

State EMS Advisory Board  
Executive Committee Meeting  
February 1, 2018  
11:00 a.m.

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff	Others
Gary P. Critzer, Chair Central Shenandoah EMS Council Board of Health – EMS Representative	Jon Henschel Lord Fairfax EMS Council	Warren Short	Michael D. Berg UVA Health System-Medical Transport Network
Christopher L. Parker, Vice Chair Virginia Emergency Nurses Association / Virginia Nurses Association		Cam Crittenden	Jethro Piland Virginia Fire Chiefs Association
Michel Aboutanos, M.D. American College of Surgeons		George Lindbeck	Amy Ashe Peninsulas Regional EMS Council
Dreama Chandler Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads		Gary R. Brown	
Ronald Passmore Southwest Virginia EMS Council		Scott Winston	
		Chuck Faison	
		Adam Harrell	
		S. Heather Phillips	
		Tim Perkins	
		Irene M. Hamilton	

Topic / Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Welcome and Introductions	The Chair, Gary Critzer, called the meeting to order at 11:27 a.m. New members to the Executive Committee, Dr. Michel Aboutanos and Dreama Chandler were welcomed.  Mr. Critzer said that they will plan to have an all-day workshop sometime between now and May in order to set some priorities and goals.	
Approval of the Agenda	The committee approved the draft agenda as submitted.	
Approval of the Minutes of the August 3, 2017 Meeting	The committee approved the draft minutes from the August 3, 2017 Executive Committee meeting as submitted.	
ACS Task Force Update	Dr. Michel Aboutanos gave the group a status update on the ACS Task Force progress. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He feels they are close to having the first version of what will be the Trauma System Plan. They are planning a Retreat of the Task Force on February 6, where they will review the cumulative work of all the work</li> </ul>	

	<p>groups and work on determining what type of easy structural changes they might need to assure that the Trauma System Plan of Virginia will work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Critzer encouraged Executive Committee members to attend and observe the Retreat. If they are available. He reminded them that the Executive Committee will be tasked with discussing the work that comes out of the Retreat.</li> <li>• Mr. Critzer explained to the committee the processes involved in getting an approved Trauma System Plan and explained that if the final product includes regulatory or code changes the document must be approved by VDH Administration and the Board of Health before it can go into the VDH legislative packet. The EMS Advisory Board can approve any changes that only involve the EMS Advisory Board Bylaws, i.e. expanding committees, adding new committees, etc., these changes.</li> </ul>	
EMS Scholarship Update	<p>Chuck Faison, the Training and Development Coordinator for OEMS, gave the committee an update on the EMS Scholarship program; a program that they collaborated with the VDH Office of Health Equity (OHE) to manage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The program launched its first cycle on October 2, 2017, which ran through November 30, 2017.</li> <li>• They have experienced several technical setbacks with the website online application process, and they have been working with the Office of Information Management (OIM) to fix the issues. In the interim, the OHE staff developed some work around procedures that enabled OEMS to continue to accept applications. OIM has released an updated version of the software that should address the issues with the earlier release.</li> <li>• Mr. Faison reported that OEMS has received 154 applications, of which 93 were completed submissions; and 61 of the applications are in the pending status. OEMS has approved 34 applications for awards. Mr. Faison said OEMS continues to work with individuals who have pending applications even though it is past the deadline date because of the technical issues experienced with the website.</li> <li>• Mr. Faison recapped the major issues with the incomplete applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applicants have to register with an email address and then the system will send a verification email. They had some issues with the two-step process. Some were technical issues and some were because applicants entered the wrong email address. In addition, to complete the application, applicants have to submit two reference statements. Some references were not receiving the auto generated reference emails generated by the system.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Also, some of the references had problems submitting their statements. Mr. Faison said that they have worked with OIM to resolve this issue. In the past, they would receive an application number that would connect them to the applicant's application. They have worked with OIM to remove that requirement and now they click the link and they will go straight to the application.

- Mr. Faison explained the scoring scale used to grade applications.
  - Did the applicant submit a completed application?
  - Is the applicant receiving financial aid or any other financial support towards their EMS education?
  - Did the applicant submit a narrative?
- Mr. Faison said he has drafted and revised the TPAM policy in which this information will be housed; and he has sent it to leadership for approval. After he receives approval, it will be published.
- The second cycle started January 1 and will end February 28.
- As part of their outreach strategy, OEMS has conducted six webinars for EMS educators; however, anyone who expressed interest in attending the webinars could attend. During the EMS Symposium, they handed out flyers on the EMS Scholarship program; and they presented information regarding the scholarship program during the EMS Educator Update that had more than 200 EMS educators in attendance.

Mr. Critzer asked if they could summarize what was applied versus what was awarded. He wanted to know if there were a lot of smaller awards or larger awards.

Mr. Faison explained that grants are based on the EMS certification level. Mr. Faison gave the group the maximum amount for each certification level.

- EMT \$495
- Advanced EMT (AEMT) \$619
- Intermediate \$1,176
- Paramedic \$2,166
- \*Special Award (current Intermediates enrolled in a Paramedic program) \$5,416

Mr. Faison shared that of the 93 submitted applications, 30 were for the EMT programs, and six were for Intermediate certifications and 57 for paramedics.

Mr. Critzer asked if they knew the percentage of the amount they were funding and if they had awarded full or partial scholarships. Mr. Faison said the funding amounts is based on historical trends.

Mr. Harrell explained that they reviewed the historical data from the old system because that was the only legally feasible and justifiable dollar amount to set without sticking an arbitrary number on a scholarship award. Mr. Faison said they also looked at the tuition rates for the Virginia community college system programs, as well.

Mr. Critzer asked if they could look at the number of educational programs that applied for course approvals, which were approved programs, versus the number of individuals that applied for scholarships. He said it would be very interesting to know; compared to course approvals, how many people are taking advantage and applying for EMS scholarships. He would like to know how well they are doing in reaching people. He would like to track that over the next 12-24 months and be able to say that they are truly getting the word out and reaching people.

Mr. Harrell said they are looking at outreach methodologies. He said OEMS will advertise the EMS Scholarship program at all future outreach events, and in the future OEMS will have a website that tracks customer penetration and interaction at outreach events. This will allow them to compare it back to the number of classes being offered with the number of students compared to the number of scholarship applications and awards and acceptances.

Dr. Aboutanos asked if OEMS will fund all completed applications. Mr. Faison explained that at some point they will reach a competitive situation as they get close to the amount budgeted for the program. He explained that in those situations they will use the narrative to help them make distinctions on awarding scholarships.

Mr. Harrell explained that OEMS has a set budget for the EMS scholarship program. They have built in a safety measure so they can fund as many applicants as possible. OEMS has a reserve so that there would never be a case of running out of funds before the last cycle.

Christopher Parker asked if OEMS was using social media to advertise the scholarship program, and he said that he would start sharing it on the college

	<p>side. Mr. Faison said OEMS has many Facebook posts regarding the EMS Scholarship Program.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer asked if Guidance and Financial Assistance offices at all the community colleges that offer Paramedic programs are fully aware of this scholarship and know how to direct students to the scholarship applications. Mr. Faison said he has not personally reached out to every community college but he does work with people who contact him and provide them with information. In addition, he said that the OEMS website has information for each role; the applicant guide, the financial officer guide, and a reference guide.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said it would be good if all community colleges were on board and when a student applies for an EMS program that the EMS Scholarship Program is on the list of available funding. Mr. Faison said they have met with the VCCS Program Directors on numerous occasions talking about this program and he thinks they probably have had conversations with their financial aid officers about this program. Mr. Faison said a student from Rappahannock Community College recently contacted him to inquire about eligibility for the scholarship and said he found out about it as a list of options in his financial aid office.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said that part of the job of the Executive Committee and the State EMS Advisory Board is to understand the process so they can help answer questions and concerns in the EMS community.</p> <p>Mr. Winston inquired about the frequency and duration of the grant cycles. Mr. Faison said that there are four cycles about a two-month application window so their fiscal partner (OHE) can process and reconcile their books before the new cycle begins. Mr. Harrell added that in the grand scheme there are four months out of the year that they are not offering an application process.</p> <p>The Executive Committee decided that it was important that they and the State EMS Advisory Board go on record to support efforts to resolve the technical issues with the scholarship program in a timely manner.</p>	<p>MOTION: The Executive Committee of the State EMS Advisory Board supports insuring the continued forward progress of the EMS scholarship program in a timely manner.</p> <p>YEAS = 5; NAYS = 0; ABSTENTIONS = 0</p> <p>The motion was carried unanimously.</p>
<p>VAVRS Financial Report Update</p>	<p>At Mr. Critzer's request, Mr. Harrell gave an update on the VAVRS Financial Report.</p> <p>Mr. Harrell explained that the Executive Committee reviewed the report at the August meeting. They decided that before any action could be taken that VAVRS needed to come up with a corrective action plan. Gary, Adam and other OEMS staff have worked with VAVRS to help them address the audit findings. VAVRS has addressed the issues and they will be submitting the 2017 report to the</p>	

	<p>Executive Committee soon for their review. Mr. Harrell said that VAVRS addressed 100 percent of the audit findings.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer emphasized that the Code of Virginia requires the Executive Committee to be physically responsible for the funds. He said this practice protects VAVRS and also protects the Executive Committee and assures that they complete the mandated task.</p>	
<p>2018 GA Legislative Update</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer said that the 2018 session is one of the most interesting and complex sessions since he has been on the Board. He said that some of the bills that have received the most attention are the ones related to air medical transportation. Mr. Critzer said that there is a meeting later in the day with Delegate Ransome to talk about what is going to happen with her bill (HB777) when it goes back to the committee.</p> <p>Mr. Brown gave updates on some of the bills that have more of an impact on EMS.</p> <p>The two Medevac bills -HB 777 deals with EMS Providers and HB-778 deals with the hospitals. HB-778 has already passed unanimously the full House and it is now going to the Senate.</p> <p>The group had a lively and informative discussion in regards to these two bills. They discussed some of the problems with HB777, and they discussed the issues surrounding air medical transport and the costs involved; and what could be the possible solutions that would be beneficial to everyone; patients, hospitals, physicians and EMS providers.</p> <p>Several other bills were discussed and/or reviewed.</p> <p>HB1347 – Ms. Crittenden said that is poised to have a big impact on EMS. It is requiring EMS agencies, law enforcement agencies, and every hospital that encounters an overdose or expected overdose to report that data to a data clearing house system within 120 hours of the occurrence. This bill, if passed, would add additional reporting for each EMS agency within a very small timeframe.</p> <p>Ms. Crittenden has worked with Delegate Webert and he was okay with striking the bill from the docket. Ms. Crittenden said they are meeting with Delegate Webert and Fauquier County Fire &amp; EMS to discuss opioid data reporting. Ms. Crittenden discussed SB 804, which is sponsored by Senator Carrico That bill</p>	

was passed by the subcommittee and the full committee and it is going forward. They are trying to get with Senator Carrico to discuss the bill.

SB703 – Out of State EMS Providers – Mr. Brown said that this is a local issue in regards to Virginia International Raceway in Halifax County, VA. They don't have enough EMS providers from Virginia for their races. Therefore they bring in providers from North Carolina; and North Carolina does not have REPLICA. Because of where the raceway is located they are very close to North Carolina. The bill will give OEMS the opportunity to verify the credentials of the individuals that they will bring into the racetrack. The raceway will have to provide OEMS with a list of the EMS providers they plan to use within 10 business days. It is event specific so it has to be done every time there is an event with a large gathering of people.

HB1513 – Introduced by Delegate Stolle. It expands the scope of the Trauma Center Fund to encompass providing care to victims of violent felony offenses. The bill provides that any person convicted of a violent felony offense must pay \$50 to the Fund and eliminates the current provision that such payment is required only upon a second or subsequent conviction.

Mr. Brown said the good thing is an effort to open up more revenue flow into the Trauma Center Fund. He said he doesn't know what the impact will be at the moment.

Mr. Brown said that Delegate Stolle also submitted a budget amendment that strikes language authorizing a transfer of up to \$8,055,000 million dollars each year from the Trauma Center Fund. This is the monies that are currently collected. It said the State Comptroller shall transfer quarterly one half of the revenue received to the General Fund in an amount not to exceed \$8,055,000 the first year or the second year from the Trauma Center Fund. The budget amendment removes the language that these funds have to be transferred.

Background Checks bills to add juveniles -SB 118, SB122 rolled into SB 109 and amended; on the House side it is HB 135.

It provides that the juvenile record information containing the central criminal records exchange may be disseminated to the State Health Commissioner or his designee for the purpose of screening any person who applies to be a volunteer or an employee of an emergency medical services agency.

	<p>The Stroke Center bills add the American Heart Association on the Stroke Triage Plan to the list of entities authorized to provide certification of such hospitals. These bills went through without any problems.</p>	
<p>Board Composition and Structure Officers, Committees</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer said they need to have a workshop and discuss the issue of the Board composition and structure as well as the officers and committee chairs once they get the data from the Trauma System Plan Task Force Retreat. Mr. Critzer informed them that several board members will be rotating off the board on June 30. Mr. Critzer reminded them that board members serve until their replacement is named even if that means they serve after June 30.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer emphasized the importance of starting to make plans for the committee chairs and coordinators so the Board work will not be stalled.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer asked the committee to look at their calendars to think about sometime in March to have a work session. It would be in the Richmond area.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer suggested that it might be good to appoint the Nominating Committee at the May meeting to give them some time to start thinking about the committee chairs and the coordinators.</p>	
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<p>Workforce Development Committee – Mr. Passmore said that at the Workforce Development Committee meeting held earlier in the day, they discussed EMS providers who have substance abuse problems and their licenses suspended and the fact that there is not a pathway for rehabbing the person. Workforce Development Committee asked Mr. Passmore to ask the Executive Committee if the Workforce Development Committee should be tasked with working on this issue.</p> <p>Christopher Parker said that this issue had been discussed in Legislation and Planning last year. Mr. Critzer said the issue actually impacts several committees including Provider Health &amp; Safety and Rules and Regulations.</p> <p>Scott Winston asked Heather Phillips to update the committee. She said that she had a meeting with Kevin Dillard at Life Care and he gave her an update on his research. Ms. Phillips said she has also done research for an internal guideline for OEMS to use for providers who have been sanctioned secondary to a drug abuse problem. This would be for a first time offender only. One of these guidelines they found acceptable to introduce them back into the field and salvage a provider. They are working together on this issue.</p>	



	<p>She said that Dr. Melton has looked at the first draft that they composed. He sent it back for revisions and they hope to have a draft to send to the Health Commissioner soon.</p> <p>Scott said that change to language in the Health Practitioner Monitoring Program (HPMP) statute will be necessary if they want to take that route. Mr. Critzer asked if HPMP has a source of funding to help providers pay for treatment. He said someone in their area needed treatment and HPMP paid for their treatment.</p> <p>Ms. Phillips said that the Just Culture Model across the United State and a lot of health care entities and licensed EMS agencies, several nursing boards use this model. Ms. Phillips used this model in developing the guideline. Dr. Melton wanted them to look at the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medicine and their sanctions and how the provider will re-enter the workplace.</p> <p>Mr. Passmore asked Ms. Phillips if she would come to the Workforce Development Committee the next time they meet, and she said that she would attend that meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer advised the committee of two additions to the Regulations for the requirement to develop a red lights and siren policy by each EMS agency and that each agency develop a rest policy that addresses provider fatigue management.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said that these are two high priority items in the Regulatory packet and they need to support these additional requirements.</p> <p>Ms. Chandler said that at the November Communications Committee meeting they talked about there being a committee that was looking at dispatched calls that were not ALS and how calls were disseminated and she wanted to know who she should talk to about that group. Mr. Critzer said that he was not aware of it. However, he said if you go the National Academy of EMD that research is already there.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said it would not hurt for the Communications Committee to put out something in support of the Red Lights and Siren (RLS) Policy to say that there is efficient and effective proven scientific research to assure that these calls are dispatched properly and the right response is sent in the right response mode.</p>	
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	<p>Mr. Winston said the Rules and Regulations Committee held a work session on October 25 in Waynesboro to finalize some changes to the proposed EMS Regulations (12VAC5-32). The Plan was to take them to the Rules and Regulations Committee today for their approval and then forward them to the State EMS Advisory Board. Mr. Winston is going to recommend that they take a little more time because they have multiple pieces of legislation that could affect the EMS regulations related to mental health awareness training, fatigue management, RLS policy, etc. He said what bothers him the most is SB 715 which would allow firefighters and EMS personnel who have a concealed weapons permit to carry a weapon while on an ambulance. You have to have permission from the chief of the department as well as a local government official. He said the language is fairly vague. The bill has been referred to Finance and has been sitting there since January 15. He said there is a possibility that it will die. If the bill does come back up the original language in the bill talked about only applying to individuals previously employed as a law enforcement officer, a member of Virginia National Guard Armed Forces of the United States, or Armed Forces Reserve of the United States. However, the amendment put on the bill extends it to any firefighter or EMS provider that has a concealed carry permit.</p> <p>Mr. Winston said that it will take a little more time to get the proposed EMS Regulations into a final form to come before the State EMS Advisory Board.</p> <p>Mr. Passmore said that TCC has two motions that will be presented at the State EMS Advisory Board meeting on Friday.</p>	
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.	