

2017 Annual Report of the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council

A Report to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly



Contents

I.	Purpose, Mission, and Scope of Work.....	3
II.	Chairman and Membership.....	3
III.	Activities and Topics During 2017.....	4
	A. May 3, 2017 Quarterly Meeting.....	4
	B. June 13, 2017 Special Meeting.....	5
	C. August 23, 2017 Quarterly Meeting.....	6
	D. November 21, 2017 Quarterly Meeting.....	6
IV.	Prospective Outlook for 2018.....	7
	A. Overview.....	7
	B. Upcoming Meetings.....	7
V.	Conclusion.....	7

I. Purpose, Mission, and Scope of Work

The Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council (GEMAC) is authorized by statute and is charged with advising the Governor on all matters that relate to emergency management in Maryland.¹ In addition, Executive Order 01.01.1987.11 designates the GEMAC as Maryland's State Emergency Response Commission² (SERC) in accordance with Title III of the Federal Superfund Amendments Reauthorization Act (aka SARA Title III).

A primary focus of the State's overarching emergency management strategy is a whole-community approach, working not only with government stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels, but also with non-governmental organizations, private sector partners, communities, and individuals throughout the emergency management system. In keeping with this whole-community approach, the GEMAC brings together subject matter experts from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds, and geographic areas to discuss and develop specific recommendations for further study or investigation. As an independent advisory body, GEMAC members are given the opportunity to provide input and comment on the State's activities in moving Maryland forward and developing a comprehensive emergency management program.

II. Chairman and Membership

By law, the GEMAC must include: fair and reasonable representation for local government; representation for organizations that represent volunteer firefighters and rescue squads; and representation from manufacturing, utilities, and communications industries. There is no size limit or minimum membership requirement for the GEMAC; individuals appointed to the GEMAC serve two year terms.

The Chairman of the GEMAC is Clay B. Stamp, Assistant County Manager and Director of Emergency Services in Talbot County, Senior Adviser to the Governor, and Executive Director of the Opioid Operational Command Center. The current GEMAC is composed of 16 members, including the Chairman. The terms of the current GEMAC members began January 2016; all current members have been reappointed for an additional 2-year term beginning January 2018.

¹ Maryland Code Annotated, Public Safety Article, §§ 14-105 (a) and (d)

² Code of Maryland Regulations 01.01.1987.11

GOVERNOR'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL	
Name	Title
Clay Stamp (Chairman)	Assistant County Manager/Director of Emergency Services, Talbot County
John Allen, Jr.	Vice President, Delmarva Power
Mike Berna	Maryland Fire Chiefs Association
Becky Brashear	Assistant General Manager, Maryland State Fair
John Butler	Fire Chief, Howard County
Timothy Cameron	Sheriff, St. Mary's County
Richard DeVore, Jr.	Maryland State Firemen's Association
Jonathan Favorite	Director of Technical Services, Communications Electronics, Inc.
Ronald Gill	Director of Emergency Management/Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Prince George's County
Joseph LaFleur	Manager, Crisis Management/Business Continuity/IT Disaster Recovery, GP Strategies Corporation
Jennifer Martin	Acting Deputy Commissioner for Population Health and Disease Prevention, Baltimore City Health Department
Thomas Moran	Executive Director, All Hazards Consortium
Howard Safir	Chairman and CEO, Vigilant Resources International
Stephen Wantz	Commissioner, Carroll County
Keith Whalen	Firefighter/Paramedic – Retired
David Willenborg	Sr. Engineer, Technical Support, Department of Defense/NAVAIR

III. Activities and Topics During 2017

A. May 3, 2017 Quarterly Meeting

Chas Eby, Director of Strategy at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), provided a briefing on the proposed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Deductible Concept. FEMA is soliciting comments from the public at large per a Federal Register Notice. Mr. Eby shared that MEMA is not in favor of the proposed concept as currently written because of the way it impacts cost sharing by local and state government. The draft of the Maryland state level response to FEMA was shared with the GEMAC and their input was solicited. Comments were then submitted to FEMA outlining the concerns of the state on behalf of MEMA and the Governor.

Chairman Stamp shared an overview and update on the Opioid Operational Command Center (OOC), in follow up to the conference call held in March. This Command Center uses the

principles of emergency operations management to consider, coordinate and communicate the tenants of the State program in accordance with Governor Hogan's Emergency Order. Chairman Stamp informed the Council that the OOCC has broadened its reach of efforts and engaged additional state agencies to support public health in targeting three main areas: prevention, treatment, enforcement. The OOCC is currently focusing on launching information sharing platform, developing a spend plan, and building an action plan. The GEMAC provided comments to Chairman Stamp on the impacts of the opioid crisis as they saw it in their communities.

Kyle Overly, Planning Branch Manager at MEMA, shared with the Council an overview of the proposed changes to the state emergency management system, which would replace the current system (Maryland Emergency Preparedness Program, MEPP) in an effort to streamline/simplify current efforts. Executive Director Strickland, MEMA, informed the Council that an Incident Management Team (IMT) workshop had been held and that the development of a state IMT is moving forward. The state currently does not have an IMT. Additionally, the development of a state water rescue response system is underway. The GEMAC discussions were supportive of these two initiatives.

Discussion was held regarding Next Generation 9-1-1 and its impact on and relationship to emergency management. By consensus it was decided that the Council would schedule a special meeting in June for a briefing from an Emergency Number Systems Board representative.

B. June 13, 2017 Special Meeting

Scott Roper, Executive Director of the Emergency Number Systems Board, Anthony Myers, Chairman of the Emergency Number Systems Board, Jack Markey, Director of Emergency Management for Frederick County, and Julia Fischer, Geographic Information Officer from the Maryland Department of Information Technology joined the Council for the special meeting to discuss Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) and identify ways that the Council could help to support the Emergency Number Systems Board (ENSB) on this issue moving forward.

Mr. Roper and Mr. Myers provided the Council with an overview of NG911 and briefing on Maryland's anticipated transition to NG911 and advised that they were not in a position to identify specific legislative/funding changes currently, but that they would keep the Council apprised moving forward. GEMAC members provided a number of questions to the 9-1-1 representatives. There was a productive exchange on how the upcoming technology changes and increased flow of information would impact both dispatchers and emergency responders who are the backbone of any community or large area disaster/emergency that is above the usual dispatch center reporting and

response protocols. The discussions included the potential need for new management approaches to the way the new technologies could affect emergency responders and operations during the handoff of the initial emergency reporting and dispatching to and from the 9-1-1 center to the county emergency operations center(s).

C. August 23, 2017 Quarterly Meeting

Director Strickland provided the Council with an update on the progress and shaping of the proposed Maryland Emergency Management System (MEMS). MEMA has drafted a proposed Executive order and is working with the Governor's office on suggested revisions. Chairman Stamp informed the Council that any action on the recommendations provided in the GEMAC report submitted to the Governor last year would be addressed within the broader implementation and timeline of MEMS.

Chairman Stamp advised the Council that Maryland remains under a state of emergency for the heroin and opioid crisis and will likely continue due to the national move towards a state of emergency. There has been no clear decision/mobilization on the federal level yet. State and local coordination and engagement continues as the OOCC is working to shift from an incident management posture to long-term program management.

Major Ken Hasenei from the Maryland State Police provided the Council with an overview on FirstNet, a federal government entity tasked with establishing, operating, and maintaining an interoperable public safety broadband network. There were several upcoming decision dates for both communications systems vendors and the state governors as to funding options decisions and vendor selections. As these decisions are made the implementation process will begin to take shape for the statewide emergency services community.

D. November 21, 2017 Quarterly Meeting

Doc Lumpkins, Chief Financial Officer at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), led the Council through a discussion regarding preparedness in emergency management looking forward. The Council offered insight on current and continuing trends, expectations of emergency management in the future and actions that can be taken currently to address future/emerging challenges.

Chairman Stamp asked the Council for their input on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) process in Maryland. EMAC is a legal agreement between states and territories that allows for the exchange of personnel and resources during an emergency. Maryland does not

currently assemble and maintain a mission ready package catalog across the state, as some other states do. The Council suggested that the state provide increased training to local entities on EMAC processes, especially those outside of the traditional emergency management realm and have MEMA coordinate the identification of resources and building of mission ready packages across the board of disciplines, to allow for more streamlined and rapid response to both in-state and EMAC requests.

Chairman Stamp shared that the Opioid Operational Command Center continues to drive its planning objectives, focusing on the areas of elevating conversation to break stigma; utilizing data-driven decision making; establishing performance measures to assess success; and setting realistic expectations.

IV. Prospective Outlook for 2018

A. Overview

In the coming year the GEMAC intends to work with Director Strickland and his leadership team to continue to identify strategies to enhance existing capabilities and develop a comprehensive statewide emergency management program centered on Preparedness; prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery in partnership with the federal government, local jurisdictions and the private sector. The GEMAC will also continue to engage with the Emergency Number Systems Board on issues related to emergency management and the NG911 implementation issues.

B. Upcoming Meetings

The GEMAC meets on a quarterly basis, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. Anticipated quarterly meeting dates for 2018 are as follows:

February 2018

May 2018

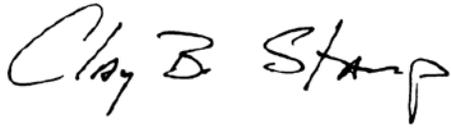
August 2018

November 2018

V. Conclusion

The GEMAC hereby submits this report along with its wishes of sincere appreciation from the individual members of the Council for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December, 2017:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay B Stamp". The letters are cursive and connected, with a distinct loop at the end of the word "Stamp".

Clay B. Stamp, Chairman
Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council