

**MEDICAL DIRECTION COMMITTEE**  
**Office of Emergency Medical Services**  
**Embassy Suites, 2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294**  
**Thursday, July 13, 2023**  
**10:30 AM**

**Members Present:**

Allen Yee, M.D., Chair  
 Stewart Martin, M.D.  
 Charles Lane, M.D.  
 John Morgan, M. D.  
 Paul Phillips, D. O.  
 Kayla Long, D.O.  
 George Lindbeck, M.D.  
 Scott Weir, M.D.  
 Asher Brand, M.D.  
 Scott Weir, M.D.  
 Asher Brand, M.D.  
 E. Reed Smith, M.D.  
 Tania White, M.D.  
 Amir Louka M.D.

**Members Absent:**

Christopher Turnbull, M.D.  
 Rahil Dharia, M.D.  
 Chief Eddie Ferguson  
 Samuel Bartle, M.D.

**Staff:**

Gary Brown  
 Scott Winston  
 Adam Harrell  
 Debbie Akers  
 Chad Blosser  
 Kari Magner  
 Tim Perkins  
 Ron Passmore  
 Melinda Carter  
 Cam Crittenden  
 Jessica Rosner  
 Daisy Banta  
 Amanda Loreti  
 Wayne Perry

**Others:**

Joann King  
 Michael Player  
 Al Thompson  
 Kathryn Fivenstad  
 Peppy Winchel  
 Megan Middleton  
 Jeff Ferguson  
 Chris Christensen  
 Kathy Eubank

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<b>I. Welcome</b>	Dr. Yee called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.	
<b>II. Introductions</b>	All attendees introduced themselves.	
<b>III. Approval of Agenda</b>	Approval of today's agenda.	<b>Approved by consensus</b>
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	Approval of the April 6, 2023 minutes. The minutes were approved.	<b>Approved by consensus</b>
<b>V. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) &amp; Board of Pharmacy (BOP) Compliance Issues – Dr. George Lindbeck</b>	Dr. Lindbeck stated that there has been no change in the status. Indicated that all agencies needed to move toward getting a Virginia CSC.	
<b>VI. Special Reports</b>	<b>Quarterly Data Report</b> <b>Jessica Rosner</b> provided a quarterly report on Patient Care data and distributed a written version of the same. During the presentation, committee members asked questions which were addressed by <b>either Jessica, Cam Crittenden or Adam Harrell</b> . MDC members were very positive about the presentation and appreciative of the new reporting being provided by OEMS.	

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VII. Old Business	<p><b>EMS Physician Nomenclature</b>  <b>Dr. Asher Brand</b> presented the findings of a workgroup which was set up to discuss the term “EMS Physician: which has been in the OEMS Regulations since 2012. The term and its use is concerning since there is a board certification for EMS Physician which causes confusion in the system. The workgroup which consisted of <b>Dr. Asher Brand, Dr. John Morgan, Ron Passmore and staff liaison Debbie Akers</b> discussed whether this issue us worth the time and energy it will take to change.</p> <p><b>PA/NP Roles and Nomenclature</b>  Committee did not meet. Issue will be addressed with the establishment of the workgroup for EMS Physician nomenclature.</p>	<p><b>Motion by Dr. Brand</b> to request OEMS establish a workgroup, together with Legislative and Planning to look at the terms EMS Physician &amp; PA/NP in order to have it changed to best reflect reality in the COV and EMS Regulations. <b>Motion seconded by Dr. Louka – Motion carried.</b></p>
VIII. New Business	<p><b>a. Regional Council Roundtable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) <b>PEMS – Dr. Louka</b> discussed the need to create a framework for the use of whole blood across the state. Is this best done by the agency, the region or the state? The committee had a discussion about how to proceed. Some regions are better off than others. Another issue concerns waste and how best to prevent the waste of this expensive life-saving product.</li> <li>ii) <b>NOVA –</b> Drug shortages are an issue and implementation of the DEA changes for drug boxes.</li> <li>iii) <b>ODEMSA –</b> CAH removed OB/GYN services. The hospital is refusing these patients. Next closest hospital is 45 minutes away. What should the region do? How best to address this situation? Feedback provided by the committee.</li> <li>iv) <b>WVEMS –</b> Manpower is the main issue. The region is also looking at a way to expand access to paramedic training programs.</li> <li>v) <b>TJEMS –</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>vi) <b>BREMS –</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>vii) <b>SWEMS –</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>viii) <b>TEMS –</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>ix) <b>CSEMS –</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>x) <b>LFEMS –</b> Nothing to report.</li> <li>xi) <b>REMS –</b> Nothing to report.</li> </ul> <p><b>b. Cyanokits to AEMT</b>  <b>Dr. Asher Brand</b> wanted the committee to consider the following proposal - to “Permit AEMT providers to be able to access and use cyanokit – provided they have the necessary training – as part of their scope of practice as a red dot skill.</p>	<p><b>Motion by Dr. Asher Brand Seconded by Dr. Phillips.</b> No discussion – Motion passed unanimously.</p>

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	<p><b>c. Out of State EMS Education</b>  <b>Dr. John Morgan</b> brought up out of state EMS education – specifically George Washington University’s new paramedic program. He has concerns about whether field calls should be done in Virginia from a non-Virginia based program based on EMS Regulations. <b>Dr. Reed Smith</b> added that the GW program used to be based in Virginia. He believes this could be a very good thing for Virginia, especially in the NOVA region. <b>Debbie Akers</b> Explained the rationale behind why this was a requirement. She indicated that the paramedic program at GW is not an issue in Virginia due to the EMS Physician and Program Director both being certified in Virginia. Ultimately however, the final approval of the program and the program structure will be determined by CoAEMSP.</p>	
<p><b>IX. Research Requests</b></p>	<p>Nothing to discuss.</p>	
<p><b>X. State OMD Issues – Dr. George Lindbeck</b></p>		
	<p><b>a. Post exposure testing of decedent blood</b>  i. This process is still undefined in Virginia. <b>Dr. Linbeck</b> indicates a pathway has been developed but implementation of the pathway has been slow and difficult. The group is still working on this project.</p> <p><b>b. Maintenance of Chest Tubes</b>  i. Nothing to discuss.</p> <p><b>c. AEMT Student Minimum Competency (SMC) Guideline Discussion</b>  i. NREMT is moving away from psychomotor testing at the ALS level and transitioning it to the programs. NASEMSO has developed a document that is very similar to what AEMT programs are currently doing based on the TR-17 document. The Training and Certification committee approved the new document and is seeking endorsement by Medical Direction to support the adoption of the AEMT SMC. <b>Dr. Charles Lane</b> indicated that it is a good document and it allows for programs to be flexible depending on their resources.</p> <p><b>d. Paramedic Practitioner</b>  i. <b>Dr. Lindbeck</b> provided a summary overview of the FICUMS developed Paramedic Practitioner legislation. This is an item that the committee should keep an eye on over the next few years. Debbie Akers will provide the committee members with the link to the public comment for this proposal.</p>	<p><b>Motion by Dr. Martin to accept the document, Seconded by Dr. Phillips.</b>  Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>XI. Office of EMS Reports</b></p>		
	<p><b>a. Division of Accreditation, Certification and Education</b>  <b>1. Education Program Manager – Chad Blosser</b>  i. Virginia EMS Scholarship Program Update – This document is located on the OEMS website.  ii. Education Coordinator Candidate Program – There are 738 Education Coordinators as of today. We have 263 candidates in the pipeline, of which 40 are eligible for the next Institute to be held the end of September. The September Institute will be held at Tidewater Community College.  iii. EC Updates - The remainder of 2023 and 2024 dates are being posted on the website. Please this page to sign up: <a href="https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/educator-resources/ems-instructor-resources/ems-educator-update-schedule/">https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/education-certification/educator-resources/ems-instructor-resources/ems-educator-update-schedule/</a></p> <p><b>2. Division Director – Debbie Akers</b></p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. CSDR issues have been encountered with both Education Coordinators and EMS Physicians.</li> <li>ii. Posted the 16<sup>th</sup> Percentile. VA continues to exceed NREMT rates.</li> <li>iii. Accreditation Report – PWC placing their program on hold – they are going with VCU.</li> <li>iv. Symposium Update The 2023 symposium has 431 classes. Goal to launch registration on August 1, 2023. Registration will be \$125 this year. OEMS is taking over hoteling for the three main hotels which requires a registration to secure a room at one of these three hotels. There will be a format change at symposium with an Opening Ceremony on Wednesday at lunch with a meal provided to all participants. Lunch will be provided to all participants each day of symposium—free of charge.</li> <li>v. We have posted the 16% Percentile Peer-to-peer Benchmarking. Go out and check out your educators pass rates.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. EMS for Children</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Small number of child restraints available for agencies in need.</li> <li>ii. Sponsoring regional NRP and other pediatric classes.</li> <li>iii. Symposium scholarships.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Trauma and Critical Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Mindy provided an update of the status of trauma centers and the newest hospitals coming on board.</li> <li>ii. Due to workload hiring a new position for a nurse to work in the division.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Regulation &amp; Compliance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Encourage education programs to use the background procedure through OEMS in order to prevent certification. Chapter 32 – has been approved by the EMS Advisory Board in May to move forward. The Division is now working on the comparison documents.</li> <li>ii. Chapter 66 – DNR gone through a periodic review and have been rewritten for style, no substantive changes.</li> <li>iii. At any one time, there are approximately 80 cases open at any one time.</li> <li>iv. NOVA Rep. Lenny Mascaro has tendered his registration.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Emergency Operations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The state will continue to teach START and SALT, its up to the region to choose what system will be used.</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Gary &amp; Scott</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. August 4, 2023 EMS Advisory Board meeting.</li> <li>ii. NREMT visiting OEMS on September 5, 2023 to discuss all things NREMT.</li> <li>iii. Hybrid Offices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Working on filling positions as several councils. CSEMS fully staffed.</li> <li>ii. Facility improvements for some councils.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. SWEMS exterior work.</li> <li>b. REMS technology updates.</li> <li>c. CSEMS HVAC updates.</li> <li>iv. Board of Health – Next Meeting in September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. State EMS Plan</li> <li>b. Chapter 66 – DNR</li> <li>c. Update on Ambulance Wall times.</li> <li>d. Lunch and learn with Board of Health with an OEMS Overview</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Update HB2175 – Section 1 Bill – Fire and EMS assessment. Workgroup has been formed. They are surveying cities, counties and towns. Resiliency, funding, etc are being studied. \$100,000 budget for this project has not been approved and everything now falls to VDFP and other non-profit organizations and VAVRS and the Regional Councils to make this happen.</li> <li><b>8. Adam</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. CARES Registry – OEMS is working on a transition plan for CARES registry data and the ability to be able to provide it once the NEMESIS 3.5 changes are implemented.</li> <li>ii. OEMS is working on issue of Wall Times for ambulances. The Board of Health charged OEMS with developing a stakeholder group to review to review the issue and provide recommendation back to the board. OEMS has created three workgroups to address this issue instead of one large group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Data Providers</li> <li>b. Agency Leadership</li> <li>c. Receiving Facilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. Questions have come up about EMS Advisory Board meetings and vendor presentations at the meetings. There will be a vendor space to highlight products and removes COI for staff and board members.</li> <li>iv. Emergency Ops actively working on EMD Regulations. This involves training, certification, continuing education, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>9. CHATR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Handtevy update was provided. Dr. Andtevy will be at Sympoium teaching on this system.</li> <li>ii. EMS Officer I classes 5 more classes through the end of the year.</li> <li>iii. Working on development of EMS Officer II.</li> <li>iv. Virginia Telehealth Network</li> <li>v. Standards of Excellence visits.</li> </ul> </li> <li>10.</li> </ul>	
<b>XII. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	None	

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<b>XIII. Quarterly Meeting Dates for 2023</b>	April 6, 2023 July 13, 2023 October 5, 2023	
<b>XIV. Adjournment</b>	The meeting adjourned at 1:58 PM	

Respectfully submitted by:  
Deborah T Akers  
Division Director

DRAFT

# Attachment A

## Accreditation Report

# Attachment B

## EMSSP Report