

Thomas Jefferson Regional EMS Council Town Forum
Charlottesville, Virginia
March 20, 2008
7:00 PM

EMS Advisory Board Members	Staff:	Others:
Randy P. Abernathy	Michael D. Berg	Sarah Walker, Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad
Karen D. Wagner	Warren W. Short, Jr.	Toya Earley, Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad
L.V. Pokey Harris	Gary R. Brown	Gregory Faust, WARS, GEERT
Byron Andrews	Beth Singer	Garland Nuckols, Louisa County Emergency Council; Louisa County Rescue
Jason Campbell	Chad Blosser	Cookie Conrad, TJEMS
Gary Dalton	Henry Bosman	Bill Downs, TJEMS
Linda L. Sayles	Ora Shea Jones	Mary Stanley, Lake Anna Rescue
Bubby Bish	Tom Nevetral	Hal Schaffer, Lake Anna Rescue
	Frank Cheatham	James Hill, Stafford County Fire & Rescue
	Ken Crumpler	Stephen J. Elliott, Albemarle County Fire Rescue
	Greg Neiman	James W. Phillips, Altavista EMS
	Tim Perkins	Curtis Sheets, Wintergreen Rescue
	Amanda Davis	Winston Garnett, Louisa Rescue
	Paul Sharpe	Ron Mickens, North Anna Power Station
	Dennis Molnar	Dreama Chandler, VAVRS President, PAT Member
	Scott Winston	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to order	Karen Wagner opened the meeting at 7:04 PM in the Promenade Room of the Doubletree Inn Charlottesville.	
Opening Remarks and Introductions	Karen Wagner welcomed all present and extended an appreciation from the EMS Advisory Board and the Office of EMS for participating in the town forum. She also thanked the Thomas Jefferson Regional EMS Council for arranging the facilities. She then had each member of the EMS Advisory Board and Office of EMS Staff introduce themselves.	
Ground Rules	Karen Wagner indicated the Board and the Office were present to hear concerns. That the only rules were to be courteous and respectful.	
Floor Opened for Comments	Hal Schaffer – Lake Anna Volunteer Rescue – Indicated his remarks dealt with the distribution of the regional councils and respective boundaries. Lake Anna serves a rural area and is approximately 45 minutes in any direction from a hospital. Travel is therefore an issue. TJEMS provides in house training twice a month which is a valuable service to a rural agency in maintaining providers. Mr. Schaffer agreed to provide a copy of his comments to the panel.	

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	Jason Campbell expressed his appreciation for the comment.	
	<p>Garland Nuckolls – Louisa County Volunteer Rescue Squad Association: Mr. Nuckolls indicated he supported the remarks of Mr. Schaffer. He also added that the smaller size of the councils when compared to the previous arrangement with fewer councils covering larger areas promoted greater participation and involvement of agencies and providers. He did indicate he believed the study published on the web page was more damaging than helpful and placing it there was not the most appropriate action.</p> <p>Mike Berg pointed out that the study was a public document as it was paid for with public funds and thus the reason it was posted on the web.</p>	
	Curtis Sheets – Wintergreen Rescue Squad: Comments were on the redistricting of councils. Wintergreen transports patient to hospitals in three different regional EMS Council areas (BREMS, CSEMS and TJEMS). Does not see any immediate benefit of combining CSEMS and TJEMS.	
	Sara Walker – Blacksburg Volunteer Rescue Squad: Inquired about Enhanced and Intermediate levels being phased out. Warren Short provided a brief explanation as to the history of the current national trends and how the National Scope of Practice changed provider levels causing the state to review its various levels of EMS provider. This task is being reviewed by the Medical Direction Committee to determine the best course of action for Virginia. Warren indicated that each council had a physician representative. Dr. Lindbeck was identified as representing TJEMS and Dr. Lane representing WVEMS in her regional EMS council area.	
	Gary Brown – Office of EMS: Gary indicated the new Health Commissioner, Dr. Remley, had initiated a variance to the council districting issue, postponing the application date for designation of regional EMS Councils until March 2009. Scott Winston further explained in addition to the variance, the PAT evolved and provided a brief history of the EMS council regulations. Mr. Winston elaborated on the complexity of the issue and the importance for the system to work together.	
	<p>Garland Nuckolls – Louisa County Volunteer Rescue Squad Association: Inquired as to how some of the proposed boundaries were developed and where the data upon which the design was based is stored. Paul Sharp indicated that volumes of data from various data bases were compiled for consideration. Some but not all the data bases used included PPCR, hospital trauma data, health department districts. Mr. Nuckolls inquired about access to this data. He indicated he had been denied access.</p> <p>Randy Abernathy introduced the IOM report and encouraged review of the executive summary which indicated the EMS system is fragmented and improvements are needed to meet client needs.</p>	

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	<p>Hal Schaffer – Lake Anna Volunteer Rescue Squad: Indicated that it appears more emphasis is being placed on what works in cities and not considering what works in rural communities.</p> <p>Karen Wagner replied that the system is working toward a system based upon quality patient care and that the system in Virginia, not just rural or urban areas.</p>	
	<p>Curtis Sheets – Wintergreen Rescue Squad: Reflected on Randy’s IOM comments. He further agreed with the report that we have a fragmented and broken system. How we change to correct this is important. There is a perceived block to sharing some of the issues and this is causing concern. We need the state to develop a system of greater standardization before trying to improve the regional service areas.</p> <p>Jason Campbell encouraged the involvement of local government officials with the needs of EMS.</p> <p>Tim Perkins assured any comments received would be provided to the PAT.</p> <p>Randy Abernathy indicated we need to better educate legislators. This past year legislative action removed earned interest from RSAF which significantly affected fiscal activities for EMS.</p>	
	<p>Mike Berg indicated that the office is currently going through a review of the EMS Regulations and explained the process to include the public comment component.</p>	
PUBLIC COMMENT		
OLD BUSINESS		
NEW BUSINESS		
Adjournment	<p>There being no more comments brought forward, the forum was adjourned at 8:13 PM noting the next Town Forum is scheduled for the Western Virginia EMS Regional Council area.</p>	