

**State EMS Advisory Board
Executive Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA
January 27, 2014
10:00 a.m.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	OEMS STAFF:	OTHER ATTENDEES:
Gary Critzer, Chair	Gary R. Brown	
Dale Wagoner, Vice Chair	Scott Winston	
Matt Tatum (phone)	Wanda Street	
Gary Samuels	Michael Berg	
Larry Oliver (phone)	Paul Sharpe	
Allen Yee, M.D.	Tim Perkins	
Bruce Edwards (phone)		

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order:	Gary Critzer called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.	
1) Welcome & Introductions - Chair:	Gary welcomed everyone to the meeting. No introductions were necessary. FYI – Gary explained that the Executive Committee meeting is being held prior to the Governor’s Advisory Board meetings instead of during due to time constraints. It was conflicting with other meetings. If anyone has any concerns about this, please let him know. Everyone agreed that it works out fine this way.	
2) Approval of the Agenda:	The agenda was approved as submitted. There were no amendments or addendums.	
3) Approval of October 10, 2013 meeting minutes:	A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was moved by Dale Wagoner and seconded by Allen Yee. The minutes were approved as submitted.	A motion was made to approve the October minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.
4) Legislative Update:	<p>HB1010 – Gary Critzer stated that he is not aware of any of the primary public safety organizations in Virginia that supports it. He believes that VAVRS, VAGEMSA, and a few others strongly oppose it. It is, however, receiving support from VACO. This would not be good for the system if it passes. Gary Brown said that technically, VDH does not have a position until the Governor takes a position. OEMS has made it known that it strongly opposes this bill. HWI , subcommittee #3 is holding a meeting on Thursday to discuss this.</p> <p>Line of Duty Act (LODA) – This bill has pretty much been shut down due to use of State funds.</p> <p>Gary Brown mentioned HB581 and SB355 which were supposed to be clean up bills but have new language added in. Both of these have been carried over to 2015 and needs to be examined very carefully. This is a huge bill of about 300 pages. What is the best way to handle this? Gary Critzer is in favor of dedicating a group just to review this. The Legislative and Planning Committee will be charged with establishing a workgroup and appointing members to work on this.</p>	Gary Critzer will ask the Legislative and Planning Committee to create a workgroup to work on HB581 and SB355.

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<p>5) HB1856 – work items and report update:</p>	<p>The Executive Committee discussed this in October and approved the work items. OEMS has prepared a report to the Executive Staff of VDH concerning this and has not received a response. Scott stated that he does not have anything to add at this time. (Gary Brown stepped out of the room.) Upon his return, Gary Brown also stated that a response has not yet been received from VDH.</p>	
<p>6) Barriers to the Recruitment and Retention of EMS Providers:</p>	<p>At symposium in November, the Executive Committee members met with Chief Jones from Bedford to prevent HB1010, which obviously did not work. The Committee agreed to discuss this issue and determine what needs to be done by the Advisory Board or its Committees in regard to recruitment and retention of EMS providers both career and volunteer. We are committed to following through with this. The Board of Supervisors representative and Chief Jones was invited to attend this meeting and the Advisory Board meeting next week. Gary will call Beau Blevins to see if they plan to attend next week. Neither was present for today's meeting. Bruce sent Gary Critzer a copy of the work that was done by the Volunteer Rescue Squad Assistance Workgroup (VRS AWG).</p> <p>Per Gary Critzer, two of the most common complaints that keep people from volunteering are internal agency politics and lack of leadership. More work needs to be done in this area. Larry Oliyev stated that State Fire Chiefs has been doing a huge volunteer recruitment campaign for the past two years using federal funding. He suggested using some of their statistics to gather information to assist us with this. There are many factors such as time, salaries and education that come into play when dealing with volunteer and career EMS providers. This is a big issue. Gary Critzer agreed that many types of volunteer agencies are struggling to attract and keep volunteers. Most people don't have much free time anymore. This is a bigger issue than just certification. Dr. Yee asked if anyone has looked at the science behind volunteerism. Who are we targeting, what drives them to volunteer and why are they not volunteering? According to the 2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics, we should be targeting Caucasian males with bachelor degrees. They have a 20+% chance of volunteering. Fire Programs has done a study like this. Michael Berg agrees that we need to know what drives them to volunteer and what are the perks that could be offered to attract them? He feels the main issue is time. Dale feels that this is not just a training issue. He also feels that we should look at the data from Fire Programs. He suggested online training or use EMS funding for things other than ambulances such as hiring volunteer coordinators. We might even want to do public meetings across the Commonwealth to ask the agencies what we can do to improve the workforce. Gary Critzer stated that local governments need to be educated on things they can do in their community to strengthen volunteerism. Gary Critzer said that their area used to pay an incentive to ALS providers until 2008 when the economy took a down turn. Local government eliminated all incentive pay. Bruce said that in the study that they did the issues went back to one or two major items. Bruce said there are six items in building a strong solid organization: 1) Outstanding leadership. 2) The agency should have good partnerships with the community and the local government. 3) Make sure that training is available at all times. 4) Have a good public relations campaign to let people know what you are doing and what you are all about. 5) Build personal but professional bonds with the volunteers and staff. 6) Have sound financial practices.</p> <p>Matt said that lack of leadership and leadership training has been mentioned a couple of times today and he wants to know the status of the EMS Officer I Training program that the Workforce Development was working on. He has not seen a release of the final product. Scott stated that the Standards of Excellence program is moving along very well. This is an agency self-assessment tool. A beta test has been done in Goochland and Forest View. A test is planned for Norfolk and LifeCare Ambulance service. The EMS Officer Standards has had some hiccups. The final product is not complete at this time. OEMS is meeting with Fire Programs to finish the development of the curricula so that the finished product can be used by Fire and EMS. There is a meeting scheduled on Wednesday of this week and an update will be given at the Workforce Development meeting next week. A Task Book has been developed that can be used by</p>	

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	<p>more experienced individuals to develop a variety of experiences and training that they can produce to be recognized as completing the criteria for the different levels of Office I through IV. They are currently developing a 16 hour course that is a combination of classroom and self study education. Dr. Yee asked if there were any studies done on GIS software to compare census, per capita, etc. Scott said there is a supply and demand issue. If you look at the age group of 16-34 year olds, the rate of growth for this age group is lagging behind versus the population as a whole. The population ages 65 and older are growing twice as fast as the population as a whole and this is causing an increase in the demand for service. Scott said that the Fire Chiefs did a study using a GIS approach in Phase 1 of the project.</p> <p>It was mentioned by Dale earlier to get grants for recruitment and retention personnel. Gary Critzer stated that Central Shenandoah EMS Council has applied for a Recruitment and Retention grant through RSAF and was approved. A marketing firm has been selected to do recruitment, retention and marketing training with all of their area agencies. He is interested in seeing the outcome of this and whether it was a wise investment. He will have a report on this when completed. There is a success story in Bath County. Millboro Springs Volunteer Rescue Squad partnered with Bath County government and they received funding for instructors, training and incentives and they recruited 25 new volunteer EMS providers! Gary Critzer will find out more about this and what they did. There is a lot of work to be done to turn things around.</p> <p>Scott added the EMS Provider Portal is expanding and the Office will be asking the providers to enter information about their demographics. This will help us better identify the workforce. There has also been some discussion of developing a “dashboard” so that at any given time, we can gather reports of the number of certified technicians, whether they are affiliated or non-affiliated, career or volunteer, where they live and where they work, etc. Gary Critzer stated that it would be good to harness this information because when we work with VACO or VML, they will want this type of information. It will also give a graphical demonstration of where help is needed and where the focus should be. Scott said that the Dept. of Health has data that they use to identify medically underserved areas and the Dept. of Health Professions does a workforce analysis on a routine basis. Gary Critzer stated if assistance is needed through the committee structures, please let him know.</p> <p>This will remain on the agenda for a while for further discussion and action.</p>	<p>Gary Critzer will obtain more information on the Bath County/Millboro Springs collaboration and report back to the Committee.</p> <p>This topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion.</p>
<p>7) State EMS Plan Status:</p>	<p>Tim Perkins reported that a final draft of the State EMS Plan was completed a few months ago; however, with the proposed legislature of the Poison Control Centers, the EMS Plan is now on hold. Tim will be meeting with Paul Sharpe to keep updated on this budget item.</p> <p>A copy of this plan was presented at the last meeting, but it was tabled due to the Poison Control Center legislature. This needs to be on the February 7th agenda at the Governor’s Advisory Board in order to go before the State Board of Health within the 30 day period. The next Board of Health meetings are March 20 and June 5.</p> <p>Tim also had documentation that was sent to Gary Critzer about reorganization of the Medevac Committee. The current Chair, Anita Ashby, has requested a proposed committee structure to include seats for each licensed air medical agency in the Commonwealth with seats also for the Chair, Member at Large, Non-Trauma Designated Hospital and the OEMS Planner. This would mean a total of 21 seats. The Executive Committee feels that this would be much too large. They mentioned the fact that the State would also have to reimburse of all of these people if they requested travel reimbursement. Currently there are 4 of each on the committee (Part 135 & Part 91). Gary Critzer suggested sending this back to Anita to come up with a workable solution.</p>	

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8) VPHIB User Group, NEMSIS 3 Update:	Paul Sharpe said that ImageTrend is loading the first state, which is Kentucky, this week and Virginia is on track to be loaded in July. The monthly forums have been very well attended. The forums are held to answer questions and get everyone prepared for Version 3. Last month they went over validation rules. The validation rules have been published on the Support site. Amanda Davis is working through grants to help providers with Toughbooks as they are nearing their life cycle. There were 221 grant applications received. Dr. Yee asked Paul about the Health Information Exchanges in Virginia. Paul says he has reached out to them, but has not received a response.	
9) GAB Appointments and Committee Assignments:	OEMS still doesn't have any information as to why the majority of the appointments have been delayed. There may have been some confusion in the Secretary's office with the change of the staggered appointments. They may reappoint the entire board this year. This would be a nightmare. We need to find out what the intent is. Gary Critzer will contact the new Director of Appointments at the Secretary's office to inquire about the appointments.	Gary Critzer will contact the Secretary's office about the appointments.
10) Mobile Integrated Healthcare Update:	Michael Berg stated the Attorney General's office will try to have an answer for us based on the questions the Office of EMS had. Some of the Office staff will be participating on a conference call this afternoon with NASEMSO about this. The Office of EMS does not oppose this. The VDH Office of Licensure and Certification (OLC) insist that they need to be licensed to do Mobile Integrated Healthcare in Virginia. There are still some things to work out. Per Scott, a briefing paper was sent to Amanda Lavin, the Deputy Officer Attorney General for the Health Department., on December 20, Amanda is working with a woman nicknamed Squig of OLC to report their findings with Allison Tysinger and to determine whether or not a license is required.	
11) Regulatory Update – pending regulations:	<p>Per Michael Berg, the regulatory package for Action 450 which is the Statutory Changes to the Certification/Recertification is currently open for public comment. As of today, there have been no public comments submitted to the State Registrar. The public comment period closes on the 27th and the regulation will become effective March 1. The OEMS webpage will be updated to reflect this.</p> <p>The other regulatory package deals with the Practitioner's signature. This has been in the AG's office for almost 60 days. Although they have provided email documentation that they have approved it, it still needs to go through the Town Hall process. He was recently told by the AG liaison that an answer should be forthcoming for this packet as well as an answer to the question in regard to the Mobile Integrated Community Healthcare program.</p> <p>Michael has not done anything else with the FARC regulations. He needs to finish the paperwork on it.</p> <p>The Office of EMS has been working with the Board of Pharmacy for a number of years. As you may recall, last General Assembly they were able to get legislature to pass to change the Board of Pharmacy Code of VA Language to allow for the Practitioner's signature change. The Board of Pharmacy has also elected to review that section of the regulations which talks about the emergency drug kit. They also want to include other language that talks about not allowing one for one drug exchanges. Northern VA region is adamantly opposed to this and will hold a meeting on February 3. This is also an agenda item at the Rules and Regulations Committee meeting on February 6.</p> <p>Gary Critzer asked if the process for automated certification is ready. Michael stated that everything is on track for this process.</p> <p>The FBI background check project is still a source of frustration. This law was supposed to have gone into effect July 1. The Office has been working with VITA and Virginia State Police to get this up and running. The Juniper Box has finally been received. We are waiting to hear from the firewall team of VITA to remove the firewall. Once this done, the State Police will come and install the software. Then we can have training and implement the system. Michael was</p>	

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	hoping to have this implemented on March 1.	
12) Unfinished Business/Informational Items:	<p>FYI – Ambulance Standards Michael Berg shared that he has received an update on NFPA 1917. Last year NASEMSO and other ambulance stakeholders came up with 25 recommendations to the NFPA technical committee. All 25 recommendations were not accepted. They are working to address those that were not accepted. The technical committee has held two meetings and will have a few more opportunities for public comment. But the public is not making many comments. ANSE is also developing ambulance standards. ASTM 2020 is also out there but is not current. Michael mentioned this because it will have an impact on OEMS Regulations and grant awards.</p> <p>High Threat Incident Best Practices Dr. Yee asked if the EMS Advisory Board thought about doing a best practice for high threat environments such as an active shooter incident. Gary Critzer and Gary Samuels both said that this would be a good idea to task a workgroup for this type of incident. The Office of EMS would endorse a best practice document.</p> <p>Mutual Aid Presentation Gary Samuels stated that there will be a mutual aid presentation at the Emergency Management meeting on February 6. It shows what resources are available in what areas. It is quite interesting.</p>	
13) Public Comment:	None.	
14) Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.	

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