

**Communications Committee  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
2925 Emerywood Parkway  
Richmond, Virginia  
November 14, 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	Devin Chinault	Deja Snyder
<b>Gary Tanner</b> , Co-Chair, VA Association of Co.	<b>Mike Keefe</b> , VDEM	Amber Moore	Michele Surdam
<b>Kriste Farley</b> , Secretary, VA APCO	<b>Lewis Cassada</b> , VDEM		Ali Akbar
<b>Richard Rubino</b> , Member-at-Large	<b>JC Bolling</b> , Advisory Board		Ken Crumpler
<b>Eric Albert</b> , VML	<b>Gabe Elias</b> , Virginia SWIC		Wayne Perry
<b>Stephen Sutton</b> , VA NENA			
<b>Melissa Meador</b> , Advisory Board			

<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 Richard Rubino, second by Kriste Farley. Minutes are approved at 1405 hours.</b></p> <p><b>Review/approval of minutes from August 1, 2024 meeting; motion by Richard Rubin, second by Kriste Farley. Minutes are approved at 1408 hours.</b></p> <p>Chair Report (Gary Tanner in lieu of Sonny Saxton):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expresses gratitude for the work done by the committee and OEMS staff</li> <li>- Sonny Saxton has officially resigned. He thanks everyone for their hard work on the committee, in return the committee thanks Sonny for his work. He will be resigning his position on the Governor’s Advisory Board at the meeting tomorrow. APCO is working on their replacement for the GAB.</li> </ul>	<b>Committee membership- need chair and co-chair, co chair just has to serve on committee.</b>
<b>III. OEMS Report</b>	<p><b>Amber Moore:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>EMD Accreditation (EMDA) Report</u>: Prince William County 911 and Wise County have re-accredited.</li> <li>- <u>EMD Accreditation Annual Report</u>: 31 agencies are OEMS EMDA Accredited</li> <li>- <u>Change to Approved EMD Training Program Document</u>: PowerPhone has changed their name to “Total Response.” Their program has not changed. This will be reflected on the document and does not require any action from the Committee or the Board.</li> </ul>	<b>Wise Co/ Prince William Co Recertified Accreditation. Powerphone now known as Total Response. Will be updating list.</b>
<b>IV Member Reports</b>	<p><b>APCO (Kristina Farley):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Fall Conference 10/29-11/1. 515 attendees. Offer multiple scholarships to include CPE, RPL, conference scholarships Winter Summit in February</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>NENA</b> (Stephen Sutton)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spring Conference May 20-23, will have golf tournament, ENP scholarship. January 14, 2025 will be 911 Goes to Richmond. 911 goes to Washington end of February. Extension of deadlines to SWVA. Identified that independent cities were not included for assistance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional EMS Directors Representative</b> (Tracey McLaurin, absent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report provided</li> </ul> <p><b>VDEM – Statewide Interoperability Coordinator</b> (Gabe Elias, excused)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No Report</li> </ul> <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, excused):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report provided</li> </ul> <p><b>VDEM 911 and Geospatial</b> (Lewis Cassada, excused)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report provided before meeting</li> <li>- 104 PSAPs are migrated to AT&amp;T [NG911]</li> <li>- 20 left to go</li> </ul> <p><b>Member-at-Large</b> (Richard Rubino)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report provided prior to meeting; FCC Chair has stated wish to help reclassify 911 to first responders</li> </ul> <p><b>Advisory Board Member, Southwest Virginia EMS Council</b> (JC Bolling):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report provided.</li> </ul> <p><b>Advisory Board Member, Thomas Jefferson EMS Council</b> (Melissa Meador):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No report provided.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>V Unfinished Business</b></p>	<p><b>PSAP online directory status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Orange County has 2 super users on board. Frontline will get EMD card through VA in the portal in the very far future after configuration is set up. Once more testing and adjustments can be completed, this will go-live for PSAPs for basic on boarding and superuser usage.</li> </ul> <p><b>EMD regulations development:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awaiting further guidance from OEMS to move forward.</li> </ul>	

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	<p><b>High School Emergency Telecommunicator Program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OEMS staff and various stakeholders continue to work with VDOE on curriculum review. Additionally presented is working on a 2 year plan that will expand this program from one year to two years, to include Fire, Police, Mental Health and basic dispatching skills. Members from the PSAP community will be attending the curriculum review as panel members for enhancements to the program.</li> </ul> <p><b>MCI Follow-Up Opportunity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OEMS Staff will move forward with this once other stakeholders essential to conversations are available.</li> </ul>	
<b>VI New Business</b>	<p><b>RSAF Grant Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 locality submitted Priority Dispatch EMD Grant. 1 locality submitted for radio equipment. Devin explained more about the equipment. Awaiting FARC meeting for grading.</li> </ul> <p><b>Supporting During State of Emergency or Disasters (TERT, EMD):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sonny discusses the situation during Hurricane Helene and getting help to the PSAPs. He provided desires of re-creating a TERT in Virginia. Discussion on regional programs vs. state programs.</li> <li>- Sonny and others recognize the agencies that sent personnel to impacted areas in SWVA and NC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning for next committee meeting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued conversation on the fiscally responsible decision to keep the Communications Committee meetings in accordance with the EMS Advisory Board schedule.</li> <li>- Next meeting will be February 6, 2025 at 1400 hours.</li> </ul>	<p>Next meeting agreed on February 6, 2025</p>
<b>VII Public Comment</b>	No Public Comment	
<b>VIII Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn by Steven Sutton. Seconded by Richard Rubino. Meeting adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 1524 hours.	