

MSFA EMS Committee Meeting  
August 20, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 1300 hours by Chair Eric Smothers. He thanked Independent Hose Company #1 in Frederick County for lunch.

Linda Dousa passed around the sign in sheet and asked everyone to verify that the information is correct.

**Chair report: Eric Smothers** introduced himself as the new EMS chair and asked everyone for their help in moving forward. He spoke about Marianne Warehime's husband's health issues. He also spoke about the passing of the recent MSFA Past President Richard Yinger. While he doesn't plan to make major changes, Eric said he is looking for new ideas on how to move the committee forward. He said he would like to get the EMS and training committees together to create a 5 year plan. He feels that our current success rate in EMT classes is appropriate. He said that recruitment and retention are critical issues within the MSFA and EMS. They are looking for innovative ways to make EMS more efficient. Some of the path forward is also cost driven. He spoke about the MSFA R&R grant and the need to document the new members brought in due the grant efforts.

The state is still looking for an Executive Director of MIEMSS. He sat in on the interviews for two candidates that were very well qualified. Linda Dousa will remain our representative for SEMSAC. He already has a position on SEMSAC and that gives us two members to insure that our efforts are heard.

**Association Officers: President Mark Bilger** thanked the committee for their ongoing work. He spoke about the issues with EMT and EMR testing over the past few years and the efforts that MIEMSS and MFRI have completed to help solve the problems. He recognized Bill Dousa for his several years as chair.

**SEMSAC: Linda Dousa** stated the last meeting was held on July 6. Interviews were conducted in August for 2 Executive Director candidates.

**ALS Sub Committee: Marianne Warehime** not present. Charlie Simpson spoke about goals and priorities of the ALS Committee. The primary goal is still "a paramedic is a paramedic" in Maryland. They decided to try to broaden this to "a provider is a provider" in the state. They discussed the optional and pilot protocols currently in the protocols. They came up with 7 areas to work on. 1. EMRs ability to administer narcan state-wide; 2. laryngeal tube for BLS; 3. Bi-pap; 4. Glucometer; 5. BLS 12 lead placement; 6. Vaccine and testing protocol (flu shots); 7. Duodotes for HAZMAT, etc. The feeling of the committee is to make these standard across the state.

**BLS Sub Committee: Chris St John** had a 17 page handout that he passed around. Some of the information focuses on the opioid crisis and narcan resistant fentanyl. He spoke about a new lifesaving medal, and an outstanding recruitment and retention speaker in Prince Georges County. He hopes to have a similar handout for each meeting.

**Standards: John Sullivan** had nothing.

**VAIP / Minimum Ambulance Standards: Charlie Simpson** stated there have been no meetings or discussion.

**MIEMSS: Pat Gainer** representing MIEMSS as acting co-executive director. She stated they have 2 candidates for the Executive Director position that were interviewed on August 3 and 4. Both are strong candidates (Dr. Doug Kupas is the state medical director in Pennsylvania and Dr. Rick Hunt is with HHS). The EMS Board is currently weighing the next steps in the process and she is hopeful a decision will be made at their next meeting which is September 12. She spoke about the positive impacts of the steps to improve EMT training. Current pass rates continue to be above the national average. The new licensure system is being worked on to attempt to make it more user friendly. The next meeting of the licensure workgroup will be September 21. The opioid crisis is still being addressed through a state-wide coordinated effort. They are looking at possible legislation to reimburse for narcan that is used on patients who refuse transport and therefore can't be recouped by billing. They are working on the state-wide communications upgrade and an RFP has been released. She spoke about the hospital conversion to free standing centers. Some hospitals are trying to downsize inpatient beds to become free standing facilities. They are trying to do this without a certificate of need. MIEMSS was concerned about the impact on EMS. The EMS board will look at the impact of EMS and make a recommendation for approval or rejection. Harford Memorial is getting ready to go through the process. They will be looking at this process very closely. They are looking at ED overcrowding by studying the time it takes to move patients through the ED and may tie payment to that time. They are also looking at mobile integrated health (MIH). There are several jurisdictions that now have a MIH program and others that are looking at options. Funding options to support these programs for EMS (since there is currently no payment for non-transport) needs to be looked at. They are also working on a study on AED placement that came from the restaurant bill in last year's legislature. Jon Bratt talked about ALS grant funding. The information and applications will be out soon. The state homeland grant funding will be out in the Spring of 2018; the application paperwork will be coming out in the Fall so that jurisdictions can have more time getting their information together. The two priorities for this year's grant involve complex tactical training and active assailant programs. Andy Pilarski director of EMRC and he have been working together to look at miscommunications between EMRC and the field. Roger Stone has been selected as the region 5 medical director.

**MFRI: Jim Radcliffe (ALS)** – ALS classes are moving forward. Canned curriculum NCCP refresher starts rolling out October 1. There are two sections: 305 NCCP part 1 (24 hours of class room) 306NCPT part 2. Students must be in part 1 before they can sign up for part 2. The local option requirement is being questioned; they are looking at on-line content that they can give to allow to meet some of these hours. With the new online registration system, training officers must approve students registering for EMS classes. Make sure they are doing this. Book purchase must be completed before the student will get their grade. They are currently fully staffed ALS with three regional coordinators: Nicole Duetsch from PG County and national capital south; Jason Shorter from Cecil County to Southern Maryland; Brian Frearson from Harford County to Western Maryland. They are looking for a part time student and a technician to help with stocking kits, repairing equipment, etc. **Todd Dyche (BLS)** – refresher programs have been updated due to the protocol changes. MFRI has set up a tracking form for students that have taken the test 3 times and been unsuccessful. This form is set up to track a 24 hour refresher course before they can attempt the test again. Online registrations have now been changed to include textbook billing. They now have to be approved with department purchase or student purchase. The training officers need to make sure they hit the correct button when approving. An updated EMS Officer 1 is being piloted this Fall. EMS Officer 2 and 3 classes are currently in development. All are based on the new national standards. Mobile Sim lab is available for training if needed. All regions for EVO classes will have virtual reality simulators to help supplement the class effort. This will not take over the practical portion of the class.

**MSP aviation:** Eric Smothers stated things are moving. Cabin training device is still in limbo. Hopefully it will be here in October.

**RAC Shock Trauma:** Diana Clapp – stated Becca Cantor will be helping with EMS feedback when requested. EMS telecast training will be on mangled extremities in September; amputations in October; prevention for drowsy driving in November. The advanced airway course is now being run through the simulation center. Registration is on the EMS link on the website. Helipad construction is almost complete.

**Old Business:** nothing.

**New Business:** President Bilger talked about the volunteer trumpet. He feels MSFA needs to put information in this document. The partners have submitted articles in the upcoming document. If the committee has anything to submit, please do so. The first executive committee meeting will be held on August 26. It's a 1 day meeting and he encourages everyone to attend. Phil Hurlock had multiple handouts for anyone interested. Congratulations for John Sullivan for being inducted into the MSFA Hall of Fame. Richard Smith from Talbot County received the Gladhill Thompson award. Eric discussed having a set schedule for upcoming meetings. The following is a list of meetings (they will be posted on the MSFA calendar): October 15 at Pleasant Valley (Carroll County); December 17 at Darlington Fire Company (Harford County); February 18 tentatively at Arbutus Fire Company (Baltimore); April 15 TBD.

**Good of the committee:** Susan Mott asked everyone to sign a paper for Tim Warehime. She will get a card and send it to the family.

Meeting adjourned at 1430.

Respectfully submitted  
Linda Dousa