/don't turn wheels, in a fleet of 33 (volunteer) EMS units (excluding DES EMS units), and unfortunately has led to a 79 second increase in response time from dispatch to at patient side. All was shared with the Administration. Last nights CE conference call about the future of EMS, the Standards Board will be tasked to move forward as quickly as possible to develop a more robust system, and to let the Association know that discussions are starting in earnest.

Old Business:

Bill Dousa presented summary data on the call volume and response times for the past 4 years. The average dispatch time to on-scene time (around 2020 Nov) increased almost 1 minute. Increase between alert-to-on-scene (early 2021) increased an additional half minute. Some issues are in ambulances having to travel greater distances. The big 3 are having difficulty in manpower and are dropping in the calls handled. Graphs were presented and data supports Directors Hopkins remarks.

STAFFING: NA

DISPATCH: NA

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: NA

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT: NA

TRAINING PROGRAMS: Nothing additional. Dr. Paul is doing well

CONTINUING EDUCATION: NA

LONG TERM CARE: NA

ALTERNATE CARE DESTINATIONS - Larry spoke there will be some legislation more than likely a study scenario due to cost. Almost the entire basket of what we have been considering. Need a breakout of runs/transport. Some alternate care sites are interested in becoming partners. Insurance partners would think that paying a \$150 urgent care bill rather than a \$750 ER bill

MENTAL HEALTH/ADDICTIONS: NA

ACTIVE ASSAILANT RESPONSE: above

Open Board position (Physician) – Director Hopkins shared this remains under review by the County Executive

New Business:

Review our current objectives and by summer look at updating the Board's objectives.

Question from Company 13 about staffing. Does the Board have discussions with the Foundation on moving manpower between the County and the Foundation? Yes. John offered to discuss after this meeting since competition for personnel has been covered during many previous sessions.

They have looked closely at the money, and it would cost about \$3M more to absorb the Foundation and take over all of EMS staffing.

Company 9 asked about funding. The departments have already submitted their budgets however the County Executive can still change it. Could be FY24 before drastic changes in funding.

Good of the Board:

Previously we discussed moving to quarterly meetings; however, it appears things could move more quickly. We will meet in February pending news from the County Executive.

Adjourn:

Motion by Ben Kurtz to adjourn and seconded by Tami Wiggins. Motion carried. Time: 1910.

Next meeting:

February 1, 2022, at DES.