

Emergency Services Advisory Council
April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Dr. Mike DiNapoli, Commissioner Steve Wantz,

Guests: Susan Mott 1st VP CCVESA

Public: Todd Bowman

Chairman Baker opened the meeting at 19:01 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gene Curfman made a motion to approve the March 16th meeting minutes. Dr. John Murphy seconded. The motion was passed.

Dr. John Murphy made a motion to approve the April 6th meeting minutes. Dan Plunkert seconded. The motion was passed.

Chairman Baker asked if any members had comments. Gene Curfman commented that he believes someone has been found to take over his position on ESAC when his term expires in June.

There were no public comments.

Director's Comments:

- Interviews for the EMS Officer and Training, Health & Safety Officer positions are complete and selections will be announced within the next week.
- The Training, Health & Safety Officer will be known as Training & Safety-100.
- The EMS Officer will be known as EMS-100.
- Director Robinson hopes to have CCDFEMS's personnel code written by June 1st.
- Management of the PSTC will transition to the CCDFEMS starting June/July 2022.
- CCVESA will still have the Training Center Coordinator and Liaison positions housed at PSTC.
- The Director will meet with CCVESA leadership on May 5th to discuss the transition.

- Director Robinson recognized David Coe for his assistance handling COVID issues.
- CCDFEMS needs to hire a Medical Director by July 1st.
- Director Robinson wants to refocus certain committees.
- Director Robinson will form a Joint Safety Committee to be run by the Training, Health & Safety Officer.

Commissioner's Comments:

- Commissioner Weaver commented that the proposed budget is in place and includes Plan D-1 for the staffing of CCDFEMS.
- Commissioner Weaver encouraged people to attend and voice their opinions at the community budget presentations and the public hearing.
- The Commissioner acknowledged that there will likely be a tax increase in the future to help pay for fire & EMS in the county.
- Commissioner Weaver noted that internal issues in county government are being worked on and Director Robinson has the support of the Commissioners.

Chairman Baker asked if any council representatives had comments. The following members had comments:

- Michael Karolenko expressed dissatisfaction with the CCDFEMS hiring delays and the county's Human Resources Department. He noted the Director's years of experience in hiring and Human Resources.
- David Coe expressed concern that the current HR Director's upcoming retirement may cause further delays in hiring.

Committee Reports:

FROPS- Eddie Ruch reported that FROPS is reviewing turnout gear specs, staffing and working on the chain of command policy.

EMSOPS -David Coe reported that EMSOPS is working on a narcotics policy draft.

Old Business:

1. Staffing

- The group reviewed Plan D-1 which has been tentatively approved by the Commissioners as part of the FY23 proposed budget. Members expressed disappointment with Plan D-1 but are glad to be moving forward. There is

major concern for who will be left to staff the stations who are not getting county employees in year 1. Ten stations in the county will not be staffed until the end of FY25. Three stations in FY24 and the remaining seven in FY25. ESAC continues to feel that the staffing plan needs to be executed in 2 years.

- The county's labor attorney has determined that employees can still volunteer for now. Once all stations are staffed with county employees, that may not be the case. Eddie Ruch, Dan Plunkert and others expressed concern and the need for a clear answer. This decision will have huge impacts for the delivery of emergency services to the county.
- Chairman Baker presented a new plan that spans 3 years and has the county hiring every 6 months. This plan has all 13 stations staffed in 2 years.

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2. Statistics

- Eddie Ruch reported no change in issues with statistics and reiterated the need to come under one silo instead of 14 different silos. Late and failed response are still not accurate.
- Chairman Baker suggested that the ESAC receive a monthly statistical report.

3. Strategic Plan

- Callie Williams showed the draft of the strategic plan with graphic design and layout mostly completed.
- Once the plan has been reviewed a final time, it will be ready for printing through the county's Production Services Department. Printing should take no more than one week.

New Business:

-Director Robinson and three others are invited to attend an International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) course titled "Building a Collaborative Team" in Nashville, TN August 20-21.

-Chairman Baker brought up a concern, that it has been since June 2021 that the fire department has met with the commissioners. Baker requests that a meeting be scheduled so we maintain continuity and prepare for the next board of commissioners. Baker suggested the commissioners meet with ESAC bi-annually.

Linas Saurusaitis made a motion to adjourn. Mr. John Murphy seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:30.