

**N.C. Association of Rescue & Emergency Medical Services, Inc.**

**Director Meeting - Minutes**

**May 02, 2020**

**WebEx / Teleconference**

**Call to Order**

Welcome - Hervy Kornegay Jr

Invocation - Bill Henderson

Adoption of order of business

Recognition of guests - Mike Williams-OSFM, Tom Mitchell-OEMS, Brian Barnes-NCEM, Fred Bone-Bone & Associates

Roll call of Directors; Joel Faircloth. 20 Area Directors, 1 Past Commander, Vice Commander, Commander, Executive Director, and Executive Director Emeritus, were present.

Minutes of Directors Meeting November 22, 2019: Motion to approve, Bill Henderson, second by Robert Poe, motion approved.

**Old Business**

**Agency Reports**

**OSFM:** Mike Williams

Working on replacement for Derrick Clouston. Will have announcement by mid-May.

Driver Operator, Haz Mat, Instructor and Firefighter Requals are available online through June 30, 2020. New format for all four programs will be available July 1, 2020.

Live Fire Requals will be available after July 1, 2020. The new format for the Live Fire Program will be available October 1, 2020.

Pro Board performed our reaccreditation site visit in February. NC was reaccredited for Haz Mat Tech, Fire Officer III, FIT and instructor III.

Working on implementing an upgrade to Fire Bridge. Should roll out the upgrade in the fall. NFA Weekend has been approved for 11/20 – 22, 2020. Smoke Alarm Saturday extended through the end of year instead of doing it on the 1st Saturday in June (June 6th) due to COVID-19. Will have a virtual kick-off on June 6th through social media outlets.

FEMA AFG-S (Supplemental) grant open for PPE for departments to build program after COVID- 19.

**OEMS:** Tom Mitchell

Thanks for the opportunity to provide an Agency report, on behalf of the Office of EMS.

I must say that this report is one of the most difficult updates that I have had to provide as Chief of the Office of EMS. As much as we have tried to keep business as normal which would typically be covered in this report, we have had to put the bulk of our day-to-day activities on hold, in order to allow staff to focus on our State Emergency Response Team duties. Therefore, I will try to provide you an update based on the activities of the office.

•The week of March 9th, we began staffing the State Emergency Operations Center for COVID-19. On March 16th, we began staffing a Support Cell to take some of the load off staff in the State EOC. Since that time, we have been staffing the State EOC and the Support Cell 7 days a week. Since April 3rd, staff have been responsible for vetting and grouping of all PPE requests for EMS, Long Term Care, Hospital, Clinics, and all other Healthcare providers. This has been a tremendous undertaking, in addition to the other SERT duties during a crisis. Chuck and I can't thank OEMS staff enough for their time, dedication, flexibility and tireless work during this crisis.

Some of the main items related to COVID-19 that I will share;

PPE is still in short supply, but NCEM is beginning to receive some of the PPE that was ordered, which is a help.

PPE from the Strategic National Stockpile has been depleted.

EMS remains as a priority to obtain PPE in Group 1, in addition to EMS providing critical care or critical services (i.e. transport of COVID+ patients to dialysis, etc.)

All other EMS fall into Group 2. This guidance is available on prioritization on the DHHS website.

<https://www.nc.gov/covid19>

The Department has required us to use stakeholder groups to communicate information. We identified the NC Association of EMS Administrators, and the NC Association of Rescue and EMS as our stakeholder groups. They will have the discretion after reviewing information, to disseminate it to their members. I have been sending information to Joel and Phil Ricks to determine what information to share. Thanks for their help in doing that.

OEMS has initiated a number of waivers to allow EMS agencies / personnel flexibility to handle this crisis:

-NCGS 131E-158 waived required personnel on an ambulance from two credentialed to one. Must request this waiver through System Administrator to OEMS.

-Six-month extension of EMS credentials expiring March – June (automatic).

-Six-month extension of EMS Instructor credentials expiring March – June (automatic).

-Ed Institutions may request six-month extension on their program approval, if it expires between March – June (must request).

-Students allowed 50% of remaining field/clinical time to be high fidelity simulation.

-Student may count time/skills as a 2nd person on unit. (Cannot be primary caregiver).

-Pending E.O. – waive quarterly requirement for peer review for EMS Systems, Specialty Care agencies.

-Pending E.O. – waive timeframe to test after completion of course

-Pending E.O. – extension to permitting requirements for ambulances

-OEMS is currently conducting some ambulance permitting inspections utilizing a virtual inspection. To date, we have conducted approx. 64 virtual inspections virtually. This will help ensure that you don't have any billing issues and alleviate the backlog of inspections after the crisis. Thanks to the agencies for allowing us to conduct these type inspections.

-OEMS could issue a temporary EMS credential for people meeting certain criteria. This must come to OEMS through the EMS System Administrator.

-Please let us know if you have staffing shortages due to COVID-19, and we will be glad to try to assist you with maintaining adequate personnel.

-OEMS is also actively involved in the planning for medical surge, LTC outbreaks, and volunteer management.

•Rules – We are still working to initiate rulemaking to make changes to NC Administrative Code (13P). These changes will be addressing EMS education, system and trauma. These proposed changes are not addressing the degree requirement for advanced EMS credentials. We are currently working on the fiscal note, with plans to seek approval from the EMS Advisory Council in June and go to Medical Care Commission in August to enter the rulemaking process. There will be several opportunities to provide input, once the proposed version is put into the process.

•Continue to work with Division of Public Health on issues related to the Opioid epidemic.

•We are working on preparations for 2020 EMS Expo, to be held in Greensboro on October 2nd – 7th. Notification was made this week to presenter's that were accepted for this year, and those presentations that were declined. So far, we have an excellent lineup of speakers and will be focusing some sessions to COVID-19. We will also be looking at changes needed at Expo to ensure the health and safety of attendees in our "new" normal.

•The upcoming EMS Advisory Council Meeting scheduled for May 12th has been moved to June 9th, due to COVID-19. The meeting location has been moved from the Brown Building to the Wright Building on the Dix Campus. We will be evaluating this date in mid-May to determine whether it is safe to have the meeting June 9th, and what restrictions will be implemented to ensure everyone's safety.

- The preliminary rounds of the Paramedic Competition are still scheduled to be held July 10th at select Community Colleges around the state. We will be evaluating this date in mid-May to determine whether it is safe to hold at that time.

- CAAS GVS 2.0 became effective on July 1, 2019. NFPA 1917 & CAAS GVS 2.0 now both address remount ambulances. NC does not have a standard for remount ambulances until the rule is changed. However, keep in mind that each state must adopt rules/statutes to address, if those rules for going to be applicable for that state. For example, in NC, the language in Administrative Code now says that remount ambulances are exempt from this standard. At a minimum, that statement would have to be removed. Currently, there are no Ambulance Standards for remounted ambulances.

- Regarding the current Ambulance standard, please make sure that if you buy a new ambulance that you have the proper paperwork to verify that the truck was built to a standard (either CAAS GVS sticker or NFPA-1917 paperwork). We have encountered some trucks that have no sticker verifying this, and we could not inspect the truck until this issue was resolved. Also, please know that new trucks must be compliant to the standard without exemptions upon inspection. That doesn't mean it can't have exceptions when it leaves the dealer (i.e. stretcher). If you have questions, please call your respective regional office.

- EMS Personnel are still able to report Provider Violence through their profile in Continuum. We are getting a fair number of submissions through the system now.

- Upcoming EMS Administrators Conference - August 4th – 7th at Renaissance Hotel in Asheville. EMS agencies are encouraged to participate in EMS Administrator's Association. These Conferences are important, as changes are forthcoming in reimbursement as we eventually move through Medicaid Transformation.

- We have participated in several discussions recently involving telemedicine, and how it can be utilized by EMS. If you recall the Medicare Innovation Center released the agencies that will receive the ET-3 monies, which has been delayed now due to the virus. There were 6 agencies in NC that were recipients:

  - Cumberland County: Cape Fear Valley Mobile Integrated Health Care

  - Forsyth County: Forsyth County Emergency Services

  - Forsyth County: LifeStar Emergency Services

  - Forsyth/Rowan County: Nucare Carolina Ambulance

  - Mecklenburg County: MEDIC

  - Wake County: Wake County EMS

EMS can perform telemedicine currently, but there is currently no funding mechanism for EMS to be reimbursed for doing telemedicine. However, currently the physician that does the consultative visit via telemedicine can be reimbursed for their services.

- Data System is being sent out for RFP in the coming months. The RFP is currently undergoing legal review. ESO is currently the vendor.

That concludes my report.

**NCEM:** Brian Barnes

State EOC at Level 3 for COVID 19 and is modified as they are working from home mostly. PPE supplies have been slow to arrive but they have been ordered and are coming in.

Search and Rescue Tack meeting July 16, probably via Webex

Daily operations: There are professional engineers that are available for deployment if needed locally.

**Treasurer's Office:** No Report - Joel Faircloth

They are working through Covid-19 and call center availability. It is recommended to make contact via email.

## **Boards & Commission Representative Reports**

**Fire & Rescue Commission:** Robert Poe.  
Fire and Rescue Commission 1-14-2020

Reappointments to the Certification Board  
Wesley Hutchins  
Jim Hanline  
Terry Foxx

Certification Board NFPA 1041 Live Fire Instructors Cert Board is developing a course  
Motion made and approved for Cert Board to change NFPA 1041 Chapter 7 & 8

Commission bylaws were updated and approved

Voted to move the Commission meetings to different locations across the state  
April meeting will be in Kernersville  
July meeting will be in Cumberland Co  
October meeting will be in Asheville

VSWCF 10 million dollars over last year  
21 million dollars in reserve for claims  
13 million dollars ahead of last year in retained earnings  
No rate changes

Agency Reports  
OSFM  
117 Fire Deaths in 2019  
Requalification classes are scheduled and online

**Fire & Rescue Commission Certification Brd:** Terry Foxx

Did not meet.

**EMS Advisory Council:** Robert Poe  
EMS Advisory 2-11-2020

Graham Previer was re-elected to Chairperson Dr Kim Askew was re-elected Vice Chairperson

Dr Askew was reappointed to chair the Injury Prevention Committee. Robert Poe was reappointed Compliance and Education Committee chair

OEMS Ethics class is almost done. First class will be held April 2 and 3 in Raleigh

The Compliance Workgroup met in January. Goals that were set are:  
Implement a notification system that informs EMS systems of actions that have been taken  
Review Chief 101  
Develop guidelines on how Compliance and Education Specialist investigate complaints against educational institutions.

Anyone that falsifies information on their applicant statement is automatically referred to the Disciplinary Committee. There were 6 automatic referrals on the agenda for the January 28 Disciplinary Committee meeting

NC EMS Expo will be held on October 2-7 2020

OEMS education Staff will be attending the NC Community College EMS Summit. The purpose of the meeting is to work toward creating a successful working relationship between teaching institutions and EMS agencies

OEMS Education Staff will be conducting an instructor workshop and EMS Coordinators Workshop at the EMS Administrators Conference in March

OEMS Education Staff has developed an Ethics Course. The first class is scheduled for early April

A new virus that requires gloves, mask, gown and goggles was discussed. This virus is in China and some countries overseas

**VSWCF Board:** Joel Faircloth  
Meetings were held in December 16, 2019 & March 16, 2020

The level of funding within the fund continues to improve as State funding and premiums have increased, but also due to loss ratios improving as well. Keep working to reduce risk and claims.

- COVID 19 was discussed and how it would relate to the fund. It could be considered compensable, however documentation is going to be important. Please make sure all calls and patient interactions are properly documented. Information was sent to department Chiefs regarding that information.

**Fire & Rescue Pension Advisory Brd:** Debbie Poe / Gary Whitman  
No Report

**Stroke Advisory Council:** Dr. Hervy Kornergay Jr.  
Met at Vidant on January 2020. The topic was on EMS response to stroke in the state. OEMS was there to help let the council know what EMS does with stroke response and care.

**911 Board:** Greg Foster  
911 Board Updates ESINet Telephone System

- As of today, 36 PSAPS (911 Centers) are live on State ESINet
- 63 active Projects
- 28 approved for Migration at this time.

i3 (North Carolina Next Generation 911 GIS Status Update) as of today

- 10 Counties are Data i3 ready
- 28 Counties Data Processed with ALI (Automatic Location Information).
- 14 Data Processed without without ALI (Automatic Location Information).
- 10 Data Uploaded, Not Processed.
- 39 GIS Data Hub User Created.
- 28 PSAP's not Currently Onboarded.

911 Board Members and Staffing

- I think the 911 board is currently only one short of being fully staffed again.

911 Board Grants

- The grant cycle is just starting for the upcoming budget year.

NC 911 Financial Report as of March 27, 2020 Board Meeting

- NG 911 Financial Reporting
  - March 2020 Month End Balance \$ 65,653,980
  - March 2020 Disbursement \$ 3,492,057
- CMRS Financial Reporting
  - March 2020 Month End Balance \$ 7,756,999
  - March 2020 Disbursement \$ 0
- PSAP Financial Reporting
  - March 2020 Month End Balance \$ 12,674,257
  - March 2020 Disbursement \$ 4,209,707
- Grant Statewide/PSAP Financial Reporting
  - March 2020 Month End Balance \$ 9,116,317
  - Grant Fund Encumbered \$ 21,585,967

Also, just as a side note, I have been appointed to the NC 911 Grants Committee by 911 Board Chair, Eric Boyette so I now sit on this Grants Committee as well as the NC 911 Standards Committee.

**Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee:** Terry Foxx

The Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee has not meet since our annual meeting and a meeting possibly in July.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

Committee Chair Appointments - Motion to approve Bob Twomey, second Terry Foxx, approved.

**Advisory:** Bob Twomey  
Nothing to report.

**BLS Competition:** William Mauney/Allen Johnson:  
Nothing to report.

**Constitution :** Glen Cowan  
Proposed constitution change to 1.5.1.2 Subsection B and 1.5.6.2 Subsection B of the Constitution. Motion to approve recommendation by the committee with the amendment to remove the words “the committee and” in the presented copy and present to the delegates at the annual meeting by Bob Twomey, second Dale Whitlock. Motion Approved. (Attached presented and final version)

**Credentials:** Joel Faircloth  
Even year Director Appointments. Ballots were emailed to directors and are filed at the office. Area 1 - 13, 15 re-elected the current directors There was not an applicant for Area 5 or 14 even year. Area 6 odd year director was open when Josh Shumate was elected Vice Commander and William Mauney was appointed to fulfill the remainder of that term.

**Finance:** Joel Faircloth/Terry Foxx  
Motion to accept financial statements for Association, Brotherhood, and Memorial Fund by from the committee. Approved

Motion to accept the proposed budget from the committee, Approved.

Motion to move investment accounts with Jimmy Hare who is now with Janney Montgomery Scott, Approved.

Brotherhood payout will need to be reduced to \$4500 as membership level is at 5500. This fund will continued to be marketed to our members.

**Personnel:** Jeff Hinshaw/Joel Faircloth  
Nothing to Report

**Rescue Competition:** Mac Smith  
Planning on same competition as last year.

**Standards & Training:** Terry Foxx  
No Report. Membership information in the packet.

**Relief Fund Board of Trustees:** Hervy Kornegay Jr/Joel Faircloth  
Scholarships awards should be announced by May 15.

Please remind applicants keep their contact information up to date with the office.

**Convention Committee:** Robert Poe  
September 10-12, 2020 at Beaufort NC.

## **New Business**

**Legislative Update:** Fred Bone  
As the COVID-19 virus continues to plague our great State, I am proud to represent the North Carolina Association of Rescue & EMS as they are in the front-line trenches of this virus war. I have had numerous

conversations with legislators outlining the vital role each of our rescue and EMS units play in their communities. Discussions have been held on what the needs of the Rescue and EMS community are and how legislative leadership can help to achieve some of those goals. From discussions concerning protective gear and ensuring that each unit has the necessary PPE, to inquiries about how the North Carolina Association of Rescue & EMS can play a part in the pandemic, Members of the North Carolina House and Senate have endeavored to be sure that our front-line forces are well-equipped to deal with the issues regarding COVID-19. I greatly appreciate the respect that the North Carolina General Assembly has shown to the Association.

It is a very different time in North Carolina as the State struggles to deal with the affects of the COVID-19 virus. Remote committee meetings and legislative sessions will most likely be the new norm in the short-term for the North Carolina General Assembly. The House COVID-19 working groups have been meeting virtually for the last month via WebEx. Adopting to the technology and the challenges faced by working remotely has added an increased difficulty to an already challenging situation.

On April 28 the North Carolina General Assembly returned to Raleigh to begin their 2020 legislative short session. The goal of this week's session was to put together the first of the COVID-19 outbreak relief packages. The initial COVID-19 disaster relief bill was passed out of the House and Senate chambers and will move on to the Governor possibly this weekend. The spending package will be between \$1.2 and \$1.7 billion. It is the intention of both chambers to have ongoing meetings and conversations regarding the needs of the citizens of North Carolina concerning the virus. That is why this bill will be the first of multiple COVID-19 spending packages. Fortunately, North Carolina has about \$3 billion in reserve at this time.

Most of the legislation related to the COVID-19 virus will end on a date certain. Items such as the extension of time to get your car inspected or to pay your taxes will all end on August 1, 2020 according to the proposed legislation. Future COVID-19 related bills will also have time limits on policy changes. Substantive policy issues could be taken up when the legislature returns for their regular short session later this summer, most likely in July.

A few of the issues that will be in the forefront will be how do we conduct elections in the new post-COVID-19 world and how do we open businesses safely. With some congressional primaries still outstanding, there is a major push to have mail-in ballots. This will be hotly contested as the verification process is not considered reliable by some. What will elections look like in November? At this point, it is anybody's guess. Also, look for bills that address how to get money to small businesses and how to better fund rural hospitals as we move forward in the COVID-19 situation.

I have reached out to Members of both bodies to inquire if there is any possibility of finding funds for volunteer rescue and EMS units that are losing their much needed revenue sources since most of those existing sources have been restricted. I will continue to push for volunteer departments to have access to some of these COVID-19 funds that are being spread around in various areas. If there are other areas that we need to make the legislature aware of, please let me know.

It is my deep honor and pleasure to represent the North Carolina Association of Rescue EMS. Thank you for all that you do to keep the citizens of North Carolina safe.

Fred Bone  
Bone and Associates, LLC  
fred@boneandassociates.com  
919-218-5596

## **Directors Meetings 2020**

September 10-12, 2020

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Joel Faircloth

Executive Director  
(Not Official until approved by the Board of Directors)

## **1.5 ARTICLE V: Officers, Governing Bodies, Committees, and Employees**

### **1.5.1.2 Subsection B: Commander and Vice-Commander**

The Commander shall be a member of the Association in good standing **for a minimum of five years, a North Carolina resident, have physically attended three-fourths (3/4) of the directors meetings in the previous two (2) years, have a valid North Carolina Operators License, and pass a background check or have a certification from the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Service (who does background checks).** S/he shall not hold any other elective Association or Area office while serving as Commander. The Vice-Commander shall be a member of the Association in good standing **for a minimum of five years, a North Carolina resident, have physically attended three-fourths (3/4) of the directors meetings in the previous two (2) years, have a valid North Carolina Operators License, and pass a background check or have a certification from the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Service (who does background checks).** S/he shall not hold any other elective Association or Area office while serving as Vice-Commander, except as noted in the By-Laws for Interim Vice-Commander.



### **1.5.6.2 Subsection B: Standing Committee Chairpersons**

The Commander and Vice-Commander shall, with the majority approval of the Board of Directors, appoint committee chairpersons, provided that appointed committee chairpersons shall be members of this Association, **and have attended at least two-thirds (2/3) of committee and directors meetings in the previous two years.** All standing committee chairpersons are Appointed Association Officers and are subject to the conditions of the Appointed Association Officers.