

**Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC)  
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services  
Embassy Suites – Richmond  
Glen Allen, VA  
November 14, 2024  
10:00 AM**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>OEMS Staff:</b>	<b>Others:</b>
JC Bolling, Chairman	Byron Andrews	Mohamad Abbamin “Moe”	Kristina Farley
Robert Trimmer, Vice Chair		Michael Berg	Chris Montena
Mark Barenklau, Secretary		Rachel Stradling	Billy Altman
Tracy Hanger		Amber Moore	Janet Blankenship
Greg DeYoung			Stephen Simon
			Grace Yang
			James Reynolds
			Valerie Vagts
			Ali Akhar

<b>Topic/Subject</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person</b>
<b>I. Call to order/Welcome:</b>	The meeting was called to order at 1001 by Chairman Bolling. A quorum requires at least four members, five members are present. Amendments to the agenda: Steve Simon has a presentation on UTV grants and Amber Moore has questions from the communications committee. Added to unfinished business. Motion to approve the agenda Robert Trimmer, Second Greg DeYoung Passed.	<b>No further action is required</b>
<b>II. Introductions:</b>	Introductions of all in attendance	<b>No further action is required</b>
<b>III. Approval of Minutes:</b>	The August 1, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as submitted. Motion to Approve Robert Trimmer, Second Mark Barenklau Passed.	<b>No further action is required</b>
<b>IV. Committee Business:</b> <b>1. Staff Reports</b> <b>Executive leadership</b> <b>OEMS report</b>	<b>Rachel Stradling:</b> Karen Owens has resigned, VAOEMS will need a new deputy director. Scott Winston is retiring; his last day is February 3, 2025. Michael Berg has advised he is staying for foreseeable future. Rachel Stradling is visiting all the EMS councils and trying to visit them all prior to the new director coming on board. Several contract issues have come up including Dr. Lindbeck as medical director. Hope to have Dr. Lindbeck back on board shortly.  <b>Michael Berg:</b> Quarterly report posted on website. The current grant cycle includes 84 grants submitted. 74 from ems agencies and 202 items total. 4 have been disqualified for various reasons. Part of the challenge this cycle is probably due to lack of training and preparation for	No further action is required.  No further action is required.

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	<p>this cycle. Travel and training has been approved to restart and should help. Training will be offered regionally. Update on encumbered grants, all invoices have been paid as well as return to locality funds. 3.7 million Encumbered, 4 of them are coming up at end of year and should be completed, which will leave 3.2 million. Membership status of the FARC committee sent out. J C Bolling and Tracey Hangar are both coming off in July. Thomas Jefferson and Central Shenandoah EMS councils are next up for representation. Rachel Stradling thanked Michael Berg for his work and ability to get things caught up, “he stepped up to the challenge” and she wanted to thank him personally for all his hard work and diligence.</p>	<p>No further action is required</p>
<p><b>2. Unfinished Business:</b></p> <p><b>Virtual/Closed meeting update</b></p> <p><b>EMS Medication Management Systems</b></p>	<p><b>Amber Moore:</b> All PSAP centers must have EMD training by July 1, 2024, and funding from RSAF is no longer a priority status for PSAPs and EMD. Ideas for funding categories from the communications committee, are quality assurance, CE, EMD instructors, video 911 upgrades. The communications committee is looking for feedback from the FARC committee. Tracy Hanger advised PSAP and EMD funding came from 911 services board in the past, unsure if that is still available. J C Bolling asked Michael Berg about funding for EMD through RSAF. Michael Berg stated it was a priority item and was removed and replaced this cycle by items needed due to medication regulation changes. Nothing prohibits these grants but, priority funding status would need to be decided by the FARC committee. Amber Moore stated she would like to see new EMD centers a priority. J C Bolling: Centers not yet upgraded could be made a priority by reviewers on Communications committee just like any local grant review. The communications committee are experts, and your opinion helps greatly. Discussion continued and no further action taken.</p> <p><b>Michael Berg:</b> Follow up questions from the FARC committee in reference to, virtual meetings, closed meetings. The attorney general’s office advised FARC cannot have virtual meetings. This is due to the FARC committee being specifically identified in Code of VA and not part of the EMS Advisory Board and falls under the public meeting policy. The FARC committee would need to create a policy, post for comment and have it vetted. Then a vote by the FARC committee to approve the policy. Mohamad Abbamin also advised that a virtual policy and remote policy would be needed. Nothing allows FARC to have a closed meeting. The Code of VA states 54 exemptions and FARC does not fall into any. Ranking and grading meeting will be open to the public. Again, this is due to FARC not being a part of the advisory board but works with the advisory board. Discussion continued and no further action taken.</p> <p><b>Michael Berg:</b> EMS Medication management systems, Old Dominion and Tidewater had</p>	<p><b>No further action is required.</b></p> <p><b>No further action is required.</b></p> <p><b>No further action is required.</b></p>

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<p data-bbox="142 358 369 386"><b>3. New Business:</b></p> <p data-bbox="92 493 422 553"><b>Reviewing Parameters for RSAF grants</b></p> <p data-bbox="92 964 428 1024"><b>VAOEMS Special System Initiative Award for ePCR</b></p>	<p data-bbox="472 256 1528 284">largest number of requests and medication management systems were a priority this cycle.</p> <p data-bbox="472 493 1577 915"><b>Michael Berg:</b> Review of grant parameters, discussion in reference ATV/UTV grant requests. Linwood Pulling told Michael Berg that at one-point RSAF funded ambulances, cots and EKG monitors and the list has grown over the years. Discussion continued in reference to the ability to fund requests and if the committee should reevaluate parameters for funding. A consensus was reached by the committee and chairman Bolling thinks we should establish a white paper for meeting with vision moving forward. Visions change with time, and it would be advantageous to have a position paper on requests, ATV/UTV for example. 202 items requested this cycle, and some requests present as “throwing in grant just to see.” Chairman Bolling is looking to put together a work group at the next FARC meeting with input from the Transportation committee. The RSAF grant program also needs common terms for equipment to enable a better flow of information. All committee members need to be prepared to discuss this issue at the next meeting.</p> <p data-bbox="472 948 1583 1117"><b>Rachel Stradling:</b> OEMS EMS system Initiative Award for ePCR. This would be a special grant cycle initiative for ePCR due to the current ePCR being cancelled by VAOEMS. Effective 7-1 2025 VAOEMS will host a repository only. Several agencies are struggling to fund software for ePCR reporting. This will be for ems agencies only. Funding only for a basic ePCR.</p> <p data-bbox="472 1149 1577 1393"><b>Michael Berg:</b> This needs to come before the FARC committee to move on to the GAB (Governor’s EMS Advisory Board). With FARC approval it will be presented tomorrow to the GAB. It will be open December 1, 2024, through January 31 2025, with an award date of March 31, 2025. Starting with this initiative the new hardship funding status is 70/30 from 80/20. The awards will not be coming from RSAF funds and will be open to non-profit agencies only. Discussion continued followed by a motion to support this initiative Tracy Hangar, second Mark Barenklau motion passed.</p>	<p data-bbox="1612 532 1927 592"><b>Will be added to the next meeting’s Agenda.</b></p> <p data-bbox="1612 834 1982 862"><b>No further action is required.</b></p> <p data-bbox="1612 1068 1982 1096"><b>No further action is required.</b></p>

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<b>Transportation Committee work effort</b>	<p><b>Steve Simon:</b> Gave a presentation from the Transportation committee on ATV/UTVs with pictures of each type. Presentation included information on types of vehicles and skid units. Extensive discussion about uses and modifications of ATV/UTVs and how useful for ems they really are. Chairman Bolling asked transportation to give recommendation for the FARC committee on funding these vehicles. Greg DeYoung asked if these vehicles have, we funded in the past? Chairman Bolling stated requests get submitted frequently and knows at least of 1 that was funded 20 years ago but stated they usually don't get funded. Tracy Hangar advised it goes back to available funding for RSAF doesn't go as far as it used to due to the expense of items these days.</p>	<p><b>Update expected from the Transportation Committee at a future meeting.</b></p>
<b>VI. Public Comment:</b>	No comments brought to the committee.	<b>No further action is required.</b>
<b>VII. Date of Next Meeting:</b>	<p><b>J C Bolling:</b> The next meeting is the grading meeting at VAOEMS 1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA on December 5, 2024, and all future meeting dates TBD. We could have an extra meeting due to the special grant cycle if awarded.</p> <p>J C Bolling advised FARC usually meets on the cycle of GAB. FARC is only required to meet 4 times a year. Asked the committee if it would be practical to keep the current structure of 4 meetings and 2 grading meetings or should we move to 2 meetings and 2 grading meetings. All members are requested to give chairman Bolling your thought prior to the next meeting. Discussion continued possible meeting structure.</p>	<p><b>Will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.</b></p>
<b>VIII. Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn Mark Barenklau, second Robert Trimmer. Passed Adjournment 12:02 pm	<b>No further action is required.</b>