



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

June 15, 2021 – Held Virtually via Microsoft Teams

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

Committee Members Absent: Karen Beavers, John Bichard, Kenneth Majors and Diane Simon. A quorum was present. Chairman Burns welcomed the new committee member and those who remained on the committee.

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

Public Present: Daniel Prokop and Shane Ford, Ohio Department of Health.

Welcome and Introduction: Eric Burns, Chair, called the virtual meeting to order at 3:11pm. He welcomed committee members and guests, and everyone introduced themselves with a brief history of their work in EMS.

Approval of Minutes: The first order of business was to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2021, meeting.

ACTION: Motion to approve the Rural EMS Committee April 20, 2021, meeting minutes. Tom Charlton MD – First. Vincent Gildone – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: The committee had submitted goals for discussion that it felt it could achieve over the next five years, which were:

- A. Recruitment and retention of rural providers
- B. Training for rural providers
- C. Funding of rural EMS
- D. Community Paramedicine
- E. Medical Directors
- F. Inactive RPABs
- G. Professionalism (appearance, attitude, station, etc.)

The committee discussed, at length, the goals.

Goal items A, B and C were merged into one major goal: Recruitment, Retention, Training and Funding for Rural EMS. The committee will look into grant funding (private, profit, non-profit, literacy, etc.), seek legislators to champion Rural EMS, get EMS labeled by the state as “essential” like fire is, and improve education.

Over 4000 EMS and Fire certification holders, who were given an extension until July 1, 2021, under HB404, still have not renewed their certifications. The EMS Division is making phone calls to these individuals to remind them to renew their certifications. After July 1, 2021, statistics will become available as to how many certification holders did not renew during the COVID-19 pandemic. That information may be available at the August 2021 committee meeting.

The committee discussed EMS education and pass rates diminishing at smaller training sites while pass rates are higher at larger training facilities. One problem is reading and comprehension skills. A pre-course to make more successful student experiences is to develop a program to assist students with reading skills so that their frustration is less. Using a standardized pretest, e.g. Work Keys, is helpful to determine where each student has challenges. This would be helpful for both students and training centers.

The committee members are to send their ideas about Recruitment, Retention, Training and Funding to support staff, Robin Burmeister, by July 23 for adding to the August 17 committee agenda.

Goal items D, E and F were loosely merged as RPAB, Medical Directors, and Community Paramedicine. The committee discussed concern that not all RPAB regions were meeting quarterly. There is a need to work with stakeholders and get RPABs up and running. Discussion ensued that it seems difficult to get physician participation and it is often difficult to find physicians with medical director requirements (i.e. ER certified) that live in the region. It was discussed that it is also a trauma issue and the committee could reach out to regional trauma coordinators. Dr. Charlton volunteered to make himself available for a virtual meeting to discuss the RPAB issues. Todd Shroyer will discuss RPAB concerns with Joel Dickinson (who had to temporarily leave the meeting) and report back to committee.

Goal G, Professionalism, was discussed. It was the general consensus of the committee that this was not an actual “goal” for the committee but it was definitely an issue that could be addressed at the education training level. After discussion, a Workgroup will be created with committee members, Tammy Wires and Mike Simon, plus any other non-committee members they may seek, to work on developing guidelines and Best Practices for addressing professionalism in Rural EMS. Committee members should forward ideas to Tammy to share with the group.

Shane Ford suggested that the committee work with the Rural Health Association, if possible, instead of a statewide organization regarding issues of funding, education, etc. Chairman Burns will reach out to Shane and Dan to discuss the Association.

NEXT MEETING: The next Rural EMS Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021, from 3-5 p.m. The committee will be meeting in-person at ODPS, 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223.

ADJOURN: Upon a motion made by Joel Dickinson and seconded by Vincent Gildone, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 5pm.

ACTION: *Motion to adjourn at 5p.m.* Joel Dickinson – First. Vince Gildone – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Burmeister, AP3
Support Staff