



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Arvin Singh, EdD, MBA, MS, FACHE
Health Secretary

Joseph W. Ratliff, BA, FP-C
Director

Minutes
Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EM SAC)
January 16, 2025

Members Present

Ray Bryant
Nicholas Cooper – virtual
S. Craig Cox – virtual
Thomas Hayes – virtual
R. Craig Horn
Marsha Knight
Ben Lasure – virtual
Brandon Martin – absent
Monica Mason
Brian Potter – virtual
Samantha Richards – absent
Steven Schetrom – absent
John Smoot
Samantha Stamper – absent
Trish Watson
David “Jamie” Weller

OEMS Staff

Joseph “Jody” Ratliff
Dr. P.S. Martin
Ashley Bond
Diana Linville
Andrea Persinger
Jason Rucker
Erin Timbrook
Janice Hagerman- virtual
Robin Jones - virtual

Guest Present

Julia Zeto
Danny Reynolds
Kevin Duckwall
Shirley Morrison
Forest Weyen
Autumn Gallion
Paul Seemann
Jeff Teter

Courtney Turner
Cheryl Whitt
Erin Ballard
James Ballard
Charles Maxwell
Bobby May
Michael Ellis
Jerry Warner

Guest Present Virtually

Ben Deuell
Chris
Chris Lyons
Cody

Collin Smith
Doug McDonald
Douglas Conrad
Ed Bays
Jason Milton



Joseph Strait
Laura Forren
Justin
Lauren Hogge
Lee Fuell
Laisha Cassell
Lindsey Leach
Michael Jenkins
Michael Moody
Mike Alt
Nick Stuchell
Nile
Peterstown VFDRS
Phillip Bolt
Ray Wolfe
Sean Wyatt

Shane Bowen
Todd Cornett
Wendy Miller
Zachary Butcher
Jeremy Laird
Grant Dalton
Colin Graham
Kim Mills
Brant Whittaker
Steve Nuckles
Markas Dunlevy
James Scheidler
BCEAA
Chris Eaded
MA Vance

I. Welcome, Introduction and Roll Call (Please turn cell phones to silent or vibrate)

Chairman Weller called to order the quarterly meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council at 1:02 pm on January 16, 2025. Chairman Weller welcomed members and Guests. Roll call followed; Quorum established.

- Moment of silence was taken to remember former EMSAC member Connie Hall, who recently passed away.

II. Approval of October 17, 2024, EMSAC minutes

Motion made by Ray Bryant to approve the minutes of October 17, 2024; regular statutory meeting as represented. The motion was seconded by John Smoot. Motion carried. It is also announced that MPCC will be moved to virtual tomorrow due to inclement weather.

III. Chairman Report and Legislative Updates - Chairman Weller

▪ **Chairman Updates –**

- The Fire and EMS committee has been dissolved, and we will have a learning curve figuring out how to navigate under the new administration. We are not sure where Fire and EMS are going to fall. We will continue to work through that process, and I know Jody is very on top of that process.

IV. EMSAC Committee Reports –

1. Special Interest – Monica Mason

- EMSC – Erin Timbrook – Currently we have 10 ARK recognized facilities, two more waiting for their site visit. We are also working on a pre-hospital ARK program. Still planning the Fall Pediatric Symposium which will be October 5-8, 2025.
- CCT – Monica Mason – Rita is wanting to get everyone back together to review the manual.
- Active Threat – Many have worked on that and thank you to everyone. We took the outline and turned that into a power point and that has been turned into a recording. That will be available, John Fannin wrapped up last week and is now editing.
- Wilderness Committee – Dr. Martin is reading update from Dr. Scheidler. Whitepaper for basic understanding. Reviewed several protocols from across the country and have started to work on their own. Reviewing and researching education.

2. Administration – Trish Watson

- Staffing shortages
- The five million dollars that were given out for higher education we mostly to community colleges. I have not found a way that we can get reimbursed for EMT classes yet.
- Mental Health - We have had another death, working with encova on the out of duty death to see if that can be covered.
- EMS Requirements/Regulations/Licensure – We have the “No Surprises” Bill going to legislature, also the county commission support will be going up too. 737 updates, there are two counties that have not turned their survey in. After they are received the money will be ready to go.
- WVOEMS Updates – Jody Ratliff – The two counties that we have not received the surveys are Wirt and Preston. If you know anyone, please call them. Mental Health, if you look at our website, we have posted a link and we are working with the Interim Director of the Bureau for Behavioral Health, the link will take you to a map and show you who you can contact in the area you are in if you need help with your providers.
- Motion made to create the Alternate Designation sub-committee was made by Ray Bryant. The motion was seconded by John Smoot. Motion carried.
- Financial Stability - The other five million from the special session went to the OEMS, that is for equipment each county should be getting equipment. Jody is working with finance, and I will probably work with the coalition for distribution.
- State Park boxes are still on my list, I have just not had time to pick it back up.

3. Policy, Protocol, and Procedure – Chairman Weller covered

- This 2025 Protocols are done, they will be reviewed a couple more times to make sure everything in them is correct. The OEMS will put those out when appropriate. We changed the roll out date to get it out of re-cert season. Those will go out on May 1st. I did add in the appendix to show changes. The certification and re-certification policies are done, and Jason has them, and will be put out on April 1st.

4. Training/Education – Marsha Knight

- We discussed the 40-hour EMT pre-course, Jamie has been working with Higher Education and has the breakdown. They are working on finalizing and cleaning those up.
- The power points for the re-certs- Are complete, Berkely county did a great job.
- We have also developed a format for any new pilot program or new education needed. All education will have the same format and lesson plan.

5. Medical Command – Shirley Morrison

- We continue to meet monthly, transition to new regions has gone well.

5. Community College – Ed Bays

- There is about a million dollars put aside from previous administration that can be used for tuition, through 2027.

V. Special Reports

1. **OEMS – Jody Ratliff, Director** – Most of my reports will come from my staff. May makes three years that we did all this, between EMSAC, our office, the coalition, the command centers and the providers, the legislation see all that you do and see the progression that you all have made. I had a conversation with a Senator yesterday that let me know for sure that legislation sees it, the Governor's office sees it and they are all in on supporting and helping us. I am proud that EMS across the state including EMSAC, the coalition, MPCC, the command centers are all coming together as one to push, and we are setting a bar. The word I got was don't stop and keep pushing forward.
2. **OEMS State Medical Director Report – Dr. P.S. Martin** – First the protocols, we have them down to one page so the education will not be as involved. As far as the interfacility transfer protocols are my focus this year, we have a committee already in place. I just came back from the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) Conference, I was lucky to attend a conference geared toward medical directors and now I am working with Jason to get all our medical directors involved. From the QA standpoint I have really good news about our tourniquet take down since the protocols started in July through December. We have had 41 applications, 5 taken down, 5 required a re-application, no patient's condition worsened. Several people improved after treatment. I think the protocol is a success. Almost all were applied by police officers.
3. **OEMS – Jason Rucker, Program Manager, Education** – I know this is peak re-cert season and we have had sickness and things in the office, and I have been set back a few weeks and cards are slower going out. If you all see anything, just call us. For education our pass rates for 2023 were not the greatest. As of 1/8/25 we were at 54% pass rate, in 2023 we were at 49%. Educational Institutes are all inspected and up to date. The ALS psychomotor is going well, no issues.

4. **OEMS Investigations – Ashley Bond** – We always have something going on whether is a background we dive into or a complaint. We are just staying busy and keeping everyone in line. Jody adds that self-reporting and reporting are done through ImageTrend now.
5. **OEMS – Robin Jones, Program Manager, Division of Trauma, Designation and Categorization** – The RMRC meeting will resume in April, Sandra has left, and we are looking to fill her position. Stroke side of things we are still working with joint triage and app up to date. Trauma Centers we have we have Level I -2, Level II – 1 ped, Level II - 2, Level III -4, Level IV -31, 1 suspended, 6 seeking. Trauma registry, we did have problems with some of the education and have pushed it back to April 1, 2025. Trauma Symposium sponsored by CAMC first week of February at Stonewall Resort.
6. **Air Medical** – No report.

VI. Old Business

1. **QA-QI Process Update** – Shirley Morrison gave update.
2. **ALS Pre-Hospital Blood Administration Update** – Julia Zeto – In Cabell County we are up to 17-18 transfusions, Harrison County has done 3. We have several agencies that are looking to get on board in the near future. Kanawha County and Charleston Fire are both just waiting on legal contracts with CAMC. The eastern panhandle is in the beginning stages, and I went up and done some education for them. We recently introduced the lifeflow gun into our program at Cabell and it is a game changer.
3. **Update on skill sheets** – Are complete, they need to be put in with the education document.
4. **Update on certification/recertification/credential recognition policies implementation** – Completed, Jason will do final review, and they will go out April 1, 2025.
5. **EMR, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic recert class material update** – Those are complete and will roll out April 1, 2025.
6. **EMT pass rate taskforce update – EMT pre-course** – As Jason told you the pass rates have increased. We know that benchmarking and holding people accountable have helped increase the rate. Also, with the entry program our pass rates should significantly increase.
7. **Controlled Substance policy update – Mike Alt** – We have the final draft here and it was included in your packets, I did ask you guys to look at that. Any questions? Mike Alt suggests adding a training module. John Smoot made a motion was made to send this to WVOEMS legal counsel and return with a report at the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Ray Bryant. Motion carried.
8. **Update on credential recognition expanded scope of practice education module** – Jason has completed that.
9. **Update from Sports Emergency Care Sub-committee** – Brian Potter – We have met twice, and we have about ten members. We have a big task, so we are focusing on actionable

items. One we want the EMS community to be aware the secondary schools have a legal responsibility to establish Emergency Action Plans for sporting venues. We feel it is very important that EMS know this and reaches out to schools in their areas to obtain copies of those plans and assist with the review and updating process of the plans. We are also working on an education component to educate agencies and providers.

- 10. Update from Droperidol education for pilot project** – Courtney -We just finished the education on that and sent it over to Dr. Martin.
- 11. Update on POCUS Pilot/Education materials** – Dr. Martin – Putnam and Berkeley, they have merged to develop those. Both are saving down their images, and I have access to both.

VII. New Business

- 1. Consideration of 2025 Protocols** – Marsha Knight made the motion to send those to the OEMS. The motion was seconded by Monica Mason. Motion is carried.
- 2. Consideration of 2025 Equipment List** – Ray Bryant made a motion to table this until Diana Linville has reviewed from the OEMS. The motion was seconded by Craig Horn. Motion carried.
- 3. Update of Agency Training Officer Program/Rollout** – Jason Rucker – This is still work in process.
- 4. Consideration of KCEAA Oxytocin Pilot Project** – Motion to send this to the MPCC was made by Ray Bryant. The motion was seconded by Marsha Knight. Motion carried.
- 5. Consideration of KCEAA Keppra Pilot Project** – Motion to send this to MPCC was made by Ray Bryant. The motion was seconded by Marsha Knight. Motion is carried.
- 6. Escape 2025 Conference** – We are behind on getting the brochure out, but you can register online.
- 7. July 2025 Meeting** – Motion was made by Ray Bryant to change the July meeting dates to, July 24, 2025, EMSAC and July 25, 2025, MPCC. The motion was seconded by John Smoot. Motion carried.
- 8. Phase 2 of Protocol Update** – Shirley presented a power point

VIII. Good of the Order

- **Jody Ratliff** – The Governor just announced our new Secretary of Health, Dr. Arvin Singh. He is coming to us from the University of Maryland Medical Center.
- **Michael Ellis** – I am here to represent the Bureau for Behavioral Health. I have some 988 information and things available if anyone is interested.

IX. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ray Bryant. The motion was seconded by John Smoot. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting April 17, 2025, Meeting format and location to be announced.

DRAFT