



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

December 14, 2021

Call to Order: The in-person meeting was called to order by Chairman Burns at 3:01 pm.

Committee Members Present: Karen Beavers (EMFTS Board member), John Bichard, Eric Burns (Chair), Lucas Palm, Cody Shetler, Todd Shroyer, Diane Simon, and Michael Simon. A quorum was present.

Committee Members Absent: Thomas Charlton, MD, Kenneth Majors, Joel Dickinson, Vincent Gildone (Vice-Chair), Doug LaRue, and Dana Miller.

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

Public Present: Dan Prokop (ODH)

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

Approval of Minutes: The first order of business was to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2021, meeting.

ACTION: Motion to approve the Rural EMS Committee October 19, 2021, meeting minutes. Michael Simon – First. Todd Shroyer – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS: RRTF (Recruitment, Retention, Training and Funding) and Making EMS Essential – Chairman Burns informed the committee that it will be working with the HR Committee (Mark Resonovich, Chair) to develop a survey for the benefit of both committees. Survey questions need to be sent to support staff and not be sent between committee members so as not to impede Sunshine Laws.

Dan Prokop, Ohio Dept. of Health, informed the committee that the ODH has a \$50k grant from the Paramedic Foundation that must be used by August 2022 to develop a survey to benefit rural EMS. They will be handling the survey as they have a template that will be curtailed to be Ohio specific.

ACTION: Motion to have Eric Burns, Chair of the EMS Rural Subcommittee, have a phone, virtual or in-person meeting with Mr. Prokop, Executive Director Wagoner, and Mr. Resonovich. Karen Beavers – First. Michael Simon – Second. None opposed. None abstained. Motion approved.

Ms. Burmeister will contact the individuals and coordinate a meeting.

Certification Renewals – Executive Director Wagoner informed the committee that there was an approximate 4 percent drop in EMS and Fire renewals over 13 months (during COVID). Concern was expressed due the drop in enrollment as well. It is difficult to recruit new trainees due to lack of pay and benefits/retirement compared to past years.

Ohio EMS Chiefs is setting up an Ohio “EMS on the Capitol” day. No firm date yet. The goal is to bring the issues for EMS to the attention of legislators. A permit will need to be filed. EMS is currently running under different rules (e.g. township, county, regions and state).

Regarding EMS transportation, public services do not need to file documentation with the state as public entities are exempt under Ohio laws. The state can only provide guidelines for patient care. Local communities oversee public EMS transportation. Public transportation companies are to submit transfer records to EMSIRS. Private companies can obtain grant funds.

Discussion took place that legislators should guide EMS on who should govern it since politics make fire essential but not EMS. If it is made essential, who will govern it (e.g. county or townships). There may be a law that states EMS falls under county jurisdiction. Special interest groups, associations, etc. must carry the message. The EMS Division is not allowed to lobby for changes.

[Karen Beavers left the meeting at 3:39pm, and there was no longer a quorum at the meeting.]

Executive Director Wagoner reported that Steve Click, retired patrolman, is the new Director of Wellness within Public Safety (includes all areas of public safety). Executive Director Wagoner will reach out to Mr. Click to see if he could attend a Rural EMS meeting to answer questions. Monies from the ARPA funds received by the Governor will have a portion earmarked for wellness.

NEW BUSINESS:

Governor DeWine's \$250M federal grant (ARPA) monies - \$175M is flagged for law enforcement. \$75M is tagged for first responders (fire and EMS). A grant process for funding will be through the EMA for fire and EMS. The Governor wants it to be a simple grant process and that monies should be released quickly and the process is under development. Requests must be related to provider wellness and/or COVID.

Discussion occurred regarding grant availability for EMS education and training equipment. Priority One Grants are available to EMS CE or Accredited sites. Information is on the EMS website. Agencies need to obtain waveform capnography.

Dan Prokop inquired if there was interest in a grant writing webinar and the committee was very supportive. It would be held virtually. Mr. Prokop will notify the committee once he has it set up.

ED Wagoner informed the committee that there has been no progress in the state allowing committees to return to virtual meetings.

NEXT MEETING: The next Rural EMS Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2022, from 3-5 p.m. The committee will be meeting in-person at ODPS, 1970 West Broad Street, Room 1101, Columbus, Ohio 43223.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm. (Due to lack of a quorum at time of closing, no motion was required.)

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Burmeister, AP3
Support Staff