



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES**  
**Bureau for Public Health**  
**Office of Emergency Medical Services**

**Bill J. Crouch**  
 Cabinet Secretary

**Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH**  
 Commissioner & State Health Officer

**Minutes**  
**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**January 16, 2020**

**Members Present**

Dr. Lisa Hrutkay  
 Trish Watson  
 Glen Satterfield  
 David J. Weller  
 Paul Seamann  
 Donna Stewart  
 Connie Hall  
 Marsha Knight  
 Chad Lindsey  
 Edward Hicks  
 Jim Kranz  
 William Weese

**Members Absent**

Nancy Cartmill  
 R. Craig Horn

**OEMS Staff**

Robert Brankline  
 Candace Facemyer  
 Sherry Rockwell  
 Jerry Mullins

**Guest**

Walter Ivey  
 Nick Cooper  
 Mike Thomas  
 Jerry Warner  
 Richard Todd  
 John Dearnewll  
 Chris Eades  
 Mike Conners  
 Sherry Broyles  
 Adam Crawford  
 Debie Beveridge  
 Cynthia Keely  
 Susie Sellers  
 Forest Weyer  
 Steven A. Murray  
 Jeremy Higginbotham  
 Torie Geis  
 James V. Hill  
 Dr. P.S. Martin  
 E. Janie Ward  
 Marti Steiner

**Guest**

Emily Givens  
 James Taylor  
 Kevin Duckwall  
 Bob Swickard  
 Rita White  
 Jeff White  
 Clinton Burley  
 Amanda Crawford  
 Doug Douglas  
 Shirley Morrison  
 Alisha Samples  
 Kurt Gainer  
 Jacob Carr  
 Keith Linger  
 Matthew Crawford  
 Gordon Merry  
 Joe Spray II  
 Dr. Rex Lasure  
 Jerry Long  
 Brady Campbell

**I. Welcome, Introductions and Roll Call**

Chairman Weller called the quarterly meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) to order at 1:00 PM on January 16, 2020 at the RETI Braxton Technology Building, Sutton, WV. Chairman Weller welcomed members and guests. Roll call followed; Quorum established.

Chairman Weller reported the following new EMSAC appointments as confirmed by the Governor and Senate:

- Chad Lindsey - representing WV State Fireman’s Association – Governor Appointment
- R. Craig Horn - representing Emergency Medical Services Supervisors and Administrators - Governor Appointment
- William Weese - representing Emergency Medical Services Supervisors and Administrators - Governor Appointment
- Marsha Knight - representing Emergency Medical Services Training Officers - Governor Appointment

Chairman Weller reported the following EMSAC positions remain open:

- Mountain State Medical Services Association-EMT
- Three General Public positions - Governor Appointment

Chairman Weller stated that EMSAC is an eighteen-member council comprised of three Congressional Districts of which only six members are allowed from each district. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District (lower part of the state) is complete with six members, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District (middle part of the state which extends to the eastern panhandle) has five members with one opening available and the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District (northern part of the state) has three members with three openings available. Chairman Weller also noted that the appointed General Public representatives must not have any affiliation with EMS.

Opening Prayer by Glen Satterfield.

Chairman Weller welcomed the new Director of the West Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services Mr. Robert Brankline and DHHR Deputy Commissioner Mr. Walt Ivey. Chairman Weller also announced that Dr. Rex Lasure is filling in for Dr. Michael Mills as EMS Medical Director due to his absence.

Connie Hall made motion to move into executive session inclusive of EMSAC council members, Clinton Burley, Walt Ivey and Gordon Merry. Motion seconded by Marsha Knight; motion carried.

Connie Hall made motion to terminate executive session. Motion seconded by Chad Lindsay; motion carried.

## **II. Approval of September 10, 2019 Minutes**

Motion made by Dr. Lisa Hrutkay to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 regular statutory meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Connie Hall. Motion carried.

## **III. Chairman Report – David J. Weller**

Chairman Weller presented the EMS report at the September 2019 West Virginia Legislature interim session. This report contained the following key topics:

- EMSAC working with Medical Command to improve policies and procedures in addition to developing improved methods of communication with the EMS providers in the field.
- Review of the new EMSAC structure which includes Medical Command and EMSAC subcommittees.
- EMSAC goals for 2020
- Revised EMS education system and implementation of new education/training policies and procedures.
- Recruitment retention
- Focus on EMS safety and fatigue.
- Working with RETI to have more required courses available on Blackboard as not to tie up other resources.
- Continue to assist OEMS to maintain consistency and accountability throughout the system.
- Request the legislative representatives to keep open communication with EMSAC enabling the council to address immediate concerns
  - as they arise.
- Request the legislative representatives to assist with the legislation of REPLICA.

On December 18, 2019 a meeting was held with Senator Craig Blair, Senate Finance Chair and Senator Dave Sypolt, Chair of the Interim Committee of Volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services to discuss overview on Senate Bill 625. Attendance included OEMS Director Bob Brankline, DHHR Deputy Commissioner Walter Ivey, OEMS State Medical Director Michael R. Mills and EMSAC Chairman David J. Weller.

The West Virginia Legislature will be in contact with Chairman Weller throughout the year to discuss EMSAC's current status and or to convey legislative directives and requests.

#### IV. EMSAC Committee Reports

##### Special Interest – Paul Seamann

- **CCT**  
Committee running smooth; drug pricing discussed.
- **C2**  
January 31, 2020 rollout to end training; start date to be confirmed; Cayla Long to provide report as to who has completed training in addition to assistance with Blackboard.
- **C3**  
Discussion regarding paramedic eligibility to become C3 (all paramedics are eligible); March 31, 2020 scheduled rollout. Old C3 Protocols to be updated; determine date for old protocols to move out and new ones to go into effect. IFT – will be updated.
- **Community Paramedicine**  
Program is growing and requires national testing or renewal process. New class program starting March 17, 2020.
- **Active Threat/Trauma program**  
80% of all schools are trained with the Stop the Bleed Program. All middle/high schools to be trained by July 1, 2020. WV is number one in the nation per capita for individuals trained.
- **EMSC**  
National Pediatric Readiness Assessment Survey – honest completion necessary - Information is used for funding. Survey closes March 31, 2020.  
8th Annual EMS for Children Pediatric Symposium 03/05/2020; S.T.A.B.L.E. is being rolled out on June 10, 2020; Pediatrics disasters training will be held in May 2020 at multiple locations; AED purchase; and ARC4 purchase – one for each ambulance, distribution will be from Flatwoods.  
Candace Facemyer will forward confirmed dates to chairman Weller for distribution.

##### Administration

- **Insurance Definition - Connie Hall**  
Overview of insurance presentation regarding general liability vs. professional liability coverage. Workers compensation and safety training to decrease insurance costs was also discussed
- **New Protocol Template for OEMS Handoff Report - Chairman Weller**  
The minimum set of data that is required to be left at the receiving hospital by EMS professionals prior to their departure is now defined in protocol. Agencies may use their own form; however, a template has been developed which list the required data in red. Director Brankline has this generic template available upon request.
- **OEMS Website – Chairman Weller**  
Director Brankline held a meeting to change the aesthetic view of the current website. Meetings with IT will be scheduled to accomplish this and produce a user friendly OEMS website.
- **ESO NEMISIS 3 Upgrade– Chairman Weller**  
NEMISIS upgrade Version 3 was turned on mid-December. It has serious functionality issues to be resolved. In some instances, specific fields are not allowing the user to bypass stating it is a state requirement which is not correct. Director Brankline, Dr. Mills and Chairman Weller held a meeting with ESO to discuss the problematic issues of the new update and addressed ESO's eligibility to remain a state provider. ESO is requesting a meeting next week to determine the direction of this program and state they are 100% committed to correcting these problems.  
Chad Lindsay made motion to give ESO a 90-day time frame to correct these issues. Motion seconded by Connie Hall. Motion carried. Director Brankline will convey message to ESO.

- **EMS Endorsed Certification Packets – Chairman Weller**  
Instead of having multiple cards, it is suggested that endorsements be placed on the Baseline Card - WV Certification Card. ESO will make this update.  
Motion made by Paul Seaman motion to have endorsements on the baseline cards. Motion seconded by Connie Hall. Motion carried.
- **Legislative Rule Clarification – Chairman Weller**  
Recertification applications must be submitted 90 days (minimum) in advance of recertification. You can submit recertification applications up to one year before your credentials expire; however, National Registry and state policy dictates that classes taken after you have submitted your application will be credited toward your next recertification.
- **Electronic Record Submittal – Chairman Weller and Director Brankline**  
It has come to the attention of EMSAC that there are two sets of rules being utilized/followed by OEMS Certification regarding the recertification process. The policy that was given to WV Legislature and what is recorded in the minutes of the September 2019 EMSAC meeting states the WVOEMS recertification process will be a paperless process submitted electronically. Presently, OEMS Certification is requiring all applicants who have National Registry to submit a hard copy of their National Registry card even though this information can be validated online with National Registry.  
Director Brankline stated there have been discrepancies in expiration dates creating some of this validation conflict. Director Brankline suggested that OEMS work with Continuum and National Registry to improve communication so that everything matches and there will be no need to submit a hard copy of the National Registry card adding that ESO has stated that they will build a module to look at information from National Registry in real time. This will give OEMS Certification a clear and concise picture.  
Chairman Weller voiced concerns regarding the process of only validating National Registry and not WV State licensed certifications. Director Brankline stated that OEMS is actively doing RFP's to create new database to effectively resolve these validation issues. In depth discussion followed clarifying the National Registry data with council in agreement that OEMS does not need a hard copy of the National Registry card. Director Brankline to speak with OEMS Certification and resolve this issue. No action taken at this time.
- **OEMS/EMSAC 5- and 10-year plan – Chairman Weller**  
OEMS/EMSAC received a Legislative Directive at the December 18, 2019 meeting to form a committee to develop a future 5- and 10-year plan establishing specific goals and planning to accomplish these goals with a report due on the 5-year plan by September 2020. Volunteers for this committee are Paul Seaman, Laura Forren, Tori Geis, Jerry Warner and James Hill. Director Brankline to speak with Vicki Hildreth regarding OEMS volunteers for this committee. Chairman Weller to put together an email workgroup for this committee.

#### **Safety - Connie Hall**

Connie Hall reported on the presentation by Jeff White - OSHA Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Healthcare and Social Service Workers. Presentation included information on the transfer of violent patients and attacks against providers. EMS providers can call OASHA to report that their company provided nothing for their protection, and this will automatically trigger an OSHA investigation.

Council reported that EMT/EMS safety classes, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition will be out in October. EMS providers will need 8 hours that will count toward their CEUs. Discussion of State Safety Officer nomination to be agenda item at next EMSAC meeting.

#### **Policy/Procedure & Protocol – Chairman Weller**

- **Private Vehicle Permits**  
To be addressed under Old Business

- **RN to Paramedic Policy**  
To be addressed under Old Business
- **Naloxone for Pediatric Patients**  
No medical necessity to write a separate protocol for pediatrics; the original protocol will be modified to include the same dose for adults as for children.
- **Education Policies - Update**  
Discussion included the EMS Education Approval Policy and Procedures and the EMS Educational Institute and Instructor Endorsement Policy. The EMS field is satisfied with the new policies and how they are working.
- **Protocol Change Submission (Ketamine added to specific protocol)**  
Previously tabled - to be addressed under New Business.
- **Certification/Recertification Policies**  
Early field response to the SET's program has been positive; the addition of the CCT, M CCP and MCCN will be added in the future. The SETs issue regarding EMVO's have been addressed and corrected with OEMS Certification and EMS personnel.

### Training

- **Recovery Coast Academy (RCA) – Chairman Weller**  
While in New Martinsburg, Senator John R. Unger II met with Chairman Weller. Senator Unger is very active in the Recovery Coach Academy program and wants to further develop this program by creating a subcommittee to assist and provide emotional support to fire and EMS providers dealing with overdose situations.
- **RCA Basic Course – Marti Steiner, Executive Director of Greater Recovery and Community Empowerment (GraCE) 501c3 nonprofit organization**  
The Recovery Coach Academy (RCA) Basic Course consists of 30 classroom hours and 16 practical hours. The course offers three college credits and a certificate. Since February 18, 2019 they have trained over 1,400 individuals which includes some high school students, correctional facilities, and police. RCA has seven trainers and over 600 volunteers statewide.

RCA held classes for EMS providers last year. Two graduates of these classes are here with us today to explain how this fits in with EMS work. They are Alisha Samples and Wendi Wenzall-Cuc. Alisha and Wendi, along with their classmates created the network - How to Manage Emergency Services Stress (MESS). MESS gives EMS providers a chance to provide support for one and other within the EMS community. As EMS providers they understand the situations and circumstances of other EMS providers and can offer a unique type of support.

RCA is good for all life skills. EMS providers usually do not wish to speak with psychiatrists because they do not fully understand the EMS field. It is sometimes hard to connect with someone in your station because it is small. RCA can train recovery coaches to support each other as peers by creating a state network for this support.

The RCA Basic course will be offered free April 28 to May 1, 2020 at Kanawha County EMS. GRACE can provide an RCA class at any time and prefers to have a two-week advance notice. Recovery Coaches are not professionals; they are conduits to connecting peers with professional resources.

Chairman Weller stated that EMSAC would create a MESS subcommittee to be a topic of the Safety committee in the future. If this includes fire, EMSAC must approach the fire commission. OEMS representative Vicki Hildreth discussed a block grant for \$60,000 to fund 30 participants including fees and hotel noting the grant money must be spent by June/July 2020. The Volunteers for this sub

committee are Bob Brankline, Ed Hicks, Alisha Samples, Marsha Knight and Mike Thomas. Chairman Weller to send contact information to Alisha Samples who will be taking the lead for this committee. This committee will provide a report for the next meeting.

#### **Medical Command – Jeremy Higginbotham**

- Reviewed 9105 field protocol; adopted flight medical algorithm to keep things uniform.
- Working on data collection, productivity tracking, QA, and QI.
- Working on a uniform disaster plan for each medical command center so in the event of a disaster - all five centers are responding in the same manner.
- Working on quick sheets for C2 and C3 IFT Protocols.
- MOU to notify command centers of locations – to be tabled until next meeting
- OEMS Director Robert Brankline and DHHR Deputy Commissioner Walt Ivey met with Berry Dunn to gather specs for RFP. This had previously been done before without field representation and upon rollout the database wasn't field functional. Field representation to include Jeremy Higginbotham for Medica Command, Ben Tacy for Education and Chairman Weller for EMSAC.

### **V. Special Reports**

#### **OEMS Report – Director Brankline**

Director Brankline stated that he is still listening and learning a feel for the culture having come aboard in September 2019. OEMS is looking at changes in the education and accreditation process and he will be attending a conference in May regarding this. OEMS is currently working with agencies to fill in some of the gaps that we have now expressing that the new AEMT certification will serve to fill this need.

Director Brankline further elaborated on a memorandum that was put out on the OEMS and Continuum websites. At that time OEMS had just identified approximately 160 paramedics who expired in March 2019 nationally but remain certified through West Virginia. A new memorandum has been distributed with a full explanation aiding those individuals with expired National Registry certification. Chairman Weller stated that EMSAC had discussed the unintentional OEMS failure to address and deal with this situation adding this should have been addressed April 1, 2019. With no deliberate intent to cause harm we find that many individuals are in this situation and it is now necessary to move forward with the following corrective action:

- Individuals from out of state will have 120 days to obtain WV certification compliance.
- Individuals that expired in March 2019 will be given 120 days to be compliant. 120 days is what is in legislative rule.
- Moving forward on April 1 of each year a report will be run detailing any lapse in National Registry certification and will be dealt with accordingly.

Director Brankline spoke with the legal department to grant an extension and will try to expediate training suggesting we should reconsider the time allotment to extend over 120 days. Director Brankline also stated that agencies also need protected for having expired employees.

Paul Seamann made motion that EMSAC make recommendation to OEMS stipulating that in the case of National Registry EMTs and paramedics expiring March 31, 2019, their ongoing state EMS certification will remain valid until June 1, 2020 and at that time all nation registry recertification processes must be completed and a valid National Registry certification card submitted to OEMS; this information will be distributed by OEMS to each individual, agency and agency official representatives for which they are affiliated. Motion seconded by Dr. Lisa Hrutkay. Motion carried.

**Air Medical – Clinton Burley**

Nothing to report

**American Heart Association - Cynthia Keeley**

The Mission Lifeline EMS Recognition award application became active January 1, 2020. The deadline is officially Friday, March 20th at 11:59 PM CT. There is also a regional application where several agencies can be grouped together to achieve this recognition.

The Embassy Suites by Hilton in Charleston, WV will host state stroke training on March 18, 2020. Contact Cynthia Keeley for additional information.

**VI. Old Business**

**1. EMS Private Emergency Vehicle Permits – Chairman Weller**

This topic had been previously tabled for over a year pending research. EMSAC did receive a policy submission, however it did not meet legislative rule. Following further investigation, it is noted that the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office will issue private emergency vehicle permits for fire department personnel who also run EMS but if you are only EMS, legislative rule states that the permit for EMS vehicles must be issued through OEMS and requires both the Fire Marshal and Sheriff's department approval.

Enclosed in your council packets you will find the proposed new EMS Private Emergency Vehicle Permit application which references all processes in code. This proposed application does meet legislative rule and requires the signature of the county sheriff. OEMS will be required to purchase numbered permits for real windows. Discussion followed.

Motion made by William Weese to approve this application and move forward for a 30-day comment period. Motion seconded by Chad Lindsay. Motion carried.

**2. RN – Paramedic Policy – Chairman Weller**

There was a subcommittee formed via EMSAC to work on this policy. Enclosed in your council packet you will find the proposed policy. This proposed policy has a two-track system to prevent redundancy and consists of RN – Paramedic - Non MCCN and RN – MCCN. Discussion followed.

Motion made by Paul Seamann to approve this policy and move forward to MPCC for review and approval. Motion seconded by Dr. Lisa Hrutkay. Motion carried.

**3. WVOEMS Endorsed Certification Cards Update**

Addressed in Administration Committee

**4. EMSAC Interview for EMS Day – Chairman Weller**

Suzanne Higgins from West Virginia Public Broadcasting requested an interview with an EMSAC representative on February 5, 2020 in preparation for EMS Day on February 6, 2020 at the State Capital. In that interview she wants to discuss EMS workforce recruitment retention, education improvements and challenges of low reimbursement. Chris Hall will already be at the capital. He is well versed on subjects relating to EMSAC and has agreed to speak on behalf of EMSAC.

Motion made by Paul Seamann to allow Chris Hall to speak for EMSAC on February 6, 2020. Motion seconded by Dr. Lisa Hrutkay. Motion failed. Jim Kranz disagreed stating that someone that is not a member of EMSAC should not represent a governor appointed council. Motion withdrawn by Paul Seamann.

Paul Seamann volunteered to attend and be interviewed for EMS Day on February 6, 2020.

## **New Business – Chairman Weller**

### **1. WV EMSAC Appointees/Open positions**

Reviewed in depth during opening remarks by Chairman Weller. Congressional District 3 is now full.

### **2. Appointment of Vice Chair**

EMSAC has been a year without a Vice Chair. Nomination for Marsha Knight, to be appointed as Vice Chair. Ms. Knight accepted the nomination.

Motion to close nominations. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

With no other nominations, Marsha Knight is the new Vice Chair for EMSAC.

### **3. ESO EPCR Issues**

Addressed in committee reports

### **4. SETS (critical Care Component)**

Addressed in committee reports

### **5. Senator Unger Special Project and Presentation**

Addressed in committee reports

### **6. AEMT Courses/Program**

Addressed in committee reports

### **7. Senate Bill 625**

Senate Bill 625 is a bill that was written enabling EMSAC to approve policy and procedure. Senator Dave Sypolt is sponsoring this bill and is in the process of making changes to certain sections of it. There is a courtesy certification section for surrounding states that is no longer applicable with REPLICA (coming through this year) and with National Registry. That section will be removed. There will also be clarification to the wording as it stands now to further define the roll of EMSAC.

### **8. WVOEMS Requirement for copies of cards**

Addressed in committee reports

### **9. 5- and 10-year EMS development Plan**

Addressed in committee reports

### **10. Clarification on legislative rule applicable to when recertification material can be submitted**

Addressed in committee reports

### **11. Protocol Change Submissions**

The Ketamine protocol change has been properly submitted; meets all guidelines and has all supporting documentation. This protocol adds Ketamine as an option drug during RSI.

Motion made by Paul Seamann to forward to MPCC for review and comment. Motion seconded by William Weese. Motion carried.

### **12. Pediatric Narcan**

Addressed in committee reports

### **13. Current Bills in Process – Brief Overview**



- Senate Bill 101 allows Workers' Compensation for first responders diagnosed with PTSD
- Senate Bill 197 also has a sister bill – House Bill 2729 enacting recognition of EMS REPLICA
- Senate Bill 237 exempts EMS vehicles and private ambulances from paying tolls and other charges
- Senate Bill 252 gives EMSAC the authority to create an EMS personnel loan forgiveness program
- Senate Bill 305 and sister bill House Bill 4134 exempts certain non-paid volunteers from workers' compensation benefits
- Senate Bill 319 exempting monies from EMS retirement funds from state and municipal tax
- Senate Bill 2208 reducing federal adjusted gross income from volunteer fire department and rescue squad members
- House Bill 2312 allows county commissions to initialize collection actions for emergency ambulance services
- House Bill 2348 authorizes magistrates to remove children from homes that are considered dangerous due to drug use
- House Bill 2586 providing programs to train fire fighters and emergency medical technicians
- House Bill 2840 allows county commission in certain counties to impose an amusement tax to support medical care
- House Bill 4033 creates three refundable tax credits for volunteer fire fighters, emergency medical responders, emergency medical service personnel practitioners and ambulance drivers for qualifying service, training expenses and highway expenses.

#### **Good of the Order**

Connie Hall has volunteered to pay the renewal fee for the EMSAC website for this year.

Two-hour protocol class is designed to review all protocols. It is required to go over new protocols and review old protocols.

Ethics and conflict of interest forms are available from the governor's office. Please complete forms online.

Raleigh county asked about a Naloxone for dogs' protocol; they should defer this to veterinarians.

Bipap is being studied; it converts cpap to bipap.

WV medical director meeting scheduled for March 25, 2020. This is a good format for medical directors to share information.

#### **Adjournment**

Ed Hicks made motion to adjourn at 3:49 PM. Motion seconded by William Weese. Motion carried.

***Next meeting April 16, 2020 – RETI Braxton Technology Building***

***Special Interest – 0900-0930***

***Administration – 0935-1005***

***Safety – 1010-1040***

***Policy/Procedure & Protocol – 1045-1115***

***Training – 1120-1150***

***Medical Command – 1155 -1225***

***EMSAC 1:00 PM***

***(Times may be adjusted for new committee format that includes Medical Command)***