

State EMS Advisory Board
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel, 2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
May 3, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Advisory Board Members Present:	Advisory Board Members Absent:	VDH & EMS Staff:	Guests:
Kevin L. Dillard, Chair Beth Adams Roemmelt John C. Bolling Kim Craig Angela P. Ferguson Dillard Eddie Ferguson Paula Ferrada, M.D. Brian J. Frankel Rebecca Branch Griffin, Ph.D. Matt Lawler Robert E. Lipscomb, Jr. Elizabeth Matish Patrick McLaughlin, M.D., M.S. Melissa Meador Daniel Norville James Reynolds Marlon Matthew Rickman Gary Samuels Sonny Saxton Victoria Smith R. Bruce Stratton Bill Streett Gary W. Tanner Sadie Jo Thurman Allen Yee, M.D., F.A.A.E.M.	Benjamin Nicholson, M.D. Bryan Rush (EXCUSED) Joseph Williams (EXCUSED)	Karen Shelton, M.D., VDH State Health Commissioner Christopher Lindsay, VDH, COO Rachel Stradling, Asst. Dep. Comm., Population Health Frank Gresh, Fitch & Assoc. Cam Crittenden Scott Winston George Lindbeck, M.D., OEMS Medical Dir. Melinda Carter Karen Owens Wanda Street Ron Passmore Mohamad Abbamin Tim Perkins Michael Berg Marian Hunter Devin Chinault Daisy Banta Jessica Rosner Chris Vernovai Wayne Perry Daniel Linkins Mary Kathryn Allen Greg Woods	Gary Critzer, Board of Health Rep. Mike Watkins Tanya Trevilian L. Joseph Trigg Al Thompson Stephen Simon Connie Moore Gina Wuertzer Bubby Bish Valerie Quick John Bianco Heather Campbell Kat Fivelstad David Long Michelle Ludeman Ali Akbar Robert Trimmer Michael Player Chip Decker Jeff Meyer Heidi Hooker Megan Middleton Ryan Scarbrough Amy Ashe Peppy Winchel Tracy McLaurin John H. Craig, III Gary Dalton Robert Hawkins Brad Owens Hannah Garfinkel Laura Vandegrift Ryan Martinette

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to order – Kevin Dillard, Chair:	<p>The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p> <p>Approval of the February 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes – A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded. All Board members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.</p> <p>OEMS Next Steps Workgroup was added to the agenda as well as the Regional Medication Kit Transition Workgroup.</p> <p>Approval of the May 3, 2024, Meeting Agenda with the two additions – A motion was made to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. All Board members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.</p>	<p>The February minutes were approved as submitted.</p> <p>Today’s agenda was approved as submitted.</p>
II. Chairman’s Report – Kevin Dillard:	<p>Chair Dillard thanked everyone for their attendance today and their continued support as we navigate through the challenges that we have faced. He reminded everyone that for the public comment portion of the meeting, please sign up at the registration table in advance. When speaking today, please make sure that you identify yourself, so the person taking the minutes can appropriately note it in the minutes. It was announced at the last meeting that we would do the EMS Governor’s awards today, as you can see, we are not doing that. We have reached out to the Governor and invited him to be here today, but he could not be here. He offered to personally present the awards during EMS Week. On May 20th at 11:30 a.m. at the Governor’s mansion, Governor Glenn Youngkin will present the awards. This is a huge win for the system and is an invitation-only event. The invitation will go out next week for the event. An EMS Coordinator’s meeting was held yesterday to work on committee structure, goals, objectives, and responsibilities. A new member orientation was also held last night.</p>	
III. Report from the Office of the VDH Commissioner – Karen Shelton, M.D. and Christopher Lindsay, COO	<p>Dr. Shelton thanked the Board for the opportunity to be here. She thanked everyone for their patience as we are in a time of rebuilding the Office of Emergency Medical Services. We are moving forward to recruiting a Director for the Office of EMS and she appreciates Rachel Stradling for filling in as the Interim Director in addition to the other hats that she is wearing. We appreciate the input that we have been getting as we look at the future of the Office of EMS to make sure we have a sustainable system for our Commonwealth, and we appreciate all the hard work you continue to do throughout this time as we deliver excellent prehospital care to all Virginians. Thanks again as we go through the restructuring and for Fitch & Associates. We look forward to the outcome of their report.</p> <p>Mr. Christopher Lindsay echoed Dr. Shelton’s comments. He thanked the Board and the many stakeholders in Virginia for their patience and their willingness to offer solutions and suggestions. We have made several changes in the makeup of the Office of EMS, which will be shared this morning. We wanted to make sure that there was more accountability in the Office and more communication opportunities from leadership. A big thank you to the three Deputy Directors who have stepped forward to take on those roles and to Rachel as Interim Director. You will see in the Fitch report, a lot of numbers around what our budgets look like from a yearly standpoint and the obligations that the Office of EMS has taken on over the years. When you look at the programs that have been funded, the way the Councils have been funded and set up; the use of hybrid and traditional Councils, and how things have evolved, it has not kept in line with the funding structure. We will look at this more in-depth. It simply</p>	

	<p>isn't sustainable. Mr. Lindsay encouraged suggestions and participation from all aspects of EMS from providers, agency leads, Board Members, and staff. As for the OEMS Director position, there were 71 applicants.</p>	
<p>IV. Fitch & Associates Report – Frank Gresh, Senior Consultant:</p>	<p>Mr. Frank Gresh displayed and discussed a report by PowerPoint presentation that was given to the OEMS Next Steps Workgroup. The report included the OEMS organizational structure and the leadership changes that have recently occurred. It also included the funding that OEMS receives, spends, and the negative bottom line. The funding structure is not sufficient to sustain the Office of EMS. The report also included the disconnects between the Office of EMS and the Regional Councils as well as conflicts between the Regional Councils. Mr. Gresh also discussed the NASEMSO Survey results of 2017 compared to the Office of EMS currently. The next steps will involve a survey that will go to the EMS agencies. An email has been sent out to the agencies and 145 responses have already been received. Strategic planning sessions will also be held with the agencies. In the final report recommendations, best practices, and nice-to-have options will be given to the Office of EMS. Fitch & Associates will be done on June 30. A draft of the report will be given to VDH by June 20th. They will meet with the Next Steps Workgroup on May 30. Fitch & Associates would love to hear your suggestions and feedback during the upcoming agency strategic planning sessions.</p>	
<p>V. VDH Office of EMS Report – Rachel Stradling, Interim Director; George Lindbeck, M.D., State EMS Medical Director & OEMS Staff:</p>	<p>Ms. Rachel Stradling expressed her thanks to the three Deputy Directors who are carrying the heavy work as we make these transitions. She stressed to the Office of EMS staff that change is difficult as we all know, and it has been 8 – 9 months of uncertainty and struggle for lack of a better word. So, we have gotten resources going in over the next several weeks to help support the staff as we make these transitions. The Workforce and Development teams will be going in to do focus groups and one-on-one sessions with OEMS staff to learn how the office operates on a day-to-day basis. This is to help ensure that we are operating successfully as the best Office of EMS that we can be. Ms. Stradling is excited about what the future looks like for the Office. She has a long weekend ahead of her in screening the applications.</p> <p>Dr. George Lindbeck had no additional remarks.</p>	
<p>VI. State Board of Health EMS Representative Report – Gary Critzer:</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer reported that the State Board of Health last met on April 10 at the Perimeter Center. It was a lengthy meeting with a busy agenda. There were several regulatory actions to entertain and vote on. The Board also entertained the Annual Report from the Department of Health, and a lot of work went into that.</p> <p>The next meeting of the State Board of Health will be June 12 and 13 at Norfolk State University. The 12th will be an educational day for the Board with site visits at the health district offices and the actual meeting will be held on the 13th. The September meeting will be held back in Richmond.</p>	
<p>VII. Regional EMS Council Executive Directors – Tracey McLaurin:</p>	<p>The Regional Council Directors met this past Wednesday at the Office of EMS. The Directors continue to hold monthly virtual meetings. At the meeting on Wednesday, updates were given by OEMS staff including an update from Michael Berg on the RSAF grant program and updates from Karen Owens. Chairman Kevin Dillard and J.C. Bolling, Vice Chair, also attended the meetings. Mr. Dillard provided an update on the Next Steps Workgroup and the awards program. There were also discussions on the Drug Box Exchange Program, the whole blood program, and continuing education opportunities.</p>	
<p>VII. Standing Committee Reports and Action Items:</p>	<p>a) Executive Committee – Kevin Dillard No report. The Executive Committee did not meet yesterday.</p>	

b) OEMS Next Steps Workgroup -Kevin Dillard

The workgroup last met virtually on April 17. Updates were received from two workgroups: The Regional Medication Kit Transition Workgroup which is chaired by Michael Player and the Regional EMS Council Workgroup which is chaired by J. C. Bolling. Both will provide updates today. An update was also received from Frank Gresh of Fitch & Associates. He will also provide an update today. The minutes and attachments from the Next Steps Workgroup were sent to the Advisory Board committee members. The next meeting will be held on May 30 at 10 a.m. and the Old Dominion EMS Alliance.

J. C. Bolling gave a brief update on the Regional EMS Council Workgroup. A report was created and emailed to the members of the Advisory Board and the Regional EMS Council directors. The EMS consultant will present financial information from the report today. If anyone has any questions about the report, please reach out to him.

c) Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC) – Kevin Dillard

FARC met yesterday and it was announced that we will have a Fall Grant Cycle. The application period will start on August 1 and the deadline to accept applications will be September 16. The awards will be announced January 1, 2025. The committee has taken Emergency Medical Dispatch off the priority funding list and is considering adding the Medication Kit Needs Funding as a priority. As of July 1, two committee members will be rotating off the committee: Joe Trigg (SWEMS) and Kevin Dillard (REMS). **A recommendation was made to replace them with Greg DeYoung (TEMS) and Byron Andrews (NVEMS). This does not require a second. No discussion was held. All Board members were in favor of the recommendation, and the recommendation carried.** Also, effective July 1, J.C. Bolling will be the new Chair and Robert Trimmer will be the Vice Chair of FARC. The next meeting will be August 1 at 10 a.m. here at the Embassy Suites.

d) Administrative Coordinator – Gary Samuels

- **Rules and Regulations Committee – Dan Norville**

Dan Norville reported that the Rules and Regulations Committee met yesterday and reviewed where we are in the process of the new regulations, and they are still in process. Two variance requests were reviewed. There were no action items. The next meeting is August 1.

- **Legislative and Planning Committee – Gary Samuels**

- **Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup – Chief Michael Player**

Chief Player reported that the Workgroup has been meeting since December 2023 to develop recommendations and tools to assist EMS agencies' transition from hospital stock regional EMS medication kit exchange one-to-one to EMS agencies to an alternative that is compliant with the FDA Drug Supply Chain Security Act. The workgroup has been working closely with the Board of Pharmacy Executive Director, Caroline Juran. The workgroup has created a draft regulatory document for the EMS agencies. Chief Player reviewed some of the changes that were approved with great outcomes. Tool teams have been created to work on all aspects of the medication kits such as policies and procedures, purchasing, and financial assistance. The next meeting is May 13.

The Legislative and Planning Committee met this morning and reviewed the regulatory updates and the State EMS Plan. We moved forward with one action item. All Board members were sent a draft of the Interim Strategic Plan. **A motion was made by the committee to approve the Interim Strategic Plan draft as presented. This does not require a second. The floor was opened for discussion. No discussion was held. All Board members were in favor of the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.** The committee also reviewed some upcoming legislation and had some good discussions on this Plan.

e) Infrastructure Coordinator – Eddie Ferguson

- **Transportation – Eddie Ferguson**

The Transportation Committee met on April 22 and there were no grants to review. They were hosted by the Richmond Ambulance Authority. They reviewed a couple of EVOC programs that were submitted. They also toured the Richmond Ambulance Authority facility. The next will be in the Fall.

- **Communications Committee – Sonny Saxton**

The Communications Committee met yesterday. There were no action items. The focus has been on EMD training standards and overall training opportunities for the telecommunication dispatchers at the 911 centers.

- **Emergency Management Committee – Joseph Williams (Eddie Ferguson reporting)**

Mr. Williams could not be here today. The Emergency Management Committee met yesterday and had no action items.

f) Professional Development Coordinator – Matt Lawler

- **Training & Certification Committee – Matt Lawler**

Matt reported that the Training and Certification Committee met on April 3 and appreciation was extended to ODEMSA for hosting the meeting. There was one action item for the Board. Brian McIntosh was elected as the Vice-Chair of the committee. He thanked Brian for volunteering in that role. The committee continues to work on the Apprenticeship Program and the High School EMT Program. The committee went on record stating that the Virginia EMS Symposium is an important part of EMS education in Virginia and is a critical component of continuing education. A workgroup was created to review the State EMS Plan to ensure we are completing the objectives of the Plan. The NREMT/Virginia Continuing Education matrix document was displayed showing the National Registry CE requirement changes. **A motion was made by the committee to approve the document. This does not require a second. The floor was opened for discussion. A brief discussion was held about the name of the document from the NREMT to Virginia Continuing Education Matrix. All Board members were in favor of the motion and of the document name change. None opposed. The motion carried.** The next meeting will be held on July 10.

- **Workforce Development Committee – Matt Rickman**

Mr. Rickman reported that the Workforce Development Committee met yesterday with a quorum. It was his first meeting as Chair. The committee updated him on the past work that has been done. The committee discussed the EMS Officer I program, the Standards of Excellence program, and the Virginia Recruitment and Retention Network. Two committee members will be added to the committee: Bruce Stratton and Paul Hoyle to work on the High

School EMT program. **A motion was made by the committee to strongly support and prioritize the EMS Scholarship program. This does not require a second. The floor was opened for discussion. There was no discussion. All Board members were in favor of the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.**

- **Provider Health & Safety Committee – Brian Frankel**

Brian Frankel reported that the committee has no action items at this time. A very lively discussion was held, and he welcomed the newest member of the committee, Robert Lipscomb. They are excited to finalize the Safety Officer Position Program and will bring it before the Board at the next meeting. A flyer has been put together with links to mental health resources, a research library, and a survey to enhance safety across the Commonwealth. They approved two new Peer Support Programs today.

g) Patient Care Coordinator – Allen Yee, M.D.

- **Medical Direction Committee – Allen Yee, M.D.**

Dr. Yee reported that the MDC met in April and had a marathon meeting that lasted 4 and 1/2 hours. Appreciation was given to ODEMSA for providing lunch. There was robust discussion on the Board of Pharmacy Regulations. He thanked Caroline Juran for her presence and her willingness to discuss the issues. A statement of support was also created for the Annual EMS Symposium which will come forward for the next meeting.

- **State Air Medical Committee – Victoria Smith**

The Medevac Committee met yesterday with no action items. The committee continues to focus on the safety of air medical operations; particularly in terms of drone activity and laser strikes in and around the helipad. The committee also is focusing on short safety clips to be shown on social media platforms and other media as well as educational offerings across the State.

- **EMS for Children Committee – Patrick McLaughlin, M.D.**

The EMSC met yesterday and there were no action items. The National Pediatric Readiness Assessment Survey opened on May 1 and runs through August 1.

h) Trauma System Coordinator – Paula Ferrada, M.D.

- **Trauma Administrative and Governance Committee – Paula Ferrada, M.D.**

Dr. Ferrada happily reported that all the committees had quorums. The workgroups of the committees have been meeting virtually to complete the work of each committee to improve the care of the trauma patient. The committees are working collaboratively and have maintained diverse membership rosters.

- **System Improvement Committee – Stan Kurek, M.D. (Mike Watkins reporting)**

Dr. Kurek was not present. The committee met yesterday and had a quorum. They discussed and evaluated the data quality of the Quarterly EMS Data Report. They developed some systems for data points to narrow down. There were no action items.

- **Injury and Violence Prevention Committee – Corrie Miller-Hobbs (Dr. Ferrada reporting)**

Corrie Miller-Hobbs was not present. The committee met yesterday and continues to review and evaluate injury prevention program offerings across the State.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prehospital Care Committee – Mike Watkins The committee met yesterday and had a quorum. The committee discussed data points of the Quarterly EMS Data Report. There were no action items. • Acute Care Committee – Tracy Taylor (Dr. Ferrada reporting) The committee met yesterday and had a quorum. The committee discussed creating a workgroup to work on the trauma levels (I, II, and III) on how to standardize communication between EMS and the hospital facility and other concerns. • Post-Acute Care Committee – Beth Broering (Dr. Ferrada reporting) The Post-Acute Committee also met yesterday and had a quorum. The committee continues to review post-acute outcomes and data sources. • Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee – Kelley Rumsey, Ph.D. (Dr. Ferrada reporting) Kelly Rumsey was not present. This committee met yesterday and discussed the MCI in Northern Virginia that occurred a couple of weeks ago. They discussed lessons learned and how to create ways to standardize the process throughout the State. 	
IX. Public Comment:	None.	
X. Unfinished Business:	None.	
XI. New Business:	None.	
XII. Adjournment:	<p>The next meetings will be held on August 1-2, and November 14-15.</p> <p>The Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.</p>	

Transcribed by
Wanda L. Street
Executive Secretary, Sr.