

**Communications Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
Norfolk Waterside Marriott
235 E. Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510
November 12, 2015
11:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests:
Gary Critzer, Chair	Hershel Kreis, NENA	Ken Crumpler	Chris Parker
Richard Rubino, Member-at-Large (Legal)	Lewis Cassada, VITA	Wanda Street	Penni Walker
Connie Purvis, BREMS	Melissa Wood		Rodney Newton
Mike Keefe, VDEM			Jay Lovelady
Derrick Ruble, Tazewell County 911			
John Korman, APCO, VA Chapter			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order & Introductions:	The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 11:02 a.m. Gary thanked everyone for their attendance. He stated that there were three EMS deaths within the past few weeks and asked that everyone keep these families in your thoughts and prayers. Everyone in the room introduced themselves.	
Approval of the minutes dated August 7, 2015:	A motion was made to approve the August minutes. The motion was moved by Connie Purvis and seconded by Richard Rubino. The minutes were approved as submitted.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
Committee Chair Report (Mr. Gary Critzer):	<p>Gary congratulated Connie on her upcoming retirement from BREMS and thanked her for the long-standing commitment she has made to this committee over the years. Connie would like the committee to pursue the proprietary system issue and interoperability and keep them on the agenda. Gary stated that these items will definitely be kept on the forefront of the agenda.</p> <p>One of the things that this committee will be tasked with in the upcoming months is to look at the communications regulations for changes, updates or additions. All of the committees will be reviewing the regulations that pertain to their sections. One thing that was brought up is the fact that the language should be written so that the average person can read it and understand it. A workgroup will need to be established to work on this project. Gary would like to have this completed by the May 2016 meeting.</p>	Gary Critzer will establish a workgroup to review the communications portion of the regulations.

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	<p>In order to have interoperable communications with the hospitals, the Chair suggested adding a hospital preparedness representative seat to the committee.</p> <p>A motion was made by Richard Rubino to add an additional seat on the committee for a hospital preparedness representative (RHCC). The motion was seconded by Connie. All committee members present were in favor of the motion.</p> <p>VDEM will be the lead as far as interoperability is concerned. The upgrades that were done a few years ago are getting dated. Who will replace the equipment and update it? How will this be paid for? These upgrades can be expensive. Mike Keefe stated that VDEM is hiring a new Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) which will be located at the Governor’s office. He also said that VDEM will be rejuvenating the RPAC-I (Regional Preparedness Advisory Committees) and focus on standards base systems. As for funding, DHS grants will be a likely source. The VDEM reorganization is posted on their website. They are sitting up regional offices similar to the Virginia State Police structure.</p> <p>Ken and Mike Keefe attended a FirstNet consultation was held in Short Pump on September 30. FirstNet will be a government public safety grade wireless telephone and data system. The presentation was done well and the only difference between now and 10 years ago is the technology. Mike stated that once the proposal is given to the Governor, they have 90 days to decide whether to opt in or opt out. If they decide to opt out, we would still have to build out a comparable system with no federal funding. This is so that other entities with FirstNet equipment can still use their cell phones in Virginia. There was also a ratio on urban to rural coverage if Virginia opts in. It would be better not to include any of this in the communications regulations language at this time.</p>	
<p>OEMS Communications Coordinators Report (Ken Crumpler):</p>	<p>Ken thanked Gately Communications and the Chesapeake Cache for their assistance and help with this year’s symposium supply of radios. OEMS continues to sponsor 911 Dispatchers to work communications shifts on the third floor of the Marriott in exchange for free symposium registrations. The communications track was not separate this year. It was suggested to put a picture such as a headset by the communications classes if they will be intertwined with other classes.</p> <p>The OEMS Communications Directory is currently on hold. Gary suggested creating an inexpensive App for the Directory. Also, a portal could be created where each locality can update their information. Stephanie with VITA would be a great starting point to look into this.</p>	<p>Ken will contact Stephanie of VITA about the Comms Directory.</p>

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	<p>Ken has had no further communication from the Department of Education about the high school telecommunications/dispatch course they are planning to implement. He will update the committee if more information is received.</p> <p>Ken stated that he received all the documentation from Fauquier and Dickenson 911 centers. Ken was instructed by Karen to create a database of the PSAP accreditations.</p>	
New Business:	<p>PSAP Accreditation Application – King & Queen County Ken stated that he has all of the completed documentation for the above PSAP.</p> <p>A motion was made to accept King & Queen County’s application.</p> <p>They have 9 employees with only 5 certified and no instructors. It was decided to get clarification on the number of certified EMD’s as well as the EMD instructors and a plan on when they will be certified.</p> <p>A motion was made by Richard Rubino to table this application until the next meeting pending updated information. The motion was seconded by Derrick Ruble. All committee members were in favor of tabling the motion.</p> <p>Ken proudly stated that the smaller 911 systems are coming on board.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	None.	
Public Comment:	Rodney spoke about the proprietary systems. In the past they pushed P25 and small localities cannot afford P25. RSAF funding needs to be pushed to meet the interoperability channels. He feels that this needs to be considered. Gary stated that we will look at this when we review the regulations.	
Adjournment:	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:26 p.m.</p> <p>2016 Meeting Schedule: Feb. 5, May 6, Aug. 5 and Nov. 10 (Norfolk Waterside Marriott)</p>	