

**Communications Committee  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
2925 Emerywood Parkway  
Richmond, Virginia  
May 2, 2024  
2:00 p.m.**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>OEMS Staff:</b>	<b>Guests:</b>
<b>Sonny Saxton</b> , Chair	<b>Tracey McLaurin</b> , EMS Councils	Sam Burnette	Mary Binford
<b>Gary Tanner</b> , Co-Chair, VA Association of Co.	<b>Judson Smith</b> , Virginia NENA	Devin Chinault	Dan Norville
<b>Richard Rubino</b> , Member-at-Large		Amber Moore	Joe Williams
<b>Eric Albert</b> , VML		Karen Owens	Spencer Campbell
<b>Mike Keefe</b> , Virginia Dept of Emergency Mgmt			Kat Fivelstead
<b>Lewis Cassada</b> , VA Dept of Emergency Mgmt			Melissa Meador
<b>JC Bolling</b> , SWVA EMS			Ali Akbar
<b>Gabe Elias</b> , Virginia SWIC			
<b>Kriste Farley</b> , APCO			

<b>Topic/Subject</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person</b>
<b>I. Call to Order</b>	The meeting called to order by the Chair at 1401 hours.	
<b>II. Committee Chair</b>	<p><b>Chair welcomes all in attendance and has committee members and attendees introduce themselves.</b></p> <p><b>Review/approval of meeting agenda; motion by Rubino, second by Tanner. Minutes are approved at 1403 hours.</b></p> <p><b>Review/approval of minutes from February 1, 2024 meeting; motion by Tanner, second by Rubino. Minutes are approved at 1404 hours.</b></p> <p>Chair Report (Sonny Saxton):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thank you to 911 Telecommunicators for NTW and EMS week upcoming; all the supporting parties are also thanked for the challenges they are supporting the community through.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agenda approved by the committee</b></p> <p><b>Minutes approved by the committee</b></p>
<b>III. OEMS Report</b>	<p><b>Sam Burnette:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- None to report</li> </ul> <p><b>Devin Chinault:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Buckingham O-RAP Visit and upcoming opportunities:</u> Devin and Amber traveled to Buckingham County for the O-RAP project, discussed briefly the history of the project. We discussed continuity plans, communications plan and radio systems. There was general advice provided. Travel to Lunenburg will be conducted in the future. Gabe provides updated details: Smyth County is now a regional approach and plan (Smyth, Grayson, Washington, Carroll, Galax, Bristol) – regional SOPs will be priority. Date TBD for that.</li> </ul>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p><b>Amber Moore:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>EMD Accreditation (EMDA) Report:</u> Greenville obtained their initial accreditation, Prince William was discovered to be accredited and their certificate is being signed today, working with one agency for re-accreditation. Continued outreach for re-accreditation and initial accreditation is completed. This brings total of accredited PSAPs to 30 total.</li> <li>- <u>EMD Accreditation Annual Report:</u> Per the guidelines of EMDA, PSAPs must provide an annual report confirming all points were achieved during the accreditation period – to streamline consistency of information and ease of completion, a form was created and pushed out. So far, one PSAP has successfully used it and provided feedback that it was easy to complete.</li> <li>- <u>National Telecommunicator Week:</u> Over the week, 15 PSAPs were visited by members of the Division of Emergency Operations of OEMS. These PSAPs are thanked for hosting OEMS. Additionally, all PSAPs and other stakeholders were sent a handwritten card and daily social media posts were done.</li> <li>- <u>Visits:</u> Amber and Devin traveled to the counties of Richmond and King William to assist OEMS Program Representative to verify RSAF grant conditions. Discussion on how those went.</li> </ul>	
<b>IV Member Reports</b>	<p><b>APCO</b> (Kristina Farley):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report.</li> </ul> <p><b>NENA</b> (Mary Binford in lieu of Judson Smith)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hosting the NENA/APCO Spring Conference in Williamsburg for May 13-15, 2024</li> <li>- Golf tournament on Monday, May 13, 2024 to support future scholarships</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional EMS Directors Representative</b> (Tracey McLaurin absent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report provided prior to meeting</li> <li>- Per Karen Owens: TEMS expo is in two weeks, registration is online and still open currently; will be receiving award that Friday then doing TEMS awards that night</li> <li>- PEMS doing awards at Busch Gardens and hosting discount tickets May 18, lunch provided</li> </ul> <p><b>VDEM – Statewide Interoperability Coordinator</b> (Gabe Elias)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- O-RAP discussed in Devin Chinault’s report</li> <li>- SIEC meeting held recently: adopted virtual meeting options, upcoming SIEC summit in Short Pump for July</li> <li>- Reg 6 RPAC-I is trying to get restarted, organization meeting is tomorrow, 5/3 but next meeting should provide more information and structure</li> <li>- COM-L TTT open seats, June 11-14, 2024 in Leesburg, VA; next one would be over a year out</li> <li>- ICS 300 and 400 test out is upcoming, May 21<sup>st</sup> – Gabe is POC</li> <li>- STARS: upgrade is nearly complete; Buchanan County Fire is coming online with STARS and adding Cumberland next for STARS</li> <li>- Capitol Station Project: adds 6 different structural repeaters: 4 in DC, 2 in Arlington.</li> <li>- FEMA Reg 3 Project underway to connect states on one radio</li> <li>- Outreach: Gabe states agencies have been told they can call for help, but how does that look during an emergency? He discusses creating systematic answer to help agencies.</li> </ul>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p><b>Virginia Association of Counties</b> (Gary Tanner):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report</li> </ul> <p><b>Virginia Municipal League</b> (Eric Albert):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report</li> </ul> <p><b>VDEM Communications and UAS Programs</b> (Mike Keefe-Thomas – Technical Resources Branch Chief):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cache’s have talked about being great at deployment, however, lack field experience in VOIP deployment and data in general; he requests outreach to PSAPs to demonstrate what they can provide</li> </ul> <p><b>VDEM 911 and Geospatial</b> (Lewis Cassada)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report provided prior to meeting which contained NG-911 deployment update; Lunenburg and Middlesex were deployed bringing totals to 85 deployed and 39 remaining.</li> <li>- December 31, 2024 deadline per GA</li> <li>- Cumberland and Alleghany awarded EMD grants through VDEM</li> <li>- Per Mary Binford: NG911 has been a long project, and all cut dates will be listed by July; May 9 is next board meeting, which a priority to speak on is NG911 cost</li> </ul> <p><b>Member-at-Large</b> (Richard Rubino)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report provided prior to meeting; no further discussion at meeting, Rubino makes comments on points within report: Chair Rosenworcel continues to advocate for 911 Dispatchers to be recognized as public safety, Agencies and localities need to ensure they are keeping licenses up to date, and upcoming deadline dates noted</li> <li>- Sonny brings up the AT&amp;T outage and how it impacted many PSAPs</li> </ul> <p><b>Advisory Board Member, Southwest Virginia EMS Council</b> (JC Bolling):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FARC met earlier today and EMD special priority will come to an end with an unknown date of when that will happen. Discusses potential regional efforts for EMD if not special priority.</li> <li>- RSAF Fall 2024 cycle will open August 1, 2024 and close September 15; JC provides timeline of process of RSAF. Approximately \$4.5 million estimated to be designed to RSAF.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>V Unfinished Business</b></p>	<p><b>PSAP online directory status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brief reminder of historical project for those new to the room; still working with OIM to update the data fields</li> </ul> <p><b>EMD regulations development:</b>  <u>Training Standards Draft Comment Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- These were passed by the Advisory Board on February 2, 2024 at their meeting. Thank you to Sonny for presenting the documents and a strong dialogue to push through without incident.</li> <li>- The Training Standard and Approved EMD Vendor List document were pushed out through the VAPSAP Listserv with VDEM (thank you to VDEM) and posted on our website with an FAQ. Since the outreach, there has been one question which was clarified with Dr. Lindbeck and all other communication has been positive and supportive.</li> </ul>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re-certification concern with NECI: after creating the standard, one PSAP reached out to Sonny about the requirement for re-certification. VDEM PEP Grant was discussed for funding opportunity. CE opportunities discussed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fire/EMS/Law emergency communications training standards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Update from DCJS, Ashley Hart</u>: General assembly has halted progress with training standards and remain at a standstill.</li> </ul>	
<b>VI New Business</b>	<p><b>RSAF Grant Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fall 2024 pending announcement of cycle; outreach continues with PSAPs in need of EMD; discussion on how many don't have EMD, discussed on keeping EMD a priority through next cycle</li> <li>- VDEM Grant Committee approved two PSAPs for EMD implementation. Amber continues to work with them and PSAPs where the opportunity is present</li> </ul> <p><b>Training opportunities for PSAPs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Orange County has officially scheduled a full day of training in August 2024; The classes taught will be Can't We All Just Get Along? Breaking the Stigma: The Comm. Vs. The Field, What's the COOP? and MCI for PSAPs. Martinsville-Henry scheduled for one class in September; and Wise County in October for one class on two different days to impact both shifts – both are conducting “Can't We All Just Get Along? Breaking the Stigma: The Comm Vs. The Field.”</li> <li>- OEMS continues to work with various other localities for training opportunities to include regional outreach opportunities.</li> <li>- Discussed 988 and Marcus; Ashley coming to Orange</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning for next committee meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- August 1, 2024 at 2p.m. at The Embassy Suites in Richmond, with a backup location of OEMS office if needed due to space.</li> <li>- Sonny asked about the option to take the meeting outside of the Advisory Board schedule; discussion was conducted and the meetings will remain at the Embassy on Advisory Boards schedule at this time.</li> </ul>	<b>Next meeting agreed on</b>
<b>VII Public Comment</b>	No Public Comment	
<b>VIII Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn by Rubino. Seconded by Tanner. Meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 1535 hours.	