

RURAL EMS COMMITTEE

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

RURAL EMS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2018

Committee Meeting Date and Location: Tuesday, August 14, 2018, at the ODPS Shipley Building, Conference Room 1102, 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43223.

Committee Members Present: Karen Beavers, Eric Burns, Joel Dickinson, Vincent Gildone, Doug LaRue, and Diane Simon.

Committee Members Absent: Mary Ahlers, Dr. Thomas Charlton, Tristan Coomer, Deanna Harris, Daniel Heuchert, and Michael Wood.

DPS and EMS Staff Members Present: Robert Wagoner, John Miller, Robin Burmeister, Kris Miller, Carol Savage, and Joe Stack.

Guests Present: Shane Ford, Daniel Prokop, and Pam Bradshaw.

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting began at 3:02 pm. Chair Karen Beavers welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Made by Eric Burns, seconded by Vince Gildone, to approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2018, meeting. Unanimously approved.

ACTION ITEM: Robin Burmeister will send a .pdf copy of the approved minutes for posting to the website.

Open Forum:

Guests Shane Ford and Daniel Prokop, from the Ohio Department of Health, gave an oral report about a \$200k federal flex grant initiative earmarked for rural EMS needs. They are attending the meeting to learn more about the needs, training committees, and so forth

so that the money can be most effectively used. They do not want to make decisions without knowledge.

EMS-C program coordinator, Joe Stack, brought for discussion the need to work with committees regarding a Pediatric Care Coordination position for a competitive federal grant. Mr. Stack asked that the Rural EMS Committee be willing to work with EMS-C in developing a statewide team of knowledgeable individuals. The team will assist EMS-C in developing best practices, in-roads to rural areas, the need for subject matter experts to help be leaders, and that some funding may be available (committee members are exempt from receiving payment for services and time). Mr. Stack would like recommendations of people who could assist in this over the next six months.

There is a considerable time crunch. The federal government notified EMS-C on July 27, 2018, and have to turn in the grant application by August 20, 2018. Additional information can be added, as necessary, if we are awarded the grant.

MOTION: Made by Vince Gildone, seconded by Eric Burns, that the Rural EMS Committee supports the concept of the Pediatric Care Coordinator and agrees to work closely with EMS-C to avoid duplication of efforts. Unanimously approved.

[Joe Stack left the meeting at 3:18 pm.]

Discussion moved to the upcoming Rural EMS survey results. They will be read at 12-1 on August 20, 2018. EMS Deputy Director, Rob Wagoner, informed the committee that you must pre-register. The website is paramedicfoundation.org/ohio. The phone number and access code were provided to the members.

Old Business:

A list of fire charters that have high school programs was shared with the committee in August. John Miller noted that many fire charters that offer the high school programs likely offer an EMS high school program too. Kris Miller will get information about how many offer both fire and EMS programs in high school and will have it available for the October meeting. Kris Miller said that pass rates are not yet distinguishable between adult and high school exams. Also, students often don't retest if they fail, and those numbers also go against the school as a failure. Math and reading problems contribute towards exam failures. Vince Gildone commented that a remedial reading program is offered in their area and program results have improved.

ACTION ITEM: John Miller will get a list of programs from EMS Education that offer both EMS and Fire at the high school level for the October meeting.

EMS Education, Kris Miller, offered information that some EMR pilot programs are being undertaken to see if it will spark some mindsets of students towards emergency response.

Discussion also took place that students can do their assessment exam prior to age 18 and that the NREMT will hold it until the student reaches 18 years old. Then, the student can

convert that to a certification. The committee asked Ms. Miller to send a reminder to program directors about this as many may not remember this option.

ACTION ITEM: John Miller will follow up with Kris Miller regarding notifying program directors that underage students can test and, if they pass, can convert that to an NREMT certification at age 18.

Discussion about progress regarding school programs with Apollo ensued. Doug LaRue reported that the program director has contact information to follow up on when other issues get resolved at that site.

The Chair inquired about past meeting discussion about spreading out education between the junior and senior years of school. John Miller reported that schools that offer FF1 in a spring semester of the junior year, then EMT in the fall semester of the senior year, and then FF2 in the spring semester of the senior year are experiencing higher pass rates. It allows more hands-on time as well.

The Committee discussed various ways that individuals can get EMS experiences to see if it is of further interest to pursue. Examples of ride-along programs were exchanged.

Discussion about benefits or incentives took place, but committee members discussed the need for funding for it. Karen Beavers reported that she had brought up funding for benefits to the Board at the February retreat and she will follow up on it. Rob Wagoner pointed out that since the administration will be changing this year, it is likely that no funding will be acted upon until after that takes place.

New York now offers benefits. Tennessee is examining options as well. Some research needs to be done to see what other states are doing.

New Business:

The Committee discussed the scarcity of Paramedic training programs in Ohio. E.g. There is only one program in southeast Ohio. John Miller reported that education is looking at hybrid program options, which may generate higher success rates. Ohio has one training center trying a hybrid program at this time. Concerns about candidates passing online training versus in-person training experiences were noted.

Joel Dickinson brought up the bridge options for the AEMT program but not for military candidates. Government mandates that tuition reimbursement options require classes over 600 hours. PELL grants are not available. GI Bills could be investigated.

There is a Fire Marshall Grant for FF1&2 but, depending on the cost, it may not cover all of the costs.

John Miller reported that there are funds available, although restrictions such as no federal funding to earn a lower degree if you hold a higher degree.

Funding goes hand-in-hand with recruitment, but we need to get them in the door. Recognition is key such as a letter from the Director congratulating the achievement.

Discussion moved to the need to make the EMS career a “family.” Having events such as a Super Bowl party, ice cream social, etc., to recognize and give thanks to all the family members that they sacrifice their time together when a call comes in during a birthday party, movie, middle of the night, and so on. Potlucks can bring families together. Also, pins can be given. Some EMS teams may enjoy getting them while others are not interested.

A key discussion point was for committee members to take ideas back to their county. Outreach is needed. Consider hosting regional meetings, starting a blog, creating a FAQ for websites, etc. Carol Savage can share information with CE sites.

Concerns about PSTD and burnout are a national problem. EMS has a high suicide level. Rural EMS generally have no counseling available to it yet the teams have a higher PSTD level due to familiarity with many victims. The Homeland Security Commission is currently wrapping up its Active Shooter program, and it is the Committee’s hope that it will move on to PSTD issues. A mandatory PSTD training package likely will not work—it needs to be voluntary. Ohio is missing this major issue. Besides the EMS employee’s well-being, a compassion fatigue course could be developed to help families learn how to work with a PTSD individual.

Discussed ensued about the need for state guidelines on who can be a program director or chief.

Lastly, Rob Wagoner shared that Ohio has one week to submit a ‘letter of interest’ to host the national Rural EMS Conference in the Spring 2020 2-day. Host is co-chair. Waiting to hear back as made deadline to get letter submitted (had a 1-week notice). Ohio submitted for 2020 and beyond. Ohio has over 37% rural communities.

Adjourn: Motion by Doug LaRue, seconded by Karen Beavers, to adjourn at 4:38 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Next meeting: October 16, 2018, from 3-5 p.m. Room 1102, DPS Building, 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Burmeister
EMS Certifications
Committee Support Staff