

**State EMS Advisory Board
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Courtyard by Marriott, Glen Allen, VA
February 12, 2015
11:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Others:	Staff:
Gary Critzer, Chair Central Shenandoah EMS Council Genemarie McGee, Vice Chair Tidewater EMS Council Bruce W. Edwards EMS Advisory Board Representative on the Board of Health David Hoback Virginia Fire Chiefs Association Marilyn McLeod, MD Blue Ridge EMS Council Ronald Passmore Southwest VA EMS Council Matthew J. Tatum Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators (VAGEMSA)		Chad Blosser Central Shenandoah EMS Council	Gary R. Brown Scott Winston Warren Short Paul Sharpe Irene Hamilton

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order	Gary Critzer, Chair called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.	
Approval of the Agenda	Mr. Critzer informed the committee that he had added discussion regarding EMT-I under "Other items from the committee" since he inadvertently omitted that agenda item. He asked the committee if they had any other items to add.	The agenda was approved with the one addition.
Approval of the Minutes	Mr. Critzer asked for approval of the minutes from the August 7, 2014 meeting.	The minutes were approved.
Legislative Update	<p>Mr. Critzer reported that Gary Brown and Scott Winston were at the General Assembly to address any questions that might arise regarding the EMS Terminology bill, which is on the agenda this morning.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer reported that he attended General Assembly last week, primarily to speak on the EMS REPLICA bill. During the session, the Criminal Background Check bill was also discussed. He gave a brief update regarding the bills status.</p> <p><u>EMS REPLICA Bill</u> – Mr. Critzer reported that everyone thought the REPLICA bill would pass easily, but it ran into a road block in the House HWI Subcommittee 3. There were some objections and a lot of misunderstanding as to what the bill actually means.</p>	

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	<p>Some committee members were concerned in regards to the NREMT requirement for initial certification and misinterpreted the bill language to mean that the NREMT would be retroactive, requiring anyone who isn't NREMT certified to take and pass the National Registry EMT certification. There was also concern about OEMS having subpoena power, as well as the misconception that the compact would give away the State's authority. In addition, there was concern that this bill would hurt the State's volunteers.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer reminded the committee that at the November EMS Advisory Board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to support the REPLICa bill. He said that at the moment, however, VAVRS has pulled their support for the bill stating some of the same concerns that EMTs will all have to take the National Registry exam. Mr. Critzer said they are working with VAVRS to hopefully clear up their concerns.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said that the Governor has come on board in support of the REPLICa bill, and that allows the State EMS Advisory Board to speak in favor of the bill, which Mr. Critzer said he did at the HWI Committee meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said that the bill passed in the Senate; however, the companion bill did not pass in the House. The focus now is to get the Senate bill passed in the House since it has now crossed over to the House. Mr. Critzer told the committee that everyone needs to encourage their organizations to contact their legislators and encourage them to support the bill.</p> <p><u>Criminal Background Check Bill</u> – The Criminal Background bill reported out of Senate committee last week and has now crossed over to the House for approval.</p> <p>Mr. Berg reported that language has been crafted allowing local governments activities to be recognized as equal to what OEMS does with background checks. When localities do background checks they are required to notify OEMS if somebody is not eligible based on the Board's regulations.</p> <p>Mr. Berg foresees a challenge if a locality notifies OEMS that an applicant, based on the regulations, is not eligible. The locality cannot share that history with OEMS, and Mr. Berg has to determine how OEMS will get that information. Mr. Berg said they have had several meetings with the jurisdictions, lobbyists and the State Police in an effort to craft the correct language to address this issue.</p> <p>Gary Critzer addressed some miscommunications that have been circulating suggesting that OEMS was opposed to localities being able to conduct their own background checks. He addressed that issue with OEMS, and found that OEMS just wanted to get a bill that would assure the localities would get what they need and at the same time assure that OEMS, as the regulatory agency for the Commonwealth, has the ability to verify when they receive correspondence confirming that an individual is eligible for affiliation.</p>	

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	<p>There was discussion as to how a locality should notify OEMS that an individual has passed a background check. It was suggested that OEMS should probably develop a standard form that all localities can use for submitting this information.</p> <p><u>EMS Technical Clean Up Bill</u> – Mr. Berg reported that the Trial Lawyers Association of Virginia identified a couple of areas that needed to be addressed, and that has been done via a couple of amendments that have been put forth.</p> <p><u>EPI Pens</u> – Mr. Berg reported that there was a huge push to get EPI pens put into all the restaurants, and a registry created by the Health Department, which OEMS would manage to assure sure that everyone that has an EPI pen had the appropriate training. Mr. Berg said that the legislation met a quick “death” outside of the committee. It was opposed by both the Physician and Restaurant groups.</p> <p><u>Other Legislation</u> – Mr. Berg reported that the Naloxone bill was passing through smoothly. He also reported that the bill granting immunity to volunteer first responders from civil liability when in route to an emergency. Mr. Berg reported that the proposed legislation would amend the “Good Samaritan” law. This bill has passed on the Senate side and it is being passed over to the House. Mr. Berg reported that this bill was still alive, even though it was opposed by most EMS groups because it directly conflicts with the Good Samaritan law.</p> <p>David Hoback said that the Line of Duty bill will be cleaned up in the next General Assembly session.</p>	
VPHIB, v3 NEMSIS Update	<p>Paul Sharpe gave the group a status update on this issue. He reported that they have “widened” the window of implementation for people wanting to move forward. He also reported that Zoll is planning to launch their product in Virginia within the next month.</p> <p>Mr. Sharpe reported that they realized during the summit they held at the Symposium that the fire service data collection software was not at the same level as the EMS data collection software. He said this is because since EMS has been pushed to the new national standard, the software vendors have put more focus on the EMS side and the fire side needs to catch up.</p> <p>They have established a schedule for moving groups forward, starting first with their people with a State license. Agencies that use groups like ImageTrend, etc. they have extended it up until January 2016. Mr. Sharpe said that they are open to people who fit into a different category and that agencies who want to be moved from one group to another group for implementation should let them know.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer asked Paul where they stand on increasing the information that the program captures. Mr. Sharpe said that version 3 rules are very detailed and will allow agencies to build the program to capture the information the desire.</p>	

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	<p>Paul informed the committee that the agency-defined questions for the ImageTrend product are scheduled to come out in June and state-defined questions is scheduled to come out in March. Mr. Sharpe also pointed out that most of the agency-defined questions he has seen are already included in version 3 and he has been encouraging people to see what the program offers before adding custom elements.</p>	
Mobile Integrated Healthcare Workgroup	<p>Mr. Critzer said that the first meeting of the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Workgroup will take place at 2 p.m. here at the hotel. The workgroup will be chaired by Dr. Yee. Dr. McLeod and Ron Passmore are also on the workgroup. Mr. Critzer said it is a large committee that represents everybody with any kind of interest in mobile integrated healthcare.</p>	
Regulatory Updates – ambulance standards	<p>Mike Berg gave the committee a current update on the ambulance standards.</p> <p>NFPA 1917 – NFPA 1917 Version 1 is still active. They have asked for Public Comments and will be having meetings for Version 2. Mr. Berg said that Version 2 of NFPA 1917 should be out in January.</p> <p>CASS GVS 2015 - He reported that the Commission for Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), product, CAAS GVS 2015 was sent out for public comment, and they received over 200 comments. The Workgroup has met once to review the comments and will meet again on February 27. After the meetings, their Board will review and approve the final document. The intent is to have a product published and effective October 1, 2015. Mr. Berg reported that the CAAS group has submitted their application to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to become an accredited ambulance standards making organization.</p> <p>K Specs - K Specs are set to expire this year on October 1 and Mr. Berg said that GSA is waiting to see what the states are going to do and the states are waiting to see what the GSA is going to do and at the same time NFPA and CAAS are both hoping that the states will adopt their product.</p> <p>GSA Change Order 6, 7 and 8 – Mr. Berg said that Change Order 6 never came to fruition because the GSA Standard 4 had not been published by July 1, 2014. He said that Change Order 7, which was a combination of all the previous Change Orders, has come and gone. Change Order 8 will be out soon. Mr. Berg said that this change order is unique, specific to the standards for copper tension systems, equipment mount systems and the seating systems. Change Order 8 will go out for public comment in April and it is anticipated that this will become effective on July 1. This means that any ambulances manufactured after July 1 that has the Star of Life Certificate, which indicates that they meet the K Standards will have to have the copper system.</p> <p>Mr. Berg also reported that NHSTA has embarked to do a survey of all 50 states regarding ambulance driving training.</p> <p>Mike Berg informed the Committee that he has asked Medevac to put together a small workgroup to</p>	

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Advisory Board Appointments	<p>look at the new FAA regulations and make sure there is no conflict with our current EMS regulations.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer reported that Lana Westfall from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office has committed that all the appointments will be made on time. Mr. Critzer said that Matt Tatum will be rotating off the Board effective June 30.</p>	
EMT-I	<p>Warren Short explained that the Training and Certification committee is initiating a workgroup to research the various requirements and options necessary to assure continued access to an intermediate cognitive written exam if and when the National Registry discontinues offering the Intermediate 99 exam. Mr. Short said that the Workgroup is looking at what are the options, who will offer it and how will the delivery be, as well as how will the security of the delivery,</p>	
FARC – Award to State Chiefs for Virginia Fire and EMS Memorial Service	<p>Mr. Critzer asked Mr. Brown to speak on the questions that came from the Commissioner's office regarding the FARC Award for the Virginia Fire and EMS Memorial Service.</p> <p>Mr. Brown explained that the Commissioner's Office questioned whether FARC should be awarding monies for grants that don't have a direct impact on EMS services. The Commissioner's Office has asked that FARC and the State EMS Advisory Board to take a look at it and if it should be allowed. Mr. Critzer said that it is on FARC's agenda for today, and he thinks that they should allow FARC to address the issue before the State EMS Advisory Board addresses the issue.</p> <p>Mr. Brown said that the EMS Advisory Board does need to be on record that they acknowledge the concerns expressed by the Commissioner's Office, and that FARC has been tasked to look at the issue and bring back their thoughts on awarding systems oriented grant requests.</p>	
Partnership with OEMS, VDEM and Fire Programs	<p>David Hoback reported that the partnership with OEMS, VDEM and Fire Programs that they did sign a contract with Mutual Aid Net which is a database resource for employing resources throughout the Commonwealth. He said that it will have a huge impact on the EMS system as far as their ability to track and manage high profile resources. They are putting together a Steering Committee and training will take place in March or April. The grant that VDEM gave them is for \$18,000.</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Hearing no more business the meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.</p>	