



Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool

MINUTES

2:00 p.m. – 2:26 p.m. CT Friday June 29, 2023

Virtual Zoom Special Meeting

1. Roll Call for a Quorum

Present:

Greg Brown - Eureka Fire Protection District,
Chair

Cory Hogan - Local 2665 Professional Firefighters
of Eastern Missouri, *Vice Chair*

Mike Snider - Lee's Summit Fire District

Tom Vineyard - O'Fallon Fire Protection District

Kirk Lair - Central Jackson County Fire Protection
District, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Scott Frandsen Mid County Fire Protection
District

Absent:

Sara Jahnke, PH.D – Dir. & Senior Scientist,
Center for Fire Rescue & EMS Health Research at
the National Development & Research Institutes
(excused)

Others:

Joseph DePaepe – McGriff Insurance Services,
Inc. (*Administrator*)

Jenniffer Alvarado – McGriff Insurance Services,
Inc. (*Administrator*)

Paula Lowder – McGriff Insurance Services, Inc. (*Administrator*)

Valerie Beason – Therapist, President of First Access Behavioral Health

Brian Zinanni – State Coordinator for the Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team

Jason White – Representative of Mid-America Regional Council

Eric Latimer – Fire Chief of Springfield Fire

AJ Pittman

2. Review Old Business and Open Items

None.

3. Behavioral Health Program Update

Greg Brown informed the board that SB24 had recently been passed. He expects that the governor will sign it without issue, especially considering the amount of support it received. Carl Scarborough is currently unavailable, but has started process work with the Division of Insurance. Once he is finished, funding will be available to the program.

a. Best Practices Group

Brian Zinanni spoke on behalf of the Best Practices working group to update the rest of the board on their progress. They put together a basic framework of what incidents are going to trigger an automated follow up with insuring agencies and mental health support on behalf of the affected fire fighters. He and Eric Latimer agreed to meet and review the Best Practices procedure the group has written up so far.

b. Clinicians Group

Valerie Beason stated that everyone should have received the proposal for the Aspen mental health services app and the budget that was put together. They are waiting for funding and additional staff to move forward. Valerie Beason added that Jacqueline Brown had informed her that Aspen was being rolled out to more districts in the Metro St. Louis area.

Greg Brown noted that he would eventually like the Behavioral Health Program to be able to provide one large resource directory for fire fighters to find information and clinicians willing to work with them.

c. MIRMA Partners

Patrick Bonnot stated that he planned to meet with Brian Zinanni and other members of the Best Practices working group.

Tom Vineyard added that, with the passage of the PTSD Bill potentially burdening the Workers' Compensation system, he would like to bring Dan Greko from MOFAD into the fold to support the board's efforts with the Behavioral Health Program. Greg Brown said that he was welcome to do so.

d. McGriff Team

Joseph DePaepe commented that the McGriff team is reviewing the details as to how this program will work, what McGriff's role will be, and how involved the McGriff team will be. Joe DePaepe asked that the team be included in the Best Practice and Clinicians committees so they can listen in and learn what will be needed for them.

Greg Brown said that he would get Joseph DePaepe connected with the committee members.

e. Program Networking Opportunities

Greg Brown announced that the pool is bringing in the National Firefighter Cancer Alliance for training through Sara Jahnke's connections. He asked that flyers for the Behavioral Health Program be made quickly so they could

be handed out at the classes they would be teaching from August 3rd to August 5th. He added that Sara Jahnke had also reached out to national-level speakers on behavioral health in the fire service that might be willing to speak at their events in the future.

4. Legal Updates

None.

5. Other Business

Tom Vineyard asked for clarification on a comment from Valerie Beason mentioning some event in O'Fallon, MO. Joseph DePaepe explained that there was an organization in Colorado called ResponderStrong that had received grant funding to do peer support trainings nationally. Normally, when they provide this training in Colorado, it is a \$900 course for non-members and \$600 for members. It lasts for 40 hours and everyone in the department participates (clinicians, firefighters, leadership, etc.). Paula Lowder pulled up the flyer for the course and explained that it would take place on Tuesday, October 3rd. There would be no charge for those who took the October 3rd training because it was paid for by the grant funding.

Valerie Beason asked that, since this was a "train the trainer" type course, if that meant those who participated would be able to go on and train other people throughout the state. Paula Lowder confirmed that was her understanding of it.

6. Next Regular Meeting: September 21, in person at 11:00 a.m. Fire Marshal's office Jefferson City

7. Adjourn – 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

By: _____
Kirk Lair
Recording Secretary

The Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool approved the foregoing minutes on _____.

By: _____
Greg Brown
Board President