

**State EMS Advisory Board**  
**Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services**  
**Embassy Suites Hotel, 2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294**  
**November 12, 2021**  
**1:00 p.m.**

<b>Advisory Board Members Present:</b>	<b>Advisory Board Members Absent:</b>	<b>VDH and OEMS Staff:</b>	<b>Guests:</b>
Kevin L. Dillard, Chair	Kim Craig	Robert Hicks	Krista Samuels - AAG
Beth Adams	Benjamin Nicholson, MD	Shameera Carr	Kim Jones
John C. Bolling	Bryan Rush	Gary Brown	Heather Anderson
Dreama Chandler	Sonny Saxton	Scott Winston	Jack Perkins
Angela P. Ferguson	Thomas Schwalenberg	Adam Harrell	Tim Kennedy
Dillard Eddie Ferguson	Victoria Smith	Debbie Akers	Justin Adams
R. Jason Ferguson	Bill Streett	Mindy Carter	RD Peppy Winchel
Paula Ferrada		Tim Perkins	Chad Vaughan
Rebecca Branch Griffin, PhD		Cam Crittenden	Robert Trimmer
Matthew Lawler		Ron Passmore	Al Thompson
Patrick McLaughlin, MD, MS		Chris Vernovai	Larry Oliver
Daniel Norville		Chad Blosser	Gary Dalton
Jeremiah O'Shea, MD		David Edwards	Tracey Jeffers
Valerie Quick, Vice Chair		Kimberly Fuller	Kelley Rumsey
Marlon Matthew Rickman		Wanda Street	Connie Moore
Gary Samuels		Irene Hamilton	Ed Rhodes
Lisa Simba			Cassie Montgomery
Gary Wayne Tanner			Lou Ann Miller
Sadie Jo Thurman			David Long
Joseph Williams			Monty Dixon
Allen Yee, MD, FAAEM			Autumn Davis
			Amanda Loreti
			Daniel Linkins
			Jeff Haynes
			Barry M. Donald
			Joey Hundley
			Wayne Perry
			Jeffrey Bonavita
			Greg Woods

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<b>I. Call to order – Kevin Dillard, Chair:</b>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p> <p><b>Approval of the August 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes –</b>  Mr. Dillard received a message from one of our Board Members with corrections to the August transcript/minutes. On Page 5, Lines 13, 23, 25, change the word contract to compact. Page Number 12, Line Number 22, change the word Rick to Greg and Page 77, Lines 3, 6 and 12, change the letters from EMV to EMD. The August minutes were approved as amended.</p> <p><b>Approval of the November 12, 2021 Meeting Agenda –</b>  There is one change to the agenda. The Regional EMS Council Executive Directors report will be moved up to below the Office of EMS Report. The meeting agenda was approved as amended.</p>	
<b>II. Chairman’s Report – Kevin Dillard:</b>	<p>Mr. Dillard thanked everyone for their attendance today and special thanks to all veterans as we celebrated Veteran’s Day yesterday. He also welcomed the seven new board members and congratulated the 12 reappointed members. The Advisory Board members introduced themselves.</p> <p>Mr. Dillard thanked Gary Brown and the OEMS staff for a job well done with the Annual EMS Symposium during a pandemic, by keeping us informed and insuring that all programs continue the work of the EMS system. He congratulated all the Governor’s EMS award winners. The fallen EMS providers who lost their lives in the line of duty were honored at symposium and the EMS Memorial will be held on July 23, 2022 in Arlington, VA.</p>	
<b>III. Vice Chair Report – Valerie Quick:</b>	<p>Ms. Quick had no report.</p>	
<b>IV. Deputy Commissioner – Bob Hicks:</b>	<p>Mr. Hicks thanked everyone for attending the meeting today. He also thanked all the veterans. There is a new administration in office and we will be asked to brief the new administration and transition team on what we do at VDH. The Office of EMS’ help will be appreciated during the transition. Mr. Hicks introduced his Executive Advisor, Ms. Shameera Carr. If Mr. Hicks or Gary Brown are not available, she will surely know how to contact either of them.</p>	
<b>V. Office of EMS Report:</b>	<p><b>Gary Brown</b>  Gary thanks Mr. Hicks and Ms. Carr for joining us today. They both have been very supportive of the Office and have learned a lot about EMS. Gary spoke about the symposium and the challenges of COVID and the rise of the Delta Variant. Even through all of that, the symposium still had over 2,000 people there to include vendors, faculty, registrants, and staff. The EMS providers were very appreciative that the symposium was held. Gary congratulated the winners of the Governor’s EMS Awards by announcing them all by name and agency affiliation. He also named the seven new Advisory Board members and gave them certificates from the Governor for appointments and reappointments.</p> <p>Gary also gave the dates for next year’s Advisory Board meetings which are:  February 3 &amp; 4, 2022, May 5 &amp; 6, 2022 and August 4 &amp; 5, 2022. There are no dates for the November meetings yet. Those dates will be provided as soon as possible. The EMS Advisory Board will go back</p>	

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	<p>to being held at 10 a.m. on Friday.</p> <p>Mr. Dillard asked Gary to explain the transition process of the newly appointed chairs and the former chairs. He explained the nominating process and the election of new officers.</p> <p><b>Scott Winston</b> Mr. Winston gave an update on the status of the hybrid Regional EMS Offices. Currently there are three hybrid Regional EMS offices: Central Shenandoah EMS, Blue Ridge EMS and Rappahannock EMS Councils. The Office will soon be finalizing agreements with Southwest Virginia EMS Council in the Abingdon/Bristol area. He also thanked the three Executive Directors that have agreed to this partnership: Daniel Linkins (CSEMS), Mary Katherine Allen (BREMS), and Wayne Perry (REMS).</p> <p><b>Dr. George Lindbeck</b> No report. Dr. Lindbeck was not present.</p> <p><b>Ron Passmore</b> Mr. Dillard asked Mr. Ron Passmore of the Regulation &amp; Compliance Enforcement Division, to report on the information shared today at the Legislative and Planning meeting. Mr. Passmore reported that the proposed draft of Chapter 32 of the new EMS Regulations should be ready for review and comparison for the Advisory Board by the next meeting. There have been updates from the ACE Division, Medevac, EMS for Children and Critical Care MIHCP that will be added to it. Mr. Passmore also gave a Board of Pharmacy drug box update. There is a guidance document clarifying how EMS agencies are to utilize medications. With the survey that went to all EMS agencies, it was discovered that there was a compliance issue. The guidance document will be available to all agencies and EMS Regional Offices. He also reported that the EMS portal looks different, as there has been some updates. Paperless background checks will be reported via email by eligibility letters. There will also be roster changes. The roster will be divided by certified staff and noncertified staff such as firefighters or drivers. The noncertified staff will be issued a number from the Office of EMS for reporting background check information. The Health Practitioner Monitoring Program for impaired and/or substance abuse issues has excluded EMS Providers, so the Office of EMS has developed a return to practice pathway for those providers in this situation.</p>	
<b>VI. Assistant Attorney General – Krista Samuels:</b>	Ms. Samuels had nothing to report at this time.	
<b>VII. State Board of Health EMS Representative Report – Gary Critzer:</b>	Mr. Dillard congratulated Mr. Critzer on his reappointment. Mr. Critzer stated that the State Board of Health last met on September 2 <sup>nd</sup> and is scheduled to meet again on December 10 <sup>th</sup> . At the September meeting, there were a number of informational items. They also received a very detailed report from the Commissioner. There were many items related to COVID and regulatory periodic reviews. The Commissioners’ report also covered a public health order regarding masking in schools. The State Board also had two emergency amendment regulations for notice of intended regulatory action, one was the prescription drug price transparency and the other was on patient level data system. Mr. Critzer	

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	<p>congratulated VDH on their hard work in getting 83% of adult Virginians vaccinated with at least one vaccine. Seventy-five percent are fully vaccinated. Over 12 million doses have been administered in the Commonwealth of Virginia which is a pretty big accomplishment. Mr. Hicks also thanked everyone involved.</p>	
<p><b>VIII. Standing Committee Reports and Action Items:</b></p>	<p><b>a) Executive Committee – Kevin Dillard</b>  The Executive Committee has met twice since the last Advisory Board meeting. At the September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, nine CISM Accreditation teams were approved. Also, approved was an additional Medevac committee member. There was also much discussion about the bylaws and Trauma system representation on the Board. There was also discussion about virtual meetings. When the Governor’s Emergency Executive Order expired on June 30, 2021, so did the waiver for our ability to hold virtual meetings. Gary Brown spoke about the advantages of holding virtual meetings, one being the driving distances for some Board members. The Executive Committee recommends to pursue the virtual option of holding meetings.</p> <p><b>Mr. Dillard entertained a motion to pursue the virtual option of holding meetings. A committee member moved the motion. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.</b></p> <p>The Executive Committee also met on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The main topic of discussion was the Trauma System representation on the Advisory Board. A workgroup has been established to review the bylaws. Valerie Quick was appointed to Chair this workgroup. Also on the workgroup are Eddie Ferguson, Dr. Allen Yee, Ed Rhodes and J. C. Bolling. Cam Crittenden will serve as the Office of EMS representative. Another topic of discussion was the Advisory Board composition going into the future and whether there is appropriate representation. It was recommended to have a retreat to address the total composition of the Advisory Board.</p> <p><b>Dr. Yee made a motion that a retreat is held to ensure the proper composition of the Advisory Board going into the future. Mr. Gary Samuels seconded the motion. Any discussion?</b></p> <p>Dr. O’Shea asked about the retreat that occurred two years ago and asked why this one would be any different from the last one. Gary Brown stated that at the last retreat, there were no clear scope or understanding of where we were going or what deliverables we were seeking. This time we will be more specific about where EMS will be in five or ten years. We will look at the functionality of the Board as well as the issues facing EMS. We also need to review the National EMS Agenda 2050 document as well as the Community Paramedic Mobile Integrated Healthcare (CPMIH) initiative. The workgroup will be able to review other States Advisory Board compositions, delivery systems and National issues involving EMS. Researched information will be brought to the retreat. Dr. O’Shea volunteered to serve on the bylaw workgroup if needed. Dr. Aboutanos also volunteered to serve on the bylaw workgroup.</p>	

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	<p><b>Hearing no further discussion on the motion, the motion was moved with no opposition. The motion carried.</b></p> <p>Another topic of discussion has been that Emergency Medical Services is not identified as essential. Mr. Ed Rhodes is reaching out to a delegate or senator to introduce legislation to add the word “essential” for Emergency Medical Services in Virginia.</p> <p><b>b) Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC) – Kevin Dillard</b>  During the fall application process, which closed on September 15, there were 85 applicants with over \$10 million in total funding requests. The applications are currently under review and awards will be announced January 1<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p><b>c) Administrative Coordinator – Jon Henschel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rules and Regulations Committee – Jon Henschel</b>  No report.</li> <li>• <b>Legislative and Planning Committee – Gary Samuels</b>  The Legislative and Planning Committee met this morning. Ms. Beth Adams was approved to fill the vice-chair seat. Mr. Bryan Rush was added to the committee as the Virginia Municipal League representative. Mr. Ed Rhodes shared some upcoming legislation with the committee members.</li> </ul> <p><b>d) Infrastructure Coordinator – Eddie Ferguson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transportation Committee – Eddie Ferguson</b>  The Transportation Committee met on October 18 and reviewed 35 grants. Mr. Billy Altman and Scott Davis were long time grant reviewers who have rotated off the committee. Mr. Ferguson thanked them for their service to the Transportation Committee. He also welcomed three new members.</li> <li>• <b>Communications Committee – Jon Korman</b>  No report.</li> <li>• <b>Emergency Management Committee – Tom Schwalenburg</b>  No report.</li> </ul> <p><b>e) Professional Development Coordinator – R. Jason Ferguson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Training &amp; Certification Committee – R. Jason Ferguson</b>  Mr. Ferguson reported that the TCC met on October 6 with no action items. A survey was conducted prior to the meeting to determine both educator and agency perspectives on current EMT clinical requirements and the relevance of CPS testing for EMT. These two topics were discussed this morning at a Special Call meeting. After thoughtful discussion among the committee and public attendees, two motions were approved and two workgroups were established to address these areas. Action items will likely be brought forward at the February Board meeting. Four members’ terms are expiring at the end of the year and once reappointments or new appointments</li> </ul>	

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	<p>are determined, they will be submitted for approval. The next TCC meeting is January 5th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Workforce Development Committee – Valerie Quick</b> Ms. Quick reported that the committee met this morning and talked about the success of the EMS Officer I program. The plan is to have Officer II and III programs, but first the focus is on recruitment and retention. The Keeping the Best program needs some revisions and the Office staff will focus on that. They will use the EMS Needs Assessment Survey that had a great return to help with the Keeping the Best program. The results of the Needs Assessment Survey will be presented in February. The American Association of Ambulances sent out a Congressional letter in October to ask the government about ambulance funding. There were no action items.</li> <li>• <b>Provider Health &amp; Safety Committee – Lori Knowles</b> No report.</li> </ul> <p><b>f) Patient Care Coordinator – Allen Yee, MD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medical Direction Committee – Allen Yee, MD</b> Medical Direction met on October 7 per Dr. Yee. Dr. Samuel Bartle was added as the EMS for Children representative. They had two action items, the first revolves around the Scope of Practice. A motion was made to modify the scope of practice and procedures document as follows: Under the intubation section, delayed sequence intubation, and rapid sequence intubation remain paramedic only skills, and a note will be added to the performance of these procedures requires additional training and credentialing required by the Agency Medical Director beyond basic paramedic certification. Under the ventilation assisted mechanical section, for mechanical ventilator, initiate/manage will remain an intermediate paramedic skill, and a note will be added that the performance of that skill requires additional training and credentialing required by the Agency Medical Director beyond basic intermediate and paramedic certification. That’s the first action item. <b>A motion was made to accept the modification to the Scope of Practice document. There was no discussion and Board members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.</b> The second action item is that the Medical Direction Committee voted to endorse any legislation that promotes the use and distribution of AED’s in our communities. <b>A motion was made to accept the AED endorsement. There was no discussion. All Board members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Special Guest: Jack Perkins, MD, Founder and Executive Director, Compress and Shock Foundation</b> Mr. Perkins introduced himself and asked for support of the Compress and Shock Foundations’ legislation in the upcoming General Assembly. The legislation is that any citizen in Virginia, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, would be offered a tax credit dollar for dollar on their State income tax the following year if they purchase a defibrillator for their vehicle at the time of an auto purchase, new or used, at participating auto dealers in Virginia. This is a brief synopsis of the bill. Mr. Perkins started the Compress and Shock Foundation four years ago out of frustration of the outcomes of sudden cardiac arrest outcomes in the</li> </ul>	

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	<p>community. The two pieces that will change outcomes are bystander CPR and early access to an AED. This would fall under the Good Samaritan statute. The committee discussed the linkage with Heath Safe Community, the Virginia Heart Attack Coalition, education, outreach, media connections and care of the equipment in extremely hot or cold temperatures. The Board also discussed including Stop the Bleed kits with the defibrillator, securing the defibrillator and the unknown type of sticker that would be on the vehicle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Medevac Committee – Victoria Smith/Tim Perkins</b> Ms. Smith could not be here today so Tim Perkins is reporting. Tim reported that the Medevac Committee met this morning and had no action items to bring forth. Most of the discussion was on drone safety and near misses. There was also discussion on inoperability of air medical communications, especially between states. A small workgroup was created to look into this. The next meeting is in February.</li> <li>• <b>EMS for Children Committee – Patrick McLaughlin, MD</b> Dr. McLaughlin reported that the last EMSC meeting was held on October 7 but he was able to attend. The next Special Call meeting will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss legislative verbiage changes concerning safe and secure transports of children in ambulances. Several workgroups are being established to work on some EMSC items so be on the lookout if you receive emails asking for your expertise and assistance. There were no action items.</li> </ul> <p><b>g) Trauma System Coordinator – Michel Aboutanos, MD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trauma Administrative and Governance Committee – Michel Aboutanos, MD</b> Dr. Aboutanos thanked the Executive committee for holding the Special Call meeting to address the Trauma System representation on the Board. As mentioned earlier a workgroup was established to work on this before holding a retreat. There will be no report from the other committees as they have not met. The new Coordinator, Dr. Paula Ferrada, will work on establishing new chairs and vice-chairs as some members have left the State or moved to other positions. The TAG committee met this morning. A significant part of the discussion was the Trauma System Plan-where we have been since the inception in 2015 and where we are going. The committee also discussed the revision of the Trauma Designation Manual in which the Trauma Program Managers are currently working on. Another topic of discussion was the Trauma Fund.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Gary Brown thanked Dr. Aboutanos for six years of leadership and dedicated work to the Trauma System. Dr. Aboutanos had great passion and integrity throughout the entire Trauma transition to what it is today. (Applause filled the room.) Mr. Dillard also thanked Dr. Aboutanos and stated that he definitely would like Dr. Aboutanos to stay involved as much as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>System Improvement Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Injury and Violence Prevention Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>Prehospital Care Committee</b></li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute Care Committee</li> <li>• Post-Acute Care Committee</li> <li>• Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee</li> </ul>	
<b>IX. Regional EMS Council Executive Directors Report – Greg Woods:</b>	This report was moved up on the agenda to under the OEMS report. Greg Woods reported that the Regional EMS Council Executive Directors have not met in person since the last Advisory Board meeting, however, they do hold bi-weekly web conferences along with all eleven councils and they also meet monthly with OEMS. They continue to work in partnership and collaboration with OEMS on a number of projects throughout Virginia.	
<b>X. Public Comment:</b>	None.	
<b>XI. Unfinished Business:</b>	None.	
<b>XII. New Business:</b>	None.	
<b>XIII. Adjournment:</b>	The Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.	<b>The next meeting is February 4 at 10 a.m. at the Embassy Suites.</b>

Transcribed by Wanda L. Street, Executive Secretary, Sr.

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