

COUNTY OF YORK MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2023

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Automated External Defibrillators, Cardiac Care and HEARTSafe in York County

At a recent Board meeting, a Supervisor inquired about AEDs. The inquiry occurred in the context of the recent NFL incident. The attached memorandum is from Chief Kopczynski and summarizes the AED program as it exists currently in York County.

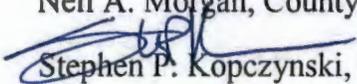
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COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2023

TO: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator

FROM:  Stephen P. Kopczynski, Fire Chief/Director

SUBJECT: Automated External Defibrillators, Cardiac Care and HEARTSafe in York County

With recent events that were live on national television involving the sudden cardiac arrest of Buffalo Bills football player Damar Hamlin (#3), many people have been thinking about sudden cardiac arrest and what someone can do if they witness such an extreme emergency event. Further, it may also prompt the question of "What exists in my community that would improve the outcome of such an event and potentially save a life?"

Unfortunately, sometimes tragic circumstances are the primary impetus to drive answers to such a question, as was noted above. Fortunately, in York County, we have been at the forefront of emergency response and sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) care for many years. In the late 1970s, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety (then the York County Fire Department) had some of the first "Cardiac Technicians" trained and certified to provide advanced cardiac care. We were among the very first adopters of such advanced pre-hospital emergency medical services (EMS) in the region and perhaps in the Commonwealth. Then in the early 1980s, the department became the very first Peninsula department to have Paramedics (then the "new and improved" version of Cardiac Technician certification). The Paramedic certification remains the gold standard of advanced life support pre-hospital emergency medical care today.

For many years, the Department of Fire and Life Safety has required (and continues to require) that our personnel be cross-trained and certified not only in firefighting but also in EMS, to at least the basic Emergency Medical Technician Level. However, many of our personnel obtain the more advanced level of certification as "Advanced Life Support" (ALS) providers, the majority of which are certified as Paramedics. Paramedic certification is now required as personnel advance to the operational positions of Lieutenant, Captain, and Battalion Chief. Every fire station in York County is staffed daily with Advanced Life Support pre-hospital providers with Paramedics responding to virtually every sudden cardiac arrest emergency.

In York County, every medic unit (ambulance) is permitted by the Commonwealth of Virginia as an advanced life support EMS care and transport unit and is staffed 24 hours a day with advanced life support providers. Medic units are equipped with today's modern equipment to care for a wide variety of medical and trauma patients, including medications, automated CPR devices and advanced cardiac monitor defibrillators (along with other EMS equipment/supplies). Additionally, every engine, ladder truck, and rescue truck is also permitted as an advanced life support non-transport unit, and the majority of

the time the staffing of these units includes at least one person cross-trained and certified to the advanced life support level. These units are also equipped with medications and cardiac monitor defibrillators (along with other EMS equipment/supplies). What this means is, even when an ambulance is initially unavailable or must respond from another fire station district, the same level of care can potentially be provided with the equipment from an engine, ladder truck or rescue truck, with the exception of immediate transport (typically a medic unit arrives shortly after for transport to the hospital). Finally, most other units/vehicles (not specifically EMS permitted) of the Department of Fire and Life Safety are equipped with an array of basic life support EMS equipment and automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

The Department of Fire and Life Safety has long been recognized by our citizens, visitors and businesses as providing the very highest levels of pre-hospital EMS. Additionally, the department and our personnel have been recognized by our peer regulatory agencies as outstanding. We have had department members receive numerous regional, statewide and even national awards for many years. In fact, one of our Captains (Paramedic) just received the statewide 2022 Governor of Virginia's Outstanding Pre-Hospital Provider Award. Further, the Department of Fire and Life Safety has twice been recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia receiving the Governor of Virginia's Award as the Outstanding Emergency Medical Services Agency (very few EMS agencies in Virginia have received this award on more than one occasion).

As part of the EMS system in York County and the critical importance of being prepared to handle a variety of emergency types, including sudden cardiac care, many initiatives have been undertaken and programs established with the ultimate goal of saving lives. As mentioned earlier, first and foremost was the establishment of an effective EMS response system that can provide early/quick EMS response and the provision of advanced cardiac care (the fourth step in the chain of survival). This is followed by transport to a definitive care facility (hospital) where the patient receives further cardiac care and then, finally, recovery. However, much of this continued chain/links of survival may not be possible for a sudden cardiac arrest victim, if the very first three steps of the chain/links of survival are not performed. These are—1-Activation of the emergency response system (calling 9-1-1), 2-high-quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and 3-rapid/early defibrillation.

Because of the critically important very first steps of the chain/links of survival, the County and the School Division have taken a number of steps to help with the response to sudden cardiac arrests in and/or around County and School Division buildings/facilities. First, for many years, County staff has been offered the opportunity to become CPR trained, as have School Division staff. Additionally, virtually every County building or complex and York County school, as well as other County/School facilities/parks (i.e., athletic fields, parks, public places), have been equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Within the York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office, their patrol officers are equipped and trained to use AEDs and routinely respond when Fire and Life Safety units are dispatched to sudden cardiac arrests (among other serious emergencies). Beyond County and School Division facilities, some private entities, such as businesses, churches, etc., have also equipped their facilities with AEDs. The Department of Fire and Life Safety strives to be continuously aware of AED placement in/at County/School

Division facilities and, to the extent possible, at other facilities. Further, there are ongoing efforts to identify other areas/facilities in or around public buildings where AEDs might be needed and could contribute to the response to a sudden cardiac arrest. In the case of County and School Division facilities, the majority of AEDs are in secured cabinets that alarm when opened, and in remote locations (i.e., outside park areas) they connect directly to the 9-1-1 Center. While not specifically intended for sudden cardiac arrest victims, most of the cabinets that house County AEDs in both County facilities, as well as School Division facilities, are also equipped with active threat response “stop the bleed” kits, should there be a need for such equipment (i.e., an active shooter incident). The importance of personnel who know and can perform CPR and the availability and use of an AED became very evident in late 2016 when a freshman student at Grafton High School suffered a sudden cardiac arrest. 9-1-1 was quickly called, CPR was immediately begun by the teacher of the student, the school resource officer arrived and an AED was put into use, and Fire and Life Safety personnel arrived to provide advanced cardiac care with transportation to a definitive care facility (hospital). This young man ultimately survived because all of these critical components of the chain/links of survival fell into place.

Beyond the provision of early access to EMS care (i.e., calling 9-1-1), CPR training and initiation, AED availability, advanced EMS care, and follow-up care in a definitive care facility (hospital) CPR training, there are many other initiatives that contribute to the “return of spontaneous circulation” (ROSC) as it is known in EMS. ROSC is a benchmark that indicates someone’s heart is beating and that blood is now again circulating. These include the provision of pre-arrival medical instructions by our 9-1-1 dispatchers, under the oversight of the Department of Fire and Life Safety’s Operational Medical Director (EMS physician). Pre-arrival medical instructions often may include talking to a bystander or family member through the provision of CPR while EMS units are responding. Additionally, the Department of Fire and Life Safety manages a program known as PulsePoint. PulsePoint uses an app on a cell phone that can alert citizens that might be close by (in public places) to a person in cardiac arrest that CPR is needed so that the person with the PulsePoint app could get to the victim and start CPR. The app also will advise if there is a publicly accessible AED in the area so that early defibrillation can occur.

As mentioned above, PulsePoint is an extraordinary resource and capability that can contribute to the saving of the life of someone that has suffered/is suffering from sudden cardiac arrest. This capability has begun to be integrated in many EMS systems across Hampton Roads and the country. In the case of the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety, it was initiated as part of a regional initiative known as Greater Williamsburg HEARTSafe Alliance, which is composed of the fire/rescue agencies of York County, James City County, Williamsburg and Poquoson, along with the Peninsula EMS Council, the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance, the College of William and Mary, Riverside Doctors Hospital and Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center (along with a few others). The Greater Williamsburg HEARTSafe Alliance’s mission is:

“...to SAVE LIVES by improving the survival rate of sudden cardiac arrest in James City County, York County, City of Williamsburg, and City of Poquoson. The Alliance

works to exceed standards of engagement through citizen education, hands-only CPR training and awareness of AED access while promoting a healthy community.”

Fire Chief Steve Kopczynski serves on the Board of HEARTSafe. Through the efforts of the HEARTSafe Alliance and local efforts by the Department of Fire and Life Safety (along with the other associated fire/rescue agencies), concerted efforts have been undertaken to offer “hands-only CPR.” These programs have been offered at various venues across the region including businesses, civic groups, and community markets, including a number of occasions during the Yorktown Market Days events. Additionally, efforts have been undertaken to continuously improve AED access across the region.

As the primary designated EMS response agency for York County, the Department of Fire and Life Safety continues to advocate for training citizens in CPR and facilitating/encouraging the placement of publicly accessible AEDs across the County. In fact, while the County buildings and facilities, as well as the School Division buildings and facilities, are equipped with AEDs, the department is identifying additional locations of opportunity where AEDs could be added, which will further contribute to access to these life-saving devices by the public.

February is American Heart Month, a time when all people can focus on their cardiovascular health. As such, what better opportune time to initiate efforts to improve outcomes for victims that may suffer sudden cardiac arrest. Therefore, during the month of February, the York County Department of Fire and Life Safety will be initiating a special program. The program is:



Take

3 steps

to save a life.

PulsePoint



GREATER WILLIAMSBURG



HEARTSafe Alliance
www.HEARTSAFE.org

This innovative program coincidentally uses the number 3 to market the importance of:

1-Activation of the emergency response system (calling 9-1-1)

2-High-quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)

3-Rapid/early defibrillation

- During the month, Fire and Life Safety personnel will be completing their CPR recertification (this is a routine occurrence annually).
- The Department of Fire and Life Safety will be offering opportunities for the public to learn “Hands Only CPR.”
- The Department of Fire and Life Safety will emphasize and provide additional marketing of the PulsePoint app and encourage the public to sign up for this life-saving tool (app).
- Further, continued encouragement of businesses to obtain and install AEDs will occur.

As you can see, the Department of Fire and Life Safety, other County agencies, York County government as a whole, as well as the York County School Division, have been at the forefront of providing capabilities that contribute to the saving of lives when someone suffers a sudden cardiac are, and we continue to look for and implement ways to save the lives of those living in and visiting York County.

I hope that you find this material interesting and informative.

SPK

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 31, 2023
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator
SUBJECT: Chilled Ponds Ice Sports Complex

MB
for NAM

I wanted to provide the Board with an update on a recent action taken at the December 8, 2022, Economic Development Authority (EDA) meeting. The Authority voted to provide incentive grant funding for the acquisition and renovation of the current Hampton Roads IcePlex facility in the amount of \$200,000. The facility is located at 401 Village Avenue, behind Village Square at the Kiln Creek Shopping Center.

Mr. Patrick Cavanagh, CEO of the Norfolk Admirals and Owner of the Chilled Ponds IcePlex in Chesapeake, purchased the facility in January 2023. Currently, he is undertaking the renovation of the existing building in York County and enlarging the existing ice sports facility. Mr. Cavanagh's objectives consist of providing our community with opportunities for ice sports recreation, life betterment, and camaraderie in an extended family atmosphere with the acquisition and improvements. The programming model will feature several layers of entertainment that will cater to local residents, athletic/scholastic opportunities for our youth, and will draw in participants to York County across the country. The EDA and Staff recognize that the facility is older and experienced reduced usage over the years. It is likely that the Iceplex could have stopped operations if considerable improvements were not made. From a quality of life perspective, incentivizing Chilled Ponds assists in preserving this amenity for the community. Mr. Cavanagh plans to combine new programming with the existing use offering a full range of entertainment from learn-to-play programming, public skating, world-class hockey tournaments, and professional hockey with the Norfolk Admirals Hockey Club. Chilled Ponds at Yorktown and York County Parks and Recreation have also met to discuss additional ice skating opportunities for York County residents while continuing the existing lesson program in place.

The EDA's agreement will provide \$200,000 which will assist with the acquisition of the property and the renovation improvements to help begin operations in York County. The total estimated capital investment for the project is \$3 million. The funding for this request will be distributed to Chilled Ponds in two payments - \$100,000 upon completing the acquisition and submitting adequate proof of closing on the purchase to the EDA. The other \$100,000 will be awarded upon them demonstrating renovation completion, passing the final inspection, and payment of at least \$200,000 in renovations to the facility.

We are excited about the opportunity for rebuilding the facility and drawing in economic development in York County through enhanced local programming for residents, and

York County Board of Supervisors

January 31, 2023

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driving overnight visitation to the area with hockey tournaments. The EDA will provide additional updates as progress occurs.

Olsen/3525

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 2023
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator *MB See NAM*
SUBJECT: State Department of Education's Budgeting Error

The attached email received on Wednesday, February 1 is in reference to the State Department of Education's budgeting error. I wanted to advise the Board of the Superintendent's communication.

NAM:di

Attachment

Ingram, Diane

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd:

From: Shandor, Victor <vshandor@ycsd.york.va.us>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 11:57 AM

To: Balow, Jillian <jillian.balow@doe.virginia.gov>; kent.dickey@doe.virginia.gov
<kent.dickey@doe.virginia.gov>

Cc: Bowen, William <wbowen@ycsd.york.va.us>

Subject:

Dr. Balow and Mr. Dickey,

Thank you again for meeting with the superintendents this morning. I want to reiterate my comments about the funding formulas. There has to be a higher level of transparency and accountability when it comes to the Calc Tool. This is the only document that provides detailed allocations of state funding to school divisions. If we had access to VDOE's funding formulas, then school divisions, VASS or VASBO could verify the information.

My proposed budget was 95% complete and within days of going to print when we were notified of this error. My finance team is having to completely re-work and reconcile the budget.

We are requesting access to the funding formulas so that VDOE is not alone in verifying allocations to school divisions. It is important that we do everything we can to prevent these errors from occurring again.

Thank you,

Victor Shandor

Superintendent
York County School Division

School Board Office
302 Dare Road
Yorktown, VA 23692

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