

Harford County EMS Standards Advisory Board Meeting

July 5, 2022

DES 2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill

Meeting Summary

Board members in attendance: John Donohue, Tami Wiggins, Larry Richardson, Julie Fifer

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

Public: Tim Chizmar (MD State Medical Director), Kristin Harris (EMS Foundation), Dottie Arnold (President), Mary Ann Baublitz (Co. 5-9), Rudy Walter, Albert Bair (Co. 4 Chief), Stacey Holden (Co. 7), Andrew Parker (Co. 7), Greg Dietrich (EMS Chief Co. 10), Steve Johnson (Co. 10), Bill Rosenberg (EMS Chief Co.13), Rusty Eyre (H.C.V.F.A.), Clinton Polk (Co. 1), Mel Wehrman (Co. 8)

Minutes – John stated the May meeting minutes were emailed to the Board members. Ben Kurtz made a motion to approve the minutes, Tami Wiggins seconded, no additional discussion. Motion carried.

Chair:

John welcomed everyone began the meeting 1831 hours. He explained these are open meetings. The Board members introduced themselves and then went around the room covering all attendees.

DES Report:

Director Hopkins The North Harford EMS Station continues to make progress and is 70 % complete. We remain hopeful for September opening. Dr. Sward’s contract was renewed at the June Board of Estimates Hearing. Medic 6 was delivered from the factory on June 2nd. Administration permitted the hire an EMT from our eligibility list to cover vacancies of workers comp. APD and Director Hopkins, with support from Aberdeen VFC, met with the Local Health Improvement Coalition to discuss repeat patient known to be aggressively and overly lewd. We along with UCMC Behavioral Health, are trying to find some mitigation strategies. EMS 17-1 was placed in service May 28th. This supervisor is working 1800-0600 4 days on/4 days off. Harford County DES EMS is privileged and honored to be on the current cover of the EMS Protocol Book 2022.

Chair Report:

John announced the survey was sent out, some responses were delayed receiving the last two today, which prevented anything from being circulated prior to this meeting. He shared a PowerPoint of the EMS survey results reminding everyone the material is in rough form and for discussion as we work toward our final draft to be presented downtown. Eleven companies responded.

- Ten Companies envision continuing to provide EMS to their communities and one does not.

- Ten companies are willing to lease space to house a county ambulance with county personnel in addition to current ambulances/staff, one was not. Possibly Co. 2 House 3, Co. 4 House 1 & 3 (if co. fails to respond)
- Eight companies are willing to lease space in some of their stations to house a county ambulance with county personnel as a replacement for current ambulances/staff, three were not. Possibly Co. 4 House 1 & 3 (if Co. fails to respond), Co. 13 House 2, Co. 7 if there is no Foundation, 891.
- Three companies want the Foundation and its current configuration to continue, 8 do not.
- Nine companies prefer the Foundation to be reorganized into a more quasi-governmental organization or a more contractual relationship with the county, 2 do not.
- If you are currently paying your own staff (not including Foundation personnel), would you be willing to have those personnel replaced by Foundation personnel, with the same arrangements under which the other companies operate? Applies to only 3 Companies – all three replied No. Answer remained No even with reorganized numbers.
- If your company was only responsible to respond to the request for service within your district, how many ambulances do you believe would be required to cover that volume most of the time? Total of 23 units. Individual responses ranged from 1 – 3.
- Currently the county is building a station in North Harford that will house a county unit. Where else do you believe units should be placed? Co. 2 House 3, Riverside, Rt. 40/Bel Air, 8, 4, Long Green/Jacksonville, South County along Rt. 40, Rt.22, Co. 3/4/8, Co. 5/2/8, Joppa/Edgewood, and Aberdeen House 3.
- If assured to get reimbursed for the runs that your ambulance transport, would you be willing to have the county contract medical billing services centrally for all the companies, in order to access additional reimbursement for federally supported sources (Medicare/Medicaid/etc.)? Five companies were Yes, five companies were No, one “maybe with adequate oversight”.

Rough draft recommendations for discussion purposes:

1. Add two county units per year. Joppa/Edgewood, Riverside, Bel Air, Havre de Grace - general area, then based upon staffing/ drop rates.
2. Provide additional staff for DES to fully assume the duties of the EMSOP. Training Director, QA Manager, Logistics Manager, Shift Commanders.
3. Reorganize Foundation to be a Quasi-Governmental Corporation.
 - Seven Board members appointed by the County Executive/Council
 - i. 3 from the firemen’s association
 - ii. 1 from the business community
 - iii. 1 from the healthcare community
 - iv. 1 general citizen with no affiliations with Firemen’s Association, healthcare, or business community or county governmental connection
 - v. 1 from the Department of Emergency Services
 - Formal recorded contract with the County to delineate staffing services and funding.
4. Immediately begin RFP for centralized billing to take advantage of the additional Medicaid funding available.
 - Association to appoint ___ people to cooperate with County to establish RFP for a contractor

- All companies should get the receipts for the transports they complete with their units
 - An oversight board will be appointed to review the receipts and disbursements for the billing proceeds
5. Continue to increase centralized services to include purchasing and services. Obtain additional warehouse space to accommodate some ready stock.
 6. Cease providing funding from County or Foundation to individual volunteer companies for the companies to provide staffing other than through the County or the Foundation.

General Comments:

Larry shared last year the Governor signed an executive order setting up a study on Quasi-Governmental, State Transparency and Accountability Reform Commission (STAR), looking at fourteen different state entities, they have released a report of recommendations which sets up the nuts and bolts of operational standards. (i.e., instructions, instructional ethics, financial compliance, budgets, audits, a number of standards get set-performance, board recommendations, board requirements, board standards/authority, transparency, live streaming, etc.). To streamline and organize into a more business-like structure. Will get this into regular language having bullet points. John asked if this is the change everyone is looking for?

General concern, we provide additional funds to the Foundation for their assistance, and we have to compete on a salary basis for people, but we agreed originally, we wouldn't do this. Bottom line we need to put people on the street. The current plan isn't working, we need more classes during the evenings to get people trained. Classes are full of many that incur much travel to attend. Competing with hospital wait times and transfers are increasing, the providers frustration, requirements. John will be attending meetings to address the material and receive feedback.

Old Business:

Legislation: SB295. Larry announced Medicaid Bill became law as of July 1st and is now currently paying \$150 reimbursement for at least the remainder of the year. MIEMSS has begun a study to make the funding increase more permanent and to look at alternate care facility of emergent and non-emergent transportation.

Objective:

Not discussed during this meeting.

STAFFING:

DISPATCH:

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:

TRAINING PROGRAMS:

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

LONG TERM CARE:

ALTERNATE CARE DESTINATIONS:
ACTIVE ASSAILANT RESPONSE:

New Business:

Nothing.

Good of the Board:

Adjourn:

Motion by Ben Kurtz to adjourn and seconded by Larry Richardson. Motion carried. Time: 2005.

Next meeting:

August 2, 2022, at DES.