

## **EMS Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes**

**January 13, 2022**

**6:00 P.M.**

**VIA Zoom**

**Present: (Via Zoom)** Charles Mayo, Jo Morgan, Jim McArthur, Dr. Roberto Portela, Mike Fitzpatrick, Michael Brown, PhD, George Bell, Jeff White, Brian Barnett, Jordan Smith, Jesse Harris, Randy Gentry, Carla Hanson

**Opening:** Michael Brown called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Carla Hanson did the roll call of the committee members.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jim McArthur made motion to approve minutes from. No objections to minutes approval Michael Brown made motion to accept as written.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mike Fitzpatrick made motion to approve agenda. Dr. Roberto Portela seconded motion. Accepted as submitted.

**EMS Squads Comments to the EMS-OC:** N/A

### **Items for Report:**

- **Medical Director** – Dr. Roberto Portela – Cardiac Arrest Outcomes for Pitt County EMS 2021. Based on data from 2012 – 2021, reported <10% people in Pitt County were successful in leaving the hospital. Specifically, patients that have out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, resuscitated by EMS, arrive to the hospital and get discharged successfully. Bystander CPR has improved due Telecommunicators instructions during a call. In 2021, a 2% survival rate. A significant spike in August of 2021. 2020 vs. 2021 detail 14.7% to 12.2% overall survival rate. Pitt County's numbers were reflective of the national level. The number of overall survival rates decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Survival from OHCA may have significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Potential contributing factors: fewer arrests occurring in public locations, decreased presenting shockable rhythms, lower rates of bystanders CPR and defibrillation, changes in patterns of care and post-resuscitation interventions, delays in time-sensitive interventions of bystanders and 911 responders. Pitt County did not change approach to cardiac arrests during the COVID pandemic. The current year and moving forward will be a focus to improve stemming care. Michael Brown commented on bystander response and mentioned the PulsePoint app. Dr. Robert Portela elaborated and encouraged to participate. Gratitude was expressed to community partners, volunteer fire departments and the Pitt County Sheriff's office for overall community success in cardiac arrests outcomes.
- **EMS/Rescue Association** – Nothing to Report (George Bell)
- **Greenville Fire & Rescue** – Jesse Harris reported a new chief has been selected, Carson Sanders, with a start date of February 1, 2022.

- **Non-Emergency Transports** - no report
- **PCC EMS Training** – no report (Mekenzie Newkirk not present)
- **Public Health Director** - no report (Dr. John Silvernail not present)
- **EM Director** – Randy Gentry made mention of Winter Weather Preparedness
- **EMS Coordinator Report** - Due to length of presentation, Jim McArthur suggested Brian Barnett present the Financial Report prior to the EMS Coordinator Report.
- **Financial Report:** Brian Barnett's financial report marks the 6 month point of the fiscal year, up \$450,000 from last year's revenue. Due to current property tax values, the EMS billing system has assisted in pulling in revenue. Winterville EMS requested access to contingency funding. Brian is comfortable as to where the county stands financially, to move forward and seek approval from the Board of County Commissioners to award contingency funding. Brian Barnett made the motion to create a tiered plan to ask the opinion of squads. Pitt County attorney Jordan Smith, corrected this motion to identify that a named EMS board member must make official motions. Jim McArthur made the motion to create a tiered plan to seek approval from BOCC. Charles Mayo seconded.

Jo Morgan specifies the need to provide some form of required documentation while squads make financial requests. "What happens two years from now and we do really well but then somebody needs a truck for which they need those assets." The overall focus is an attempt to implement a fair, consistent procedure. Charles Mayo inquired if any Pitt County specific data existed regarding upkeep of vehicles. Brian Barnett responded, saying this information has not specifically been reviewed in detail yet. Randy Gentry mentions that records exist, this data would need to be gathered and analyzed. Jim McArthur acknowledges the need to establishing criteria for a tiered money system. He expressed the difficulty in seeing clear criteria because the financial situation of each squad seems to be different from each other. Winterville is the only squad to pay two employees. Michael Brown agrees with Jo Morgan to develop some form of criteria for future use.

**Motion:** (Recapped by Michael Brown) To seek approval from BOCC to allow the EMS Oversight Committee recommend to fund all squads their tiered allotment. Motion passes to present to BOCC.

**EMS Coordinator Report** - Jim McArthur begins with mention of four ambulances in production. The allocation will be determined closer to their arrival projected for the end of April, beginning of May. A new Tahoe has been received for EMS supervisors. This Tahoe was order 14 months ago. The turn time for purchases needs to be considered - a little over a year. Jim McArthur continued with a program overview presentation of the Community Paramedic Program. Collaboration is what makes this model successful. The success of this program has been recognized statewide and nationwide. This extremely specialized healthcare model aims to increase access to basic services through the use of specialty services. PCEM budget includes: 1 Full-time paramedic and Vidant Foundation grant funding 1 Part-time medic and Healthcall software setup. This program serves as an extension of EMS while highly involved with DSS with a focus to: care access, services gaps and providing unmet needs to those that are marginalized or underserved in the community. Currently 8 patients are enrolled and

actively seeking care with 11 new referrals since January 1, 2022. Average time per patient is 1-2 extended visits per week for resources and 1-4 weeks per person to continue. This time varies from patient to patient. Referrals increased substantially during COVID. Primarily Vidant and homecare facilities changed how providers can go into the home and provide clinical care. Staffing has caused issues but EMS continue to do what they do in the same fashion. Community Paramedics have been leveraged over the long term since the past 3-4 months in order to assist with at-home vaccinations. This program greatly assists Public HEAlt and Vidant officials with the vaccination program; 109, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses administered, 78 boosters and 6 flu vaccines administered. Ongoing data entry and reporting for Heathcall program setup. Vidant has memorialized the Community Paramedic Program as an option for patients that don't meet criteria in the Acute Care Transition Management Model. Goals moving forward: 48 hours from referral to contact, 100% compliance to discharge rate for 2021. Challenges successes: A patient previously visited Vidant 164 visits in <6 months. Once enrolled in CP program this decreased to 6 ER visits at the 90 day mark – 96% decrease of inappropriate usage of ER. There has been a 50% decrease in EMS and hospital usage after enrollment. Future Considerations - Dire need for additional full-time positions. Incorporate into EMS fleet management for vehicle/capital replacement. Trade off from not using ambulances to not having to utilize this service as much. Specialized equipment acquisition. Summary - Collaboration, Partnership, Teamwork. No Pitt County citizen has been turned away from seeking our services. Jo Morgan congratulated the hard work and vision of the group which is being noticed more and more. Dr. Portela commented how the Community Paramedic Program shows what EMS can do. This is what EMS is. EMS intersects public health, hospital, first responders. What we do is, help people.

#### **Questions/Comments from EMS-OC Members:**

Charles Mayo expressed: thanks to PIO, Dawn Jones, for assisting with audio needs.

Michael Brown mentioned, Billing revenue is up. We did better than average. Innovative and collaborative program with the Community Paramedic Program. Lots of good stuff going on in Pitt County/Greenville EMS.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned approximately 7:05pm. Dr. Roberto Portela made motion to adjourn, Charles Mayo seconded. Adjourned by voice vote.

**Note: Next meeting of EMS Oversight Committee is March 10, 2022.**

**Submitted by Carla Hanson 02/22/2022**  
**Corrected by Angela Brown 03/14/2022**