



Department of Emergency Services

Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

9/11/2025

Executive Director Haas has called this in-person and virtual meeting to order at 6:00 PM on September 11, 2025. We have a quorum.

Present:

- **Non-Voting Members:**
 - Director Scott Haas
 - Medical Director Dr. Joseph Ciotola
 - Assistant Chief Lori Morris
 - Assistant Chief Jeff Morgan
 - Assistant Chief Phil English
 - Steve Wilson
- **Voting Members:**
 - Gabriel Ripley
 - Steve Souder
 - Raymond Aaron
 - Steve Pringle
 - Taylor Oldershaw
- **Support Staff:**
 - Fiscal Administrator Kelly Nelson
 - Office Coordinator II Amanda Darling

Approval of Minutes:

- June 12, 2025
 - Minutes are approved
 - Motion: Steve Pringle
 - Second: Gabriel Ripley

Director Haas opened the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of the 24th anniversary of 9/11 and the tragic events of September 10, 2025.

Medical Directors Update:

- Currently undecided over vaccine concerns
 - The 25-26 COVID vaccine will not be made mandatory for staff
 - The Health Department has the Hepatitis-B and RSV vaccines

- The County's agreement with the independent health care company is causing confusion on distribution
 - CDC guidance on the use of Cipro
 - Is not recommended for bacterial meningitis
- M-Pox (Monkey Pox) is not at epidemic levels in the State yet.
- Anticipating a high risk for measles and tuberculosis outbreaks this year

Emergency Medical Services Update:

- Staffing:
 - 67 Full time staff members
 - 1 ALS vacancy
 - 5 applicants for the position
 - 16 members on each shift
 - 3 staff members are precepting for independent operation
 - 4 members are in mentoring in the BLS/ALS promotion process
 - 6 EMTs are enrolled in Paramedic class
- 2025 Year to Date Statistics
 - January 1, 2025, to September 8, 2025
 - 4,240 Calls
 - 2,690 Transports
 - 90 Depletions
 - Projected 2025 totals
 - 6,189 Calls
 - 3,927 Transports
 - 131 Depletions
 - 2024 Totals
 - 5,193 Calls
 - 3,894 Transports
 - 59 Depletions
 - Q: What time of day are the depletions happening
 - The middle of the day is when the spike in call volume begins
 - 7:00 pm to 11:00pm
 - Station 1 and Station 4 paid units are not staffed during this timeframe
- Increase in major incidents
 - Several multi alarm fires
 - Multiple fatal accidents
 - Large scale search operation
 - Technical rescue for a vehicle into a building
- 2025 Transport Hospital top 5 destinations
 - Anne Arundel- 830
 - Queen Anne Emergency Room- 765
 - Easton Memorial- 533
 - Chester River- 405

- Kent General (DE)- 109
- Project updates:
 - Transport units
 - 2 New FESCO units at final inspection
 - Expect them to be delivered this month
 - Anticipated to be placed in- service by October
 - Will be the first new units for the department since 2021
 - 1 Unit is still on order from 2023
 - Waiting to enter production
 - 2 Additional units were ordered August 27, 2025, from FESCO
 - Anticipate completion in 18-24 months
 - Ventilator Upgrades
 - Purchase was approved in FY26 capital budget
 - Purchase was completed September 3, 2025
 - Updates will allow for enhanced management of respiratory patients and possible use during cardiac arrest
 - Replacement Supervisor unit
 - Approved in FY26 capital budget
 - Reviewing bids from vendors
 - Q: Will the new transport units cycle out the reserve units?
 - The reserve units from 2008 will be replaced

Communications Update:

- Staffing:
 - 24 Full time staff members
 - 1 contractual
- Training:
 - 2 Trainees
 - 1 expected to clear January 2026
 - Other one is expected to clear by July 2026
- Year to Date Call Statistics:
 - 43,508 total calls.
 - 19,454 Emergency calls.
 - 24,054 non-emergency calls.
 - The PSAP is averaging 4,000 calls a month.
 - During summer there was an increase.
 - Highest volumes are on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00pm to 6:00pm
- Projects:
 - CommsCoach AI Training Software
 - Currently under review at the Maryland 9-1-1 Board
 - Allows for the ability to use real calls for training scenarios
 - Maryland State Police PSAP Upgrade
 - Presenting project to Maryland 9-1-1 Board for funding
 - Annual Maintenance Agreement Project

- Logging recorder upgrade
- VESTA Phone system upgrade
- AI call taking software and translation services
 - Exploring AI based products to enhance training and call taking in the PSAP

Fire Marshal Office Update:

- Staffing:
 - 2 Full time staff members
 - 4 Part time
- Statistics:
 - January 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025
 - 1206 total activities
 - 162 Bucket tests
 - 211 Inspections
 - 188 Hydros
 - 396 Plan Reviews
- Projects in Progress:
 - Hole in the Wall Gang camp
 - Multiple buildings
 - Four Seasons
 - 12 Condos
 - Single family homes
 - Perry's Retreat
 - Almost completed
 - Grasonville Volunteer Fire Company new station
 - Needs 2 corrections to be approved/ completed
 - Q: Will the sewer allocation moratorium effect these projects?
 - These projects were all approved before this took effect
- Recently Completed Projects:
 - PRS Guitars storage space
 - Millennium Sushi
 - Up In Arms
 - Gun store in Centreville
 - Jersey Mikes
 - Ocean State Job Lot
 - Queen Anne's County Liquor License Establishments
 - Annual inspections
 - Queens Anne's County Pool/ AED/ Phone Inspections
 - Completed in conjunction with the Health Department

Special Operations Update:

- Hazard Mitigation Projects:
 - Cloverfields Drainage Project
 - This project is in close out due to the cost benefit analysis increase.

- Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - Has been approved by the Commissioners
 - Need town approvals
 - Will be presented at the Council of Government meeting in October
- THIRA:
 - Has been approved
- The sub-application for the Millington Property acquisition has been submitted to FEMA
- Exploring grant funding for the Kent Narrows area flooding
 - This would be a grant partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Maryland Mesonet:
 - The Sudlersville proposed site is back as an option
 - There is another proposed site in Centreville
- Planning & Exercises:
 - Quarterly Public Information Officer collaboration meetings
 - PIOs from Sheriff's Office, Board of Education, Health Department, County government and DES all attend
 - Nuisance Flood plan
 - Seeking grant funding through Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 - Continuity of Operations plan
 - Beginning the planning process
 - Delmarva Evacuation plan
 - Nearing completion
 - Debris Management plan
 - Out for review
- Sheltering Exercise
 - Hosted a two-day full scale sheltering exercise
 - 22 agencies from 6 counties participated
 - Over 200 staff members
 - 64 volunteer patrons
 - 5 live animals
 - Exercises on this scale usually cost \$100,000
 - This exercise was completed in house and was able to save the county money
- Public Education
 - Amount of outreach events has increased
 - Stop the Bleed training for County departments will start in September
 - Attended 2,176 events so far in 2025
 - Centreville Middle School Spring and Fall events
 - National Night Out
 - Open Houses
 - Sheriff's Office
 - Fire Departments
 - Sky Warn

- School CERT Programs will continue at Stevensville Middle School and Queen Anne's County High School
- Events:
 - The division has reviewed 65 event parents
 - Preparations are underway for the 2025 Bay Bridge Run
 - Scheduled for November 9, 2025
 - There were 17,210 participants in 2024
 - This included virtual runners
 - Registration is up 22% this year so far
 - 12,727 currently

Director's Report:

- Budget recap
 - A replacement ADMIN vehicle was approved
 - Need to gather prices to present to Commissioners
- Staffing:
 - CAD Administrator position is coming
 - Will oversee the CAD operations and interfaces
 - We have not been presented the information on this new position
 - There was talk during the budget process about adding a 7th transport unit at the mid-year mark
 - There have been zero official talks about this
- Next meeting:
 - December 12, 2025
 - Will hopefully have the FY27 budget packet

Old Business:

- Nothing presented

New Business:

- The Charter School proposal was denied at the Board of Education meeting
- Sheriff Gary Hofmann has been named the president of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn: Gabriel Ripley
- Second: Steve Pringle
- Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm