



Allegany County, Maryland

Emergency Services Board

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10-12-21 Emergency Services Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1800 hours.

Members Present:

Previous Meetings minutes read and accepted.

Membership: None

Communications: None

Committee Reports: *Fire Service Committee:* No meeting. Departments are still working on submission of their box assignments. *EMS Committee:* Only 5 members of the EMS committee attended the last meeting. Informally discussed the issue of single provider response issue with ambulances in the County. Working on a clarification to the 2018 Allegany County Ambulance Response Policy to be presented and discussed at the next EMS Committee Meeting.

Safety Committee: None

ACDES: Director Pyles spoke to the group regarding the increase in the budget for ACDES from \$817,000.00 in 2017 to a current budget of \$4.2 million dollars. Director Pyles reached out to Dr. Tim Chizmar about performing a new SWOT Study and they both agreed the best course of action was to contract with an outside agency, who has no connections to Allegany County.

Chief Biggs commented about wearing appropriate PPE and updating the May 25, 2021 PPE policy for providers. Chief Biggs also wanted to remind everyone about the 1 for 1 restocking which is being provided to EMS Companies by UPMC-WM. Questions have arisen about restocking out of date items and he stated the providers just need to provide explanations in the comment section of the Pyxis for rationale of the restock. Also, please pay attention to the expiration dates of the medications in the Pyxis to ensure your withdrawing good medications. We are still finding medications showing up in the Pyxis with expiration dates due. This is being monitored. Ambulance inspections are coming up and the MIEMSS Cardiac Device Grant is active and is a funding source to Allegany County. Keep up the good work in the field and he also noted that Stop the Bleed is active again in the schools and has been very successful. ACLS renewal end of October and PALS renewal beginning of November. Provider Advanced Skills Check off are coming up with dates to be put out via Nixle.

Communications: Still working on updating the new CAD system with mapping. Working with Motorola and looking at February for training. One new dispatcher starts this week with the hiring of 6 additional dispatchers.

Emergency Management : LOSAP packages are available here at the meeting. Pagers: Phil is working on updating the pagers as needed by companies. Any battery issues are the responsibility of the company and we recommend you use the recommended battery for the pagers. All radios updated recently with a new firmware. We have a request in to MSP to utilize their new tower as an additional tower for the County. Mt. Savage tower was down for about a month, the replacement part came in and it is back up and running.

Fire Reports: Missing a few for the Month of September.

Special Operations- Nothing to note. Working on the new truck.

FIT TESTING: If you need the machine, contact Carrie Hughes.

PUMP TESTING: Completed in August. Equipment checks are completed or being performed. About 50% of the forms are in.

MEMA: None

MIEMSS: None

MSFA: Will be starting a new recruitment/retention campaign soon.

STANDARDS AND POLICIES: Looking at working on a joint policy for responses and fails from the NFPA Standard to develop a new policy for the County.

Old Business: Appropriations were sent in and should be deposited soon. Temporary pause on Josh Bosley for his appointment to the County QA Committee. Ronnie brought up the discussions with the County Commissioners regarding using part of the COVID recovery monies for Fire/EMS. So far, they have used it for Broadband and Public Works. None to Fire/EMS.

New Business: A motion was made to appoint Josh Bosley. Motion brought to a vote and carried. A question arose regarding volunteer representation to the County QA board and the makeup of the same. Chief Biggs to check with Sue Clark-Cecil regarding the board's makeup. The pyxis question came up regarding disposition of expired medications. Chief Biggs advised it is the responsibility of the Company to waste/dispose of the drug appropriately with the appropriate documentation, especially for scheduled medications.

Scott Whetsell brought up the Medicaid Reimbursement Program and Director Pyles stated that Matt Krause was handling it for the County. If there are departments who might be eligible, please contact Matt Krause for additional information. Director Pyles also requested LaVale Rescue communicate to Dispatch what their staffing levels are so he can allocate his resources accordingly. Dual alert will continue until the desired response metric is met.

Scott Whetsell questioned why he is getting late responses when he is responding understaffed. Discussion followed regarding the semantics of the "failed response" and the procedure for a single provider responding on a call and the possibility of tracking it in the new CAD. Director Pyles commented that he is constantly seeking additional personnel. He also stated he utilizes Time, Distance, Safety and Call Volumes to most efficiently use ACDES resources. A concern was brought up about staffing of volunteer houses by ACDES units and how to communicate when the staffing was not present. Director Pyles recommended the Volunteer Chiefs communicate with each other in their due areas about the current staffing situation as ACDES staffing can be very fluid at times due to personnel being off, sick, etc.

The issue of responding mutual aid to Bedford County was brought up. Director Pyles stated that 80% of Corriganville's call volume was to Hyndman, which owed the County \$6,000.00 for Medic Assists. He contacted the Emergency Manager in Bedford County which referred him to the township and borough. They didn't have any answers either.

"I Am Responding" was brought up as a resource to inform departments of current staffing levels for Ambulance Personnel. The County has also given all County Chief's access to the County's "When I Work" program.

The question of the \$250 Medic Assist fee to Mineral County was brought up and Director Pyles stated the Mineral County Ambulance Authority approved it and it was ratified by both parties with a MOU.

Medic Assist fees were discussed and the switch from percentages of billing to a flat fee per bill (50/50).

Board Comments: None

Meeting adjourned. Next Emergency Services Board Meeting to be Held on 12/14/2021 @1800 hours.