

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2022 Interim

July 14, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Task Force was held on Thursday, July 14, 2022, at 3:00 PM, in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Ken Fleming, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator David P. Givens, Co-Chair; Representative Ken Fleming, Co-Chair; Senators Donald Douglas and Robin L. Webb; Representatives Mark Hart, Michael Meredith, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Eddie Slone, Interim Executive Director, Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services; Adam Mather, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Kara Daniel, Office of Inspector General, Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

LRC Staff: DeeAnn Wenk and Logan Schaaf.

Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services

Eddie Slone, Interim Executive Director of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, provided an overview of emergency medical services. Mr. Slone covered the various service models, classifications, regions, vehicles, training, educational institutions, and providers in Kentucky.

Mr. Slone explained the service models in hospitals and fire departments. He also highlighted some differences between urban and rural EMS agencies. Rural counties often struggle to support multiple agencies. Response times are often longer in rural counties, and recruiting and retaining personnel is difficult.

Across Kentucky, there are about 1,135 active ambulances. Supply chain issues are causing delays in ordering new vehicles. Every agency must submit to annual inspections of vehicles to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Mr. Slone covered training and educational requirements. There are a total of 211 licensed Training and Educational Institutes (TEI) across the Commonwealth. Educators

must be trained to the level they are instructing. They must instruct a minimum number of classes under another instructor, and instruct at least four hours in a two year cycle.

Chairman Fleming requested a spreadsheet including information about service providers, education centers, and regions that will show where potential EMS weaknesses are in Kentucky.

Responding to questions from Chairman Fleming, Mr. Slone said that the difficulty of EMS jobs contributes to current workforce issues. There are also difficulties with recruiting and retention. Mr. Slone said that paramedics are the biggest need going forward.

Responding to questions from Representative Meredith, Mr. Slone said that he was not aware of a comprehensive, statewide survey of EMS pay rates. Mr. Slone also said that he would look for data on people who complete their training but do not go on to pass their licensing exams.

Responding to questions from Senator Givens, Mr. Slone said that the only class for which KBEMS issues licenses that does not require a certificate of need is class seven. He also noted that KBEMS collects data on average response times and the number of runs. Mr. Slone said that out of state licenses are not valid in Kentucky, but someone licensed in another state would not have much difficulty obtaining a Kentucky license.

Responding to a question from Representative Meredith, Mr. Slone said that he was not aware of data on paramedics not affiliated with providers who are working in hospitals.

Responding to a question from Senator Givens, Mr. Slone said that what might work in one region of Kentucky might not work in others, and that one size fits all policies can present challenges for smaller areas.

Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Adam Mather, Inspector General, and Kara Daniel, Office of Inspector General, provided an overview of the Certificate of Need (CON) process for ambulance services.

Inspector General Mather highlighted the ways in which 22RS HB 777 impacts the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Related regulations include 900 KAR 5:020 and 900 KAR 6:075.

Responding to questions from Senator Givens, Inspector General Mather explained the process of CON application review. Ms. Daniel noted aspects of this process that come from both statute and regulation.

Chairman Fleming requested a flowchart showing the process of CON approval from beginning to end.

Responding to a question from Representative Willner, Inspector General Mather said that the system generally works well for Kentucky.

With no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Emergency Medical Services Task Force is scheduled for Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 3:00 PM.