

Harford County EMS Standards Advisory Board Meeting
April 5, 2022
DES 2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill

Meeting Summary

Board members: John Donohue (Chair), Tami Wiggins, Ben Kurtz, Larry Richardson

Staff: DES Eddie Hopkins, John Richter, EMS Medical Director Dr. Sward, Assistant County Attorney Anthony LaDana, Sharon Blevins

Public: Association- Linda Dousa (EMS Committee Chair), Bill Dousa (VP); Foundation-Carolynn Chewing, Kristen Harris, Katie Burke, Foundation President Dottie Arnold, Co. 5-9- Mary Ann Baublitz; Chief, Stacey Holden, Andrew Parker; Co. 9- Asst. Chief Sam Sauers, Sherri Sauers; Co. 10-EMS Chief Greg Dietrich; Steve Johnson, Co. 13-EMS Chief William Rosenberg, Asst. Chief Bob Colaianni

Meeting started 6:30 p.m.

Minutes – March Meeting Minutes were emailed to the Board members. Larry had a correction to the bill number, SB295. Motion by Ben Kurtz to approve, seconded by Tami Wiggins. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Report:

John said he has had several calls on the direction to proceed. Met with Bel Air and Aberdeen. Their responses were mixed, and they would prefer to move toward County units coming in rather than Foundation personnel. He will recap what was done last time on a plan. The charge is to put together a plan for the County Executive for what to do after the current units are put into place (Patterson Mill, Joppa, and North Harford). We will be discussing and building a step-by-step plan to present to the County Executive for moving forward.

DES Update:

DES Hopkins Patterson Mill unit went into service and has been seamless. North Harford station build is on track. Coming along well, but supply chain issues and is likely to be finished by August rather than July. He supplied the Board with photos. Medical Director Dr. Sward will serve another year, so they are renewing his contract on July 1. Voices of Hope program is providing a needle exchange program and will make a presentation about other services at the EMS Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Old Business

John presented a Power Point presentation of “Transition Plan Considerations”. To begin preparing a plan for County to assume primary responsibility for provision of EMS by end of FY2025.

Points:

- No county personnel will be regularly assigned on Fire Company apparatus.
- Foundation and County personnel must be at the same level of compensation.
- As the county places a unit in Volunteer stations and volunteers are not available the Company will no longer receive revenue for the transports.
- Substations should be considered to house county units to clearly define County/Company spaces and minimize confusion of roles and responsibilities.
- As the transition proceeds forward the priority for transition will be with those companies that are staffed by Foundation personnel. This will allow the Foundation personnel to redeploy to companies

that do not house County units (after the current County moves, Patterson Mill and Perryman, then Company 8). Discussion of moving the unit at DES to Forest Hill. The County and Foundation must cooperate with companies 2, 3, and 8 to determine who is working in what station. Lots of discussion about not putting County employees on volunteer units. John said that the biggest concern is legal. Company 5-9 said they do not want County personnel at their station.

- John asked if there are other priorities for transition to be considered.
- The County should begin to bill for all responses centrally and distribute the receipts based on who transports the patient? An RFP and specific billing and distribution plan needs to be initiated. Cost saving and additional Medicaid funding.
- To support the additional Personnel (currently there are 4 personnel at DES doing EMS) and assume all roles the EMSOP DES will need to add
 - 8 shift commanders
 - 2 QA staff
 - 1 logistics
 - 5 support personnel
- John showed a draft plan of units (not for distribution). Showed general plan for transition, county personnel, Foundation relief, and total foundation personnel. Total of 21 County ambulances and 183 County personnel (200 when you include support personnel). FY23 and FY24 replace Foundation busy areas then Aberdeen, Joppa and Bel Air second units as well as HDG, Level and Darlington. John spoke about the possibility of buying “used” ambulances (5 needed in FY23) and possibility of creating working space for units other than current fire stations. Bill suggested the need to include population growth information (Bill will send to Eddie and John). John will take this back to DES and the Foundation to further clarify. This is an aggressive plan, after the definition, then costs will be worked. Will need to meet with companies to discuss their feeling on the plan. When revised will be put out to the companies. Need a plan by the end of the fiscal year.

Objectives:

Not discussed.

New Business:

Larry Richardson spoke about SB295 and HB44. Medicaid limits \$100 currently. Would increase \$25 per year to \$300 and the possibility of reimbursement for non-transport (will be studied in the future as well as emergency versus non-emergency transports). This bill has struggled, and Jimmy Malone has helped to support it. The bill will be moving forward, the commercial ambulance service has been struck. Will include mobile integrated health services. House bill will be moving to the Senate and will be taking effect and will cause a further examination of the current processes.

Good of the Board:

Nothing.

Adjourn: With no further business, the motion was presented by Tami Wiggins to adjourn, motion was seconded by Mr. Richardson and unanimously approved at 1945 hours.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at DES.