

State EMS Advisory Board Executive Committee Meeting  
 Richmond Marriott Short Pump, Glen Allen, VA  
 May 4, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff	Others
Gary P. Critzer, Chair Central Shenandoah EMS Council	David Hoback Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (Excused)	Gary Brown	Jeff Michael Rockingham County
Genemarie McGee, Vice-Chair Tidewater EMS Council (via phone conference)		Scott Winston	Matt Lawler Augusta County Fire-Rescue
Bruce W. Edwards Board of Health – EMS Representative		Kim Barton	Chris Vernovai Highland County
Marilyn McLeod, M.D. Blue Ridge EMS Council		Deborah Akers	Valeta C. Daniels State EMS Advisory Board
Christopher L. Parker Virginia Emergency Nurses Association / Virginia Nurses Association		Gregory Neiman	Gary Samuels Henrico Doctors Hospital
Ronald Passmore Southwest Virginia EMS Council		Michael Berg	Amy Ashe New Kent Fire and Rescue
		George Lindbeck, M.D.	
		Tim Perkins	
		Charles Faison	
		Irene Hamilton	

Topic / Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gary Critzer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.</li> <li>Introductions were made around the room.</li> </ul>	
Approval of the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft agenda for the meeting was approved by unanimous consent.</li> </ul>	
Approval of the minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. McLeod asked for an addition to the February 2, 2017 minutes.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. McLeod requested that a comment be added under the section of the “ACS Task Force Update.” The comment will be added to the minutes stating that Dr. McLeod commented that this presentation did not go through the Task Force Committee in full before it was presented to the Executive GAB, and it is an inappropriate presentation. Mr. Critzer agreed and asked that the minutes be amended to state that the presentation made by Dr. Aboutanos did not represent approved work.</p>	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee moved to approve the February 2, 2017 minutes as amended.</p> <p>YEAS = 6                      NAYS = 0                      ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>The motion was carried unanimously.</p>

	<p>A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 2, 2017 minutes as amended.</p>	
<p>ACS Task Force Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Critzer asked Drs. McLeod and Lindbeck to give updates on the last Task Force meeting they attended.</li> <li>• Dr. McLeod reported that at the last Pre Hospital Workgroup meeting Dr. Aboutanos asked them to develop what a Pre Hospital Trauma Committee would look like if one was established. The workgroup discussed this in detail and decided that it would be counterproductive to work on details for a committee that hasn't been established; and they decided not to detail what a possible Pre Hospital committee would look like before such a committee is even established. Dr. McLeod said that she isn't sure that many members of the workgroup think there is a need to establish a Pre Hospital Committee. Dr. McLeod feels that they need to get all the workgroups together because it feels like they are working separately at the moment.</li> <li>• Dr. Lindbeck agreed with Dr. McLeod's comments and said that there is confusion in the group about what the work product actually is. They started in one direction and got redirected; and he feels that the group is not sure how they will reconcile this problem. He said that the underlying discussion is that they have a structure in place that can address these issues but the current structure has not been approached, utilized or proven to be insufficient or have failed; and there is a question about setting up a new structure, which is confusing the workgroup members.</li> <li>• Mr. Critzer stated that at the last meeting it was somewhat premature because the report was supposed to be an update of the work of the Task Force but instead they got shown a work product that they had discussed in the Administrative Workgroup that was to create a separate Trauma System Advisory Board parallel to the EMS Advisory Board that reported up line.</li> <li>• Dr. McLeod said that she reviewed the minutes of the Administrative Workgroup. In April 2016 they approved the minutes that they had made the decision to do that; and they said that they knew it would upset many</li> </ul>	

	<p>people so keep it confidential. Dr. McLeod said that this was inappropriate and should not have been accepted. It said that they would present it to Legislative experts once they had the draft written.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said that she was correct. He reviewed the process as it should take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Workgroups would do individual work and report it to the Task Force.</li> <li>○ The Task Force would formulate the final product and give it to the Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee (TSOM).</li> <li>○ TSOM would vet it and send it back to the Executive Committee.</li> <li>○ The Executive Committee would distribute it to the Advisory Board committees and the State EMS Advisory Board.</li> <li>○ After approved in those venues, it would go to the Board of Health for approval.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. Critzer concluded by saying it is still a work in progress with several more meetings before they reach a final consensus that will be ready for reviewed throughout the system.</li> <li>● Mr. Critzer indicated that they would be meeting on Friday afternoon to discuss some of the issues and concerns with the Task Force Workgroups process.</li> </ul>	
<p>EMS Training Funds Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chuck Faison, OEMS Training and Development Coordinator, gave the group an overview of the revamped EMS Training Funds program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initial certification programs are being changed to a scholarship-based distribution model. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funds will be distributed directly to the students.</li> <li>▪ Students can apply via an online application.</li> <li>▪ The VDH, Office of Health Equity will be administering the online application process, managing and reporting, payment disbursement and monitoring the student's progression through the program.</li> <li>▪ Students will be able to apply to the program of their choice as long as the programs are approved by OEMS and the program or instructor is at or above the 16</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>percentile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ OEMS plans to administer three scholarship cycles per year (spring, summer, and fall).</li> <li>▪ OEMS will manage the overall program in regards to policies, scoring criteria and evaluating applicants.</li> <li>▪ OEMS hopes to make the first scholarship awards by January 2018; and they hope to have the application available online by October 2017.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Continuing Education Auxiliary Program plan is to enter into contracts with the Regional EMS Councils. The contracts will be managed separately from existing Regional EMS Council contracts. They will be setting up a meeting with Regional EMS Council directors to explain the contract terms and confirm participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The explanation is that councils will conduct two full CE programs per year per locality.</li> <li>▪ Funding for Auxiliary Programs will be based on historic student enrollment number averages.</li> <li>▪ They want to have these contracts in effect by July 1, 2017.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mr. Critzer inquired about the CE Programs, if they could be council conducted training or could a county tell the council that they want to do their own internal CE program, and it would be funded through the contract. Mr. Faison confirmed that this is correct.</li> <li>• Mr. Critzer asked if there would be a competitive bid process. Mr. Faison said that decision will be left up to the councils.</li> <li>• Gary Brown added that every Regional EMS Council should have procurement guidelines and OEMS wants them to abide by their procurement guidelines.</li> <li>• Bruce Edwards asked about the reason for creating the scholarship program.</li> <li>• Mr. Faison said that the past program was not in compliance with the Commonwealth's procurement guidelines. They had to develop an alternative model that meets their guidelines.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Faison also pointed out that in order to assure that the</p>	
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	<p>Commonwealth gets a return on its investment for the scholarship program, students awarded scholarships successfully complete the program and certify; and also affiliate within Virginia.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said he understands that this new program was developed because the Office of Procurement and General Services determined that the process used for disbursing funds did not meet the State’s procurement guidelines.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer is concerned because a lot of people are asking questions about this new program and some constituent organizations are already talking to their lawyers about possibly talking to their legislators about drafting legislation to keep this new program from taking effect. Mr. Critzer emphasized the importance of vetting this process as much as possible. People are especially concerned with the Scholarship program and whether they will get students who are willing to go through the process; and this could stifle EMS education in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said it is important to get the program’s criteria distributed as soon as possible. Mr. Faison said they are working on those criteria and want to have them distributed as soon as possible. He said they met with the Office of Health Equity recently. They have also met with the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) organizations to discuss their concerns.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer asked Gary Brown if the roll out might need to be similar to the roll out utilized for the EMT-I program and scheduling a series of “Round Tables” offered throughout the Commonwealth that will give agency and organizational leaderships an opportunity to come and ask questions “face to face.” Mr. Critzer emphasized he thinks this is necessary to make it a successful rollout.</p> <p>The committee discussed in depth the reasons behind the change in the EMS Training Funds program, and their concern that individuals who abused the former program were not accountable for their actions. Mr. Brown said that responsible individuals have lost jobs and certifications. The larger cases were turned over to state police. However, state police</p>	
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	<p>determined they would not pursue prosecution of the individuals involved.</p> <p>Christopher Parker said he is concerned that there might not be enough funds to accomplish the educational goals that they have established. Chuck Faison said they are open to hearing concerns. He said it is impossible for them to identify every possible scenario. He said they are obligated with the scholarship program to move forward. He said they will continue to listen to voiced concerns and try to fine-tune the program, as needed.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer suggested it might be beneficial once the final program is complete for OEMS to go to each regional EMS council area, with the regional EMS council staff, and have an informational period open to anyone interested. OEMS could have a question and answer period; talk about how they can help sell it in their communities, and how the localities can make sure they advertise the program correctly to make sure the applications are received in a timely manner.</p> <p>Mr. Faison said they have discussed the public education aspect. He agrees that they definitely need to hear from the localities.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer emphasized that his comments are not against OEMS; and that he, as well as others he has spoken with are not blaming OEMS. They are just concerned that the new program does not negatively impact recruitment and retention of EMS providers in the Commonwealth and the money is used in the best method.</p> <p>Chris Parker inquired if the funding established in the Code to pay for the initial testing for EMTs could be recouped or for the training funds program, if individuals test for EMT certification but don't affiliate with Virginia agencies. Mr. Critzer agreed with Mr. Parker that this is something that would be at least good to investigate that possibility. Debbie Akers said that OEMS is not anywhere near the money they have set aside for testing. Many EMR/EMT candidates will not be accepted by an EMS agency until they have their certification. If we don't pay for the test to gain the certification, they won't be able to join the EMS system.</p>	
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	<p>Mr. Winston asked how much time will scholarship students have to affiliate after they complete the course. Mr. Faison said that OLC Nursing program give students a 60 day grace period to find employment. OEMS is still trying to determine the link of their grace period.</p> <p>Valeta Daniels had some questions to get better clarification.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. She wanted to know the application process. Mr. Faison said that students will go online. If they are awarded a scholarship the funds will be directed to the students and the students will be responsible for paying the EMS training program.</li> <li>2. Ms. Daniels asked if an EMS agency does all their CEUs in house, are they able now to get funding for their own internal program, which might take away from area CEU programs. Mr. Faison said that under the plan for contracts with Regional EMS Councils, that is an area that they have not addressed specifically; but they are providing the funds to the regional EMS councils who will disburse the monies / administer the programs. Ms. Daniels said that is one of her major concerns, people who are already paying to send their people to class might realize they can get funding and maybe take away spots for EMS agencies that really need the funding. Mr. Faison said that this is a good point and that probably should be discussed.</li> </ol> <p>Mr. Critzer ended by reiterating the importance of making sure the regions get the correct information distributed to the students. Mr. Critzer said he is also concerned because there are parts of the Commonwealth that don't have internet service and individuals who don't have or even know how to operate a computer. He is concerned that OEMS assure that those areas are served and have equal access to the application process and funding to become an EMT.</p>	
EMT-I Town Hall Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Critzer reported on the EMT-I Town Hall meetings that have been held over the last three months.</li> <li>• The last Town Hall meeting is scheduled in Marion, Virginia on May 24 at 6 p.m.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Critzer said attendance has been sparse at some and at others they have had a large attendance. However, for the most part, most attendees just sit and take in the information; but there have been very few questions or comments. They have also received approximately 20 comments via the OEMS website.</li> <li>• After the Marion Town Hall, a closing comment period will be announced on the OEMS website.</li> <li>• The information will then be distributed to Medical Direction and Training and Certification and then back to the Executive Committee. The planned outcome is that MDC and TCC will have a recommendation that will be brought to the State EMS Advisory Board for action at the August meeting.</li> <li>• The two components are (1) those who are certified as “I”. There is no attempt to take “I” away from anyone who currently has it. Mr. Critzer said that there is no plan to take away “I” status from anyone already certified as “I” The unanswered question is what they will do when the Registry decides it is not going to offer the assessment test any longer.</li> </ul>	
<p>VAVRS Financial Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Critzer said that the Executive Committee is required by Virginia Code to review the VAVRS annual financial report.</li> <li>• Mr. Brown distributed the latest audit of VAVRS and discussed their findings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adam Harrell, OEMS Business Manager, reviewed the report and shared his findings with Mr. Brown.</li> <li>○ There is a lack of separation of duties</li> <li>○ Absence of accountant review policies and procedures</li> <li>○ The general ledger is cash-based and the financial statement is accrual based. This practice distorts the interim financial statements.</li> <li>○ There is no recording of capital assets according to their own policy.</li> <li>○ OEMS is currently seeking an external, independent audit firm to perform a specific review of VAVRS financial information. Detail is needed on the specific “training recruitment and retention activities” that they capitalize, as it needs to include specific date, time and location, total attendance and revenue of event versus expenses. Further questioning around the “Member Rescue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



	<p>Squad” component of VAVRS versus the Code of Virginia requirements. They will seek clarification from the Office of the Attorney General on accounting requirements for VAVRS based on the amount of funding received from the Commonwealth of Virginia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They plan to have the independent audit answer many of the recommendations and observations shared on or before November 17, 2017. They plan on reporting the findings to the Executive Committee once it is complete.</li> <li>○ Mr. Critzer said it would be appropriate for the Executive Committee to receive the audit. They will receive it and not approve anything pending the independent audit that OEMS is having done.</li> <li>○ Christopher Parker made a motion to receive the audit and Dr. McLeod seconded the motion.</li> </ul>	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee moves to receive the VAVRS Financial Report and not to approve it pending the independent audit that OEMS is having conducted.</p> <p>VOTE: YEAS = 6; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p>
<p>HB1728 Medevac Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tim Perkins explained that the bill requires the Department of Health to convene a work group composed of stakeholders, including representatives of law enforcement, emergency medical services providers, health insurance providers and other interested stakeholders to review the rules, regulations and protocols governing use of air transportation services, also known as air ambulances, in emergency medical situations. The Department of Health shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2017.</li> <li>• After a meeting with an air medical operator that is a vendor for an agency in Virginia, Virginia state representative David Marsden determined that there should be one representative to represent all the</li> </ul>	

operators in Virginia.

The workgroup mentioned in the bill language has been created, and is made up of the following representatives:

- Law Enforcement:
  - Lt. Jay Cullen ,Virginia State Police (Unit Commander – VSP Aviation)
- EMS Providers:
  - Deputy Chief Eddie Ferguson - Goochland County Dept. of Fire-Rescue & Emergency Services, Past President – Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators
  - Derrick S. Ruble – Director of 911 & Emergency Communications, Tazewell County, VA
- Health Insurance Providers:
  - Jim Young, Insurance Policy Advisor – Policy, Compliance and Administration Division, Virginia State Corporation Commission, Bureau of Insurance
  - Bill Zeiser, Transportation Unit Supervisor, Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services
  - Kyle Shreve, Director of Policy, Virginia Association of Health Plans –
- Medevac Committee:
  - Anita Perry – Medevac Committee Chair
  - Julia Marsden – Vice Chair (Facilitator)
- Emergency Physicians: George Lindbeck, MD, State Medical Director
- Interested Stakeholders:
  - Rob Hamilton, President, Med-Trans Air Medical Transport (representing medevac operators)
  - Erik Bodin, Director, VDH Office of Licensure and Certification
  - Paul Davenport, Vice President – Emergency Services, Carilion Clinic (representing VHHA)
  - Paul Sharpe, Director of Trauma Services, Henrico Doctors' Hospital (representing VHHA)
  - Ed Rhodes – Lobbyist for VAVRS, VAGEMSA, VFCA, regional EMS Council Executive Directors Group.
- The workgroup held its first meeting on April 24, 2017 and the next meeting is scheduled on June 8, 2017.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a specific page on the OEMS website for this workgroup.</li> <li>• The group is going to be broken up into three subgroups, one looking at medevac regulations, one is going to look at dispatch regulations and one is going to look at the billing process. The subgroups will meet in the morning and in the afternoon they will come together as group to discuss what was discussed in the individual subgroups.</li> <li>• They plan to meet twice in June, once in July, once in August, and at least once in September; and to have the report finished by October 15.</li> <li>• Dr. McLeod wanted to know if a limit is put on how much air medical services can charge that it would perhaps cause some services to close.</li> <li>• Cam Crittenden from OEMS said that most air medical services do have protocols as to when air medical services should be used. However, a lot of times when a service arrives at an emergency scene, they don't want to make those decisions that could mean saving or losing a life.</li> <li>• Mr. Critzer said that insurance companies have different reimbursement rates for ground ambulances versus air ambulances.</li> <li>• Cam Crittenden suggested looking at the current programs because if insurance is not reimbursing, they are not going to allow that as a justification. Her IT Programmer, Bryan Hodges, can look at what justifications they are using for not taking patients.</li> </ul>	
SB1244 Glucagon Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• George Lindbeck explained the bill was to comment on and research the availability of glucagon in the Commonwealth.</li> <li>• There will be more information forthcoming on this bill at a later date.</li> </ul>	
Advisory Board Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Critzer reported that a number of the board members are completing their terms on the State EMS Advisory Board. The organizations they represent should have submitted their nominations for replacement to the Secretary's Office. Mr. Critzer said that due to the upcoming gubernatorial election, the Governor is trying to get as many appointments done before the end of his term.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Critzer thanked members rotating off for their time and service.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said that the Virginia Municipal League has sent a letter in regards to their representative, Joan Foster. Ms. Foster has been elected Mayor of Lynchburg and no longer has the time to devote to serving on the State EMS Advisory Board. Ms. Foster has, therefore, resigned. They</p>	

	<p>have asked VML to make nominations to the Secretary for a replacement for her position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Parker has been appointed as Chair of the Legislative and Planning Committee, as a result of Ms. Foster’s resignation.</li> </ul>	
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB 1426 which required establishment of a workgroup to review and make recommendations on alternate transportation for mental health patients. Mr. Berg is representing VDH/OEMS on the workgroup.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Berg said that five years ago they worked on this and he recommended having alternate transportation for mental health patients. Now they have to determine the type of alternate transportation.</p> <p>They have had their first meeting. They had a presentation of a trial program going on with the Mount Rogers Community Service Board group using a vendor, a security service; the cost associated with that and the success. There was a discussion about payment and where it will go, what needs to be done. They have an aggressive agenda and they need to get this done by November with recommendations on how to make this work.</p> <p>In their discussions, they questioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Should the State bid it out and be responsible</li> <li>○ should the State bid out and stay responsible</li> <li>○ should it bid one locally, half and half</li> </ul> <p>Their next meeting is May 30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB1744 is another workgroup that has not been assigned. It was legislation introduced where the Trial Lawyers Association said that when people in the hospitals are talking to patients about Advance Medical Directives that is the practice of law. Legislation was introduced and the Health Department is to approve training programs that will allow lay people to be trained in order to talk with patients about the decision to make a life determination decision. It is an in-hospital issue, but they have been tasked to represent EMS.</li> </ul>	

	<p>The dates have not been finalized for that workgroup.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. McLeod reported on an opioid trial that she conducted in Memphis that resulted in reduced opioid use by 33 percent within two months. Dr. McLeod said that MDC will probably do a white paper on this subject.</li> <li>• Bruce Edwards announced that this will more than likely be his last meeting with the Executive Committee and the State EMS Advisory Board. Also, his Board of Health meeting in June will also be his last meeting. Mr. Edwards said that this has been a great experience, and he feels he has been able to develop a closer relationship between VDH and OEMS and the EMS community.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Critzer thanked Mr. Edwards on behalf of the State EMS Advisory Board for filling the Board of Health seat and being their first representative for the EMS seat on the Board of Health. He said that Bruce Edwards has done a stellar job.</p>	
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.</li> </ul>	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled on August 3, 2017 at Richmond Marriott Short Pump.</li> </ul>	