



Garrett County Government Department of Emergency Management

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November 16th, 2023, Emergency Services Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lou Battistella at 1600 hours.

The minutes were approved from the previous meeting with no additions or corrections unanimously.

Reports

MIEMSS

- Wayne Tiemersma reported that MIEMSS has been making an effort across the state to review transfer of care times at the emergency departments in hospitals. Regional coordinators across the state have been in emergency departments reviewing transfer times. Transfer of care is when the patient leaves the ambulance stretcher and is placed on the hospital bed and there are hospital staff present to accept report.
- Some new certification requirements for BLS providers will be rolled out in the near future by MIEMSS.
- A new version of EMEDS Elite will be implemented at midnight on December 1st.

Garrett County Emergency Services

- Director Grant reported that volunteer and career EMS in the county since the last ESB meeting has responded to 1,348 incidents. Mutual aid responses into West Virginia and Pennsylvania are responsible for approximately 8% of the call volume since the last ESB meeting.
- There has been an uptick in interfacility transport (IFT) requests from Garrett Regional. Command staff is working with Garrett Regional to solidify the

policy in place regarding when 911 units and staffing will be available to the hospital to handle an IFT request.

- EMS Response times and other incident demographics will be disseminated to the Emergency Services Board members by email.

Garrett County Emergency Management

- The Hazard Mitigation Plan is currently being updated for Garrett County. The target date for plan completion is December 31st, 2023.
- The grant funds from FEMA awarded to Garrett County have officially been released for the Motorola radio console project for the backup 911 center located at the Garrett County Emergency Operations Center.

Old Business

- Northern Rescue advised that they have received the updated MOU from the county, and they will review it and have it returned well in advance of the December 1st, 2023, start date.

New Business

- Chairman Battistella brought to the boards attention EMS response standards that have been discussed but not officially adopted by the ESB. It was requested that the following proposed EMS response standards be discussed by the ESB and voted on to adopt for all EMS organizations in Garrett County not just Northern Rescue Squad.

The response standards consist of the following criteria:

- *Call fail rate for first due EMS responses will be no more than 10%.*
- *The unit enroute time must be 4 minutes or less.*

Sam Grant made a motion to adopt the response standards and the motion was seconded by Alex Mellott. There was discussion by the ESB regarding the motion, and it was decided and agreed upon that the ESB would review the response data each quarter and that each EMS station would be expected to meet both proposed response criteria. If after one quarter and any of the response criteria is not met the ESB would then send a correspondence to the EMS station advising them that they have not met the criteria and that an improvement plan needs to be presented to the ESB, if the EMS station fails to meet the response criteria for a 2nd straight quarter than the ESB would

than make notification to the Garrett County Board of Commissioners advising them of the situation with a recommended course of action from the ESB for the Commissioners to consider.

The motion was approved unanimously by the Emergency Services Board.

- Representatives from Eastern Garrett Volunteer Fire Department were in attendance to present their concerns regarding recent changes to ambulance responses to the Eastern Garrett area. Members of the ESB had limited knowledge of the changes that had taken place. Charon Clark of Eastern Garrett Volunteer Fire Department advised that they were told that Northern Garrett would be taking over the Eastern Garrett area rather than the ambulance stationed at Frostburg, the members of Eastern Garrett advised of their concern with this change which would result in longer response times and delayed care to the citizens in the Eastern Garrett Area. At this time Garrett County Emergency Management Director Sam Grant was given the floor to advise the ESB on the details surrounding the change in EMS responses to the Eastern Garrett area. Director Grant stated that there was a lot of misinformation being circulated regarding this change. Director Grant also apologized for not doing a better job of communicating with Eastern Garrett about the changes that had taken place. Regarding the history of these changes, Director Grant stated that upon being recently hired he had traveled to Allegany County to meet with Emergency Services personnel and at that meeting it was requested that Garrett County begin taking steps to reduce the number of calls that Allegany County is covering within Garrett County. This request was made due to the increasing call volume within Allegany County and the struggle that Allegany County is facing to meet the needs of the citizens within their county. Allegany County responds to approximately 300 calls into Garrett County annually. Allegany County at no time refused to respond to calls into Garrett County but was requesting that Garrett County take steps to begin reducing the number of times that they do. Garrett County EMS Chief's convened regarding this request, and it was decided to take a measured approach to help Allegany County. It was decided that Northern Garrett Station 1 would be dual alerted with Frostburg on all ALS type calls and anything on I-68. On BLS type calls,

there would be no dual alert with Frostburg and Northern Garrett Station 1 would handle the incident. Response times from Frostburg are 7.2 minutes and response times from Grantsville 11.7 minutes and the number of calls in the Eastern Garrett area are approximately 47 calls a year. An ambulance that is further away is being asked to handle calls but only on BLS type calls in an effort to help Allegany County. Charon Clark asked why the same measures were not being taken anywhere else in the county and Director Grant stated that the issue has only just begun to be addressed and that similar measured steps would be being taken in other areas of the county as well in the future. Garrett County needs to cover Garrett County calls as much as possible.

County Administrator Kevin Null advised that he personally would set up a meeting with Director Jimmy Pyles of Allegany County to further discuss this situation and find out exactly what Allegany County is willing to provide to Garrett County EMS response wise and report back to the ESB and Eastern Garrett Volunteer Fire Department.

No other new business was brought to the attention of the ESB, and the meeting was adjourned at 1715 hours.

Acting Secretary
Justin L. Orendorf

Justin L Orendorf