

***Tidewater EMS Council, Inc.***  
**EMS MEDICAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**June 8, 2022 12:00 pm**  
**TEMS Office and Virtual**

**MINUTES**

**Welcome/Introductions** – James Reynolds

- Attendees were James Reynolds, Valerie Vagts, Matt Owens, Amy Ward, Alan Perry, Chris Smith, David Long, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Malloy, Larry Hill, Mike O'Neill and Kerri Duncan.

**Approval of Minutes** – James Reynolds

- Motion to approve by Chris Smith and seconded by Amy Ward. All motions in this meeting were unanimous with no negative votes or abstentions received.

**Directors Report** – David Long

- Ultrasound –Kosmos is the selected AI ultrasound machine, have a grant out for \$100,000; would need to discuss what the rollout would be. Probably start with cardiac standstill and expand from there.
- Whole Blood – will roll out in the region within the next 60-90 days. VBEMS will be the initial test agency. TEMS is picking up the cost for one set up with a 2<sup>nd</sup> vehicle about 30-60 days after that. Dr. Kotora will handle our training and every agency will get the same training experience. Creating a transfusion criteria training. Goal in 12-18 months would be to have 10-12 supervisors that carry whole blood. 2 in VB, Portsmouth, Norfolk, Chesapeake and Suffolk. Will assess for rural areas. Biggest obstacle is obtaining the whole blood itself. Set up cost approx. \$250,000 and recurring costs \$150,000 a year.
- Commercial EMS agencies and contracts they hold with the healthcare systems. There are 9 currently. Key players: MMT with Sentara, Lifecare with BonSecours and CRMC, Reliance with VA. Which impact your 911 agencies for inter-facility transfers. This goal is to share awareness so you are prepared to handle transfer issues with your healthcare systems. We can look to adopt a regional plan that each agency can use as a base. See which ambulances have converters and inverters for special transports.
- Stroke Care in the Commonwealth – there is a grant that a contractor is working. The super user should have gotten an email with a survey, we would like 100% response rate to the survey.

**OMD Committee Report** – David Long covered the majority in the Directors Report

- New EVMS Fellow – Dylan Woolum will be charged with attending regional meetings, trainings and doing ride-alongs to experience all the agencies.
- Scope of Practice – There was clarification that the red dots meant there needs to be documented training in the personnel file of the providers utilizing those skills. If you need an extension, JR will share the letter he used to ask for his, which granted him a 6-month extension.

**Performance Improvement and Education** – Valerie Vagts

- Beta test for ESO Insights has begun. I am working with ESO to fine tune the reporting portal so we can get the data we need.
- Expo – our goal was for a paramedic level provider would be able to attend and walk away with all of their credits to recert. Medics need 60 total hours to recert and we offered 90, exceeding options for each category. 663 credit of cat 1 and 1164 cat 2 credits awarded that week.

**Education and Training Committee** – Matt Owens

- July 1 protocol training rollout is on target, was send to agencies by June 1<sup>st</sup> for training to occur prior to July 1.

**Commercial EMS Agencies** – Stolen catalytic converters, 2 agencies with Stretchers stolen which took 3 units out of service. Also facing staffing shortages. 1 agency on the cusp of shutting down. NOVA put out a notice about theft of precious metals, catalytic converters, etc.

**Pharmacies** – Don't foresee any changes to the box programs in the next couple years. Make sure to file for your CSRS. Will send out info when David Long receives the answers.

**Nurse Managers** – During the meeting they have approved the restock of nasal cannula end tidal CO2. They are not willing to entertain restocking the CPAP until all agencies are using the same item. Right now we have 7 jurisdictions using Flowsafe II. 2 are willing to switch to Flowsafe II; however, one or two healthcare systems just went away from Flowsafe II.

- Would like discussion about restocking when supplies are used on scene but patient is not transported.

**Public Health** – Larry Hill

- VDH coming out of crisis mode of the pandemic and move into endemic mode. Cases are going down and the current strain is not as serious. Still getting a good response to the clinic at military circle.
- Monkey pox – confirmed case in NOVA. All the hospitals have their eyes out for it and testing for it. Any pox tests are going to CDC for confirmation of what strain.

**MCI/MMRS** – MCI has a planning group in place with 4 workgroups. There will be a base MCI plan and then playbooks. Hopefully ready for review in September.

- MMRS – Shelter support stations (13) were resupplied ahead of hurricane season.

**EVHC** – Carolyn state Judy has retired. Covid trends decreasing except hospitalizations in our region. Virtual VHASS training on 6/30 at 9am. Full coalition meeting on 7/7 from 9-11 will be hybrid. Oceana pre-exercise will be doing a table top. Would be happy to take any issues back to hospitals and long-term care facilities that the agencies have concerns with. David's concern was about Highly Infectious Disease (HID) transport units. MTI used to have them, unaware of any that are in service at this time. Municipal 911 is not supposed to transport HID patients because they are not equipped. Should have no less than 3 transport agencies identified that can transport HID patients. There is a specific list of requirements that would make a unit qualify as a HID unit. The communication back to the 911 units is delayed when a patient is identified as infectious at the hospital. 911 agencies will be written in as a line item for communication points for table tops going forward.

**OEMS** – N/A

**Unfinished Business** – None

**New Business** – None

### **Jurisdiction Reports**

- Suffolk – Stretcher pricing is negotiable with trade-ins!
- IOW – Moving towards RSI, Ambulance hit head on by drunk driver, got 2 new ambulances
- Portsmouth – N/A
- Chesapeake – graduated an academy class and 10 are moving straight into medic school
- Norfolk – Medic 6 will be manned 24/7 as of 7/1 – it's the bariatric unit
- Virginia Beach – hiring multiple levels of positions from medic to deputy chief
- TEMS wants to support the paramedic pipeline by sponsoring 10 candidates each year. We are hoping to sponsor 100% funding through EMS scholarship and contract modifications. Hope to increase graduation rates.

### **Announcements / Dates to Remember on the TEMS Web Site**

- QTEE Training: July 21<sup>st</sup> – registration is open [www.tidewaterems.org/qtee](http://www.tidewaterems.org/qtee), October 20<sup>th</sup> 2022
- MOC meetings: August 10<sup>th</sup>, October 12<sup>th</sup>, and December 14<sup>th</sup>
- October is the next grant review

**Adjourned** – 1:11 pm

**The next Medical Operations Committee Meeting will be held on August 10, 2022 at 12 noon in-person.**