



Kent Appelhans, Chair
Mark Marchetta, Sr., Vice Chair

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

RURAL EMS COMMITTEE

STATE BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL, FIRE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

RURAL EMS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2021 – Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

Committee Members Present: Eric Burns (Chair), Thomas Charlton, MD, Joel Dickinson, Vincent Gildone (Vice-Chair), Kenneth Majors, Todd Shroyer, Diane Simon, Michael Simon, and Tamera “Tammy” Wires.

Committee Members Absent: Karen Beavers, John Bichard, and Douglas LaRue. A quorum was present. Chairman Burns welcomed the new committee members and those who remained on the committee.

DPS and EMS Staff Members Present: Rob Wagoner, EMS Executive Director, Aaron Jennings, EMS Deputy Director, and Robin Burmeister, committee support staff.

Public Present: Daniel Prokop, Ohio Department of Health.

Welcome and Introduction: Eric Burns, Chair, called the virtual meeting to order at 3:06pm. A quorum was met at 3:21pm. He welcomed committee members and guests.

Approval of Minutes: The first order of business was to approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2019, meeting. (No committee meetings were held between 12/17/19 – 4/20/21 due to Covid.)

ACTION: Motion to approve the Rural EMS Committee December 17, 2019, meeting minutes. Vincent Gildone – First. Tom Charlton MD – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

National Rural EMS Conference: Director Wagoner has not received any information from the National Rural EMS & Care Conference team about rescheduling the canceled 2020 event in Columbus, Ohio.

HERSA Grant: Dan Prokop, Department of Health, said grant monies were spent on setting up three paramedicine sites. Hoping for case studies that can be published for a financial stability model that offers proof that it lower admissions and is good for the community. There are two Mercy locations: Mercy-Urbana and Mercy-Willard locations that partnered with the hospital, and the third, Fisher-Titus, is working with North Central EMS in Erie County.

Recruiting and Retention: Due to the Governor's House Bill 197 and 404 extensions, data for recruiting and retention is unknown because of the extended dates for renewals, submission of initial applications, and testing dates.

NEW BUSINESS:

EMS on the Hill: Mr. Burns shared information about his participation in *EMS On The Hill*, which included grants that may be offered and that the application process needs improvement. He also shared that the Dept. of Labor and Statistics does not have accurate numbers of EMS and Fire providers. E.g. If you are a plumber, but you are also on the fire department, you get counted only in the plumber stats but not in the fire provider stats. The department lists about 250k EMS-Fire providers nationwide. The committee thought 1.5 million is closer to the actual number.

The *Siren Act* grant was discussed. Only 27 of 67 applications were filled in 2020 due to the complexity of the grant requirements. The grant may be rewritten so that it is easier to complete. The NAEMT Ohio Coordinator is Vince Gildone. The people it was supposed to help didn't get help due to the format so that a professional grant writer need not be hired.

The Medicare-Medicaid extenders are up for renewal.

Labor Statistics needs to count EMS providers independently. E.g., if you are a welder and an EMS volunteer, it only counts you as a welder. This causes problems for funding.

Committee Goals: Mr. Burns discussed sending an email or using Survey Monkey for the committee members to share what the top five goals for the committee could be. Support staff will work with Mr. Burns to gather information for discussion at the committee's June 15, 2021, meeting. Need more people involved in rural EMS, how to keep them involved in rural EMS, and finding funding for rural EMS. Director Wagoner suggested doing wellness checks in rural communities and that telemedicine has a lot of benefits per national studies. Eric will work with Robin to send out individual emails or set up Survey Monkey for committee members to get each person's list of goals. They'll be consolidated and discussed at the next committee meeting.

The committee discussed the 5-year plan that was developed in 2018 for committees. The plan is located on the EMS website at https://www.ems.ohio.gov/links/2018_emfts_stratetic_plan.pdf. Robin will send the link to committee members. Refer to page 11 of the report for additional information.

OPEN FORUM: Director Wagoner shared that the EMSIRS data for past two years is now collected in-house. In 2020, about 1.8 million records were submitted. EMS Data will begin looking at various pieces of data. Reviewing rural community data is planned. The committee will then have data about rural community needs.

Diane Simon shared the IEM Group information about competent work force and getting proper trauma training. Data was broken into two regions. Calls being made to acute care hospitals, trauma centers, etc., and their perception of trauma education, any barriers, are staff comfortable in caring for trauma victims with their education, etc. Researching gaps in the state and then what can be done to close those. The Rural Committee will be able to review the data in the future and potentially develop educational materials.

Dan Prokop reported that free EMS webinars on Monday and Wednesday evenings in conjunction with the Paramedic Foundation and Community Partners. Additional information is available at cpartners.org/ohio-flex/. Robin will send the link to the committee members.

Dr. Charlton would like the EMFTS Board to solicit each committee to give input on how it handled activities during COVID, especially relating to rules and laws. There is a document for the Governor's review, *Crisis Standards of Care*. Other states have already adopted it. We need to identify areas that we did well and those that need structure to do better in the future. We need to highlight challenges to the rural area compared to the urban areas.

Eric complimented Director Wagoner and his EMS division staff for working hard during the pandemic.

Director Wagoner shared that about 50 percent of EMS providers are now vaccinated against COVID at this time. Dr. Charlton created a YouTube video regarding the importance of getting vaccinated. It can be reviewed at <https://youtu.be/qd4FI4OW4zE>

NEXT MEETING: The next Rural EMS Committee is scheduled for June 15, 2021, from 3-5 p.m. It will be held virtually. The committee is hopeful that it can resume in-person meetings after July 1, 2021, but that will be COVID-dependent.

ADJOURN: Upon a motion made by Vincent Gildone and seconded by Michael Simon, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 4:11pm.

ACTION: *Motion to adjourn at 4:11 p.m.* Vincent Gildone – First. Michael Simon – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Burmeister, AP3
Support Staff

[minutes approved at 6/15/21 committee meeting]