

Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner

Maria Beermann-Foat, PhD, NRP
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services
1041 Technology Park Drive Glen Allen, VA 23059

804-888-9100
1-800-523-6019 (Va. only)

Medical Direction Committee

Thursday July 9, 2026 – 10:30 AM

Old Dominion EMS Alliance

7818 East Parham Road Suite 911 (Basement) - Henrico, VA 23294

See this link for directions: <https://shorturl.at/krZ06>

Meeting Agenda

- 1) Welcome**
- 2) Approval of Remote Attendees**
- 3) Introductions**
- 4) Approval of Agenda**
- 5) [Approval Minutes from April 2, 2026](#)**
- 6) Special Reports**
 - (a) Quarterly Data Report – Daisy Banta, Senior Epidemiologist
 - (b) Presentation by Abbot Point of Care Labs – Disclaimer: The medical direction committee does not endorse any specific product. This is an informative presentation only.
- 7) DEA and Board of Pharmacy Compliance Issues**
- 8) Old Business**
 - (a) MDC Make up – update
 - 7 RMD, 1 Chair
 - 2 at large – interested – Scott Weir, Asher Brand, Kevin Gutermuth, Stewart Martin
- 9) Workgroup Reports**
 - (a) Pediatric Pain Management – White Paper on Pain Management
 - (b) MIH Toolkit
 - (c) Air Medical LZ safety – edited document to submit to GAB
 - (d) Air Medical Incapacitated Pilot
 - (e) Air Medical EMS-HEMS handoff
 - (f) REVLS – equipment list
 - (g) Prehospital Resuscitation Paper

(h) TCC - Lane

10) New Business

(a) Request by VACEP to review and comment on Field ECO by EMS

(b) Request by TCC to review Level 1 and 2 EMS Education Coordinator

11) Director OEMS – Beerman-Foat Report

12) State Operational Medical Director Report

13) Questions for Office of EMS


14) Public Comment


15) Future Meetings

16) Future Quarterly Meeting Dates

(a) OCT 1, 2026

17) Adjournment

Virtual Attendance Link:	
https://tinyurl.com/2607MDCVirtual	

Public Comment Signup:	
https://tinyurl.com/2706MDCComment	

Appendix A: Review of Chapter 32 for Education Coordinator (Recommendation from TCC)

“EMS Education Coordinator” means an EMS provider who possesses Virginia certification as an EMS Education Coordinator. Such certification does not authorize or expand their scope of practice as an EMS provider.

An EMS Education Coordinator is credentialed at one of the following levels:

- 1. Level 1 EMS Education Coordinator – Authorized to announce and teach continuing education courses at or below their current EMS provider certification level.*
- 2. Level 2 EMS Education Coordinator – Authorized to announce and coordinate initial EMS certification programs and continuing education courses at or below their current EMS provider certification level. A Level 2 EMS Education Coordinator whose EMS provider certification is above EMT may not announce or coordinate initial certification programs at that provider level until they have attained one year of field experience at that level. – “This reference is contingent upon approval of the proposed EMS Education*

Appendix B: Letters of Interest for At-Large Member Appointment

Dr. Asher Brand is a full-time EMS physician with more than 40 years of involvement in Emergency Medical Services and more than two decades of leadership in Virginia EMS medical direction and system development. He completed his Emergency Medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh, where he served as Chief Resident, and has dedicated much of his career to advancing prehospital medicine, provider education, OMD mentorship, and evidence-based EMS protocol development. His areas of focus include trauma resuscitation, airway management, rural EMS systems, and prehospital critical care.

Dr. Brand currently serves as Operational Medical Director for several EMS agencies across a wide geographic area and provides medical oversight for a diverse range of EMS systems throughout the Commonwealth, including rural EMS agencies in Appalachia, suburban and volunteer agencies, private ambulance services, statewide air medical programs, and Airport Fire/Rescue services. He is currently working to stand up a flexible operational EMS agency to support Virginia law enforcement operations. He previously served as Chair of the Virginia Office of EMS Medical Direction Committee (MDC) and as a Governor-appointed member of the Virginia EMS Advisory Board. He has also served as Regional Medical Director for the Central Shenandoah EMS Council, helping lead regional protocol development, quality improvement initiatives, disaster preparedness efforts, and interagency clinical coordination. **Dr. Brand respectfully seeks appointment to an At-Large position on the Virginia Department of Health Medical Direction Committee, where he has been a longstanding and highly active member.** He currently serves as Acting Secretary of the MDC and leads two active MDC workgroups focused on ongoing statewide EMS initiatives. His broad operational experience and continued leadership within the MDC position him to effectively represent a wide cross-section of Virginia EMS providers and systems.

Re: MDC At-Large Member Biography

From Joseph Lang <jlang@ept911.com>

Date Tue 5/19/2026 10:36 AM

To Gutermuth, Kevin R. <kgutermuth@carilionclinic.org>

Cc Linkins, Daniel (VDH) <Daniel.Linkins@vdh.virginia.gov>

Received, thank you

Joe

On Tue, May 19, 2026, 10:30 Gutermuth, Kevin R. <kgutermuth@carilionclinic.org> wrote:

Hi Dr. Lang and Daniel,

Below is a brief biography for consideration for one of the MDC at-large positions. Please let me know if there are any questions.

- Kevin

Dr. Kevin Gutermuth is uniquely qualified to serve as an At-Large Physician Member of the Virginia Medical Direction Committee through his combined expertise in Pediatrics, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and Emergency Medical Services. He is currently the EMS for Children Representative on the committee and is the only physician in the Commonwealth of Virginia board certified in all three disciplines, providing a distinctive perspective on the intersection of pediatric emergency care, EMS systems, and prehospital medical direction. His clinical and academic focus has centered on advancing evidence-based pediatric and prehospital care through education, systems development, and operational leadership.

In addition to his statewide service, Dr. Gutermuth serves as Associate Medical Director for both Roanoke County Fire-Rescue and Carilion Clinic Patient Transport, where he is actively involved in protocol development, provider education, quality improvement, and operational oversight across diverse prehospital environments. His background includes extensive experience in EMS operations, medical education, and multidisciplinary collaboration at the local, regional, and state levels. Through these roles, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving prehospital care delivery, fostering provider development, and advancing the mission of EMS throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Stewart W. Martin, M.D., FACEP, FAEMS

I am submitting my name for consideration for an at-large seat on the Virginia MDC. Since 1998, I have served as the Operational Medical Director for the City of Virginia Beach Departments of EMS and Fire, supporting the most populous city in the Commonwealth and its combined career–volunteer EMS system. I have chaired the OMD Committee for the Tidewater EMS Council (Region 7) since 1996 and have served as the Regional Medical Director since 2003.

I practiced emergency medicine with Emergency Physicians of Tidewater for 32 years and remain Board Certified in Emergency Medicine, EMS, and Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. I hold an academic appointment as an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at EVMS and continue to enjoy teaching EMS to emergency medicine residents and fellows. From 1992 to 2012, I served as a Medical Team Leader with FEMA USAR Team VA-TF2. I maintain active membership in NAEMSP, ACEP, and UHMS.

As a member of the MDC for more than 20 years, including service as chair while on the Governor's Advisory Board from 1999–2005, I hope to continue contributing to the advancement of EMS in the Commonwealth through at-large representation on the MDC.



Office of the Medical Director

Scott D. Weir, MD FACEP FAEMS
Medical Director • OMD 401

Dan B. Avstreich, MD FACEP FAEMS
Associate Medical Director • OMD 402

May 11, 2026

c/o Joseph Lang
Chair, Medical Direction Committee

Dr. Lang,

I am writing to request consideration for appointment to the EMS Medical Direction Committee as a Member at Large.

I am a board-certified emergency physician and EMS physician. I am a nationally recognized leader in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), disaster medicine, and operational medical support, with more than two decades of experience in clinical care, physician education, and emergency response leadership. Since 2002, I have served as an Attending Physician in Emergency Medicine with physician groups, affiliated with INOVA Fairfax Hospital and the INOVA Emergency Care Centers, while concurrently serving as Operational Medical Director for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. In this role, I have helped shape regional EMS policy, physician oversight, tactical and disaster response operations, and prehospital clinical standards throughout Northern Virginia.

I have served as Regional EMS Medical Director for the Northern Virginia Regional EMS Council from 2008 to 2020 and have remained an active member of its Board of Directors, Medical Director Committee, and Performance Improvement Committee. My leadership contributions have been recognized with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Career Achievement Award and Team Performance Award for contributions to EMS clinical operations and system development. My contributions have been recognized with the Governor's EMS Award for outstanding EMS physician in 2009.

A dedicated educator, I held faculty appointments at both Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, University of Virginia and Yale University School of Medicine. I have directed and coordinated EMS educational rotations for medical students, residents, fellows,

and paramedics, earning recognition for excellence in teaching, including the VCU Top Teacher Award and the Milton Corn Resident Teaching Award during residency at The George Washington University Medical Center. I also serve as Physician Course Director for Fairfax County public school Fire-EMS programs, mentoring future first responders and healthcare professionals.

Throughout my career, I have been deeply involved in disaster and tactical medicine. I have deployed nationally and internationally as a Medical Team Leader and Manager with FEMA and USAID Urban Search and Rescue teams in response to major incidents including the World Trade Center attacks, the Nairobi embassy bombing, Hurricane Irene, the Japan earthquake and tsunami and Haiti earthquakes. I additionally served as Chief Medical Officer for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games in Fairfax, Virginia.

I have authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and book chapters in emergency medicine, disaster response, and operational EMS, and have lectured extensively at regional and national conferences on subjects including hemorrhage control, tactical EMS, disaster preparedness, and mass casualty response. I remain active in national EMS leadership through organizations including the American College of Emergency Physicians, National Association of EMS Physicians, and have served with the Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care.

I earned my Doctor of Medicine degree with distinction from The George Washington University School of Medicine, completed my emergency medicine residency at the George Washington University School of Medicine and my EMS fellowship at Yale University. I hold board certification in both Emergency Medicine and EMS through the American Board of Emergency Medicine and maintain extensive operational, tactical, and disaster-response certifications.

I appreciate your consideration for this appointment and look forward to continuing to contribute to the benefit of prehospital patients, EMS clinicians and EMS Systems in Virginia.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Weir', is positioned above the typed name.

Scott Weir
Medical Director
Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

Workshop Project Planning Sheet

Project Name: Incapacitated Pilot Training for Air-Medical Crew

Project Description (3–5 sentences)

What problem are you solving? Why does it matter? Who does it impact?

The FAA has authorized optional procedures that allow medical flight crew members to stabilize an aircraft in the event of pilot incapacitation. Among operators that choose to adopt these procedures, training is typically limited to an annual verbal review of the required steps. Because this is a low-frequency but high-risk task, relying solely on infrequent verbalization is not ideal. Proficiency and readiness would be significantly improved through more frequent practice delivered in a dynamic, scenario-based training framework.

Project Objectives (Action-Oriented)

Objective 1: Benchmark Virginia OEMS HEMS agencies to document current training practices among operators with approved incapacitated-pilot procedures.

Update 6/29/26: Based on responses received, it appears that only Med-Trans partners (Highlands, Life-Guard, and VCU LifeEvac) have formal incapacitated pilot procedures in place.

At the 6/9/26 Air Medical Safety Congress in Chicago, IL, Susan Rivers presented the need for an FAA requirement for all HEMS programs. She has received a tentative approval to join the Air Medical Operators Association to join their efforts in developing a comprehensive mitigation program.

Success Metric: A validated best-practice training framework is produced, including recommended training frequencies and modalities that address muscle-memory development, cognitive-load management, scenario variability, and reinforcement strategies.

Update 6/29/26: 100% of Life-Guard medical flight crew has completed their 1st quarter in flight competency validation of the 135P2+ aircraft procedures. Next quarter will include the tabletop exercise of the 135P3H, followed by in flight competency validations. Once this is completed, feedback will be shared with the Air Medical Workgroup for consideration of a best practice training framework for all HEMS programs with approved procedures.

Objective 2: Develop a standardized evaluation tool to assess the effectiveness and usability of the training program.

6/29/26 update: Pending

Success Metric: Feedback collected through the evaluation tool is analyzed and incorporated into a Phase II revision of the best-practice training framework.

Key Milestones & Deadlines

Milestone 1: Initial Meeting date

Target Date: by April 1, 2026

Milestone 2: Benchmarking complete

Target Date: by Jun 1, 2026

Milestone 3: Training Program Draft to MDC

Target Date: Final 2026 MDC meeting

Final Project Deadline

Completion Date: Final MDC meeting of 2026

Accountability & Ownership

Project Lead: Susan Rivers

Key Stakeholders: VA HEMS Agency Medical Flight Crew

Workshop Project Planning Sheet

Project Name: HEMS Safety Training for Ground EMS and Hospital Providers

Project Description (3–5 sentences)

What problem are you solving? Why does it matter? Who does it impact?

HEMS providers rely heavily on ground EMS and hospital teams to maintain safety during patient transfers, yet the nature of these brief, high-tempo interactions leaves little opportunity for real-time feedback or coordinated training. Traditional, longer-format training sessions are difficult to schedule across such a broad and decentralized audience. Short, high-frequency social media infographics focused on core safety practices may offer a more effective way to reach this wider stakeholder group, delivering timely, digestible guidance that reinforces shared safety expectations and enhances overall system safety.

Project Objectives (Action-Oriented)

Objective 1: Engage frontline medical flight crew to identify key HEMS safety messages that should be communicated to ground EMS and hospital partners.

Update 6/29/26: Team developed: Will Aiken (VCU), Chris Bersin (MedStar), Krisi Linton (Wake Forest Air Care), Scott Davis (Life-Guard), Lisa Scott (Nightingale)

Success Metric: A prioritized list of safety points is produced, and concise talking points are developed for distribution through social media–based infographics

Update 6/29/26: Initial infographic on LZ Safety approved by MDC.

Objective 2: Develop a distribution and engagement strategy to ensure safety messages reach ground EMS and hospital partners consistently and at scale.

Update 6/29/26: Holding off on distribution of above infographic until at least 6 topics are developed and approved by MDC so that social media posts will be consistently posted while the group works on additional topics.

Success Metric: A posting schedule, platform plan, and engagement workflow are established, and baseline analytics (reach, impressions, and interactions) are collected to guide future optimization.

Key Milestones & Deadlines

Milestone 1: Initial Meeting date	Target Date: by April 1, 2026
Milestone 2: Priority list complete	Target Date: by Jun 1, 2026
Milestone 3: Training Program Draft to MDC	Target Date: Final 2026 MDC meeting

Final Project Deadline

Completion Date: Final MDC meeting of 2026

Accountability & Ownership

Project Lead: Dempsey Whitt

Key Stakeholders: VA Ground and Helicopter EMS agencies and hospital providers