

**Communications Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
Courtyard Marriott
10077 Brook Road, Glen Allen, VA
August 9, 2013
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests:
Gary Critzer , Chair	Emily Totten	Ken Crumpler	Bruce Edwards
Richard Rubino , Member at Large (Legal)	Dorothy Spears-Dean	Karen Owens	Billy Altman
Vic Buisset , VDEM	Pokey Harris	Wanda Street	
Hershel Kreis , NENA, VA Chapter	Chris McIntosh		
Connie Purvis , BREMS			
Corina Nuckols , APCO, VA Chapter			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order:	The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:12 a.m.	
Approval of the minutes dated May15, 2013:	No motion could be made on the minutes, as there was no quorum.	The May minutes will be presented at the next meeting.
Committee Chair Report (Mr. Gary Critzer):	<p>The narrowband initiative has gone fairly well. According to Richard Rubino, the FCC will be doing an audit, which was supposed to have been done in either June or July. If you are aware of any agencies that have not become narrowband compliant, please encourage them to do it.</p> <p>Gary said that there have been some great EMD articles which Ken has shared with everybody. He is proud of Virginia's EMD progression.</p>	
OEMS Communications Coordinators Report (Ken Crumpler):	<p>Ken welcomed Corina Nuckols to the committee. As stated in the email from Ken dated June 17, 2013, Corina works at Hanover County Emergency Communications in Quality Assurance. They use the Priority Dispatch Program. She is also a volunteer at Hanover Co. Fire and EMS. She will represent the Virginia Chapter of APCO on the Advisory Board. After she gave some background information about herself, everyone around the room introduced themselves.</p> <p>PSAP Accreditation Application – Alexandria Department of Emergency Communications Ken stated that the application meets all of the required criteria and is recommended for accreditation.</p> <p>This PSAP application could not be voted on today, however, it will be brought to the Advisory Board Committee Meeting today for approval.</p>	This PSAP will be presented to the Advisory Board later today for approval.

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	 <p>Alexandria Department of Emerg</p> <p>PSAP Accreditation Presentations Ken visited James City County recently for a reaccreditation visit. Their QA/QI report numbers are consistently in the upper 90's. They are doing a stellar job!</p> <p>Ken will be scheduling more presentations this fall. He especially wants to get to the Southwest before winter. He will work with Karen to schedule the visits.</p> <p>Miscellaneous Updates Karen Owens had been the Acting Emergency Operations Manager for a number of months and was recently hired as the Emergency Operations Manager effective tomorrow, August 10. As you may be aware, Jim Nogle has medically retired due to serious health issues. He will be missed by the OEMS staff.</p> <p>The Symposium communications track looks good. Only one person was not able to teach.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	<p>Gary Critzer mentioned the VESTA upgrade which was originally priced at \$296,000 was accomplished at only \$164,000 from a competitor. Per Billy and Ken there were a couple of agencies that requested grant funding for this type of upgrade during the last grant cycle. Gary thinks most of the requests went to the State Wireless Board for funding.</p> <p>Connie stated some hospitals may be upgrading their hospital receiving station equipment, CAREpoint. It has many functions and interfaces with multiple frequencies. It is used for telemedicine and uses software called e-Messenger. They will be upgrading this system, so there could possibly be some other grant requests for this.</p>	
New Business:	<p>Update of EMS Communications Directory This directory needs to be updated. Karen and Ken met briefly about this recently. Ken would like to expand the information to include the FCC call sign. He would also like to include whether or not the PSAP offers EMD and what protocol they are using. Also, if they are accredited by the office or not. This is for informational purposes only. This would also be helpful information if there is a critical system failure at a PSAP. It would be easier to backfill and provide services. Ken asked the committee members to review the directory and think of other information that could be included. Hershel suggested including the EMD/CAD program they are using. Ken also plans to send out an update reminder to the PSAPs every six months. He also plans to update the format so that it is easier to edit.</p> <p>Richard informed everyone of a regulatory matter. The FCC is conducting an audit regarding construction of radio facilities. He was involved in the discussion of the private land mobile. For the most part the message</p>	<p>The committee members were asked to review the directory for other information that could be included.</p>

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	<p>given to them was if it's not broke don't fix it because it works fairly well. This may be a continuation of the 2010 proposal.</p> <p>Gary asked if VDEM is tracking interoperable solutions in the jurisdictions. Vic said that a lot of the Motorola products have been removed and Sytec has replaced a lot of it. There is no study on this, but VDEM did a Field Operating Guide last year and asked jurisdictions to provide that information, but some did not respond. He is more than willing to share this information at the next meeting.</p> <p>Vic also mentioned that a lot of agencies went out and bought satellite phones to back up their communications system, but there is no directory and VDEM is working on putting one together. Gary stated that once the interoperability solutions Guide is completed, the SAT phone information should be included as well. Ken asked if the SAT phone information should be public knowledge or should it just be shared with emergency personnel. The committee stated that it should be shared only with other emergency personnel only.</p> <p>Vic shared that on July 21st, a lane reversal after action meeting was held. Everything went pretty well except for a couple of glitches. A communications plan was developed last year and it worked out pretty well then. This year, however, the 205 frequency was not implemented so there were communications problems. Also, a White Mercedes had somehow entered the closed area, but didn't get far before being turned around. Those were the two big things.</p> <p>Ken reminded everyone that the RSAF Grant cutoff is September 16.</p> <p>Richard advised everyone that GPS and signal jammers are illegal. An individual was just fined \$32,000 for jamming the GPS at the Newark air port. If you have problems where all of sudden you can't track a vehicle, there is a possibility that a signal jammer is being used. Contact the FCC Field Office and they will come out. These jammers put police and first responders in harm's way.</p>	<p>Vic will share the Field Operating Guide in November.</p> <p>FYI – The current RSAF Grant cycle ends September 16.</p>
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.	The next meeting is November 7, 2013 at 11 a.m. at the Sheraton in Norfolk.