



Maryland EMS News

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EMS-Related Legislation Wrap-Up

The Maryland General Assembly approved a \$3 per year increase to the vehicle registration fee that supports the EMS Operations Fund (EMSOF). The Governor signed the bill on April 10, the day following the close of the legislative session. The increase—which amounts to less than 1 penny per day—was necessary to avoid cutbacks to the entities that are supported by the EMSOF. It is anticipated that the fee increase will be able to sustain the Fund until at least 2012. "The legislation was successful because of the strong support of Maryland's fire and EMS providers

and other individuals committed to ensuring the future of EMS in Maryland. We are grateful for their efforts," said Dr. Robert Bass, MD, Executive Director.

The General Assembly also approved changes to MIEMSS' commercial ambulance licensing law. The new law will enable MIEMSS to license commercial air ambulance services. Both laws become effective on July 1, 2001.

MIEMSS would like to thank all the individuals and organizations who worked to ensure passage of these bills.

Governor Proclaims EMS Week



(L-r) MIEMSS Executive Director Robert Bass, MD, William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member, show the Governor's Proclamation of EMS Week in Maryland. (See inside for EMS Awards and Activities.)



The annual Tri-County EMS Conference PYRAMID 2001 will be held in Solomons Island on September 8-9, 2001.

The conference will feature a NOAA meteorologist speaking on preparing for national disasters; Capt. Jim Olson on preplanning computer technology for school emergencies; tri-county response for a multiple vehicle crash; tips in recognizing and treating difficult airways; and the newest street drugs that youths are experimenting with.

The afternoon sessions for ALS providers will focus on adult medical emergencies and include scenarios, skills, and lectures. The BLS afternoon breakouts will involve small- and large-group activities to enhance providers' recognition of domestic violence, management of challenging airway problems, unique extrication case studies, and self-preservation exercises.

The preconferences on September 7 will include: a quality management workshop led by the Maryland Regional QIC Team; Prevention and Preparedness for Schools and EMS, including NFPA Risk Watch training and an afternoon of lessons learned and computer programs developed in response to school violence; a workshop on 12-Lead EKG; and new protocols for Medical Priority Dispatch.

A conference brochure will be available from the Region V Office and on the Emergency Education Council website. Contact the Region V office for more information at 1-877-498-5551 and www.eecreg5.org.

17 Receive EMS Awards

As part of the activities scheduled during EMS Week (May 20–26), MIEMSS presented awards to EMS providers and citizens throughout the state for their outstanding performance in emergency medical situations and contributions to Maryland's EMS System. Awards in nine categories were given to 17 honorees. The awards ceremony was held May 25.

Maryland Star of Life Awards

For their rescue of three patients from the Chesapeake City Bridge, Capt. James Alfree and EMT-P Dennis Baldwin (both with Cecil County EMS), Delbert Loveless, John Loveless, Ray Lynn, and Steven Teresczuk (all from Chesapeake City Fire Dept.), and the SAVER Team from the Community Fire Company of Rising Sun received Maryland Star of Life Awards.

On October 19, 2000, Cecil County EMS and the Chesapeake City Volunteer Fire Company were alerted to an industrial accident on the top of the Chesapeake City Bridge. For the past several months, the bridge was undergoing construction repairs and repainting. A steel structure had been constructed to retain the paint that was being sandblasted from the bridge; a portable steel tunnel was also in place over the roadway to protect the cars. The steel frame system, consisting of 12 sections weighing more than 3,000 pounds each, collapsed.

When EMS responders arrived at the scene, bridge workers immediately told them that two men were trapped on the bridge arches and another patient was on the top of the tunnel. Capt. James Alfree and Paramedic Dennis Baldwin were lifted to the top of the tunnel and different levels of the metal structure by a construction boom truck.

Two patients on top of the tunnel and on the bridge arch were assessed, packaged, and lowered to a stretcher and transported by ambulance to a landing zone where Maryland State Police Helicopter 6 transported them to Christiana Medical Center in Delaware since their unstable injuries required a short transport time.

The SAVER team from the Rising Sun Volunteer Fire Company had also been sent to the scene. (SAVER stands for Slope, Angle, Vertical, Emergency, Rescue.) The SAVER team consists of 10 volunteer Rising Sun firefighters. Each member of the team has undergone nearly 300 hours in training for special missions. They were made available to Cecil County October 11—that is, 8 days prior to the bridge accident. They were used primarily in the rescue of the third man, who was crushed under scaffolding on the other side of the bridge. After construction workers secured the steel scaffolding and lifted it six or seven inches, a SAVER team member extricated the patient from under the scaffolds. He

was then taken to a waiting ambulance and transported to Union Hospital in Elkton.

Capt. Richard Koch who nominated those involved in the Chesapeake City Bridge rescue for the Maryland Star of Life award said: "We ask an extraordinary amount of knowledge and work from our personnel. It is over and beyond any personnel to complete the tasks involved in this rescue. To be able to work hundreds of feet above the ground takes a special ability."

Elementary School Students Receive Maryland EMS Citizen Awards

For pulling an unconscious 7-year-old from the bottom of a pool, Frederick elementary school students Mark Mellon, a second-grader, and Jake Longo, a third-grader, received Maryland EMS Citizen Awards.

Last July, Mark and Jake, then 6 and 8 years old respectively, were swimming during their second day of camp when they noticed another boy on the bottom of the pool. His mouth and eyes were open. They both dove to the bottom of the pool and pulled a seven-year-old boy to the surface. When lifeguards lifted him from the water, he was in full cardiac arrest. A lifeguard started CPR until Urbana Volunteer Fire Department and Frederick County Advanced Life Support arrived and successfully resuscitated him. He has now completely recovered, thanks to the quick thinking and courageous actions of Mark and Jake.



(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, EMS Star of Life Award winners Capt. James Alfree, Dennis Baldwin, Delbert Loveless, John Loveless, Ray Lynn, Steven Teresczuk, and EMS Chief Michael Browne accepting for the SAVER team, and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.



(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, Mark Mellon and Jake Longo (Maryland EMS Citizen Award winners), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.

EMS Provider of the Year Awards

This year the EMS Award Selection Committee agreed that two EMS Provider of the Year Awards should be presented—to Mary Alice Vanhoy, a nurse and paramedic primarily active in the Easton area, and to Capt. Chauncey Bowers, of the Prince Georges County Fire Department.

Ms. Vanhoy has been involved with EMS for more than 22 years—including education, quality assurance and improvement, and the delivery of excellent prehospital care. During those years, she has been a BLS prehospital provider, firefighter, paramedic, and certified emergency nurse.

She currently serves the Kent Island community as EMS Chief for United Communities Volunteer Fire Department, and has worked to pro-

mote injury prevention by coordinating a children's safety fair in her community. In addition to her volunteer work, she is employed as EMS Nurse Coordinator at Shore Health System in Easton. In this capacity, serving Queen Anne's, Kent, Talbot, Dorchester, and Caroline counties, she has worked to ensure quality assurance and improvement in the Mid-Shore area.

Ms. Vanhoy is also a superb instructor and serves as the EMS Program Director for the CRT and EMT-P programs through a joint program between Shore Health System and Chesapeake College. Most recently, this program, through her efforts, has sponsored the first EMT-Intermediate program in the state, which serves as a model for other developing programs.

In addition to administering the CRT and paramedic programs, Ms.

Vanhoy is an instructor for several other advanced courses for prehospital providers and nurses. She is a frequent speaker at regional, state, and national EMS conferences. She has been instrumental in the development of two new programs, Pediatric Medical Assessment and Kids in Disasters. Last year, she received the Region IV EMS for Children award for her accomplishments, including a poster presentation at the National Congress of Childhood Emergencies. She also serves on various state and local EMS committees, including the Statewide EMS Advisory Committee and as president of the Eastern Shore Chapter of the Emergency Nurses Association.

Like Ms. Vanhoy,

Capt. Chauncey Bowers is well known throughout the state of Maryland.

The President of the Maryland Division of the American Trauma Society, Robbi Hartsock, who is the trauma nurse coordinator at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, nominated Capt. Bowers for this award because of his outstanding contributions in the areas of injury prevention and public education.

Capt. Bowers is on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Division of the American Trauma Society and a consultant to the national organization. In describing his work, Ms. Hartsock highlighted how he contributed to the statewide "Stop Red Light Running" campaign. He was involved in many aspects of arranging the start-up of the campaign, especially in arranging media coverage for the event in the Maryland/DC metro area of the state. He also contacted all police, fire, and rescue agencies throughout the region to encourage their participation. In addition, Capt. Bowers found a survivor of a near-fatal "running a red light" crash who agreed to attend the event and tell her story from a victim's perspective. She later said that the opportunity to participate was the single greatest thing that helped her put her near-death experience into a positive light. At the start-up campaign, she also had a chance to meet the Montgomery County paramedics who responded to her crash. It was a very emotional but healing reunion.

On the national level, Capt. Bowers helped to design a membership program for prehospital providers. The goal of the new program was to better acquaint the EMS community with the American Trauma Society so that more opportunities for developing and implementing public education and injury prevention programs could be available to the prehospital providers of Maryland and across the country.

On a daily basis, Capt. Bowers works to ensure quality education programs for prehospital providers in Prince Georges County. He has been instrumental in organizing advanced trauma training for them, including skills labs, didactic sessions, and case reviews.



(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, Mary Alice Vanhoy (EMS Provider of the Year), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.



(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, Capt. Chauncey Bowers (EMS Provider of the Year), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.

Emergency Medical Services for Children Award

Nancy Boyd, a nurse at the Wellness Center at Frederick Memorial Healthcare System, received the Emergency Medical Services for Children Award. She was honored for devoting her entire professional career to infant and child safety and injury prevention.

Ms. Boyd is a child passenger safety technician and instructor certified by the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration. For many years, she was the coordinator of "Child Health Promotion/Injury Prevention" at the Frederick Memorial Healthcare System Wellness Center. She is currently coordinator of Injury Risk Prevention at the Wellness Center. In addition, she is currently coordinator of Frederick County's Kids in



(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, Nancy Boyd (EMS for Children Award winner), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.



(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, Philip Lambert (EMD Provider of the Year), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.

Safety Seats and co-coordinator of Frederick County's SAFE KIDS Coalition, as well as a board member of the state's SAFE KIDS Coalition. She is a certified American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Instructor and a Family Focus Instructor at the Wellness Center.

Ms. Boyd has conducted more than 25 child passenger safety training classes and organized and led more than 50 community safety seat checkpoints in the last 8 years.

EMD of the Year Award

Mr. Philip D. Lambert, of the Frederick County Department of Emergency Communications, received the Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the Year Award.

When Mr. Lambert answered a 9-1-1 call, Cathy Lawson frantically described how her nephew, a young toddler, was blue and gurgling. Mr. Lambert knew the toddler's airway was completely blocked. While calming Ms. Lawson, he had another dispatcher send an ambulance and he flipped to his protocol for a choking child.

In a newspaper account, Ms. Lawson said she had been doing OK until her nephew passed out, turned purple from head to toe, and started foaming at the mouth. She thought he was dying in her arms. However, listening to Mr. Lambert's calm voice, she was able to follow his instructions. Using two fingers, she gave five

quick thrusts or compressions on her nephew's chest. Nothing happened. But the second time that she did it, a grape popped out and her nephew started to cry. Ms. Lawson and Mr. Lambert both welcomed that sound.

Mr. Lambert has been an EMS dispatcher for 24 years. He works at Frederick County's Department of Emergency Communications.

Frederick was the second county in Maryland to train its dispatchers to give pre-arrival instructions. These are medically approved, standardized instructions to the 9-1-1 caller about what actions to take until help arrives. The dispatcher can now provide the earliest possible medical intervention in the EMS chain of survival. Mr. Lambert's recent experience is one example of the many successful outcomes resulting from the Emergency Medical Dispatch Program.

Maryland EMS Program of the Year Award

The Cumberland Section of the Aviation Division of the Maryland State Police (MSP) received the "Maryland EMS Program of the Year Award." The members of the Cumberland Aviation Section developed four innovative educational programs focusing on prehospital EMS personnel, nurses, and the general public.

The Nurse Transport Program, which offers training in the aviation setting, has been presented to more

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(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, TFC Homer Martz and Sgt. Guy Glendenning (accepting the Outstanding EMS Program Award for the Cumberland Aviation Section), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.

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than 125 critical care and emergency department nurses and hospital administrators. It is designed to enhance the continuum of high-level care for patients being transferred to tertiary care centers.

The Medic Support Class teaches effective, safe, and expeditious delivery of EMS care at the scene and in the aviation environment. It has been presented to more than 100 prehospital providers in Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties, as well as counties in West Virginia.

The Public Access CPR/AED Program extends the EMS program to the general public. To date, the MSP, in cooperation with the BWI Airport Fire and Rescue, have presented this program to aviation support members of the Cumberland Regional Airport and to other citizens in the Cumberland area. Additional training is planned for this year.

The Cold Weather Survival Program was presented to more than 500 EMS, law enforcement, aviation, and health care industry professionals. It offers emergency preparedness training to those often exposed to harsh, life-threatening, environmental conditions.

Petrash Receives Excellence in EMS Award

Robert Petrash, who holds the distinction of being the oldest practicing CRT in the state of Maryland, received the MIEMSS Executive



(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, Robert Petrash (winner of the MIEMSS Executive Director's Excellence in EMS Award), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.

Director's Excellence in EMS Award.

Nearly 40 years ago, a call went out for individuals to form a volunteer rescue squad in Peekskill, New York. Bob Petrash responded and was captain of that squad before moving to Maryland. Although his career prevented him from participating in EMS for many years, he never lost his interest in EMS.

After 28 years in the railroad industry, he retired. The following year—in 1988—he returned to EMS, joined the Cobb Island Rescue Squad, and became an EMT. He then joined the Charles County Medic Unit, becoming a CRT in April 1992 at the age of 68. Now, ready to turn "77 years young" this July, he is, according to MIEMSS documents, the oldest practicing CRT in the state. He continues to run weekly on the Medic Unit, putting in double the required hours to provide precious daytime coverage for this all-volunteer unit. He is affectionately known as one of the "geriatric bunch," an elite crew of three—all of whom are over 65.

When he is not running on the Medic Unit, Mr. Petrash volunteers at the local nursing home where he teaches 55 Alive to senior citizens. His outstanding service and dedication to the citizens of Charles County is reflected in the many awards he has received: "Outstanding ALS Provider of the Charles County Medic Unit,"

the "Charles County Beautiful Persons Award," the "Charles County Mobile Intensive Care Unit President's Award," and an award from the Emergency Education Council of Region V.

St. Mary's County EMS Committee Receives QA Award

St. Mary's County EMS Paramedic Early Intervention Steering Committee received the Quality in EMS Award.

The Paramedic Early Intervention Program (PEIP) is the latest in a series of quality improvements in St. Mary's County EMS. For the past 18 years, they have demonstrated a willingness to examine service need, sustain quality improvement efforts from beginning to end, and use data for result-based outcomes. Their most impressive efforts have been in the area of paramedic early interventions.

The need for PEIP is better understood in light of the history of St. Mary's EMS. They have an all-volunteer system and each year receive more than 3,000 calls for advanced life support. They have one local hospital, more than 30 basic-life-support units at stations, one advanced life support chase car station with three medic units, and 11 fire stations.

Since 1998, due mainly to a growth

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(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, Mike Barnett and Dennis Gordge (accepting the Quality in EMS Award for the St. Mary's County EMS Paramedic Early Intervention Steering Committee), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.

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in population, the number of advanced life support calls rapidly and dramatically increased. The medic unit was often not available for every ALS call because it was committed elsewhere; in addition, the effectiveness of the medic unit was reduced by excessive response time due to long travel times in the largely rural area.

The goals of the Paramedic Early Intervention Program were to reduce the response time for delivery of advanced life support; reduce the number of ALS calls that are missed; and reduce the demand on the duty ALS unit. To do this, a complete complement of ALS equipment was made available at each Basic Life Support station. A paramedic-in-charge responds to any Basic Life Support station from his or her home or work. That Basic Life Support station can then respond as a paramedic ambulance and the duty Medic Unit is not required.

During the first three months of operation (December 1999-March 2000), it was documented that the Paramedic Early Intervention Program covered an additional 3-4 percent of advanced life support calls that may not normally have been covered, and 6 of 7 run areas significant-

ly reduced their ALS unit average response time.

Thanks to this program, the citizens of and visitors to St. Mary's County received an enhanced Advanced Life Support response when and where it was needed.

Udell Receives Leon W. Hayes Award

CRT Richard Udell, from Pikesville Volunteer Fire Department, received the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS. The award, a tribute to the memory of Mr. Hayes, who dedicated his life to EMS and died February 1, 1999, is designated to go to an individual "who demonstrates through his professional and personal life, dedication to excellence in patient care, compassion and respect for each patient, and commitment to continuous improvement of the Maryland EMS system in education and in prevention."

Mr. Udell has been active in the Pikesville Volunteer Fire Department for almost 30 years. In 1976, he was one of the first volunteer CRTs to be certified in Baltimore County. During his tenure at Pikesville Volunteer Fire Department, he served as an EMS Lieutenant for more than 20 years, and has served on its Board of Direc-

tors for 4 years.

Over the past 30 years, Mr. Udell has been on over 12,000 calls. Similar to anyone who has provided EMS for such a long time, he has seen his share of tragedy. Last year alone, he was the advanced life support EMS provider who treated Sergeant Bruce Prothero after he was shot. Then tragedy struck days later; during the funeral of Sergeant Prothero, a life member of Pikesville Volunteer Fire Department was killed in an accident.

STOP RED LIGHT RUNNING

PUBLIC INFORMATION ON THE HAZARDS OF RUNNING RED LIGHTS

On September 5, as part of a statewide effort, each of Maryland's five EMS regions will hold a press conference to observe "National Stop on Red Week" (September 1-7, 2001) to raise the public's awareness about the widespread practice of red light running, its consequences, and the efforts to decrease the problem in Maryland.

Participating in the press conference will be regional representatives from the Maryland Division of the American Trauma Society, the Federal Highway Administration, the Maryland Highway Safety Office, MIEMSS, law enforcement personnel, elected officials, and victims.

The Maryland Divisions of the American Trauma Society and of the Federal Highway Administration will spearhead this collaborative public education campaign to highlight the hazards of red light running in Maryland. In addition, most counties in Maryland currently utilize red light cameras to augment enforcement efforts that result in a \$75 fine per citation. Additional cameras are being added throughout the state.



(L-r) William Barnard, Special Assistant to the Governor, Richard Udell (winner of the Leon Hayes Award), and Chief John Frazier, Maryland EMS Board member.

EMS Week in Maryland: May 20-26, 2001

Reports on various EMS Week activities throughout Maryland indicate that EMS providers are looking for imaginative ways to tailor EMS Week events to their local communities. Events ranged from the "Hagerstown Squares," an EMS quiz show based on the Hollywood Squares, to mock crashes and health fair screenings. Below are some of the activities that highlighted EMS Week in Maryland (May 20-26).

- The Ocean City Paramedic Foundation, in conjunction with the Town of Ocean City Department of Emergency Services Fire/EMS Division, sponsored a CPR Marathon. To help ensure a safe environment for the resort's vacationing families, the CPR Marathon provided free CPR training for employees.

- St. Leonard Volunteer Fire & Rescue Co. held an open house to honor local EMS heroes.

- Andy the Ambulance and Buster the Bus were dedicated at the Charles County Commissioners Office in LaPlata. Material on pedestrian safety, driving while impaired, and bike helmets were distributed. Andy the Ambulance also appeared at the Charles County Rescue Squad in LaPlata, at the Safety Day at the Wal-Mart in Waldorf, and at the open house of the Cobb Island Fire Department/Rescue Squad.

- Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad sponsored an open house and health fair. Blood pressure, cholesterol, colon cancer, and skin cancer screenings were available. EMTs demonstrated CPR and automated external defibrillators. The station's equipment was also on display. St. Mary's Hospital and other agencies also participated in the health fair.

- The Junior Fire Company and Independent Hose Company had ambulances inside the Fredericktowne Mall. EMS providers distributed information, took blood pressures, and

explained ambulance equipment.

- The Washington County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association had a family picnic at Hagerstown Community College. The highlight of the picnic was a "Hagerstown Squares" EMS quiz show produced and directed by Dr. Michael Pepper, the assistant medical director for Washington County. The show was patterned on the TV show "Hollywood Squares." The daylong picnic was fully catered with funding provided by Washington County Health System and the Emergency Room Physicians Group.

- The Volunteer Fire Company of Halfway conducted several events during EMS Week, including: a free adult CPR class, station tours, and blood pressure screenings; car safety seat inspections and instructions on the use of bike helmets and sizing; a safety night at Roy Rogers where they displayed ambulances and fire apparatus, took blood pressures, provided safety information and door prizes, and even served the food. They concluded the week with a chicken barbecue during Halfway

Park Days.

- The Baltimore City Fire Department participated in several events to highlight EMS services and heighten health awareness. Throughout the week, they went to several schools to present their EMS program on teen violence. The program teaches about the devastating impact of violence on a community and ways to avoid becoming involved in acts of violence. In conjunction with the Baltimore City Police, Court TV, and the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, the Baltimore City Fire Department staged a mock car crash. The goal was to educate driving-age students, parents, and the community about serious ramifications of irresponsible teen driving. In conjunction with the Baltimore City Health Department, the Traffic Division of the Baltimore City Police Department, and the Baltimore Safe Kids Coalition, the Baltimore City Fire Department conducted car safety seat inspections. Seats were checked for manufacturer recalls and proper fit for the car and child.

- Southern Garrett County Rescue Squad conducted an open house on May 26. Among those attending were the Director of EMS in Austria, who wanted to observe a rural EMS system, and Rick Bissell, graduate

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The Baltimore City Fire Department works on the "driver" injured in a mock car crash.

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program director of the Emergency Health Services program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

- An EMS Day was held at the County Club Mall in LaVale on May 19.
- Letters-to-the-editor regarding EMS Week and articles on EMS volunteer recruitment and EMS "heroes" and their life-saving achievements appeared in local newspapers throughout the state.

EMS Memorial Bike Ride

In honor of their fallen colleagues, paramedics and EMTs of Boston's EMS participated in the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride, a 900-mile journey from Boston to the memorial in Roanoke, Virginia. After leaving Philadelphia on the morning of May 22, they arrived at Maryland Route 1 late in the afternoon and were escorted by Maryland State



Participants in the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride, six riders and five support crew members from Boston EMS arrive in Baltimore during EMS Week.

Police to Baltimore.

Each Memorial Day since 1993, EMS professionals who died in the line of duty have been recognized in a service at the National EMS Memorial in Roanoke. The names of EMS professionals who sacrificed their lives

during the preceding year are permanently affixed to the memorial. So far, 184 EMS workers have been honored in this manner. Another 31 EMS professionals were honored in this year's ceremony on May 26.

Talbot County EMS Board Created

The Talbot County Council recently enacted legislation creating the Talbot County Emergency Medical Services Management Advisory Board. The Board is charged with the development of cooperative programs among various organizations providing emergency services and support throughout Talbot County. These groups include volunteer fire companies, ambulance services, medical services, disaster relief organizations, and others; and federal, state, and local agencies, boards, departments, and commissions.

Then 11 Board members include:

- Director of Talbot County Emergency Management Agency, Ed Mullikin. Timothy McNeal serves as an alternate.
- Director of Talbot County EMS, Mark Cummings, EMT-P
- Talbot County Safety and Transportation Manager, Charles Briddell
- Talbot County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association (2 members), Timothy Anderson and Robert Quidas
- Shore Health Systems, Dottie Dyott, RN

- Bay Hundred Election District, Gregory Phillips
- St. Michaels Election District, Chief Michael McDonough, St. Michaels Police Department
- Easton Election District, Kevin Knussman, EMT-P
- Trappe Election District, Ruth Sullivan, RN
- Chapel Election District, Lois Macdonald
- At-Large Fire Department Member, Robert Murray

Mr. Knussman was elected Chairman of the Board. He has 30 years of emergency service experience and helped to establish advanced life support on the middle Eastern Shore about 15 years ago. He headed the early effort in Talbot County to gain funding from the Talbot County Council to establish a countywide ALS program, the first on the Eastern Shore. "I believe the challenges of providing emergency services to the citizens of Talbot County will continue to increase. The Board must advise the Talbot County Council on public policy alternatives designed to permit the best use of limited resources. Our challenge will be to offer the best services throughout Talbot County and provide these services in the most efficient manner possible," stated Mr. Knussman.

Disciplinary Actions

The following final disciplinary actions were taken by the EMS Board on the dates indicated:

B-2000-071—(EMT-B)—September 12, 2000. Revocation of certification for conviction of rape.

B-2000-078—(EMT-B)—May 8, 2001. Suspension pending remedial action for failing to meet and/or violation of appropriate protocols and/or standards of care.

B-2000-110—(CRT)—May 8, 2001. Letter of reprimand and one-year probation for unprofessional conduct.

B-2000-119—(EMT-B)—May 8, 2001. Revocation of certification. Found guilty of 2nd degree sex offense.

R-2000-084—(EMT-B)—May 8, 2001. (By Disposition Agreement) 30-day suspension followed by one-year probation with random drug-testing during probation for failure to reveal misdemeanor conviction for possession of marijuana.



Maryland CRT Program



Effective **July 1, 2001**, the EMS Board has approved the **U.S. DOT EMT-I 99** curriculum to be implemented to train all future CRTs, as well as be the basis for the approximate "**80-hour update course**" for all current CRTs.

New CRTs:

To be eligible for a Maryland CRT license, all new applicants must:

- A. Successfully complete an entire EMT-I 99 course, as approved by the EMS Board;
- B. Successfully complete the NREMT-I 99 written and practical examination;
- C. Document affiliation with an approved ALS EMS operational program;
- D. Attend a current protocol review session; and
- E. Achieve a minimum of 75% on the ALS protocol licensing examination.

Applicants who successfully complete steps A-E will be eligible to receive a Maryland license with an expiration date of 04/30/(year of registry expiration date).

Maryland CRTs originally licensed before 6/30/01 who wish to remain licensed as CRTs after 3/31/2008 must complete one of the following:

OPTION 1:

Successfully complete an approximate **80-hour CRT Update Course** (4 modules) through a one-time/all-inclusive mechanism. At the conclusion of the course, the candidate will be required to:

- A. Successfully complete a MIEMSS summative written examination. Candidates will have two attempts to successfully complete the examination. Failure of the second written examination will require the candidate to receive documented remedial training in the section(s) the candidate received less than 75% before being eligible for an additional retest attempt. Failure of the third attempt will require the candidate to repeat the CRT Update Course, in its entirety, before being eligible for additional retesting;
- B. Successfully complete a state formal practical evaluation. Candidates will have three full attempts to successfully complete the practical. Failure of the third full attempt will require the candidate to repeat the CRT Update Course, in its entirety, before being eligible for additional retesting;
- C. Attend a current protocol review session; and
- D. Achieve a minimum of 75% on the ALS protocol licensing examination.

OPTION 2:

Successfully complete an approximate **80-hour CRT Update Course** (4 modules) plus a 20-hour review module over **3** licensure cycles (**6** years) through a **modular** process. Each of the **modules** may include jurisdictional administered evaluations (written and skills check-off) at the conclusion of each module. To be eligible for updated CRT status, candidates are required to:

- A. Successfully complete a MIEMSS summative written examination. Candidates will have two attempts to successfully complete the examination. Failure of the second written examination will require the candidate to receive documented remedial training in the section(s) the candidate received less than 75% before being eligible for an additional retest attempt. Failure of the third attempt will require the candidate to repeat the CRT Update Course, in its entirety, before being eligible for additional retesting;
- B. Successfully complete a state formal practical evaluation. Candidates will have three full attempts to successfully complete the practical. Failure of the third full attempt will require the candidate to repeat the CRT Update Course, in its entirety, before being eligible for additional retesting;
- C. Attend a current protocol review session (may be included in review module); and
- D. Achieve a minimum of 75% on the ALS protocol licensing examination.

Current CRTs may either complete the update course by 03/31/2008 or surrender to EMT-B. CRTs who have not updated will maintain an expiration date of 03/31 until the update course requirements are met or until 03/31/2008, at which time the license will lapse. Note: The Maryland state practical will meet the NREMT/199 practical requirements up to one year post-test date.

EMS-C Program Wins National Award



Cynthia Wright-Johnson, Director of the EMS-C Program

The Maryland EMS for Children (EMS-C) recently received the EMS-C State Achievement Award from the national organization. Accepting the award for MIEMSS were Cynthia Wright-Johnson, director of the EMS-C Program, and Robert Bass,

MD, executive director of MIEMSS, both of whom are dedicated advocates of EMS-C.

EMS-C is fully integrated into Maryland's statewide EMS system. What this means is that when any new program or initiative is developed, the unique needs of children are considered as part of the initial planning. Pediatric care is fully integrated into Maryland prehospital protocols, and ambulance standards address the need for equipment appropriate to neonatal and pediatric patients.

Working with Ms. Wright-Johnson and Dr. Bass in advocating for providing quality care to children are the two pediatric trauma centers—the

Children's Center at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Children's National Medical Center—and medical directors such as Doctors Alex Haller, Howard Eisenberg, Joseph Wright, Allen Walker, and Daniel Ochenschlager. They have been instrumental in the dramatic improvements in EMS for children over the last decade.

The Maryland EMS-C program has heightened awareness of the unique needs of children and provided the tools to meet those needs to EMS personnel throughout the state. Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training is now offered in each of Maryland's five EMS regions; workshops on such topics as asthma, croup, and pediatric vascular access are offered; and skills sessions on children with special health needs and/or technology assistance are incorporated into regional conferences. Every regional conference now has a pediatric track of lectures, case reviews, and skills lab training in pediatric topics that have been chosen by the Regional Pediatric EMS Advisory Committee and local conference planning committee.

EMS-C sets an example for other state agencies in developing

collaborative relationships with public and private sectors. Collaboration with the Department of Education, the School Nurses Association, and Emergency Management, as well as the Maryland Departments of Transportation and Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland State Police, the Maryland State Firemen's Association, and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute have positioned EMS-C to advocate for the medical needs of children in new and exciting ways. With these agencies, the EMS-C is active in injury prevention programs, such as child passenger safety programs, carseat checks, pedestrian safety, schoolbus safety, violence prevention, and disaster preparedness.

EMS-C strives to bring all the personnel and agencies that care for children in Maryland together to develop the best, most comprehensive programs for injury and illness prevention, disaster planning, education, and definitive care.



E-MAIS Update

MIEMSS and EMS providers across the state have long been interested in developing an electronic version of the Maryland Ambulance Information System. The electronic system, E-MAIS, would be easier and faster to use than the current MAIS system and would increase accurate and timely reporting of data.

After many months of work, MIEMSS was recently poised to award a contract to a vendor to develop the E-MAIS software. Unfortunately, the potential award of the E-

MAIS contract was voided because the recommended vendor did not meet certain contract requirements, and the second vendor's software was not deemed acceptable by the E-MAIS Technical Review subcommittee.

In light of these developments and after facing several obstacles to the successful implementation of E-MAIS, MIEMSS has decided to explore the possibility of developing a custom web-based package for the collection of EMS data. MIEMSS believes that it can deliver a better system within the same budget—a system that provides easier access,

more flexibility, and can be implemented in a reasonable timeframe. The E-MAIS subcommittees will continue to meet (those subcommittees are Data, Hospital, Legal, and Technical) to address the various related E-MAIS issues.

MIEMSS looks forward to continuing to work with providers to develop an effective electronic data collection system. If you have any questions, please call Kevin Combs, Chief of Information Technology, at 410-706-7798.

Beachley Receives 2 National Awards

In recognition of her contributions to trauma nursing, Mary Beachley, MS, RN, CEN, Director of Hospital Programs at MIEMSS, recently received two national awards. A



Mary Beachley

Lifetime Achievement Award was presented by the Society of Trauma Nurses in March at their annual national conference. A Distinguished Achievement Award was presented by the American Trauma Society at their annual May meeting.

Ms. Beachley was the first to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award; hereafter, it will be awarded annually by the Society of Trauma Nurses. The award reads: "In acknowl-

edgment and appreciation for Years of Service, Commitment, Leadership, Expertise, and Contribution to the Advancement of Trauma Care—Your Efforts Have Made a Difference."

The Society of Trauma Nurses started under Ms. Beachley's leadership in the early 1980s as the Trauma Nurse Network. Ten to 15 years later it was an incorporated society with hundreds of members nationally and internationally. It is the only international nursing organization that spans the *continuum* of trauma care. Ms. Beachley served as the society's first president.

Her leadership in the Society of Trauma Nurses was one of her many contributions to trauma care that was noted by the American Trauma Society in their presentation of the Distinguished Achievement Award. "This

award is presented to Mary Beachley, RN, MS for beginning the Society of Trauma Nurses and serving as the first president. Her guidance, nurturing, and support of trauma nurses and trauma systems throughout the United States and around the world, has resulted in significant improvements in the care of critically injured patients." This award is given annually to only one person in the U.S. who is recognized for *long-term* commitment to trauma care and outstanding leadership in the development of trauma systems and injury prevention.

In addition to her work with the Society of Trauma Nurses, Ms. Beachley is the president of the Maryland Nurses Association; she also serves on the board of the Maryland Division of the American Trauma Society. She has mentored hundreds of trauma nurses throughout her 25-30 year nursing career. She is a frequent speaker and teacher. She is also an international consultant on trauma nursing and the development of trauma systems.

Ocean City EMS Have Come a Long Way

State-of-the-art prehospital care is probably taken for granted by Ocean City residents and visitors. But anyone visiting the Ocean City Life Saving Station Museum will see a display highlighting the 40-year evolution of the Ocean City Rescue Squad into today's Department of Emer-

gency Services.

In 1960, after completing a First Aid Instructor course, Len Truitt and Wardie Jarvis trained other firemen. Eight men, including Mr. Truitt and Mr. Jarvis, began serving the community as members of the Ocean City Rescue Squad. Two crew members

were on call 24 hours a day through the police department or Doctors Townsend or Thomas. The squad had two ambulances, an inhalator, and other basic equipment. During its first year, the squad responded to 15 calls. At a ceremony on April 19, the original members of the Rescue Squad and doctors were honored with citations from Governor Parris N. Glendening, recognizing their dedicated service to the Ocean City community

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MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass (second from left) presented Seals of Excellence to Ocean City EMS.



Dr. Richard Alcorta, State EMS Medical Director, presented citations to the original members of the Ocean City Rescue Squad at the celebration of Ocean City EMS' 40th anniversary.



Governor Parris N. Glendening

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and its many visitors.

Today 35 volunteer and career fire/EMS paramedics and CRTs in 8 paramedic units cover 18 miles of territory. Last year they responded to 5,000 calls for assistance. They serve a unique community whose population shifts from 5,000 to 25,000 during the winter to 350,000 during the vacation season.

They use state-of-the-art equipment carried on paramedic rescues, fire engines, aerial apparatus, and heavy rescue trucks. Equipment includes thermal imaging cameras, 12-lead EKG monitors, self-contained breathing apparatus, protective turnout gear, and automated external defibrillators. Life-saving service is delivered within a four-minute response time from call to arrival on the scene.

On April 16, Robert Bass, MD, executive director of

MIEMSS, presented Seals of Excellence for Ocean City's medical response vehicles to the Ocean City EMS at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council. Under the Maryland Voluntary Ambulance Inspection Program, all of the city's vehicles passed the statewide criteria for vehicle inspections.

Prior to celebrating their 40th anniversary, the most recent milestone was the reorganization of the paramedics in 2000 under the Department of Emergency Services directed by Clay Stamp.



The new 2001 Wheeled Coach Paramedic Rescue Unit offers state-of-the-art emergency services to Ocean City residents and visitors.

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