



OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEETING MINUTES

Title: Recruiting & Retaining Public Employee Firefighter and Paramedic Task Force

Location: AFFI | 927 Second Street | Springfield, IL 62704

Date: January 16, 2024 Time: 11:00AM

Present:

Chief Kent Adams | Senator Neil Anderson | Sue Czerwinski | Gina Degleffetti | Brenda Farlow | Deborah Frank Feinen | Joseph C. Holomy | Senator Patrick Joyce | Jim Keiken | Representative Mike Kelly | Jeff Maher | Don Moffitt | Nate Rice | Steve Shetsky | Chuck Sullivan | Robert Van Bebber

Not Present:

Mayor Mary Alexander Basta | Representative Jackie Hass | Regan Stockstell

- I. Meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Joyce at 11:01 A.M.
- II. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes were approved – no corrections.

Task Force Discussion

- Andrew Hufnagl – Adjunct Moraine Valley Community College
- Moraine Valley has been very proactive in recruitment.
- They have worked on programing with OSFM and have created intergovernmental agreements to create internships.

Dr. Brown – Hospital System

Every region is different. There is a shortage of providers. This is a system problem.

Mr. Hufnagl: There are challenges that need to be removed because medical directors do not have enough resources. Is there potential for doctors to see this program.

Senator Joyce encouraged everyone at all levels of government to submit their suggestions. Any solution moving forward would require that the group agrees.

Senator Joyce: There are different problems depending on the region of the state. The problems in the suburbs are different than in southern IL.

Discussion on the challenges impeding standardization from each region:

Task force Questions:

1. Can we name some of the challenges that are stopping us from standardizing each region?
2. Why would level of care be different by area?
3. Why can't there be a standard if you cannot meet SOP 1 then move to SOP 2?

Guests (Memorial Hospital): Variability from every region.

- Example: Are the individuals volunteers? Rostered? What is the number of square miles? How many people are they serving?
- There is no variability on education but there are differences on functionality. The focuses that some people have in their areas are different than others.
- The level of resources is different by area. Some areas have 85+ miles to drive for treatment. Treatment looks different based on capacity.

Discussion on data and information available:

- Is there information or data on all of these districts?
- It has been difficult to find this data.
- IDPH could potentially have data.
 - IDPH: IDPH does not have that information until T-cards are received.

Discussion on Community College Incentives:

- Community colleges want to have these programs but the wording of "system medical director" makes it difficult to get programs moving. It is difficult to get the system medical direction to approve.
- Regions 7 and 8 are facing similar issues. Region 8 has staggered programs.
- There is a timeline of about one year to receive curriculum approvals. In some cases, up to 18 months.
- Consensus that more classrooms and classes would be a good thing.
 - Senator Joyce requested from the Hospital Association that information be provided to the taskforce on how to proceed collaboratively.
- Question: Is this information in state statute?
 - IDPH: What if an appeal process is created at IDPH?
 - Hospital System: There might be issues with these changes. We can work with the hospitals and community colleges.

Expanding the Employee Pool Discussion

- General consensus on the age eligibility.
- Representative Moffit will share information from a previous task force on ways to attract recruits and those incentives.

- Joe Holomy: The Finnish Government (Finland) has implemented a program that is working very well. The Task Force could potentially take a look at their program and the program in Oregon. These programs have had great success rates.

IV. Public Comment

- a. No public comments

V. Next Meeting: March 5, 2023, |Location: OSFM| 1035 Adlai Stevenson Dr | Springfield, IL. 62703 | Time: 11:00 am

VI. Adjourned: 12:05PM