Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC) Quarterly Meeting Embassy Suites - Richmond Glen Allen, Virginia May 2, 2024 10:00 AM

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Administration Staff:	Staff/Other Guests:
Kevin Dillard, Chairman		Michael Berg	Cam Crittenden
JC Bolling, Vice Chair		Linwood Pulling	Frank Gresh
Mark Barenklau			Melissa Meador
Tracy Hanger			Michelle Ludeman
Joe Trigg			Jeremy Goyer
Robert Trimmer			Derrick Coffey
			Stacie Ashworth
New Members:			Jason Gravly
Byron Andrews			Ali Akbar
Greg DeYoung			Joseph A. Williams
			Bruce Stratton
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Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to order - Kevin Dillard, Chair i. Chairman's Report	Kevin called the meeting to order and thanked all for attending today. Kevin recognized Bruce Stratton, former FARC member. Bruce said his time spent on FARC was one of the best that he could have imagined. Kevin introduced him to the two new FARC members. Byron Andrews is rotating back on the committee and represents the Northern Virginia EMS Council. Greg DeYoung represents the Tidewater EMS Council. He then asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.	No further action is required
	Lunch will be served for the committee. Kevin introduced Frank Gresh to everyone and said he has been with OEMS since January and will be with OEMS until the end of June. He is a Senior Consultant with Fitch & Associates and is working on some best practices with regards to EMS in the future and how Virginia can be moving forward. They are also making recommendations on how we handle and address some of the fiscal issues and challenges	No further action is required

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		OEMS is facing. Frank said he's heard so much about FARC and wanted to drop in and see the committee in action.	·
II. Quorum Verification		A quorum requires that you have at least four members present. All six members are present, and Kevin thanked them for that.	No further action is required
	val of Minutes	The February 1, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.	No further action is required
i.	S Report Executive Leadership	Cam Crittenden introduced herself as the Deputy Director of Administration and Finance. This encompasses our business operations and EMS Systems Planning. She said she didn't have anything to report, but if you have questions, you can ask. You can also email or text her anytime.	No further action is required
ii.	OEMS Division Directors (present)	Mike has been creating spreadsheets to show where we are currently with the grants and how much we have encumbered in grants. Covid was not kind to anybody and as a result, supply chain issues have caused us to extend the grants up to three years. The regulations only allow for one year, but VDH senior leadership understood administratively, we haven't been putting extensions to three years. We're not sure how long we can keep extending these grants, but we can't keep kicking the can down the road. Mike created a spreadsheet based on the grant cycles and they are color coded. Mike will keep updating this spreadsheet as the grants are pulled down and paid. We started out with \$8 million in encumbered grants and are down to less than \$4 million in encumbered grants. We are slowly but surely making progress. The grants unit has had trouble reaching a couple of the agencies that were awarded EMD grants. Amber Woods, with Special Operations, is reaching out to these agencies to help us finalize their grants. We are keeping track of the number of invoices being processed and the number of modifications and extensions requested.	No further action is required
iii.	Grants Division Report	Mike asked Cam if the quarterly report had been posted on the web yet? The answer is no. Mike said when they do post the quarterly report on our website, you'll notice that our section has been greatly reduced. This is partly because we didn't have any grants to share	No further action is required
I.	Quarterly Report	since the spring cycle was cancelled.	
П.	Highland County Volunteer RS	Highland County has removed the authority of Highland County Volunteer Rescue Squad to respond to 911 calls. The volunteer squad was awarded an ambulance, a stretcher, and a power load system in the June 2021 grant cycle. They have received the reimbursement check but the check hasn't been cashed yet since the volunteer squad has retained legal counsel. Mike had conversed with the captain and the president of the squad last month. It was decided they would reconvene on May 19 th to see if they were going to send the check back to the Office of EMS or what they were going to do with the ambulance, stretcher, and power load system. Part of the condition of being awarded an ambulance is that it must be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With the litigation ongoing, hopefully, we'll know more in 30 days (May 19 th).	No further action is required

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i.	Richmond County	Richmond County was awarded ALS-BLS equipment and APCO EMD training in the June 2021 grant cycle. EMS Program Rep Chad Gregg was trying to verify this grant and discovered they did receive the APCO guide cards, but the training was never implemented. Subsequently, the County bought another program and are using that and not the APCO EMD program which was awarded. Amber Moore, our EMS Coordinator, and Devin Chinault, our Communication Specialist, met with Chad Gregg and the people in Richmond County. Richmond County is voluntarily going to return a check to OEMS in the amount of \$3,385.52 which is the amount that was paid for the APCO EMD training program.	No further action is required
III.	Non-Profit v/s For-Profit Status	Mike reached out to our AG Liaison with a question about grants. The regulations specifically identified nonprofit organizations and governmental nonprofit agencies. Under special initiative and emergency grants, that verbiage is not there. Mike's question was if forprofit organizations are excluded from emergency and or special initiative grants? He was asked to come up with a potential special initiative grant relative to the drug box issue. Mike has not heard back for our AG Liaison but will share this with us when he does. Code trumps regulations but we're making sure our T's are crossed and our I's are dotted.	No further action is required
V. Unfini	ished Business Drug Box Exchange Discussion	We're sure most of you have heard about the DEA and their pending publishing of their new regulations and the FDA's publication with regards to tracking and tracing of drugs. There was a work group that was put together that included Mike Player from PEMS and a whole host of subject matter experts and interested parties to work on developing potential policies, procedures, and toolkits to help agencies address the challenges that are coming. There has been a lot of meetings with the Board of Pharmacy. Caroline Juran, Executive Director, Board of Pharmacy has met with the Medical Direction Committee. She has also been present for the EMS Advisory Board meeting. They are meeting today to talk about potential emergency regulations to put in place that would look towards assisting EMS agencies in becoming compliant with both the DEA and the FDA regulations as it pertains to the purchase, storage, administration, waste, etc. that's involved with the drug box issues. There are several items that they're looking at. They must have a control substance registration or DEA license depending on how they want to do it. This issue has reached the Governor's office as well as some legislators. As you know, when things don't go the way that some folks like, they take what they have learned and their interpretation and then write their legislator or the governor or both. Mike was asked is there a way we could do a special initiative grant relative to purchasing to help assist with the drug box/pharmacy challenge? Part of that challenge is where's the money coming from? At this point, we don't have the money to do a special initiative.	No further action is required
		Mike spoke to Rachel Stradling, OEMS Interim Director, yesterday and told her that we would be meeting today and one of the things on the agenda was looking at the special priorities for RSAF grants. Currently, EMD, is one of those priorities. Mike spoke with Dr. Karen Owens, Deputy Director for Emergency Operations, with regards to the EMD priority.	No further action is required

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	At this point, she feels that EMD should not be on the special priority list. Rachel asked if we would consider putting the drug box or the pharmacy challenges as a special priority for the upcoming potential funding program? If we decide to make that a priority, we probably need to talk about setting parameters as far as what we will and will not offer for funding. Robert said if we do that and we go through the normal time period, agencies are going to	Responsible Person
	have to put things in place before the November 27 th date. So, we would have to consider if we would be willing to fund things that they had to put in place if they provide the invoices.	
	Mike said the regulations say you can't do that.	
	Robert said it's almost like a moot point to put it out there as a special priority and they're going to have to be in compliance prior to an award if they're going to do it.	
	Joe agreed with that. He said we must be very cautious moving forward with this. We don't want to enable an agency to use FARC as their excuse for not complying with the regulations. They could say we're waiting on FARC to do their stuff before we do our stuff.	
	Robert said there's always a possibility that the manufacturers aren't going to be able to meet the deadline and the FDA may have to push the date out again.	
	Mike said the consensus is that the FDA's probably not going to push that out any further because they've allotted 11 years already for everybody to come into compliance.	
	Tracy asked would there be any consideration for an emergency request or emergency funding.	
	Mike said if somebody were to submit an emergency grant right now, we don't have the money to fund it.	
	Kevin asked FARC if they were in favor of removing EMD as a priority and did they want to add the drug box and pharmacy challenges as a priority.	
	Mark said he was in favor or removing EMD from the priority list. He did have concerns as well as the other committee members about making the DEA and FDA issues a funding priority. He wasn't in favor or making it a priority since the money won't be available until after the awards date and they must be compliant before the award date.	

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	Joe said we need to clear up the first part of this discussion before voting on the second part of this discussion and made a motion that we remove EMD from the special priority list. JC seconded the motion. It was carried unanimously.	•
	Joe asked if it would be appropriate to delay this discussion until our August meeting. The Board of Pharmacy is meeting today and this would give us time to see where this discussion stands and if we want to make it a priority after we get all the facts.	
I. EMS Advisory Board Direction	The consensus of the committee was that we would delay any discussion on this potential priority until we get further information from the Board of Pharmacy and receive Mike Player's report tomorrow at the Advisory Board.	No further action is required
ii. Other	There wasn't any other unfinished business.	No further action is required
VI. New Business	Kevin said he wanted to recognize Joe Trigg who is going off the committee. He presented Joe with a certificate from the Commonwealth of Virginia recognizing him for serving six years on FARC. Joe represented the Western Virginia EMS Council. Kevin thanked him for a lot of good input and his participation on our committee and his comments on grading the RSAF grants. He thanked him for his service. Joe said he thoroughly enjoyed serving on this committee, and this has been a good experience in his life. He wished the members of FARC the best of luck moving forward and said he's only a phone call away if we ever need anything. JC said we have an additional person leaving this committee. He told Kevin he wanted to present him with a certificate from the Commonwealth of Virginia recognizing him for his service and dedication. Kevin said it wasn't necessary but thanked him. JC said he wasn't done yet. He said the committee comes together, we talk a lot, we argue a lot, we resolve a lot. Six years of doing this together is part of your life. He then said he wanted to further express his appreciation and recognize Joe Trigg for his dedicated service to the Financial Assistance Review Committee and presented Joe with a plaque on behalf of the members of FARC. Joe thanked him and said he appreciated it. JC then acknowledged Kevin for his leadership of FARC. He thanked him for his service and dedication and presented him with a plaque on behalf of the members of FARC. Kevin said thank you and he appreciated it.	No further action is required

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		Kevin said he wanted to thank the staff, Linwood, and Michael, for being phenomenal to work with and their customer service. He gets compliments from across the state about both. He said he appreciated both from the bottom of his heart. Linwood and Michael thanked him.	Responsible Person
i.	Nominations for FARC	Kevin said we need a motion to bring on the two new members of FARC. Once approved by FARC, then it will go before the Advisory Board for final approval. The new members are:	Waiting approval by the Advisory Board
I. II.	TEMS NOVA	Greg DeYoung representing the Tidewater EMS Council area. Byron Andrews representing the Northern Virginia EMS Council area.	
ii.	Fall 2024 RSAF Grant Cycle	JC made the motion we bring the new members on board. Mark seconded it. They were unanimously approved. Mike told the committee that we will have a fall RSAF grant cycle. Because of our recent crisis, we have been able to take this opportunity to put together a formal process to identify	No further action is required
	Grant Cycle	how much money is available for each grant cycle, the timeframe to make that decision, and the process to take the steps to determine how much money is available. The Fall RSAF grant cycle will open on August 1 st and close on September 16 th (the 15 th falls on a Sunday and therefore it's the next business day). The technical graders will begin grading on September 19 th with their grading ending on October 22 nd . FARC will begin grading on October 23 rd and their grading ending on December 2 nd . The Fall RSAF awards meeting will be on December 5 th . This meeting is closed. The award date will be January 1, 2025.	
I.	Priorities	This has been previously covered.	No further action is required
II.	OIM Changes	We voted to change the hardship funding level from the current 80/20 funding level to the new 70/30 funding level. We also voted to require the inventory listing of the requested items. Mike met with our IT folks. Their staff has been greatly reduced and the office has met and are working on prioritizing what needs to be addressed first. The biggest challenge right now is working with the ACE Division and upgrading the continuing education credits to align with the National Registry changes. That's going to take a significant amount of time and effort on their part. With that said, they do not believe they're going to be able to make those changes for this cycle.	No further action is required
iii.	Recommendations Transportation Committee - ALS v/s BLS	JC and Robert are also members of the Transportation Committee. Mike also participates with this committee. Mike said there was discussion by the Transportation Committee on how an agency reports on ALS v/s BLS calls. They really don't break it down and just guesstimate like 70% BLS v/s 30% ALS. The Transportation Committee recommended that an agency put just the number of responses and not the transports. We can figure out transports. The	No further action is required

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	issue is the number of responses by the agency. The committee felt we would be better served if we were to change the application to reflect the number of responses within a given timeframe instead of ALS verses BLS. By reporting the total amount of responses, it shows the utilization of the vehicles. Mike said to make a change to the application would require our IT folks and we would have to add it to the list of things we already have for them. Joe's concern is when an agency asks for ALS equipment, we wouldn't have any idea how many ALS calls are being responded to. It would be difficult to make an informed decision at that point. Joe said that several years ago the Trauma and Critical Care/EPI unit was providing us with that data, and it was very helpful. And then, for whatever reason, we stopped getting those reports. Cam said we have done analysis out of the State repository on BLS versus ALS calls. She said they would be happy to supply us with that data again. Just let them know what we want. There was a lot of discussion on whether we want to change the application to reflect the number of responses instead of the current BLS/ALS transport. The consensus of the committee was to not change the application and keep the application as it is.	
iv. Nominations the following:	Once a year, FARC nominates a chair and vice chair to lead our committee. Kevin said we're going to take nominations for the position of chair and vice chair. He opened it up to the committee to nominate a chair.	No further action is required
I. Chair	Joe said he would like to nominate JC Bolling for chair of FARC. Mark seconded the motion. It was unanimous that JC will be the next chair of FARC.	
II. Vice-Chair	Kevin said he was now going to open the floor for nominations for the position of vice chair. JC nominated Robert Trimmer to be the vice chair of FARC. Joe seconded the motion. It was unanimous that Robert will be the vice chair of FARC.	
v. Public Comm	Melissa said that before the financial woes, OEMS developed a plan to have seven ambulances that would be available for localities to borrow. Do you think that is going to come back? Mike said "No, ma'am. It will not".	No further action is required
VII. Proposed Meeting Da	(All meetings are at 10:00 am unless otherwise indicated): August 1, 2024; November 14, 2024; December 5, 2024 (Grading Closed) Location: Embassy Suites, 2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, Virginia 23294	No further action is required
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.	No further action is required