

Virginia EMS Advisory Board
Public Forum
Wednesday, November 8, 2006
3:30 PM
Norfolk Waterside Marriott, Norfolk, Virginia

Attendees: Warren Short; Tom Nevetral; Chad Blosser; Greg Neiman; Linda G. Johnson; Don Taylor; Coan Agee; Gary Dalton; Susan Smith; Kevin Dillard; Michael D. Berg; Anthony Wilson; Jennie L. Collins; Randy P. Abernathy; Karen Wagner; Scott Winston; Carl Wentzel, MD; Paul B. Davenport; James R. Dudley, MD; Gary P. Critzer; J. David Barrick; L.V. Pokey Harris; Byron Andrews; Paul Sharpe; Rohn Brown; Tim Perkins; Charles Berger; Karen C. Owens; Jodi Kuhn; Beth Singer; Joseph Corley; Doris Foster; William Walker; Jim Chandler; Rob Logan; Glen R. Hugus; Jeb Adam; Pete Stevens; Randy Breton; Randolph Brenton; Matt Dix; Michael Wade; David Gilmore; Donald Deaver; Ellen Vest; John Cooke; Don Barklage; Christopher Cannon; Paul Savage; Steve Rasmussen; Cookie Conrad; Jeff Beasley; Darrel S. Johnson; Robert Trifimmer; Bobby Lukhard; David Tesh; Roxanne Wilson; Max Snead; William Coats; Sharon Tutt; Wayne Peer; Sal Marini; Seth Mowles; Chris Corbin; Paul Fleenor; Steve McNeer; Ron Kendrick; Wayne Berry; Christy Saldana; Rena Sharpe; Winnie Pennington; Frank Cheatham; Brianne Slattery; Henry Bosman; Allen S. Bober; Jimmy Burch; Cindy Hargrove; Chris Parker; Ken Pullen; Harold Chrimes, Jr.; S. Heather Phillips; Dennis Molnar; Ed Rhodes; James Hill; Tracy Hanger

Karen Wagner, Chair of the EMS Advisory Board, called the Town Forum to order at 3:30 PM

Ms. Wagner gave a brief background as to why the Town Forums were started, as well as the purpose of the town forums.

OEMS staff introductions were made.

Scott Winston, Assistant Director of the Office of EMS, welcomed the attendees and gave a brief history of the Virginia EMS system. He also talked about the growth of Virginia EMS and the growth within the Office of EMS. Mr. Winston discussed some of the issues facing EMS today and touched on key items that the audience might want to address.

1. Coordinating responses;
2. Quality education of EMS personnel;
3. Staffing issues for both OEMS and the Regional Councils.
4. Technology and communications web-based technology for education;
5. Assessing enhancing quality of education;
6. Program Standards.

Public Comment:

Randy Breton from Henry County Rescue spoke about problems associated with the rapid increase of Urgent Care Centers and the fact that a lot of life threatening situations occur because these centers are not equipped with ER doctors on staff. EMS has to be called to transport patients to a true emergency room. Mr. Breton asked for guidance as to what could be done to eliminate this problem; and wondered if it was also a problem for other areas.

Beth Singer from the Office of EMS suggested that the community needs to be educated as to the difference between an Urgent Care Center and an Emergency Room at a hospital.

It was also suggested that communities should seek legislation to regulate these centers.

Randy Breton from Henry County Rescue brought forth another issue – the issue of radio system problems or communication inability during emergency situations.

Gary Critzer, the Communications Committee Chair, addressed this issue. He stated that the Communications Committee will be distributing the Communications Directory throughout the Commonwealth. An initiative is also underway to provide each locality with VH-1 radios.

Mr. Breton, and other audience members, were encouraged to bring their concerns to the Communications Committee meeting on Friday, November 10.

David Gilmore of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue asked what needs to happen to allow off-duty EMTs to carry life saving medications and devices.

Michael Berg, from the Office of EMS, addressed this issue. He informed Mr. Gilmore that the Board of Pharmacy has to address and regulate any changes to this policy.

Mac Snead, from Jefferson College in Roanoke, Virginia, spoke regarding BLS Accreditation. Mr. Snead wanted to know when there will be BLS Accreditation.

Dr. Dudley, Chair of the Professional Development Committee, addressed this issue. Dr. Dudley explained that there is some concern that BLS Accreditation would in time, eliminate the rural BLS program. The Professional Development Committee has, however, started a couple of pilot programs.

Eric Lasky – Chancellor Volunteer Fire and Rescue asked if there was any discussion taking place within the Office of EMS regarding NEMS.

Karen Owens, from the Office of EMS, stated that OEMS has started putting out information regarding NEMS. Training and additional documentation will be forthcoming; and there will be an effort to starting providing training.

Joe Corley, City of Virginia Beach EMS, stated that Virginia Beach is doing an excellent job in regards to ICS. Most of Virginia Beach providers are compliant with ICS training.

Mike Watkins, Hanover Fire and EMS, asked several questions.

- 1) Where is the PPDR data to assess how they are doing.
- 2) Mr. Watkins also asked when will the collection tool be restructured.
- 3) What are the legislative priorities for the Office of EMS.
- 4) Will retirement for non-fire based EMS providers be reinstated.

Paul Sharpe from the Office of EMS addressed the PPDR data question. Mr. Sharpe explained that the information is forthcoming. Internal VDH issues have been the hold up.

Gary Dalton addressed the issue regarding the 2007 legislative agenda for EMS. They will be supporting VOCEP funding and that they would support the Child Abuse legislation if they drop the penalty phase.

Ed Rhodes addressed the issue regarding the retirement for non-fire based EMS providers. Mr. Rhodes suggested that this would have to be a local option and it would have to be added by the locality.

Steve Rasmussen, addressed the Town Forum, on behalf of the Nurses Association. He just spoke to say "thank you" to the EMS Advisory Board and to offer support to the Board.

Gary Brown, Office of EMS, closed to Forum by thanking the constituents for voicing their concerns. He reiterated that the forums will continue in 2007.

The forum concluded at 5PM.