

Emergency Services Advisory Board

January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Rick Baker, Director Michael Robinson, Commissioner Steve Wantz, Eugene Curfman, Robert Buckley, Bruce Fleming, Dan Plunkert, Michael Karolenko, David Coe, Suzanne Swisher, Dr. John Murphy, Linas Saurusaitus, Eddie Ruch, Lynn Karr-Kratz

Members Absent: Dr. Mike DiNapoli

Guests: Susan Mott, George Wentz, Bridget Weishaar, Alan Barnes, Bill Rehkopf, Jeff Fleming, Marianne Warehime

Chairman Baker opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Baker asked for a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Motion by Eddie Ruch, seconded by Gene Curfman. The motion was passed.

Chairman Baker asked if any council representatives had comments. No representatives had comments at that time.

Director's Report:

-Director Robinson shared issues facing the Department of Fire & EMS and CCVESA during the latest COVID surge; including increased responses, staffing issues, hospital availability, hospital waiting time, increased COVID exposures and potential supply issues.

-The Director shared measures being taken to manage the situation including following MIEMSS COVID protocol and instituting new triage protocol. Media messages educating the public about when not to call 911 have been successful.

-COVID testing for personnel is being held at the Public Safety Training Center by appointment only and rapid tests are available through the Director or Dave Coe.

-The Director's proposed Peak Demand Staffing plan was approved by the Commissioners and funded by a grant through the end of January. Three additional units are operating at staggered start times during peak hours.

-The purchase of a demo ambulance was approved by the Commissioners. It will be delivered within 30 days and housed with the reserve vehicles at the Public Safety Training Center.

-The Director reported that the hiring process for the Department of Fire & EMS is moving forward and he hopes to have the EMS Officer and Fire/EMS Training, Health & Safety Officer positions on board by late March.

Commissioner's Report:

-Commissioner Wantz notes that Dr. Scalea of Shock Trauma is being honored for 25 years. An event is being planned for September or October.

-Improvements to the Public Safety Training Center have passed Planning and Zoning review and are moving forward.

-The budget process is moving along and will begin in earnest in March. Presentation of Capital Projects occurred last week. The Governor presented his budget yesterday and there is a surplus.

-Commissioner Wantz noted that we are well into the legislative session and highlighted House Bill 44 which would allow EMS reimbursement for calls where there is no patient transport.

-The Commissioner supports tax credits for those who have served in the military and retirees.

Committee Reports:

FROPS: Nothing to report. There was no December meeting.

EMSOPS: Nothing to report. Meeting scheduled for tomorrow. There was no December meeting.

Old Business:

-Presentations were given by each of the seven Strategic Planning Workgroups. Presenters highlighted any changes or updates since the last meeting. Presentations were well received and guidance was provided for improvements. Workgroup topics and presenters are listed below.

- Volunteer Enhancement- Bridget Weishaar
- Training- Jeff Fleming
- Staffing- Michael Karolenko
- Administration- Dan Plunkert
- Operations- Eddie Ruch
- Communications- Bill Rehkopf
- Budget- Eugene Curfman

-Chairman Baker, Director Robinson, President Fleming and Commissioner Wantz all commented that they were impressed with the amount of detail and effort put into the project by all.

-Chairman Baker expects the project will be completed by the proposed deadline.

-Chairman Baker reports that we are finally getting some statistics from the Emergency Communications Center. Eddie Ruch is working with the data and hopes to be able to share with the group next month.

New Business:

-No representatives had new business to discuss.

Action items:

-Bridget Weishaar will submit guidelines for tuition reimbursement.

-Mike Karolenko will format objectives to match the template and send to Callie.

-Callie Williams will ensure updated presentations are posted to CCVESA website.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:09.