

**Communications Committee Meeting  
Virginia Office of EMS  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
2925 Emerywood Parkway  
Richmond, VA 23294  
August 2, 2019  
9:00 a.m.**

	<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>OEMS Staff:</b>	<b>Guests:</b>
<b>Richard Rubino, Vice-Chair, Member-at-Large (Legal)</b>	Derrick Ruble, Tazewell County 911	Rich Troshak	Dreama Chandler
<b>Hershel Kreis, NENA</b>	Mike Keefe-Thomas, VDEM (Excused)		Jeremy Bennett, VACO
<b>Gary Tanner, VACO</b>	Tracey McLaurin, LFEMS Reg. Council		Jessica Ackerman, VML
<b>Lewis Cassada, VITA</b>	John Korman, Chair		

<b>Topic/Subject</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person</b>
<b>I. Call to Order:</b>	The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by the vice-chair, Richard Rubino. This will be an informational meeting as there is no quorum.	
<b>II. Committee Vice-Chair Report (Richard Rubino):</b>	<b>The committee could not proceed with the Review/Approval of May 3, 2018 meeting minutes due to not having a quorum.</b>  Richard has no report at this time.	<b>Review and approve May 3 and August 2 minutes at October meeting.</b>
<b>III. OEMS Report (Rich Troshak):</b>	<b>OEMS Office Renovation Update</b> The office renovation is still on-going. Some of the staff are still working remotely, including myself. The renovations are due to be completed by the end of August, first of September. Hopefully by the fall meeting it will be complete so we can invite you to come and visit the new space.  <b>Communications interoperability updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich and Sam participated with the SIEC and some workshops and meetings.</li> <li>• They also participated in the SCIC grant process for communications grants and he feels that they are making good progress in getting resources to localities. He is excited that Pulaski County was approved for their grant for the EMD implementation.</li> <li>• Historically, the fall meeting has been held at the EMS symposium in November. This committee has a lot of interface with the communications community: public safety</li> </ul>	

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	<p>dispatch centers, 911, 311 call centers, and state interoperability. This year the meeting will be held at the APCO/NENA Conference in Roanoke on October 22. We want the members of this committee to have an opportunity to see the communications equipment, the vendors and classes. We are providing an overnight stay for committee members and a day pass for anyone that is not registered for the conference to be able to go to the general session, have lunch and meet the PSAP staff, etc. It would also give some of the attendees of the conference an opportunity to attend our meeting. Rich explained that the APCO/NENA Conference has about 500 attendees, about 60 vendor booths and three days' worth of classes. He stated that it is quite impressive.</p>	<p><b>Rich will send an email to the committee about the October 22 meeting.</b></p>
<p><b>IV. Committee Member Reports:</b></p>	<p><b>Virginia NENA – Hershel Kreis</b>  Hershel reported that everyone is looking forward to migrating to the Next Generation 911. The last APCO/NENA Conference was held in May in Virginia Beach and it went very well.</p> <p><b>Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) – Gary Tanner</b>  Gary stated that he is enjoying being on this committee. As for EMD, he and VACO fully support it and they would like to see it channeled toward grants and not unfunded mandates.</p> <p><b>VITA/PSC – Lewis Cassada</b>  The big news is that Virginia Beach has issued a letter of intent to go with AT&amp;T as their Next Generation 911 (NG911) provider. There will now be two statewide AT&amp;T contracts for NG911 – one for Northern Virginia and one for Virginia Beach. They will be compared once completed and published. The second thing is there is a sub-committee on the 911 Board called the Sustainable Funding Committee for NG911 and a survey has been sent out through VML/VACO's survey tool. The survey has questions about NG911 and this committee will look at that and give funding recommendations to the board. Rich stated that he appreciates that VITA is doing this as funding is limited in some areas.</p> <p><b>Member-at-Large – Richard Rubino</b>  FCC has been a little busy this past quarter. Two proposals have been submitted by the Chairman of the FCC to modernize the FCC processes. One affects licensees under Part 90 of the FCC's rules which includes public safety entities, local governments, and state governments is a requirement that all filings with the FCC and all correspondence between the licensees and the FCC be electronic. Currently, all commercial licensee filings are electronic. There will be no more letters by mail only email.</p> <p>As for antenna structures/towers, the FCC is still going after folks who don't properly maintain construction work and lighting. They should make sure the lights are working, that it is properly painted and make sure all paperwork is in order. A church corporation was just fined \$25,000. The FCC also gives explicit instructions on how to respond if given a violation notice and they did not follow directions. Another issue involving tower marking and lighting is in rural areas. There</p>	

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	<p>have been accidents involving crop dusters and meteorological towers. These were temporary towers that were put up. The meteorological towers need to be properly marked and lighted.</p> <p>The annual nationwide emergency alert system will be tested on August 7, 2019.</p> <p>For telemedicine in rural areas, the FCC has a notice and rule making proceeding exercise and comments are due on August 29 and reply comments are due September 30. This is for the use of broadband to bring telemedicine services to rural areas.</p> <p>Please see Richard for complete FCC update and further information.</p>	
<p><b>V. New Business:</b></p>	<p><b>a. EMD Accreditation Program Review</b></p> <p>Rich updated the committee and stated that one of the first things he did when he came onboard was benchmarking which was covered at the last meeting. The next phase was introspection on the accreditation process, looking at the files and the process to see if there are areas that need improvement. As of right now there are about forty-eight 911 centers/communities that are accredited by the Office of EMS. This is about 120 PSAPs in the state, not counting secondary PSAPs. There are some challenges with inconsistencies. He has not been able to find a written guide of what EMD Accreditation is and what you have to do to accomplish it that is accessible to PSAPs or others who are interested. On the OEMS website, there is a list of criteria. Rich is seeing a disconnection in the criteria listed on the website and what is required on the application. He also mentioned the grants. It is a voluntary EMS accreditation program, but if a grant is awarded you have to be accredited if you accept the grant. One of the challenges are rural areas which still have costs associated with EMD after the grants are awarded. There is still EMD training, and quality assurance on the calls, etc.</p> <p>Rich plans to create a written guide and an application that matches the guide so that the requirements are easily understood. This will allow for more consistency in the accreditation process. His goal is to bring recommendations to the next meeting.</p> <p>Richard Rubino discussed the differences in the level of care that EMD provides vs. non-EMD PSAPs.</p> <p>Rich and Richard discussed the 20 hours per year requirement for each employee to maintain their EMD accreditation. It was recommended to look at the benchmarking for the states that have mandatory EMD to see what their yearly CE hour requirements are. Rich will look into this.</p> <p>Hershel added that their program uses APCO EMD protocols which are 24 hours of CE each year. Other vendors have similar protocols and we need to make is consistent with whatever the vendor protocol requires. Hershel suggested making it as generic and as accessible as possible. As long</p>	<p><b>Rich will look into the yearly CE requirement benchmarking of states with mandatory EMD.</b></p>

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	<p>as they meet their vendor requirements then that should be fine for the EMD requirements. We don't want to mandate a certain amount of hours that their protocols may not require.</p> <p>Rich hopes to flush out some of the issues and have a presentation at the October meeting.</p>	
<b>VI. Unfinished Business:</b>	<p><b>a. EMD Program Initiatives</b>  Rich wants to make the process easier by following the quarterly meeting cycle for EMD. After all of the PSAPs documentation has been reviewed and approved for EMD accreditation, he wants to recognize the PSAPs at the quarterly meetings and have due dates corresponding with the quarterly meetings. Richard's recommendation would be to send a letter out at the sixth month mark; and then send a second letter reminder at maybe three months out.</p> <p><b>NEXT STEPS</b>  By the October meeting, Richard will have more detail on CE benchmarking.  Rich will draft some guidelines for the reaccreditation procedure.  More information will be shared about the quarterly recognition and attendance for EMDs at the meeting.</p> <p><b>FYI</b>  Surry County has hired a civilian communications manager, Judson Smith, who was a supervisor at Hanover County 911 Center. Mr. Smith and Rich has discussed the RSAF grant process and he will be submitting a grant for EMD.</p> <p><b>b. October 22, 2019 Meeting Logistics</b>  Already discussed in OEMS Report.</p>	
<b>VII. Public Comment/Other Comments:</b>	<p>Lewis mentioned that Texas 911 is implementing a legislative EMD mandate by 2020. AT&amp;T will implement a partial solution as part of the locality signing a contract with AT&amp;T. There is also a grant program if they choose to go with another company other than AT&amp;T.</p>	
<b>VIII. Adjournment:</b>	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:24 a.m.</p> <p>The next meeting is October 22, 2019 – APCO/NENA Conference in Roanoke.</p>	