

Harford County EMS Standards Advisory Board Meeting
May 7, 2019
DES Training Room – 2220 Ady Road, Forest Hill

Meeting Summary

Board members in attendance: John Donohue (Chair) and Tami Wiggins. Dr. David Hexter, Ben Kurtz, and Larry Richardson were absent.

Chairman Donohue called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. As it was determined that there was not a quorum, the business meeting adjourned.

Chairman Donohue stated that we will provide a final draft of the Strategic Plan to the Administration for a final review. He and Director Hopkins met with a consultant regarding the process for determining a cost of EMS, both currently and with future contingencies.

Director Hopkins provided an update from DES. Eight paramedics started on May 6 with a two-week orientation. He then gave an update on the preparation of Aberdeen's House 3 to host the new crew and the status of the third ambulance as a backup unit. He stated that funds are in the FY20 Capital Budget for an EMS Station to be constructed along 543 just north of I-95. The Mobile Crisis Center is to have a grand opening on May 28. EMS Week is May 19-25, and there will be a cookout for EMS and families to which the Board is invited.

Bill Dousa stated that the call volume is leveling-off, with an average of 27 per week, with 14 transports and five cancellations on average. Roughly 18 calls per week are in Bel Air's area, while three are in Jarrettsville's. Over the last year the growth in overall calls countywide closely matches the number of calls taken by the County Medic Unit, meaning that the county has absorbed the increase while the VFC's call volume remained somewhat constant.

Regarding the second crew that will be based at Aberdeen's House 3, Chairman Donohue asked if Aberdeen was planning to reduce staffing. Director Hopkins stated that he was not aware that they were.

Chairman Donohue stated that there is a need to put together a slideshow to accompany the stakeholder presentations on the Strategic Plan. These meetings will need to be scheduled soon with such groups as the Association, the healthcare community, elected officials, and the public in general.

The next meeting of the EMS Standards Board is June 4, 2019.