

**Workforce Development Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
August 1, 2024
10:30a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Matt Rickman, Chair	Vacant, VAGEMSA	Debbie Akers	Chad Blosser
Cody Jackson, Commercial Ambulance Association, Vice - Chair	Byron Andrews, VA State Firefighters	Karen Owens	Megan Middleton
David Tesh, VA Recruitment & Retention Network		Tim Perkins	Peppy Winchel
Derek Fuller, VA Recruitment & Retention Network		Chris Vernovai	Natori Neal
Christina Smith, VACO			Greg Neiman
R. Bruce Stratton, VAVRS			Pier Ferguson
R. Jason Ferguson, VCCS			Donna Carvana
Gene Dalton, WVEMS			Angela Kelly-Wiecek
John Bianco, At-Large			Kara Joyce
Paul Hoyle, At-Large			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to Order/Welcome:	The meeting was called to order at 10:35a.m. by Chair Matt Rickman.	
II. Introductions:	Everyone in the room provide introductions of themselves.	
III. Review and Approval of the May 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes:	Motion to approve May 2, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion made by R. Bruce Stratton 2 nd by Paul Hoyle Motion Approved	
IV. Chair's Report- Matt Rickman	The committee needs a recording secretary. Christina Smith volunteered to take on the responsibility. Hybrid Meetings are being considered as an additional option. A motion was made to accept Microsoft Teams as the platform for hybrid meeting. The EMS Advisory Board has added an additional seat to the committee which will be filled by Jason Ferguson.	
V. OEMS Reports:	Karen Owens: RSAF Grants opened today. Other staff members deferred to report as the item is already listed on the agenda.	
VI. EMS Officer- Chris Vernovai	No new classes have been added. The August class has been cancelled due to low enrollment. The next offering of EMS Officer I will be September 14-15 in Woodbridge, VA with Dale City VFD.	
VII. Standard of Excellence- Tim Perkins	No new applications have been submitted.	

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VIII. Virginia Recruitment & Retention- Derek Fuller/ Dave Tesh	<p>The Network will be holding a virtual meeting August 15, 2024, at 2p.m. via zoom. More information will be sent out via email and shared on social media.</p>	
IX. Unfinished Business:	<p>Keeping the Best (KTB) Toolkit- Dave Tesh and John Bianco Due to low enrollment at the TEMS Expo the class was cancelled. There are no classes currently scheduled at this time. Moodle LMS is currently used by OEMS and will work on getting videos up and running to help support the program. The toolkit awareness exists but need to be updated.</p> <p>High School EMS Programs- Debbie Akers In working with the Department of Education (DOE) school counselors and administrators a high school manual has been created and is pending approval to be used in the next school year. There are several people that are excited to see this program get up and running. OEMS has met with several counties/ cities that are interested in adding this program to their school system. For schools that are interested in adding the program an application needs to be completed with DOE. Interest needs to present and have a qualified educator willing to instruct the class. Most EMS programs are current at technical schools with a few in different high schools. Students that are fifteen years old are now able to apply to the program but need to be sixteen at the completion of the course. To increase opportunities student will be able to test at the EMR level.</p> <p>Jason Ferguson- Job Corp has a residential program that supports 16–24-year-old that will provide support due to their current situation.</p> <p>Paul Hoyle- Committee members that volunteered from the Workforce Development Committee (WDC) never received communication to participate in the DOE Workgroup.</p> <p>Dave Tesh- What roles are available for EMR? Many organizations and agencies have made the transition from EMR to EMT. More information will be coming out regarding EMR from the Fitch & Associates report.</p> <p>John Bianco- Is there a EMR to EMT bridge? There are currently no bridge courses that exist, but there is not an hour’s requirement for EMT.</p> <p>Registered Apprenticeship- Matt Rickman Virginia Works and the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research came to the committee to provide a presentation regarding registered apprenticeship programs and reviewed the Danville Lifesaving Crew EMT program and the Franklin County Department of Public Safety Paramedic program. They also provided insight for what it takes to become a registered apprenticeship. Employees receive a paycheck from day one of starting the program and there is a progressive wage scale as they hit certain milestones. This can be a retention tool as you have a mentor that supports you through the process. There are different resources and funding opportunities that exist that must be sought out.</p>	

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	<p>Virginia Works is the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement which is a new state agency that was created through legislation. They work with over sixty program areas to build and engage workforce development. Metrics are set by the organization being data driven to evaluate specific areas. Some of the prioritized section include healthcare and skilled/high skilled trades. Throughout the Commonwealth there are 14 regional centers with workforce development boards. Resources and funding for veterans exist to support them transitioning out of the military and into the workforce. They also support youth registered apprenticeships and registered apprenticeships. More information can be obtained by visiting viriniaworks.gov.</p> <p>Jason Ferguson- Through the community colleges there is FASFA, G3, and Fast Forward which are funding programs that already exist. There are various opportunities that are present. If you are not sure, feel free to reach out to the school to get more information.</p>	
X. New Business:	<p>SafeHaven Program- Medical Society of Virginia- Karen Owens This is a mental health resource that is not reportable. Which provides a way for people to seek out resources without fear of getting in trouble. This program does not currently extend to EMS Providers. This is a cost associated with the program. More information is available at their website https://safehavenhealth.org.</p>	
XII. Public Comment:	No Public Comments	
XIII. Adjournment:	The meeting was concluded at 12:12 p.m.	