



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

Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

## RURAL EMS SUB-COMMITTEE

STATE BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL, FIRE AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES  
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
1970 W. Broad Street, Room 1101, Columbus, Ohio 43223

### RURAL EMS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2021

**Call to Order:** The in-person meeting was called to order by Chairman Burns at 3:07pm.

**Committee Members Present:** Eric Burns (Chair), Thomas Charlton, MD, Vincent Gildone (Vice-Chair), Kenneth Majors, Lucas Palm, Todd Shroyer, Diane Simon, and Michael Simon.

**Committee Members Absent:** Karen Beavers (EMFTS Board member), John Bichard, Joel Dickinson, Doug LaRue, Dana Miller, Cody Shetler, and Tamara Wires. A quorum was present.

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

**Public Present:** Stacy Wilson (guest of Ken Majors) and Shane Ford (SORH).

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**Welcome and Introduction:** Eric Burns, Chair, welcomed committee members, and everyone introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:** The first order of business was to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2021, meeting.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve the Rural EMS Committee August 17, 2021, meeting minutes. Tom Charlton MD – First. Vince Gildone – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:** RRTF (Recruitment, Retention, Training and Funding)

The focus of the meeting was recruitment, retention, training and funding. Many departments do not have the funds to pay employees what other industries are paying. An increase in Medicaid funding is under discussion at the federal level but it is currently unknown if Ohio will embrace it. Medicaid funding will only affect 911 calls. We need to reach out to non-911 financial assistance programs for additional aid.

One major issue is that EMS is not considered “essential” in Ohio although fire is. Currently, only 12 states have legislation that deems EMS essential. We need to push for Ohio to work towards making EMS an essential service. One suggestion was for medical directors to attend county meetings armed with data for counties to reach out to legislators.

The committee is planning an anonymous survey for EMS departments and will discuss content at its December committee meeting. Focus will be on employee retention and loss, morale, training, etc. The majority of questions will be Yes or No responses with a section for comments.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The committee received a resignation from Tamera Wires as she has a new job that will not allow her to attend meetings at this time. The committee accepted her resignation.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Rural EMS Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021, from 3-5 p.m. The committee will be meeting in-person at ODPS, 1970 West Broad Street, Room 1101, Columbus, Ohio 43223.

**ADJOURN:**

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***ACTION: Motion to adjourn at 4:58p.m.*** Vince Gildone – First. Mike Simon – Second.  
None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

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Respectfully submitted,

Robin Burmeister, AP3  
Support Staff