

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

Director Meeting - Minutes

January 18, 2025

WebEx / Williamston Fire Dept., Williamston NC

Call to Order

Welcome - Josh Shumate

Invocation - Joel Faircloth

Adoption of order of business: Motion to adopt, Joe Mancos, second Chris Mauney, motion approved.

Recognition of guests -Tom Mitchell - OEMS, Allen Johnson -OEMS, Davie Summey, NCOSFM, Fred Bone-Bone & Associates

Roll call of Directors; Joel Faircloth. 22 Area Directors, Vice Commander, Commander, Executive Director were present.

Minutes of Directors Meeting September 06-07, 2024: Motion to approve, Chris Mauney, second by Christopher Cline, motion approved.

Old Business

Agency Reports

OSFM: Davie Summey

Explained what happened to the funding of the Volunteer Rescue/EMS grant fund and the \$2 million in Special Grants available to rescue and EMS agencies only. OSFM will continue to work with NCGA this session to hopefully restore that funding. Below is an excerpt from a letter dated 12-11-2024 from State Fire Marshal Brian Taylor:

We are writing to provide you with important information regarding the 2024 award of grants from the Volunteer Rescue/EMS Fund (the "Fund"). Pursuant to Section 30.6 of S.L. 2023-134, as amended by Section 11.92 of S.L. 2023-151, the General Assembly directed the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to establish and administer a special grant program to provide grants in the 2023- 2025 fiscal biennium to eligible standalone volunteer rescue units for the purpose of purchasing equipment and making capital improvements (the "Special Grants"). The General Assembly dedicated the sum of \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium for these Special Grants. Due to the late approval of the budget in 2023 and delays caused by technical challenges in establishing grant criteria and the proper accounts within the Fund, OSFM did not disburse any funds in connection with the Special Grants in 2023. Accordingly, pursuant to these laws, OSFM must now award the full \$2,000,000 to eligible standalone volunteer rescue units as part of the Special Grants.

Unfortunately, this distribution will leave a remaining balance of approximately \$438,000 available in the Fund for distribution to eligible rescue, rescue/EMS, and EMS units in accordance with G.S. § 58-87-5 (the "Regular Grants"). Despite this low balance of available funds for the Regular Grants, G.S. § 58-87-5 nonetheless mandates that OSFM award the Regular Grants by December 16, 2024.

We understand that the sum of \$438,000 is insufficient to serve the needs of the many eligible rescue, rescue/EMS, and EMS units in the State. However, OSFM must comply with the law and will award the Special Grants and Regular Grants in accordance therewith. Fortunately, based on projected receipts, we anticipate making a normal award of Regular Grants next year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding the Special Grants or Regular Grants.

OEMS: Tom Mitchell

I want to take a moment and thank EMS agencies across the state for their response to Hurricane Helene in western NC. As you know, the need for assistance by western counties was huge, and NC EMS agencies stepped up in a big way to provide them assistance. NC EMS agencies provided 49 EMS resources from 32 EMS Systems across the state. When you know that many agencies are struggling to provide manpower to staff ambulance day-to-day, that is huge that agencies were able to send 49 resources from 32 EMS Systems. Many agencies sent multiple rotations of staffing to keep the resource available for western NC. On behalf of the state, thank you for your willingness to respond when needed.

Although we utilized the Federal Ambulance Contract, and brought in outside resources, the NC ambulances were critical to ensuring that it was a successful response. We did bring in 300 federal ambulances and 12 paratransit vehicles. During the response, agencies responded to close to 4,000 calls for assistance. That doesn't include the standbys at shelters, following chain saw crews checking on residents, etc.

We will be included in a Periodic Review of EMS Rules this year. This is a standard process to allow agencies to ensure that rules stay up-to-date. We go to Medical Care Commission on February 7th to start this process, and then our rules will be advertised for public comment. We are not changing any rules during this process, so when you receive notification that the public comment period has opened, we are not trying to implement a change. They will stay open for 90 days and then we will have a few other steps to finish the process.

Just wanted to remind EMS agencies that with the last changes made to NC Administrative Code, .0224 – Gound ambulance Vehicle Manufacturing Standards Proposal to require remounted vehicles to meet the CAAS or NFPA-1917 standards. Remounted trucks will be exempt from the standard if they are remounted prior to July 1, 2025.

Quick reminder of the Viper TDMA project that is underway by the NCSHP VIPER System. Effective July 1, 2025 all radios on the VIPER System must be ready to receive TDMA programming. Radios that aren't capable of accepting TDMA will become obsolete on the VIPER network.

During the year, we are going to be asking EMS that have VIPER radios installed in their ambulances to ensure that it has the entire VMN template installed in the radio. This is important for responses to events like Hurricane Helene. The VMN template is the common talkgroups that are available for medical responses across the state. Having this template will eliminate your units having to utilize our cache or a borrowed radio in order to be able to communicate with others during the response. We can provide you the template, and whomever does your radio programming can put it in the radio when it is accessible when requested to deploy. You can't buy a VIPER radio now that is less than a 1000 channels, so taking up some of the channels with this template should not be an issue. We will be communicating with each EMS System to discuss and offer assistance to improve our response to these types of events.

We have posted some frequently requested interactive data sheets for EMS Agencies on our website under the "Data" tab. These are statewide data statistics that agencies can use in presentations to boards and commissions. This data is updated often, so the data in these graphs are current. If additional assistance with data is needed, feel free to reach out to your regional office.

We are currently conducting interviews for a vacant position within the office. The position is a Trauma Program Specialist, which is a new position that was identified during the creation of the Trauma System Plan. This position will be similar to the Regional Specialist positions that we currently have in each region, but will be focused on the trauma patient. This position will be working with the trauma centers, non-trauma center hospitals and EMS agencies on ways to ensure that we can improve trauma care in NC. This position will be working with non-trauma center hospitals to ensure that they have good processes in place to transfer a trauma patient inter-facility and the trauma patient doesn't experience a delay in getting to the trauma center. They will also be working with trauma centers to ensure that feedback is provided to EMS agencies on care provided to the trauma patient. The goal is to have one of these specialist in each of the three regions down the road, but we are going to start with one. We received 19 applications for this position, and are currently conducting interviews.

Reminder of the upcoming EMS Administrators Conference on March 4th – 7th at the Hotel Ballast in Wilmington.

Reminder of EMS Expo '25 coming up May 2nd – 7th at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. We have just opened registration and have a great lineup of speakers. We are also reviewing options to move EMS Expo '26 from Greensboro, and will be making an announcement in the coming months. EM Today/ Expo has been held in Greensboro for 30 years, so stay tuned.

Dr. Roberto Portelo, out of ECU Health in Greenville has taken on the protocol revisions for NC College of Emergency Physicians. He will be announcing a method to accept changes to be considered for upcoming revisions soon. We will be pushing that out as soon as it is finalized.

That concludes my report from OEMS. Thanks for your continued partnership, and thanks again for allowing us to be here.

NCEM: JR Griffin, Emergency Services Branch Manager
Operations Section Updates
Helene Response Stats

Upcoming ES Positions

Budget Review
Upcoming Trainings
Boat Maintenance & Repair Training • Feb 10-12
• Mar 3-5 NCHART Training

• Feb 5-6
Upcoming Meetings
Hazmat Sub-Committee • April 23 @ 1300
USAR TAG
• April 24 @ 0830
NCRRT TAC
• April 24 @ 1030

SRC
April 24 @ 1300
SERC

April 25 @ 0900

Treasurer's Office: Joel Faircloth

Fire and Rescue Pension Fund benefit increased to \$175 and monthly contribution increased to \$15 as of January 2025.

Boards & Commission Representative Reports

Fire & Rescue Commission: Robert Poe.

No meetings since last directors meeting

Fire & Rescue Commission Certification Brd: Terry Foxx

The Certification Board met on September 12, 2024, and December 03, 2024, at Kernersville Fire Department. The agenda and minutes were approved for the September 12 meeting. Chief Brian Taylor gave the OSFM report.

September 12, 2024, meeting:

Elections were held and Terry was reelected to the Chairman's position and Derick Clouston was reelected to the Vice Chairman's position. Standing committee reports were heard. The chairman appointed validation committees for Firefighter, Driver Operator, Marine Shipboard, Airport Firefighter and Fire & Life Safety Educator

The TR Committee was still working diligently to complete the rewrites and have the programs ready for January 01, 2025. Requalification's began in July and to our knowledge have gone well.

The online testing ad hoc committee gave a report on their continued work and are currently in the fact-finding mode. No decisions have been made as to this and anything on the street to that point is simply rumors. There were multiple delivery agency requests for additions to their current offerings, but no new Delivery Agencies are being considered at this time. A closed session was held discuss several violations for several classes and disciplinary action was taken according to policy.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on December 03, 2024, at Kernersville Fire Department.

December 3, 2024, meeting

Chief Brian Taylor gave the OSFM report. Greg Palmer updated the board on the progress of the TR Program rewrites and stated it is on track to meet the deadline of the 1-year extension granted by ISFAC and will be implemented on January 1, 2025, except for Machinery & Agriculture and Wilderness. These 2 subjects will be delayed due to the storm as several meetings had to be cancelled due to most of the rewrite committee being deployed. Both subjects are being worked on now and will be ready for the IFSAC accreditation visit in November, 2025, which will put them online on January 1, 2026.

In old business, the proctor rewrite was done to clarify a couple of items. These will be gone over during proctor qualifications/requalification. In other business, a couple additional subjects were added to Sharpsburg Fire Prevention Association, who is already a delivery agency. The online testing committee is still working to gather all information available on different means of the possibility of online testing for all.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on March 13, 2025, at Kernersville Fire Department.

EMS Advisory Council: Robert Poe
NC EMS Advisory Council 11-12-24

Injury Committee Report

WakeMed for Redesignation Had 2 deficiencies. Recommend Redesignation till 7/1/2025 with a 2 year extension with deficiencies corrected.

CMC Atrium Corrected previous noted deficiencies. Designation given to 12/31/2026

Compliance and Education Committee Report

My linda Swyndells reporting 8/1/24 to 10/31/24 1530 Credentials issued Disciplinary committee is busy. During this timeframe 29% of the cases reviewed were from violent criminal offences. Patient care was 8%. Mrs. Swyndells is scheduling a presentation for the EMS Administrators along with an NC SBI agent on computer based sex crimes. Mrs. Swyndells and Dr. Portella is presenting perspectives from the Disciplinary Committee at the National Association of EMS Physicians in January in San Diego.

Todd Messer reported There is a High-Cost Healthcare Start-Up and Expansion Grant. This is for rural and economically distressed areas. 26 colleges received a combined \$10.3 million

We were given a presentation on Hurricane Helene

Medical Director update. RSI continues to be monitored. Updated protocols are scheduled to be released 11/15/24. There are expected to be larger updates next year.

Chief Mitchell gave an update on the Office. Jeff Powell is retiring from the Western Office.

VSWCF Board: Joel Faircloth
Information given in Fire & Rescue Commission Report

Fire & Rescue Pension Advisory Brd: Debbie Poe / Gary Whitman
No Report. Next Meeting June 2025

Stroke Advisory Council: Dr. Hervy Kornegay Jr. / Tom Mitchell
No Report.

911 Board: Greg Foster
911 Board Attached

Technical Urban Search & Rescue Advisory Committee: Terry Foxx
No meeting since last directors meeting

Standing Committee Reports

Advisory: Bob Twomey
No Report

BLS Competition: William Maoney
Competition well received last year. Planning for this year.

Constitution : Billy Sparks Jr.
No Report

Credentials: Jerry Bradshaw
Odd year Director Appointments upcoming this year. Applications will be sent out to be returned to the Credentials Committee.

Vice Commander and Commander election year to be held at the convention annual meeting September.

Finance: Debbie Poe
Motion by Committee accept financial statements for 12-31-2024 Association, Brotherhood, Memorial Fund, Relief Fund, motion passed.

Personnel: Jeff Hinshaw/Joel Faircloth
No Report

Rescue Competition: Mac Smith
Preparing for competitions to be held at the convention in September

Standards & Training: William Maoney
Standards have been posted on line with current changes that have been previously approved 01-01-2025.

Count of members on a single roster	26017
Count of members on more than a single roster	4835
Total distinct members on rosters	30852
Total roster entries	37379
Average number of rosters/individual	1.212
Number of not-closed squads with rosters on file	685
Average number of individuals/squad roster	53.40
Median number of individuals/squad roster	39
Percentage of roster entries that are Paid ¹	59.30
Percentage of Departments that are Paid	25.11
Count of BH departments (Bnnnn)	153
Count of BH roster members	4465
Count of BH Individual members	661
Count of Association departments (Xnnnn)	527
Count of Other departments (not Xnnnn or Bnnnn)	5

2025-01-14	Closed	WYSE FORK EMS	DOVER
2025-01-15	Closed	STANLEY C. D. RESCUE	STANLEY

2024-09-04	HEALING SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT	New	DENTON
2024-09-20	BACK SWAMP FIRE DEPARTMENT	New	RICHLANDS
2024-10-03	WATKINS COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	New	HENDERSON

Relief Fund Board of Trustees: Josh Shumate/Joel Faircloth
Scholarships are applications are on line and must be submitted by March 31, 2025.

Discussed benefits paid out from 10/2024 - 12/2024 on Relief Fund Financial Statement and what was available.

Convention Committee: Josh Shumate
Continuing to work on classes and events for Convention 2025. Please forward any recommendations for classes. Looking at having a swift water rescue competition.

Legislative Update: Fred Bone
The North General Assembly is back to work in Raleigh. Last Tuesday evening was full of pre-session events as the last opportunity for fundraising occurred before the legislature began its work on Wednesday. House and Senate Republicans both held lively opening night events on Tuesday night. Democrats held their events on Wednesday morning. On Wednesday, January 29, at high noon, both chambers began their official duties. The focus of the week was additional relief for victims of Hurricane Helene. Committees started Wednesday afternoon with the House Select Committee on Helene Recovery, followed by the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on Hurricane Response and Recovery meeting on Thursday morning. The Gov Ops meeting proved to be a spirited debate on how to proceed with helping Western North Carolina and her residences get back on their feet and back to a normal life. Now that the committees of both chambers have been assigned and a meeting schedule has been circulated, the difficult work of the North Carolina 2025 Legislative Long Session will begin. House Speaker Destin Hall has released a tight schedule for House legislative sessions and committees through May 2025. Within that time frame, there are two weeks designated where no legislative action will be taken so that Members are able to plan their time away from Raleigh. Having the calendars planned through May does not mean they intend to finish in May. Great effort has gone into the planning of this legislative session, but as any General will tell you, no battle plan ever survives first contact. As with most years, there is talk of wrapping up session sooner rather than later but I expect that the good intentions of a quick legislative session will quickly metamorphize into something entirely different. No matter what happens, I look forward to being here in Raleigh to keep you updated on the political happenings.

New Business

Directors Meetings 2025
May 04, 2025 - EMS Expo Greensboro
Convention

Adjourn
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Joel Faircloth

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