


**State EMS Advisory Board
Executive Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
Courtyard by Marriott, Glen Allen, VA
May 8, 2014
11:00 a.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	OEMS STAFF:	OTHER ATTENDEES:
Gary Critzer, Chair	Gary R. Brown	Ed Rhodes
Dale Wagoner, Vice Chair	Scott Winston	
Matt Tatum	Warren Street	
Gary Samuels (Excused)	Michael Berg	
Larry Oliver	Greg Neiman	
Allen Yee, M.D. (Absent)	Irene Hamilton	
Bruce Edwards		

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order:	Gary Critzer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM. Mr. Critzer apologized for the delay in the start of this meeting. He explained that they had met earlier with Bedford County representatives to discuss some issues related to HB1010.	
2) Approval of the Agenda:		A motion was made to approve the draft agenda. The agenda was approved.
3) Approval of January 27, 2014 meeting minutes:		A motion was made to approve the January minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted by unanimous consent.
4) HB1856, HB1010, HB581, SB355 Progress and Updates	<p><u>HB1856 -</u> Gary Brown stated that the Office of EMS (OEMS) Division of Education Development staff discussed HB1856 at their staff meeting. OEMS has submitted their report to the House Committee of Health, Welfare & Institutions (HWI) and the Senate Committee on Education and Health. No feedback has been provided to date. Delegate Orrock has explained that OEMS is not required to submit anything else, and if he is satisfied with the report it should be eventually pulled from Legislative Information Services. Mr. Brown reported that Warren Short, from OEMS, reported that OEMS has agreed to work with Regional Councils to offer training in areas that have traditionally been difficult for volunteers to receive training. Mr. Short distributed a survey to the councils last year to determine if they provided training to their volunteers and if any training provided was volunteer friendly. Mr. Brown asked that the Regional Councils Executive Directors keep the HB1856 on their agenda for the foreseeable future.</p> <p><u>HB1010 -</u> Mr. Critzer said that HB1010 was carried over until the 2015 General Assembly session. Mr. Critzer gave an overview of a meeting they had earlier since the issues discussed had a lot to do with HB1010 and why it was developed. The meeting was attended by Bill Thomasson, a member of the Bedford County Board of Supervisors; the Bedford County</p>	Mr. Critzer said that Gary Brown had sent him a link to the HB1856 report and they can distribute the link to the Executive Committee.

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	<p>Deputy Chief of EMS Division, Janet Blankenship, and Jack Jones, the Bedford County Chief of Fire and Rescue. The meeting was also attended by Chief David Hoback representing the Virginia Fire Chiefs along with Beau Blevins representing the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO).</p> <p>Discussion at the meeting surrounded recruitment and retention issues in general but related specifically to Bedford County. Mr. Critzer said that the group had a strong focus on education and training, but he felt that by the end of the meeting they were beginning to understand some of the other relevant factors. They offered the group suggestions of several other education and training resources, i.e. Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads Volunteer Assistance Work Group; OEMS online training, and suggested that they do some more educational pieces on EMS issues with Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) and Virginia Municipal League (VML) at their annual conferences and meetings.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer reminded the committee coordinators that they need to get feedback from the board committees as to how things are going as related to training and certification, workforce development, and leadership and planning. This must be kept alive and working through the system. Mr. Critzer is concerned that if the delegate doesn't feel that the system is actively engaged in talking about recruitment and retention issues the delegate might bring this bill back in 2015.</p> <p><u>HB581 and SB355 –</u> Mr. Critzer asked Scott Winston to give an update on these two bills, which were language clean up bills. Mr. Winston reported that the committee met on March 14 and April 18, and they have a third meeting scheduled on May 30. Mr. Winston said these are companion, identical bills. The committee workgroup has been reviewing the bills and working with staff from the Division of Legislative Services (DLS), David May and attorney Sarah Stanton. The DLS staff have been helpful in guiding the discussions and making technical changes to the code sections that mention EMS. The group decided to stay away from any substantive changes to the code. The workgroup has discussed redefining some terms in code, such as emergency medical services and EMS system to make it more reflective of the system. The timeline is to have a third revision after May 30, which will be shared with the key stakeholder groups. They plan to have public comment period in July and August; and they will present it to the State EMS Advisory Board in November for their review. They then plan to have it prefiled in December for the 2015 General Assembly session.</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer reminded Committee Coordinators to continue working with their respective committees as directed</p>
<p>Virginia Prehospital Information Bridge (VPHIB), submission /reporting errors, Version 3 (v3) National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) update</p>	<p>Mr. Brown explained that Paul Sharpe was unable to attend this meeting because he is in Northern Virginia at a National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) meeting. Mr. Sharpe will be at the Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators (VAGEMSA) and State EMS Advisory Board meetings on Friday to give an update on VPHIB and the transition to NEMSIS version 3 and any other questions.</p> <p>Dale Wagoner discussed the data quality report that is produced each month and said that several agencies are concerned and even angry over the data in the report. Mr. Wagoner said the statistics indicate that some of the agencies have substandard reporting. He said that some of the agencies in his area feel they are not getting the information they need to get quality data. He asked what the EMS system can do to help agencies with compliance and assure that they get accurate data.</p> <p>Mike Berg spoke in an effort to provide the group with some input in regards to some of the problems that have been encountered. Mr. Berg said that Paul Sharpe has been sending information to the agencies. Mr. Berg said that several agencies use Firehouse software, which does not meet the agencies data needs. He said that there are some simple fixes that can help to make sure the agencies data comes over the system correctly. Mr. Critzer also talked about his</p>	

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	<p>discovery that some information are not required data elements and cannot be extracted.</p> <p>Bruce Edwards said that he spoke with Tom Green, who chairs the VPHIB User Group. Tom indicated that when agencies don't use Image Trend software there is usually a mapping problem. Bruce said that the VPHIB Users Group has had one meeting and will be having another meeting in June at which time they will discuss these types of problems that agencies are experiencing. Gary Brown agreed with Bruce, and said that he knows that both Paul Sharpe and Carol Pugh have helped individuals with the mapping problem. Gary said that in some cases once they help with the mapping problem it has boosted the agency's quality report from 50 to 95 percent. He said that individuals should go to the VPHIB support suite on the OEMS website and put in a request for assistance.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer asked what the EMS Advisory Board can do to find a way to fix the problems and preventing the complaints from escalating. It was concluded that a major problem is that Firehouse software does not work with the Image Trend software. Mr. Critzer asked if there might possibly be a patch available that OEMS could share with the agencies and VPHIB User Group.</p>	
Regulatory Updates	<p>Mr. Berg reported that the Practitioners Signature Regulatory Packet remains in the Secretary of Health and Human Services office for their analysis and for them to sign off. Mr. Berg said they have a fast track regulatory packet in regards to the Financial Assistance Review Committee and some technical changes to the language. This has been placed on the Board of Health meeting scheduled on June 5, 2014 for approval. Mr. Berg is also putting together a regulatory package to update the language in §12 VAC5-31-910 of the regulations to add the word affiliation along with certification.</p> <p><u>Background Checks –</u> Mr. Berg said that background checks will become effective on July 1. He said that he has fingerprint cards, and he will be giving out 12,000 cards at the Regional EMS Council Executive Directors Group meeting. He said they have developed an instruction and information section that will be on the OEMS website. Mr. Berg said that the program will start on July 1 and it is not retroactive.</p>	
EMS on the National Level – What is Impacting Virginia	<p><u>Federal Specification for the Star-of-Life Ambulance KKK-A-1822F-</u> Mr. Berg explained that a Change Notice 6 is being issued for certain changes to the KKK-A-1822F standards that will become effective July 1, 2014. Virginia EMS Regulations state that all ambulances in Virginia must comply with the standards before a Star of Life can be placed on the ambulance. Mr. Berg explained it will be very costly for organizations purchasing new ambulances after July 1, as much as \$50,000 to purchase a new ambulance. Mr. Berg has submitted a public comment requesting a one-year delay in the implementation of this change order. He plans to develop a notice for Scott Winston to post on the OEMS website so that organizations can submit their public comments in regards to the Change Notice 6. The deadline for submitting comments to the General Services Administration (GSA) on the changes to the KKK-1822-F ambulance specifications is May 21, 2014.</p> <p>Gary Brown talked about positions held by several members of the Office of EMS staff on the national level as part of various NASEMSO committees. Mr. Brown said this puts OEMS in a better position because they are getting information and alerts of upcoming issues first.</p>	
Mobile Integrated Healthcare – Community Paramedicine	<p>Gary Brown briefed the group on the community paramedicine issue. He said this issue is not going to go away, and he said that OEMS supports community paramedicine. Mr. Brown feels that we must continue discussing this issue in preparation for any possible legislation that may come up in the next General Assembly session. Mr. Brown said that he feels a lot of the interested agencies probably don't want to go through a dual licensure process. However, he said that</p>	

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<p>a. Need for More Formalized Approach?</p>	<p>agencies will have to get a license, which will be issued by the Office of Licensure and Certification who regulates home healthcare. He said that changing the definition of EMS will not change the licensure process.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer added he is in agreement with Mr. Brown that this issue is not going away, and he said that the issue is growing nationally. Mr. Critzer feels there is a large number of Virginia agencies and organizations interested in providing this service. He said he feels it has to be a high priority on the EMS agenda.</p> <p>Mr. Edwards said that the City of Chesapeake is launching a \$75,000 study to look at the feasibility of providing community paramedicine. Mr. Edwards said in Virginia Beach he is looking at the issue and talking with Human Services and the local Health Department. Mr. Edwards said he feels it would make more sense for EMS to partner with home health care; allowing home health care to take the lead, and EMS could serve as a referral source.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said he feels EMS needs to formulate a permanent workgroup to address this issue. Mr. Brown said that he has identified Debbie Akers from OEMS as a staff person to work with the group. They talked about the different committees that should have representation on this workgroup.</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer will work with Bruce Edwards on composition of the committee.</p>
<p>Advisory Board Appointments</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer reported that he has spoken with the new Secretary of the Commonwealth Director of Gubernatorial Appointments, Lana Westfall. She indicated that the State EMS Advisory Board appointments are a priority. She wants to fast track these appointments, if possible.</p> <p><u>EMS Advisory Board Bylaws Related to committees:</u> Greg Neiman from the Office of EMS addressed the group regarding an issue that some committees have encountered as a result of the Advisory Board Bylaws. He explained that the issue is that as the Bylaws are currently written the committee members have to be appointed on an annual basis. He said that this creates a problem, especially for the Training & Certification Committee because the committee chair could potentially turn over the entire committee at one time. Mr. Neiman asked if the Bylaws could be adjusted to return to staggering the appointments to three-year terms.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said that the Executive Committee will revisit the Bylaws in regards to the committee appointments.</p> <p><u>Medevac Committee Organizational Structure Change-</u> Bruce Edwards asked Mr. Critzer if a decision had been made in regards to the letter Anita Ashby wrote to him asking to restructure the State Medevac Committee. Mr. Critzer, at Mr. Edwards's request, added this issue to the agenda. The letter was circulated to the Board for their review and thoughts.</p>  <p>Medevac Committee Restructure Request L</p> <p>The group reviewed the proposed restructure of the State Medevac Committee. The restructure would add two committee representatives and remove one representative, the EMS Advisory Board Consumer representative. The question was asked if this would have a substantial budgetary impact on the Office of EMS budget. Mr. Brown said they had looked at that aspect and decided that it would not have any consequential impact on the budget.</p> <p>After discussion, Dale Wagoner made a motion to accept the proposed restructure of the State Medevac Committee.</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer asked Bruce Edwards if he would look at the Bylaws; and he agreed he would review the Bylaws.</p> <p>MOTION: The State EMS Advisory Board Executive Committee moves to accept the State Medevac Committee restructure as requested by the State Medevac Committee.</p> <p>YEAS = 5; NAYS = 0; Abstentions = 0</p> <p>The motion was carried</p>

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	The motion was seconded by Larry Oliver; and hearing no further discussion, the Chair called for a vote.	unanimously.
Potential Legislation for the 2015 General Assembly Session	<p>Mr. Brown said that HB581 and SB355, the rewrite bills were discussed earlier in the meeting.</p> <p><u>Model Interstate Compact for EMS Licensure-</u> Mr. Brown said that the other bill that has potential is in regards to the Model Interstate Compact for EMS Personnel Licensure. Mr. Brown said that there is a final meeting in Chicago and NASEMSO will be flying each State EMS Director along with their legal counsel to Chicago for a one-day meeting. They will go up on Monday, June 9 and return on Tuesday June 10. The travel and lodging is being paid for by a NASEMSO grant. It will be an all-day meeting on Tuesday, June 10, which will be presented by the National Governor’s Association, the Department of Homeland Security and a couple of other groups. The agenda for the meeting will be to walk through the Model Interstate Compact. Each state’s legal counsel will have an opportunity to ask questions, as well.</p> <p>Mr. Brown said that they plan to get a sponsor to introduce the bill in the 2015 General Assembly session.</p>	
Advisory Board (EMS System) Priorities	<p>Mr. Critzer said the group has discussed several issues today. Priorities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Integrated Healthcare – and establishing a workgroup to pursue that issue. • In response to HB1010, they will pursue through the committee structure, recruitment and retention options related to EMS. • Continued exploration of alternative methods of education. • Finish up the work with HB581 and SB355. • VPHIB Users Group 	
Status of Officer Training Programs	<p>Mr. Critzer said that Matthew Tatum has inquired about the status of officer training programs. Mr. Tatum said he would like to know the status of the programs. He said that this has been an agenda item since he has been on the Board, and it is a critical issue; however, it has not been completed.</p> <p>Mr. Winston gave the group an update on what has taken place in regards to this program. The Workforce Development Committee established a workgroup formed to develop the EMS Officers Standards 1-4. The workgroup had a two day workshop in April, and they have completed their work in developing the curriculum. It is mirrored after Fire Officer 1, and it will be a hybrid course. The training will take about 40 hours. Mr. Winston said the curricula have been completed, and they are in the process of completing the administrative guidelines. The workgroup are now creating the Train-the-Trainer policies. Mr. Winston said the committee will be bringing forth a tangible program within the next couple of months.</p>	
13) Public Comment:	<p><u>Proclamation for Outgoing State EMS Advisory Board Members-</u> Larry Oliver requested that the Office of EMS develop a proclamation that can be presented to departing members of the State EMS Advisory Board. Mr. Oliver said that he asked about the proclamations when he started on the Board but other priorities kept him from following up on developing some proclamation templates. He feels that the individuals and the organizations they are representing should receive a proclamation.</p> <p><u>Fire and EMS Memorial Service -</u> Gary Critzer reminded the group of the upcoming Fire and EMS Memorial that will be held on Saturday, June 7 at Richmond International Raceway. Mr. Critzer will be attending and he encouraged all individuals to attend the event if possible.</p>	Mr. Winston said that he will ask Marian Hunter and Tristen Graves from OEMS to work with Larry Oliver on developing proclamation templates.

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	<p><u>Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority-</u> Bruce Edwards said he received an email from Dr. Adrian McFadden who is the Director of VDH Office of Minority Health and Health Equity. Dr. McFadden said that they have a close affiliation with Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority, a 13 member group appointed by the Governor. She said that the seven citizen members will be expiring this year. Dr. McFadden wanted to know if there was any interest in the EMS community to fill one of the seats. Mr. Edwards discussed this with Gary Brown, and they both agreed that Dr. Allen Yee would be a good candidate for this position. Mr. Edwards contacted Dr. Yee who agreed that he would be interested in the position, and Dr. Yee has applied for this position.</p>	<p>Dr. Allen Yee has applied for a seat on the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority.</p>
<p>14) Adjournment:</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 PM</p>	

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