

MINUTES

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Brown Building
Dorothea Dix Campus
801 Biggs Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina

February 9, 2021
11:00 A.M.

Members Present

Dr. Kim Askew	Mr. Todd Baker
Mr. John Grindstaff	Mr. Matt Peeler
Dr. R. Darrell Nelson	Mr. Andrew Baird
Dr. Jeff Williams	Mr. Edward Wilson
Dr. Douglas Swanson	Ms. Viola Harris
Mr. Jim Albright	Dr. Pascal Udekwo
Dr. L. Lee Isley	Mr. David Garrison
Mr. Robert Poe	Dr. Roberto Portela
Mr. Chuck Elledge	Dr. James Wyatt
Dr. Kimberly McDonald	Ms. Sarah Rivenbark
Mr. Kevin Staley	

Members Absent

Dr. Bill Atkinson
Mr. Jim Gusler

Staff Members Present

Mr. Tom Mitchell	Mr. Wally Ainsworth
Ms. Susan Rogers	Mr. Todd Messer
Dr. James "Tripp" Winslow	Ms. McKenzie Beamer
Ms. Melynda Swindells	Mr. Dale Sutphin
Mr. Chuck Lewis	Mr. Allen Johnson
Ms. Kimberly Clement	Mr. Rob Amerson
Ms. Paige Stevens	Mr. Anthony Davis
Mr. David Ezzell	Ms. Toshiba Oates
Mr. James Caldwell	Ms. Tonja Pool
Mr. Billy Langston	

Others Present

Chris Allen
Brad Baker
Candace Barker
Joel Bartholomew
Keegan Bradley
Greg Chapman
Eric Claffin
Steve Coffey
Kevin Collopy
P. Cummings
John Deal
Terri DeWees
Chris Dobek
Todd Doster
David Dudding
Bryan Edwards
Joel Faircloth
Rob Fitzgerald
Paula Fox
Heather Franklin
Don Garner
Andrew Godfrey
Robert Godwin
Jake Hardison

E. Hartman
Eric Hester
J. Holmes
John T. Janousek, MD
Stephen Jones
Kassie Kehrer
James Larsen
Kendra Lowman
Susan M. Macklin
Laura Newkirk
Brant reid
S. Powell
Paul Seaman
Mick Stewart
B. Stiehl, MD
J. Taggart
Anna Wall
Robert West Barefoot
Lee Westbrook
Andy Wilcox
Scott Wilson
Joyce Winstead
Stacey Wright

(1) Purpose of the Meeting: Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and for the health and safety of all involved, the North Carolina EMS Advisory Council met virtually to hear reports/updates from the Injury Committee, Compliance and Education, HealthCare Preparedness Program, MDH Asset update, Medical Director update and agency activity report. The Council also held annual elections for Chair and Co-Chair.

(2) Actions of the Council:

Dr. Kim Askew, Co-Chairman of the Council, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

a) Motion was made by Mr. Albright, seconded by Mr. Baird, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: The EMS Advisory Council minutes from the November 11, 2020 meeting be approved.

b) Motion was made by Mr. Poe, and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Dr. Kim Askew be elected as Chairman of the North Carolina EMS Advisory Council

Explanation: Dr. Askew, since the demise of Mr. Graham Pervier, has acted as Chairman of the NC EMS Advisory Council. Dr. Askew opened the floor for nominations for the office of Chairman. Mr. Poe made a motion to nominate Dr. Askew, and with no other names submitted, it was unanimously agreed that Dr. Askew would Chair the Council. Dr. Askew thanked the Council for their confidence in him.

c) Motion was made by Mr. Todd Baker and unanimously approved that:

RESOLVED: Dr. Darrell Nelson be elected as Vice Chairman of the North Carolina EMS Advisory Council

Explanation: Dr. Askew opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Chairman of the EMS Advisory Council. No other names were submitted. Dr. Nelson thanked the council for the opportunity to serve.

(3) Other Actions of the Council:

(a) Dr. Askew welcomed guests to the Council meeting and announced to the guests and Council the following appointments and re-appointments:

- Sarah Rivenbark, a new appointee, fulfilling the late Graham Pervier's unexpired term representing the public. Ms. Rivenbark is from Burgaw and is a Paramedic. She has worked as a Field Training Officer and Community Paramedic with New Hanover Regional EMS. Presently, she is the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Coordinator for New Hanover Regional EMS
- Dr. James Wyatt, is reappointed and has been an active member of the Council since 2013 representing the North Carolina Chapter of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. Dr. Wyatt is the Chief Medical Officer at Moses Cone Hospital
- Kevin Staley has been reappointed as a public member and has been an active member of the Council since 2006. Mr. Staley is a certified Emergency Manager and holds a North Carolina paramedic credential
- Mr. Robert Poe has been reappointed to the Council representing the North Carolina Association of Rescue and EMS. Mr. Poe is the Chairman of the Compliance and Education subcommittee and has been an active member of the Council since 2002

Dr. Askew appointed, without objection, Dr. James Wyatt as Chairman of the Injury Committee, and he reappointed, without objection, Mr. Robert Poe as Chairman of the Compliance and Education Committee

The following members have left the Council:

- Ms. Carolyn Creech served on the Council for over 20 years and was appointed by the Advisory Council Chairman to the Compliance and Education subcommittee; she was a public member representing the EMS

Educators. Carolyn was previously an EMS instructor at Beaufort Community College

- Mr. Donnie Loftis served on the EMS Advisory Council from 2013 until 2020 as a public member and was appointed by the Advisory Council Chairman to the Compliance and Education subcommittee. Donnie was an advocate for OEMS and EMS Professionals in North Carolina. He was previously a Gaston County Commissioner and served on the CaroMont Health Board of Directors for eight years

Both Donnie and Carolyn will be missed on the Council and the Office of EMS and the Advisory Council will be reaching out to provide them with a token of our appreciation

(b) Mr. Tom Mitchell reported the following Injury Committee update:

- Currently no site visits planned. In March of 2020, ACS postponed all site visits for a twelve-month period due to COVID-19. They have notified us they will begin scheduling virtual site visits only at this time; however, they do not plan to permanently discontinue in person site visits
- Amy Douglas left OEMS on December 31, 2020 and relocated to Boone in Watauga County. She returned to bedside nursing at Watauga Medical Center. We would like to thank her for what she has done for OEMS and the Trauma Program in North Carolina
- McKenzie will temporarily fill the position of Trauma Program Manager. The office has advertised the position and just started receiving applications. Interviews will be scheduled within the next few weeks

(c) Ms. Melynda Swindells gave the following Compliance update:

- From December 2020 through January 2021 there were 1142 credentials issued
- Work continues with system administrators on expedited reviews as warranted
- Due to delays in USPS and SBI, legal recognitions have taken 30 days to complete and individuals sitting for the state test takes 5 days to complete. Candidates with no background are released on the same day they take their exam
- Military equivalency credentials, which became effective 12/1/2020, in December we received 18 applications and seven credentials have been released; 4 paramedic, 1 AEMT, 2 EMT. Turn around time is approximately 6 days. In January we received 34 applications, 13 credentials released; 5 Paramedic, 1 AEMT, 7 EMT. Turn around time 4 days
- Legal Rec process continues to be complex and cumbersome. We are modeling a pilot project based on the Military Credential application through ReadyOp. We hope to improve ease of use and decrease turnaround times. We've already gotten a commitment from JD Thomas of Charlotte Fire, James Bullard of Hoke Co EMS, Tom Francisco of Dare Co EMS and Andy Pate of Forsyth County to be part of the pilot project for provider credentials (Paramedic, AEMT, EMT and EMR). We've reached out to EMD centers in Guilford, New Hanover and Watauga

Counites to participate in the pilot on behalf of EMD centers (Melissa Harmon of Watauga confirmed). More to come by the May 2021 meeting.

- The next Disciplinary Committee meeting is scheduled for 2/23. Meetings will be held remotely at least through April 2021 due to the pandemic. Participation of individuals required to appear has been much better remotely than in person. The attendance benefits and the cost savings of continuing remote meetings may want to be examined.
- Dr. Mark Quale, Medical Director for Alamance County EMS, has replaced Dr. Inga Kish, Medical Director for Lincoln County EMS on the Disciplinary Committee beginning January 1st, 2021.

(d) Mr. Todd Messer gave the following Education Update:

- Education guidelines have been posted on the OEMS website. The office will be working with the Community College System and EMS Educators to provide a list of acceptable assessments to meet advanced level placements
- We are still allowing Institutions to utilize creative ways to meet the required clinical/field time and required skills. AEMT and Paramedic students may obtain a maximum of 50% of their skills and field time as the second person of an ambulance crew. Modifications must be submitted to and approved by the Office of EMS
- With regards to Education workshops, the requirement has been waived for renewals. Workshops are still required for initial applications; however, if the individual has attended a workshop in the last two years, we ask they submit their application and supporting documentation for consideration
- In person workshops are the preferred method of delivery, however, we will be looking into a method to offer synchronous Instructor Workshops for initial applicants only. Once we are ready to offer, we will send a message via the data system

(e) Ms. Kimberly Clement gave the following HPP update:

- Staff updates: Roger Kiser, HPP Operations manager retired on 2/1/2021. David Ezzell has agreed to fill the role on an interim basis
- The program has not yet received year three of five continuation funding announcement although we have been told it should be ready by mid-February and is expected to be level funded for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2021
- With regards to our engagement in the DHHS COVID response, during the month of January, OEMS Support Cell and Mocksville Warehouse staff processed 1062 requests for personal protective equipment (PPE) from healthcare and non-healthcare facilities across the state. These efforts resulted in the coordinated delivery of 3.0 million pieces of PPE with times from orders received to shipped within 1.3 days for healthcare facilities and 2.1 days for non-healthcare facilities
- The LTC Staffing Team received 43 requests for emergency staffing from long term care facilities in the month of January. Thirteen (26) of these staffing missions were completed by January 31st while 17 remain active.

- (f) Mr. Chuck Lewis gave the following presentation of the MDH (Mobile Disaster Hospital):
- The MDH was developed by DHS/FEMA post 911 and, 2005, was located in Ft Detrick, MD. When the grant expired, FEMA declined to re-invest in the unit; that was in 2007
 - In 2009, with the help of Dr. Lew Stringer, FEMA and the NC OEMS signed a custodial agreement and the unit was placed in Flat Rock, NC. Then in 2013, the MDH was moved to a warehouse in Mocksville, NC where it still is.
 - The state of North Carolina obtained full ownership in 2015
 - Presently, the ED has soft sided shelters; however, we are moving toward a more hard-sided structure that will suit the needs for what we want to use it and be better able to receive reimbursement for services provided within the facility
 - There are two 5 bed Eds. Recently, one of the units was deployed to St Croix, US Virgin Islands. It ended up not be utilized for its full potential, but instead was used as storage. Transition to and from St Croix caused significant damage to the unit. We are in the process of looking for a replacement.
 - Everything you'd expect to see in a hospital ED is in these units
 - We also have inpatient care units. These units can be put together to be used as a full care inpatient unit which can provide a lot of similar services you'd expect from a small facility. Each unit can house two patients
 - The MDH also has a portable x-ray unit, portable lab, pharmacy, central supply and some support units. The units are self-contained.
 - Although we have and maintain this asset, none of this would be possible without the help of our Coalitions and stakeholders



Mobile Disaster Hospital

- Developed by DHS/FEMA post-9/11
- MDH located at Ft. Detrick, MD in 2005
- Grant expires, FEMA declined to invest, 2007
- FEMA/NCOEMS custodial agreement in 2009
- Located in Flat Rock, NC, moved to Mocksville NC in 2013
- State obtained full ownership in 2015

2

2

Mobile Disaster Hospital



3

3

Mobile Medical Unit



4

4

Mobile Medical Unit



5

5

Inpatient Care Space



6

6

Inpatient Care Space Exterior



7

7

Inpatient Care Space Interior



8

8

X-Ray Units



9

9

Additional Resources

- Lab
- Pharmacy
- Central Supply
- 3:1 and 2:1 Units



10

10

Deployment History

2012 Democratic National Convention



11

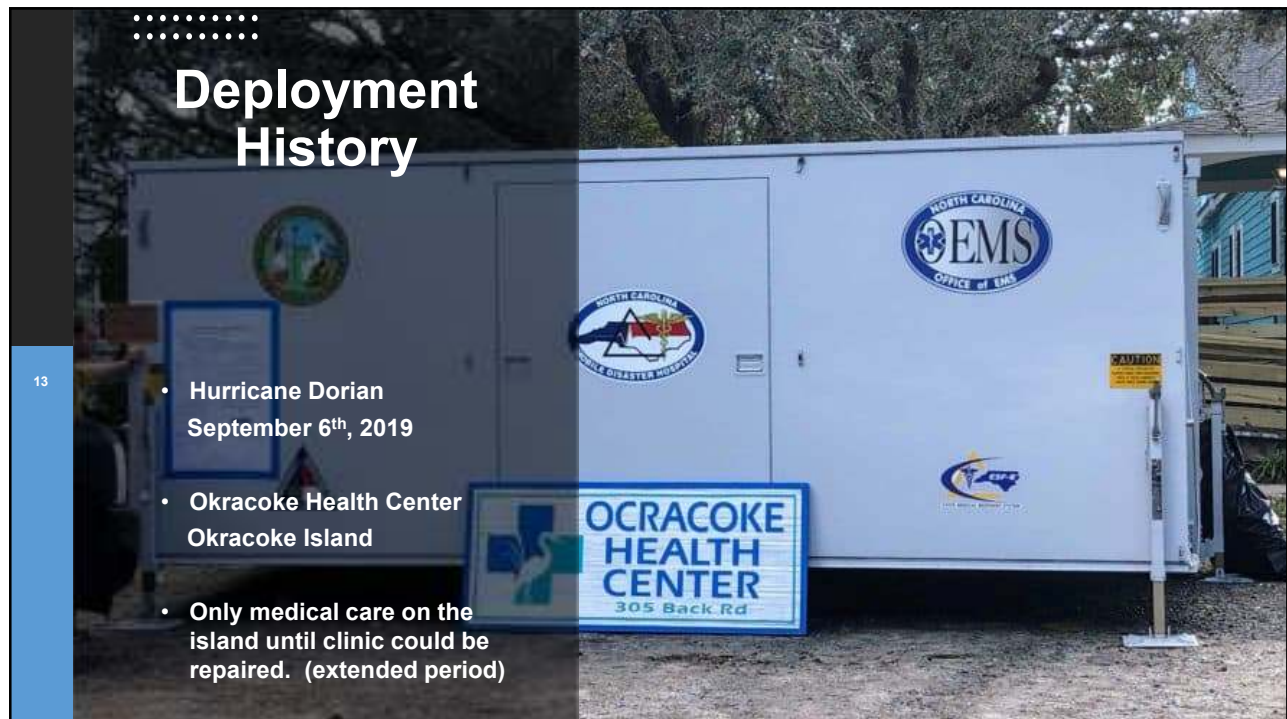
11

Deployment History

- 2014 Louisville Mississippi Tornado
(Equipment on-site for extended period)
- 2015 Franklin Co. Public Health Lab Louisburg, NC
- 2016 Hurricane Matthew Kinston, NC
- 2017 Hurricane Irma Marathon, FL (Sept. 6th)
(Equipment on-site for extended period)
- 2017 Hurricane Maria St. Croix, Virgin Islands (Sept. 20th)
(Equipment on-site for extended period)
- 2019 Hurricane Dorian Okracoke Island, NC (Sept. 6th)
- 2019 Grady Health Water Main Break Atlanta, GA (Dec. 16th)
(Equipment on-site for extended period)

12

12



13

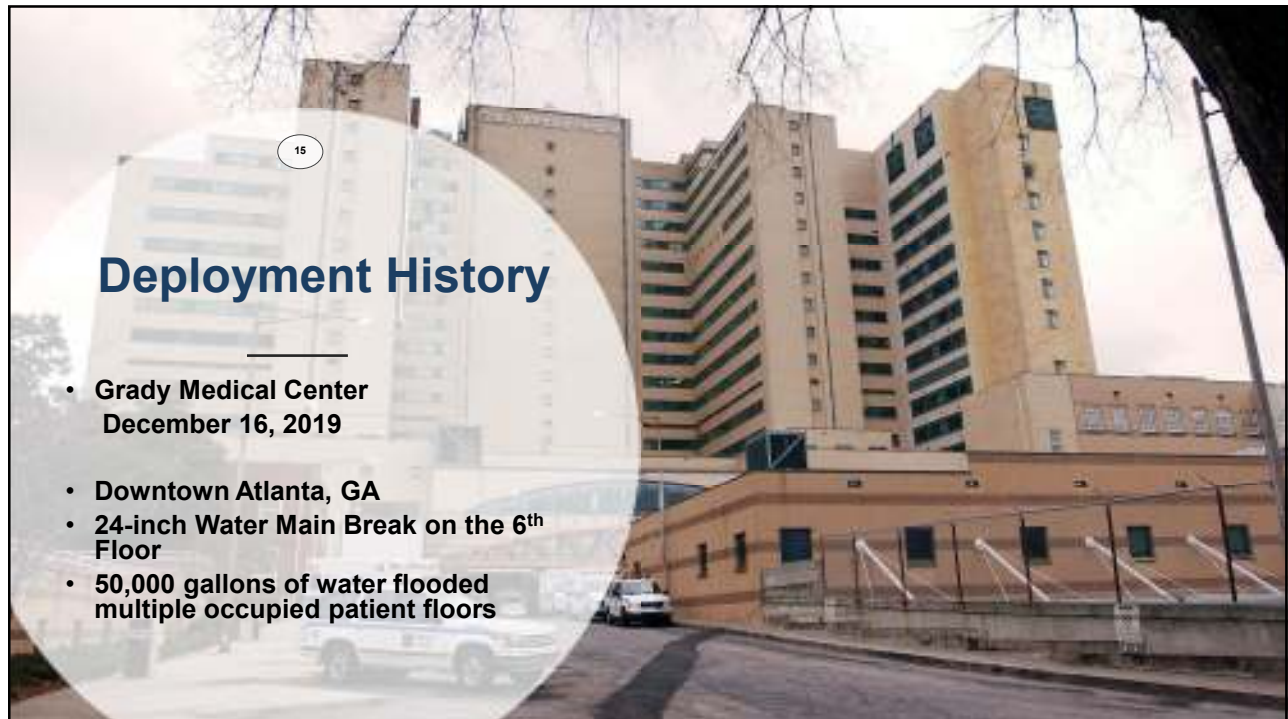
12

Deployment History



14

14



15

Deployment History

- **Mission Details**
 - Grady Health – Atlanta, GA
 - Establish:
 - 30-bed patient treatment area
 - Flexible Space



16

Deployment History Grady Health



17



Future MDH Deployments

18

- (g) Dr. Tripp Winslow gave the following Medical Director update:
- Working with the North Carolina Administrators Association and the State chapter of EMS-P to assist them with some educational vaccine safety and why it's especially important for first responders and EMS personnel to receive the vaccine
 - Stress the importance of EMS working with Public Health in vaccine administering, testing and contact tracing
 - The North Carolina Medical Board has given approval, at least for the duration of the pandemic, for EMT's to administer COVID vaccine
 - Discussed with the North Carolina Medical Board expanded scope of practice for anti-psychotics as a class. Requesting a letter of support from the North Carolina Administrators Association, the NCCEP and the State Chapter of EMS-P to send to the Medical Board
- (h) Mr. Tom Mitchell gave the following agency update:
- Thanked the Council for their flexibility in meeting virtually. Decision for the May meeting will be made at a later date.
 - Thanked the OEMS staff for their continued hard work during the pandemic; focusing on COVID response and those trying to ensure that EMS agencies have the support needed to provide response
 - Thanked EMS Agencies across the state for their response to this crisis. They continue to provide quality care, with all the challenges they face dealing with the pandemic. In addition to their response, they are partnering with their local public health departments to assist in vaccine distribution and administration
 - Staff working physically in the Raleigh, Kinston and Conover offices is still limited
 - EMS Expo '21, slated for May, has been canceled after much discussion with the hotel, staff, vendors and the division. We felt that based on our current situation, and EMS agencies being involved in vaccine administration and response, it was the right decision. We are now planning for EMS Expo '22 which will be held April 29 – May 4, 2022
 - A contract for our Data System is currently in the final stages. We have been working to finalize our Request for Bids with the successful vendor. The contract was extended for 30 days to allow for negotiations
 - Public comment has been extended on our proposed edits to the proposed rules. The Medical Care Commission gave approval to enter into the rulemaking process and the proposed rules were published in the Public Register for comment on December 15. The information was pushed out to various stakeholder groups prior to the holidays; however, by mid-January we had received no comments on the proposed rules so the decision was made to extend the time limit. We had a public hearing yesterday via teleconference with 35 individuals participating and received seven comments for consideration; comments will be accepted until COB on February 15th at which time the comments will be reviewed and decision will be made on changes as needed based on the comments. We are currently scheduled to go back before the MCC at their May meeting

with any changes. If approved by the MCC, we will go to RRC in June which potentially could make the effective date July 1. Comments may be made using the email address listed in the stakeholder letter that was previously sent out. Should you need a copy of that letter, please feel free to contact the office.

Other Business:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Minutes submitted by Susan Rogers