Emergency Services Advisory Council
November 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Present</u>: Rick Baker, Michael Robinson, Michael Karolenko, (virtual), Linas Saurusaitis, Robert Buckley, Dan Plunkert, Blane Wright, David Coe, Susan Mott, Dr. John Murphy, Michael Guerin, Dr. Stephanie Kemp

<u>Members Absent</u>: Brett Six, Andrew Wooden

<u>Public Present</u>: Marianne Warehime- CCVESA Secretary, Louis Stiffler- 2nd Battalion Representative IAFF Local 5184

Chairman Baker opened the meeting at 19:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Murphy made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Linas Saurusaitis seconded. The motion was passed.

<u>Board Member Comments</u>: None at this time.

<u>Public Comments:</u> None at this time.

<u>Director/Chief's Report</u>: Report attached.
-Chief Robinson thanked those that assisted Baltimore City Fire Department during their two line-of-duty death funerals. For each funeral Carroll County sent three units to cover BCFD stations. Units deployed included engines from Lineboro, Pleasant Valley, New Windsor, Union Bridge and trucks from Westminster and Hampstead.
-Data Analyst, Katie Spurrier, has been hired and will start December 7th.
-Applications are currently open for Paramedic and Firefighter/Paramedic.

-Chief Robinson reported on a proposed change to the ESAC bylaws regarding career representation. The change would remove the terms "union representative" and "non-union representative", instead stating "two career personnel".
-Chairman Baker commented that this how the bylaws were originally drafted.
-Mike Karolenko opposed the change, stating that a union representative on the ESAC is necessary to effectively address concerns.

-Chief Robinson shared information on a leadership retreat that he is planning for after the first of the year involving the 14 volunteer fire chiefs and DFEMS command staff.
-Chief Robinson noted that radio/MDT requests will now go through DFEMS and not the Department of Public Safety.
-Chief Robinson as well as Dr. Kemp commented on the professionalism and excellent patient care displayed during the motor vehicle collision with multiple fatalities that occurred on November 4th.
-Chief Robinson shared the status on background checks for volunteers. He will meet with CCVESA as well as Risk Management to determine criteria for being excluded as a volunteer,
-Chief Robinson met with Budget and the Grants Office regarding the SAFER grant. It was determined that DFEMS is not ready to apply at this time.

Commissioner's Report: Nothing to report.

Medical Director's Report:
-Dr. Kemp shared the status of the ALS recertification. Two out of the nine classes have been held and skills sessions start next month.
-The first cadaver lab was held November 14th and was well received. They reviewed rarely performed, high acuity skills. The Shift Commanders were trained on surgical cricothyrotomy (cric) and will now carry cric kits as well as Ketamine.
-There were no updates from Carroll Hospital Center as the last meeting was cancelled.

CCVESA President's Report:
-Susan Mott reported that CCVESA is actively working on the FY25 budget.
- Susan Mott has been attending Chamber of Commerce events to spread the word on the mission of the volunteer fire service. The public needs to be educated about why volunteers are still needed even though DFEMS now exists.

Committee Reports:

FROPS: Andrew Wooden not present.

EMSOPS:
-David Coe had nothing to report. The EMSOPS meeting was cancelled due to a scheduling conflict.

Old Business:

- Wrap up of Joint ESAC/BOCC Meeting October 26th
  - ESAC received assurance that the 84 positions to staff the last seven stations are in the FY25 planned budget. There is concern that DFEMS will not receive enough applications. Human Resources is sending notifications and direction to those that previously applied for positions incorrectly or not whose applications were not complete.
  - Mike Karolenko commented that he is looking to see follow through on items that were discussed. The 84 positions are the minimum of what is needed to reach staffing requirements previously agreed to.
  - Commissioner Guerin reiterated the Fire/EMS is a major priority for the Commissioners.
  - Dan Plunkert commented on the difficulty of operating on a 3% budget increase given the rate of inflation. Also, he feels some other agencies are not asked to give something up if they make additional budget requests.

- MOU
  - Dr. Murphy attended a meeting at Hampstead Vol. Fire Dept. regarding the MOU. They covered a number of concerns.
  - Dan Plunkert commented that language in the MOU is not being followed and it is important that it be addressed.
  - Susan Mott stated that CCVESA has two separate groups working on addressing issues with the MOU. They are creating a plan to present to Chief Robinson. They also met with Ted Zaleski who gave them direction.
  - Chief Robinson brought up the need for fire companies to do a total audit of capital items and present a detailed and concrete plan for any capital project requests. Dan Plunkert and Susan Mott both stated that this is in process.
  - Dan Plunkert commented that none of the items requested last year were big ticket items. The language should not have been included in the MOU if the county did not want to fund these types of projects. Westminster Fire Dept. was trying to be proactive by asking for replacements items before equipment failed.

- Fire 101 Status

- o Mike Karolenko provided an update on the status of Fire 101. He is planning to have some people act as handlers and others as demonstrators. Handlers will be assigned to escort an official who is participating. Invitations will be going out and he would appreciate people helping to get the word out.

- Hiring of Data Analyst
    - o The Data Analyst has been hired and Chief Robinson and others are working to get her set up with the proper resources.

Chairman Baker made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Murphy seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 21:05.