

Emergency Management Committee
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
VA Public Safety Training Center – 7093 Broad Neck Road, Hanover
2/5/2026
10:32 am

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Joseph Williams (Chair)	Easton Peterson (Member at Large)	Sam Burnette (Staff Liaison)	
Stephanie Hackett (HRMMRS)	Dave Hoback (VA Fire Chiefs Assoc/VA FF Assoc)		
Ray Whatley (VAGEMSA)	Robert Lipscomb (GAB/BREMS)		
Melissa Meador (GAB/TJEMS)	Will Drewery (VEMA)		
James Moss (VDH-OEP)	Andy John (VDEM)		
Matthew Allen (VHHA)			
Steve Southworth (VAVRS)			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to order/Welcome:	The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Chair Joe Williams	
II. Introductions:	Committee Chair, Joseph Williams, opened the floor for introductions.	
III. Minutes from February Meeting:	A quorum was not reached during this meeting and the minutes from the November and February meetings will be held until the next scheduled meeting in April for approval. The chair stated that there is remote participation that needs to be approved. A motion and seconded for approval for remote participation by James Moss and Melissa Meador. Minutes from November were displayed on the screen for committee review and are also available in Town Hall.	
IV. Committee Member Reports:	<p>Joseph Williams – No report at this time.</p> <p>Stephanie Hackett – Currently completing a phased replacement of the Disaster Medical Support Units in the Hampton Roads region. Seven of the eleven MCI trailers have been completed. We are also adding two additional trailers for Surry and Southampton bringing the total to fourteen trailers that could be available for any type of disaster or MCI response. These trailers are requested through mutual aid.</p> <p>James Moss – Dr. Cameron Webb, MD, JD appointed as State Commissioner of Health and Marvin B. Figueroa appointed as Secretary of Health and Human Resources by Governor Spanberger. Tracking and following the response to recent winter weather impacts on the Commonwealth and the surge of repository illness. VDH and VHHA issued a joint public message. VDH Office of Emergency Preparedness will be hosting the annual Community Based Emergency Response Series (CBERS), the theme will be critical mass - looking at the intersection of mass care, mass casualty, and mass fatality. Additional information will be shared when available. VDH Office of Emergency Preparedness will be conducting a state-wide exercise to evaluate the ability of VDH and its response partners to respond to a</p>	

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	<p>large-scale biological event. Will involve/engage stakeholders at the local, regional, state, and federal levels. Date of play - April 26-May 2, 2026. Funding for both the CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program and the ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) was included in the recently approved budget for the HHS at the level of funding from the previous fiscal year.</p> <p>Matthew Allen - Scott Cormier joined the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) on Monday, January 5, 2026 as the Vice President of Emergency Preparedness. Scott, a nationally recognized professional in the emergency preparedness field, comes to us with a wealth of experience, most recently as VP of Emergency Management, Environment of Care, and Safety at Medxcel, where he led emergency management for 139 hospitals in 19 states and DC. Prior to that Scott spent 8 years with HCA as its Senior Director of Emergency Preparedness and Management. Scott will lead VHHA's strategic initiatives in emergency preparedness and response, including oversight of the Virginia Hospital Emergency Management Program (VHEMP) and existing Director and Assistant Director positions. VHHA supported the healthcare system response to recent winter weather across the Commonwealth. On Thursday, January 22, 2026 we hosted a VHEMP webinar briefing by the National Weather Service (NWS) which had 798 registrants. Through the Virginia Healthcare Alerting & Status System (VHASS) we activated an Event on Friday, January 23, 2026 to capture preparedness and response activities of ESF-8 members and partners across the state, and compiled a total of eight Situation Reports which were routed through the Virginia Department of Health – Office of Emergency Preparedness (VDH OEP) for submission to the Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST). The Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) will host our annual Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit at The Westin – Richmond on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Please mark your calendars and lookout for registration to launch at the end of February. If you would like more information, please email us at preparedness@vhha.com.</p> <p>Steve Southworth – Shared a training opportunity in June at Virginia Tech. It will be the First Annual First Responder Symposium with four tracks available in training for EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, and Mental Health.</p> <p>Ray Whatley – Nothing to report</p> <p>Melissa Meador – Nothing to report</p>	
V. Unfinished Business:	There was no unfinished business to discuss.	
VI. New Business	<p>Joseph Williams – Jim Gosney reached out with interest in joining the Emergency Management committee. He is a physical therapist. Questions relating to his background and how he would best fit this committee were asked. It was also asked if there was an approved committee membership list already approved and what agencies were on it. Joe will follow up to get some clarification. Before he can join the committee, he must be approved by the executive committee.</p> <p>As the chair, Joe would like to speak to all current members to confirm participation Look for an email</p>	

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	<p>requesting status and goals. Ray asked for a list of all approved committees and workgroups based on the new structure.</p> <p>If a committee decides there is a need for a task, they can create a work group, but there are no standing work groups.</p>	
VI. Public Comment:	There was no public comment.	
VII. Date of Next Meeting:	April 30, 2026. More details will be available before the next meeting.	
VIII. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am. Motion and second by Melissa Meador and James Moss.	

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