



**Department of Emergency Services
Advisory Council
Minutes
May 10, 2018**

Present: Non-Voting Members
DES Director, Scott Haas
Assistant Chief, Scott Wheatley
Assistant Chief, Jim Alfree
Assistant Chief, Jeff Morgan
Commissioner Steve Wilson

Staff Support:
Office Coordinator, Rebecca Rombro

Voting Members:
Nick Venuto (Consumer), Faye Williams (Consumer), Kathleen Deoudes (Consumer), John Cvach (Consumer), Dr. Joseph Ciotola (QAC Dept. of Health), Bill Faust (Fire and EMS Commission), Richard Svoboda (Vol. Ambulance Committee), Chuck Melson (Consumer)

Excused Absence:
Buddy Thomas (Volunteer Firefighter)

Represented: None

- Executive Director Scott Haas called meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- Note that we do have a quorum.

Executive Director Haas addressed the group, introducing new council member from the Volunteer Ambulance Committee; Scott Svoboda from Station 9.

Introductions – roundtable

Commissioner Wilson addressed the Council;
Mike Ranelli is to be appointed to the council. Mr. Ranelli has proven to be dedicated to causes which he supports and he will be a benefit to the council.

Executive Director Haas addressed the Council;
The Commissioners recently met regarding budget requests. We have been approved the four new EMT positions for part of the year, to begin in January. The additional employees will help the department to staff the Church Hill station which will be increasing to 24-hour services. The new EMTs can begin January 1, 2019 which will allow for more time to make final decisions regarding station upgrades. Updates to the building still need to take place or a new building will

need to be used. Factoring zoning issues, other facilities are being looked at as alternatives. In the meantime, we are pleased we received approval for additional staffing for half of the year. Thank you to the Commissioners. Billy Faust; and next year there is another spot in Grasonville to fill. Thank you, from the fire side to Commissioner Wilson for everything you have helped to do.

Opioid Update

Executive Director Haas advised; the county's opiate awareness campaign, Queen Anne's Goes Purple, is in the works. Emergency Services has been asked to participate in this educational campaign.

Doctor Ciotola; we hope to raise awareness of the issue and of the services available, with an emphasis on prevention.

Executive Director Haas; we have shifted grant funds to the Sheriff's Office who will be overseeing the remaining funds.

Doctor Ciotola advised; with next year's funding request we are emphasizing peer support. A trial program is being considered which includes the use of acupuncture within the opioid prevention program. This program has been successful in reducing recidivism and withdrawal symptoms.

Assistant Chief Wheatley; currently the numbers reflect 45 overdoses and four suspected deaths. There has been a 12 – 15 percent increase.

Commissioner Wilson; we have attempted to raise awareness

Executive Director Haas; we have, we have taken an aggressive approach

Doctor Ciotola; the county also performs emergency petitions for medical evaluation

Commissioner Wilson; how many are repeats?

Billy Faust; probably about half are repeats, not many are first time users

Faye Williams; intervention is needed, providing information does not seem to be enough. Narcan is used as a crutch.

Kathy Deoudes; is the purple campaign going into the schools? It might not be too late to reach children.

Executive Director Haas advised; there will be speakers at the schools, information, and shirts for students. We are not certain on all the details at this point

Kathy Deoudes; is the narcan training detailed? Some say QAC's training is excessive but other places say it is easy to train on usage.

Executive Director Haas; the state website explains ways in which to obtain narcan, according to some, training is not needed.

Doctor Ciotola; the Health Officer said training is not needed

Executive Director Haas advised; online training options through the Health Department provide a certificate. We are not instructing the general public.

Doctor Ciotola; a prescription is not needed.

Executive Director Haas; pharmacies are charging \$160.00 per dose.

Doctor Ciotola addressed the Council;

An amended Senate Bill 682 is to be signed and pushed through after a six-month study between MIEMSS and committee to look at reimbursement possibilities. Senators Hershey and Middleton have backed this. Bill 1056 is to take effect July 1, 2018, establishing a Rural Health collaborative pilot with the Department of Health. A meeting was held last week to decide members for the executive committee; a director will then be chosen. Queen Anne's is also to receive the Star of Life award for the MICH program.

Executive Director Haas; Doctor Ciotola worked very hard on these bills and programs

Assistant Chief Wheatley addressed the Council;

EMS currently has five full-time recruits and we will be hiring two additional employees to help with staffing issues to reduce overtime. Our staff trains extensively, even to include the current training which uses pig tracheas. The JEMS team also recently competed at a nationwide conference and earned first place for Maryland teams and close to the top overall.

New protocol updates have been released and are being reviewed.

Call volume is significantly higher.

Assistant Chief Alfree addressed the Council;

A number of Dispatchers are currently taking an active shooter response class; they are learning how to process these types of calls.

The 9-1-1 Center is partially through a software update; we are waiting for additional equipment.

Text-to-9-1-1 is scheduled to be pushed out in July. Queen Anne's is the first jurisdiction on the shore and the second in the state to come on board with Text-to-9-1-1.

Regarding the budget, we will be seeking a consultant for the 9-1-1 Center upgrades; HVAC and electrical work are the next steps.

The Governor signed a bill to steer the state's Next Generation 9-1-1 changes; staffing issues, fees structure. The Commission and Numbers Board request the selection of similar applications to ensure compatibility. Most counties have agreed to use AT&T for the service. Montgomery County is the lead county in the area.

With the new courthouse staffing, we need to ensure that Communications has adequate staff to answer calls.

Executive Director Haas; Chief Alfree is also the MACo co-chair for Next Generation 9-1-1 and the Region 4 representative. He is the most involved person in our region steering us to Next Gen 9-1-1.

Executive Director Haas addressed the Council;

An update on Emergency Management; Dave stepped down from his position as chief and an EMS Captain is in the Acting-Chief position. Current ongoing projects are the 2018 Hazard Mitigation plan update. Smith Planning, LLC. is evaluating and rewriting the county plan. The hazards most likely to occur in the area are identified then a plan is written to address our specific needs. Tornados have now been added to the list which also includes hurricanes, flooding, etc. We will have more information after additional meetings. The debris management plan update is also

being worked on. If FEMA approves the plan then the county can be reimbursed an extra 5% if a future event occurs and federal assistance is requested.

The department has hired a new EM Planner; Geneva, who is continuing with training. Basic courses have been completed to gain certification. We have also hired to fill a grant funded EM Associate position; Joe, who was the MC at the DES banquet. The Associate has been revamping the CERT program; adding members, teaching residents how to help themselves in emergencies. Symphony Village has had much involvement; we will utilize their assistance with the 10K this year. There is a large 10K meeting today, for the November 4th event.

The division is also planning for the 4th of July event.

Animal Control has also hired to fill the part-time position; Candace, who will be graduating next week as an Animal Control Officer.

A meeting with the school board is also in the works to review plans. The fire service previously did not have schools' plans for response to mass casualties. Now the plans are under review.

Old Business

John Cvach: motion to accept minutes from past council meeting

Kathy Deoudes – seconded motion

All voted in favor of accepting the minutes as written

Commissioner Wilson; there has been a growing concern to staff the middle schools with deputies but we are not certain if it is best to save lives through EMS where we know it is needed every day, but I would like to hear opinions.

Scott Svoboda; Queen Anne's is ahead of the curve with the medical kits in schools, more than other counties.

Billy Faust; the doors at the school are kept secure now. To enter you have to go through the office. Currently, the county cannot afford an armed deputy at each school, maybe next year they can begin with the middle schools.

Doctor Ciotola; what is the response time to the schools?

Billy Faust; for most of the schools, police are close by so they are able to respond quickly, Church Hill is left short.

Commissioner Wilson; we are upgrading Station 500 to 24-hour shifts, Station 200 also needs upgrades; we can be almost certain that positive events will result because of these increases. We want to choose the upgrades which will do the most good. We look at statistics to help determine what is likely to happen and what is occurring.

Billy Faust; would an armed guard work for security for the schools or are deputies required?

Doctor Ciotola; looking at the events which occur in the schools, how many shooters have mental health issues, and how many bullies have we heard about? No one is informed of the issues and no one is looking into the issues. There is also a lack of resources. The bullying on busses for example, or the drug issue, they are supposed to be dealing with in school they never communicate with the health department about issues with children.

Faye Williams; communication is an issue, the county has to pick up costs if a child is in outside placement; costs more than other schools. Some parents beg for help for the problem, I've seen it. Schools do not want to pay but government says schools have to.

Commissioner Wilson; the schools asked for a nine percent increase for their operation

Billy Faust; this group can push back; require communication with the Health Department when there is an issue.

Faye Williams; the doors to the schools lock behind after entry, there are two secure doors. They already have something in place.

Good of the Order

Kathy Deoudes; this will be my last meeting as a council member. I have the utmost respect for what DES does. Should anything be needed in the future please reach out.

Executive Director Haas; I will be calling you – we thank you for your time and dedication to the council.

Executive Director Haas; on a closing note, there has been a push from state for the program: Know Your Zone. This project identifies evacuation zones that were evaluated through a state study. This will be added to the QAC website. We are going to push out more information when the state does their PR push.

Meeting adjournment at 7:07pm