

Training and Certification Committee Meeting Minutes

Old Dominion EMS Alliance
7818 East Parham Road, Suite 911 (Basement), Henrico, VA 23294
Wednesday April 1, 2026 – 10:30 am

Members Present

Melissa Meador, Chair
Kathy Eubank
Dr. Jason Ferguson
Heidi Hooker
Chris Kroboth
Larry Oliver
Matthew Snyder
Charles Lane M.D. (late)

Members Absent

Brian McIntosh
(Excused)
Mike Watkins
(Excused)

Staff Present

Daniel Linkins
Ron Passmore

Staff Absent

Mohamed Abbamin
Dr. Maria Beermann-
Foat
Michael Berg
Cam Crittenden

Guests

Ali Akbar (note taker)
Heather Nelson
Donna Galganski-
Pabst
Joey Greer
Dr. Allen Yee
Paige Greene
David Keeler
Chris Gandall
Karen Owens
Michael McDonald
Adam Gwynn
Chris Denhelka
Tyler Tell
Matt Owens
Jamie Salvia
Scott Cormier

Online Guests

Anthony Balog
Valerie Vagts
Deb Akers
Matt Lawler

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Welcome	The Chair, Melissa Meador called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Chair Meador thanked Heidi Hooker and ODEMSA for hosting the meeting. Ryan Scarborough provided a brief facility safety briefing.	N/A
II. Introductions	Chairwoman Meador acknowledged that no committee members requested to participate remotely. Two members were excused: Brian McIntosh and Mike Watkins.	Remote participation: No remote members. N/A.

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests	Online Guests
	<p>Introductions were conducted around the room. Chair Meador noted that Ali Akbar (Greene County EMS / PVCC) was asked to attend to record and take minutes in the absence of Brian McIntosh.</p>			
III. Approval of Agenda	<p>The Committee reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Matthew Snyder to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kroboth. All committee members were in favor. The motion carried at 10:33.</p>			<p>The agenda was approved as written.</p>
IV. Approval of January 14, 2026, minutes:	<p>The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 14, 2026, meeting. No corrections were identified. A motion was made by Larry Oliver to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Christopher Kroboth. All committee members were in favor. The motion carried at 10:34.</p>			<p>The minutes were approved as submitted.</p>
V. Reports of Committee Members / OEMS Staff	<p>A. Chairman Report – Chairwoman Melissa Meador</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Meador reported that Heidi Hooker (representing Regional EMS Council Executive Directors) will remain on the TCC committee. Debbie Akers will not be replacing her as discussed in January; Ms. Akers will concentrate on her role as Executive Director of the Western Virginia EMS Council.. <p>Chair Meador reported that Chris Vernovai has resigned from OEMS, where he served as the TCC/OEMS liaison. Mr. Vernovai will be joining ODEMSA as Training Director effective April 6, 2026..</p> <p>Chair Meador raised a concern brought to her attention regarding OEMS course enrollment policies — specifically, a rule that course applications not submitted within 30 days would be automatically rejected without notice. She requested transparency and advance notice if existing rules are to be more strictly enforced going forward. She also inquired about third party vendor courses and how CEs are assigned.</p> <p>B. Committee Member Reports</p>			<p>N/A</p>

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests	Online Guests
<p>V. Reports of Committee Members / OEMS Staff (Continued)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medical Direction Committee – Charles Lane, M.D. – Not present at the time of committee reports. Report deferred. [Dr. Lane arrived later in the meeting and provided comments under Item VII.]. 2. VAVRS – Kathy Eubank – Reported on a major Virginia First Responders Network training event scheduled in Blacksburg in June 2026. Classes available for EMS, fire, telecommunicators, and law enforcement. First 400 registrations are free; subsequent registrations are \$100 for members and \$200 for non-members. Approximately 200 already registered. Also noted that the next VFR conference will be held in Harrisonburg, first weekend of October 2026. 3. Non-VCCS Accredited Programs – Matthew Snyder – Reported receiving multiple inquiries from non-VCCS program directors expressing concern about the potential direction of EC credentialing in Virginia, including rumors about eliminating the EC credential and requiring fire departments and recruit academies to contract with colleges for EMS training. Noted for discussion under Agenda Item VII. 4. VCCS Accredited Programs – Dr. Jason Ferguson – Echoed concerns from non-VCCS programs regarding EC credentialing direction. Also announced that the VCCS EMS peer group will meet in Richmond the following Friday. 5. Fire-Based Organization – Christopher Kroboth – Noted similar volume of inquiries regarding EC credentialing direction. Raised question regarding expected turnaround time on OEMS support tickets. 6. VAGEMSA – Larry Oliver – VAGEMSA met virtually in February. Nothing further to report. 7. EMS Education Coordinators – Brian McIntosh – Excused. No report provided. 8. Regional EMS Council Executive Directors – Heidi Hooker – No report. 9. EMS for Children – Mike Watkins – Excused. No report provided. 			<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>
<p>V. Reports of Committee Members / OEMS Staff (Continued)</p>	<p>c. OEMS Reports - Daniel Linkins</p>			

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests	Online Guests
	<p>Daniel Linkins provided an update on the ACE Division. Key items included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The division is actively recruiting to fill staff vacancies. A new ServiceNow-based support ticket system has been implemented (approximately three weeks in operation) to improve efficiency and ensure inquiries are routed to the appropriate staff member. • Direct contact information has been removed from the OEMS website to ensure inquiries reach the appropriate staff member. Previously, inquiries were routed to whoever answered first, regardless of subject matter expertise. Target response time is two business days. • Providers are strongly encouraged to submit support requests via the online form rather than by voicemail. Voicemail submissions require manual transcription into tickets, adding delays. Approximately 400 tickets processed in the first three weeks. • OEMS is creating process documentation and training videos to eliminate single points of failure and ensure information consistency. • Chad Mason has been welcomed as Director of Emergency Operations. He activated an incident management team for ACE Division support within his first two days. • The Virginia Board of Health approved an extension of the temporary strategic plan implemented during the office transition. OEMS will conduct a statewide EMS assessment over the next 10–11 months following a MAP 2.0 / community health improvement framework, incorporating the NHTSA EMS Agenda for the Future 2050, with broad stakeholder engagement. <p>D. OEMS Divisional Updates –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulations & Compliance – Ron Passmore – No formal report. Ron was available to address questions throughout the meeting. Confirmed that accreditation requirements under Chapter 31 remain in effect and will not change until formal regulatory language is amended and published. 			<p>N/A</p>
<p>VI. Committee Discussion Items</p>	<p>A. Previous Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous Business Items 1 & 2 – Responsible parties not in attendance. No reports provided. Skipped. 			

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	<p>2. EC Level 1 / Level 2 Regulatory Changes – Christopher Kroboth provided a synopsis of the proposed EC Level 1 / Level 2 credentialing framework for the record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current State: The EC process is approximately three days and produces a single full EC credential, allowing facilitation of all EMS education from initial programs through CE. The majority of ECs serve primarily as agency training officers/portal managers, not initial program instructors. • EC Level 1 (proposed): Approximately one-day course covering rules and regulations, the T-PAM, CE facilitation, portal and scanning processes. Intended for agency-based training officers. To be offered by regional councils. • EC Level 2 (proposed): Add-on to Level 1, covering initial program-specific content: enrollment requirements, ADA accommodations, competency-based tracking, and compliance management. To be offered at the state level. • Existing ECs: All current ECs would be grandfathered in as EC Level 2 unless they voluntarily request reclassification to Level 1. • Larry Oliver noted that consistency will be critical given the approximately 900+ ECs statewide and recommended development of a scripted lesson plan for Level 1 to ensure uniform delivery across all seven regions. <p>A motion was made to approve the EC Level 1 / Level 2 framework as presented. The motion was duly seconded. All committee members were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>3. Training EMS Regulatory Change Workgroup – Larry Oliver – Reported that the workgroup is being reconstituted to develop T-PAM modifications related to Chapter 32 rules and regulations. Meetings will be conducted virtually. Modifications must be completed prior to the OEMS Rules & Regulations meeting in August 2026, with the November 2026 Advisory Board meeting as the follow-on milestone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workgroup members identified: Ali Akbar, Devin Kelten, Megan Middleton, David Keeler, Matthew Snyder, Chief Doak (York County). <p>4. Recommended TCC Charter – Chair Meador clarified that a TCC charter is a recommendation, not a requirement. A draft was previously circulated; it did not incorporate objectives developed by the former chair. Chair Meador will revise the draft to include those objectives and redistribute with adequate lead time. The charter will be brought back for a vote at the July 2026 TCC meeting.</p>			<p>EC Level 1 / Level 2 framework: Motion made by Larry Oliver. Seconded by Matthew Snyder. Passed unanimously at 11:10 AM</p> <p>Motion made and duly seconded. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Charter tabled until July 2026 meeting.</p>

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		<p>Daniel Linkins confirmed OEMS is working to consolidate all advisory board and subcommittee documentation into one shared location for continuity and standardization.</p> <p>5. TCC Workgroup – Review of ECI and EC Credentialing Process – This was the primary discussion item of the meeting. Chair Meador framed the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a direct request from Dr. Beerman-Foat (OEMS Director) to conduct a comprehensive, top-to-bottom review of the EC Institute (ECI) and the EC credentialing process. Nothing has been decided. The work group is being asked to examine, not dismantle, the existing process. One of the questions to be considered is whether an EC credentialing process is needed at all — asked in a spirit of continuous improvement, not criticism. Chair Meador stated this request originated from challenges and departures in the ACE Division, prompting a broader internal review of all processes. <p>Proposed Work Group Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian McIntosh (TCC – Committee Member) Christopher Kroboth (TCC – Committee Member; asked to serve as Work Group Lead) Ali Akbar – Greene County EMS / PVCC Devin Kelten – Assistant Program Director, Germanna Community College Joey Greer – Central Virginia Community College (volunteered) Michael McDonald – Loudoun County Fire Rescue Donna Galganski-Pabst – Region 7 (recommended by Matthew Snyder; reportedly has mentored the highest number of ECs statewide) Megan Middleton – Region 6 (recommended by Christopher Kroboth) Larry Oliver – Region 3 (Central Shenandoah) Regions 1 and 5 – Representatives to be identified offline by Chair Meador. <p>Discussion summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Snyder (Non-VCCS): Expressed concern about anxiety level among program directors, comparable in intensity to concerns seen around pharmacy/drug program changes. Fire chiefs and volunteer/combo agencies are worried about potential impacts. Concern appears to have originated in part from statements at the Virginia Fire Chiefs Association meeting. 		<p>Christopher Kroboth to email EC Level 1/Level 2 written proposal to Chair Meador and Daniel Linkins. (ASAP)</p> <p>Chair Meador to identify work group representatives for Regions 1 and 5. (ASAP post-meeting).</p> <p>Work group to convene once deliverables document is reviewed and returned</p> <p>T-PAM/Chapter 32 work group to reconvene virtually prior to August 2026</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R. Jason Ferguson (VCCS): Strongly opposed to any model that eliminates EC requirements entirely. Cited Virginia’s strong national standing on National Registry pass rates (above national average for EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic from 2022–2025). Endorsed improving reciprocity pathways for qualified out-of-state educators. Cautioned against benchmarking states solely for convenience; suggested selecting states based on comparable outcomes data. Dr. Allen Yee (Interim State Medical Director): Identified unacceptable variation in education quality across the Commonwealth as a foundational driver for this review. Medical directors have historically lacked capacity for adequate QA/QI oversight, and the trend toward corporate medical direction (one medical director overseeing dozens of agencies) is worsening this. The independent examiner model for terminal competencies was a preferred solution eliminated due to budget cuts. Noted that medical directors increasingly report doing more damage control after program completion than in the past.. Larry Oliver (VAGEMSA): Recommended the work group examine data from a prior 9-month statewide QA/QI initiative for EMS education programs. That effort found 85–90% of ECs were performing appropriately; deficiencies clustered around missing student grievance processes and student removal procedures. The initiative was disbanded due to budget cuts but data/reports may exist on OEMS servers. Larry Oliver offered to help locate and provide access to those records.. Daniel Linkins (OEMS): Clarified the ask is not to eliminate accountability, but to critically examine whether each requirement is still relevant, adds measurable value, and is executed as efficiently as possible. Encouraged benchmarking other states to identify pathways for reducing barriers to qualified out-of-state educators. Kathy Eubank (VAVRS): Suggested virtual or pre-recorded EC updates as an interim measure to address the information gap and reduce rumors in the field. Offered to assist OEMS in moving EC Institute scheduling forward. Supported benchmarking but emphasized Virginia’s process must reflect its unique geography and EMS structure. Charles Lane, M.D. (Medical Direction Committee – arrived late): Affirmed medical direction concerns regarding education quality variation. Stated that accreditation alone does not guarantee a quality product if programs only “do the paper chase.” The first safeguard should be the program Medical Director, but physician capacity constraints make that difficult statewide. 	<p>OEMS to work toward scheduling EC Institute(s) in 2026; explore use of SME contractors and former staff. (Target: June 2026)</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Snyder (follow-up): Raised the dual medical director model question – should larger agencies have separate medical directors for operations vs. education? Charles Lane, M.D. acknowledged the workforce challenge and noted the growing trend of corporate medical direction as a complicating factor <p>EC Institute Scheduling – Follow-up Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Snyder noted a specific case of an individual eligible for EC Institute since November 2025 who has been unable to attend due to scheduling gaps, creating coverage risk at their agency. Kathy Eubank recommended exploring use of subject matter experts (former OEMS staff and experienced ECs) to facilitate EC Institute sessions using the flipped-classroom model from the last Institute, with minimal OEMS staff involvement required. Larry Oliver echoed this, noting that former OEMS staff who ran previous Institutes are still in the EMS system and may be willing to assist on an interim basis. Kathy Eubank offered to assist with making the EC Institute scheduling happen and encouraged OEMS to reach out if she could help move things forward Daniel Linkins confirmed OEMS is actively exploring all options, including the use of contract instructors and former staff, to schedule one or two EC Institutes in 2026. June remains a target but is not confirmed. <p>Chair Meador noted that a draft deliverables/task list and six-month timeline was submitted to Dr. Beermann-Foat, Deputy Director Crittenden, and Daniel Linkins for review. She acknowledged the six-month timeline may not be feasible and is not committed to that timeframe. Chair Meador emphasized that the EC Level 1/Level 2 vote was kept separate from the broader ECI/credentialing review intentionally, to avoid delaying a sound operational improvement</p>			
<p>VII. New Business</p>	<p>A. New Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ACE Division Open Positions Update – Daniel Linkins – No current plans to eliminate any open positions. Wayne Barry has returned as a contractor to 			

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	<p>assist with course processing. Additional contract positions are being identified. Both the Division Director and Program positions will be posted for permanent recruitment. Future division staffing structure is under evaluation.</p> <p>A committee member raised a concern about the lack of proactive communication to agencies and educators when Chris Vernovai departed and when the online ticket system was implemented. Daniel Linkins acknowledged this and confirmed a communication is being drafted pending state government approval.</p>			<p>Charter tabled until July meeting</p>
<p>VIII. Public Comment</p>	<p>A. Public Comment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Allen Yee – Speaking in his individual capacity as an EMS physician. Commended the committee on the depth of debate. Raised a concern about mixed messaging: the EC Level 1/Level 2 framework was discussed and voted on in the same meeting, while a separate broader work group review was also initiated. Chair Meador acknowledged this and explained her reasoning for keeping the two tracks separate. 2. David Keeler – Tidewater EMS Council (Region 7) – Invited all attendees to the Tidewater EMS Expo, May 12–17, 2026, in downtown Norfolk. 3. Adam Gwynn – Norfolk Fire – Raised concern about mixed messages circulating in Region 7 regarding the state’s position on accredited programs, with some agencies considering pursuing accreditation preemptively. Daniel Linkins responded that no decisions have been made regarding accreditation. Ron Passmore confirmed that accreditation requirements remain in effect under Chapter 31 and will not change until formal regulatory language is amended. Adam Gwynn also suggested OEMS consider surveying all ECs statewide to solicit feedback on what is working and what is not. 4. Audience member (Region 7 area, fire/EMS-based agency) – Raised a practical concern about how the EC Level 1/Level 2 framework will apply to accredited vs. non-accredited programs, noting that non-accredited programs require the EC to be physically present conducting instruction. Requested clarity on succession planning requirements as staff transitions occur. Chair Meador and 			<p>N/A</p>

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	Daniel Linkins acknowledged the concern and confirmed these questions fall within the work group's scope.			
IX. Dates for 2026 Meetings	<p>A. Scheduled dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July 8, 2026 – ODEMSA, 10:30 AM 2. October 7, 2026 – ODEMSA, 10:30 AM <p>Next State EMS Advisory Board Meeting: May 1, 2026, 10:00 AM – Public Safety Training Center, Broadneck Road.</p>			July and October 2026 meetings will be held at ODEMSA (Parham Rd).
X. Adjourn	A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM..			Motion to adjourn was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Ali Akbar
Guest Note Taker

DRAFT



Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Health

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

Maria Beermann-Foat, PhD, NRP
Director

Office of Emergency Medical Services
1041 Technology Park Drive Glen Allen, VA 23059

Medical Direction Committee

Thursday January 15, 2025 – 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 October 2, 2025**
- 6) **Special Reports**
 - (1) Quarterly Data Report – Daisy Banta, Senior Epidemiologist
 - (2) Air Medical
 - (3) FOIA and Public Meetings
- 7) **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) & Board of Pharmacy (BOP) Compliance Issues**
- 8) **Old Business**
 - (a) **MIH Workgroup**
 - (b) **Scope of Practice Updates [12VAC-31-1050](#)**
- 9) **MDC Chair Report and Items**

10) New Business

- (a) Tracheostomy care for EMT
- (b) BIPAP management for EMT
- (c) Defining Limits on Medical Director Oversight
- (d) Funding Tiers for OEMS (Mike Berg)
 - Lucas Devices
- (e) TST (PPD) as a Red Dot Skill
- (f) White Paper on Pediatric Pain Management

11) Research Requests

12) State OMD Items

- (a) NAEMSP Equipment List

13) Questions for OEMS Staff


14) Public Comment

15) Future Quarterly Meeting Dates

- a. APRIL 2, 2026
- b. JULY 9, 2026
- c. OCT 1, 2026

16) Adjournment

Virtual Attendance Link:	
https://tinyurl.com/MDC0126VA	

Public Comment Signup:	
https://tinyurl.com/VAMDC0126	

Attachment A to the October 1, 2025

July 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Training and Certification Committee Meeting Minutes

Old Dominion EMS Alliance
7818 East Parham Road, Suite 911 (Basement), Henrico, VA 23294
Wednesday October 1, 2025 – 10:30 am

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Guests
Matt Lawler, Chair	Matthew Snyder (Excused)	Debbie Akers	Michael Biamante
Brian McIntosh, Vice Chair		Mike Berg	Chris Christensen
Kathy Eubank (Virtual)		Daniel Linkins	Donna Galganski-Pabst
Dr. Jason Ferguson		Ron Passmore	Jessica Goodman
Heidi Hooker		Wayne Perry	Paige Greene
Chris Kroboth		Chris Vernonai	Adam Gwynn
Dr. Charles Lane (Virtual)			David Keeler
Larry Oliver			Dusty Lynn
Mike Watkins			Michael McDonald
		Staff Absent	Melissa Meador
		Mohamed Abbamin	Megan Middleton
		Dr. Maria Beermann-Foat	Tom Olander
		Cam Crittenden	Karen Owens
			Bob Page
			Ryan Scarborough

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Welcome	The Chair, Matt Lawler called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.	N/A
II. Introductions	Chairman Lawler presented the guidelines for committee member virtual attendance as dictated by the Governor's Advisory Board and the Office of EMS. Chairman Lawler acknowledged that all	Remote participation motion was approved

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>requirements had been met for the virtual attendance of Dr. Charles Lane and Ms. Kathy Eubanks to this meeting.</p> <p>Everyone around the room introduced themselves and a safety briefing was conducted by Ryan Scarborough (ODEMSA Staff).</p> <p>Heidi Hooker was welcomed as the representative for the Regional Council Directors as she was formally approved by the Governor's Advisory Board in August 2025.</p>	<p>by consensus for each requesting individual.</p> <p>N/A</p>
III. Approval of Agenda	<p>The Committee reviewed the agenda for today's meeting. (Attached). A motion was made by Larry Oliver to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Brian McIntosh. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.</p>	<p>The agenda was approved as written.</p>
IV. Approval of the July 9, 2025, minutes:	<p>The committee approved the minutes as submitted. (Attached). A motion was made by Mike Watkins to approve the minutes dated July 9, 2025. The motion was seconded by Larry Oliver. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as submitted.</p>
V. Reports of Committee Members / OEMS Staff	<p>E. Chairman Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman Report – Matt Lawler – Welcomed and introduced Melissa Meador as the in-coming Chair of the Training and Certification Committee serving as the representative for the TJEMS Council on the Governor's Advisory Board. The Chairman advised that this would be his last meeting on the Training and Certification Committee as the Chair. The Chair also advised that Matthew Snyder, representing Non-VCCS Accredited Programs, has been excused as he and his family are welcoming a new child in the coming hours. <p>F. Committee Member Reports</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<p>V. Reports of Committee Members / OEMS Staff (Continued)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medical Direction Committee – Dr. Charles Lane – The Medical Direction Committee meeting will be held on Thursday (October 2, 2025). Otherwise, nothing to report. 2. VAVRS – Kathy Eubank – Nothing to report. 3. Non-VCCS Accredited Programs – Absent. 4. VCCS Accredited Programs – Dr. Jason Ferguson – Nothing to report. 5. Fire-Based Organization – Christopher Kroboth – Nothing to report. 6. VAGEMSA – Larry Oliver – Nothing to report. 7. EMS Education Coordinators – Brian McIntosh – Nothing to report. 8. Regional EMS Council Executive Directors – Heidi Hooker – The Regional EMS Council system is under restructuring. The RFA Committee has recommended the agencies and councils that will be designated and we’re expecting that to move forward tomorrow at the Board of Health meeting. 9. EMS for Children – Mike Watkins – During the last meeting of EMS for Children, one of the key things brought up was a lack of pediatric pain management. Much of the data shows a deficiency in adequate pain management resulting from training and comfort in the pediatric population. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Brian McIntosh shared his agency’s Pain Management Protocol with Mike Watkins for presenting to EMS for Children. Additional discussion ensued. b. There has also been a change in the EMS for Children representation on the Medical Direction Committee. <p>G. OEMS Reports</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<p>V. Reports of Committee Members / OEMS Staff (Continued)</p>	<p>1. ACE Division Director – Debbie Akers – Debbie reported that she had recently conducted an Education Coordinator Institute with 24 attendees of the 36 originally scheduled. This was unplanned and resulted in other eligible candidates not having the opportunity to attend due to no-shows. She also advised that Ron Passmore was present at this institute, which was well received, covering Regulations & Compliance expectations, issues, and answering questions. OEMS will work with ODEMSA for the January 2026 and September 2026 Institute dates. VAVRS has requested an institute to be conducted in June 2026 in conjunction with their Rescue College in Blacksburg. With the number of eligible candidates, additional Education Coordinator Institutes may be added with information forthcoming for affected candidates.</p> <p>Debbie Akers advised that the NREMT recertification cycles is now open for the EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic providers closing on March 31, 2026. The quick guide remains intact with no significant changes.</p> <p>Debbie Akers also advised that NREMT continues to work through technology challenges. If any Program Directors have difficulties with student approvals or other program issues, please notify Debbie so she can work through them with NREMT. NREMT continues to have workgroup meetings to discuss future changes and policies.</p> <p>Debbie Akers advised that as of 01 December 2025, the Virginia Office of EMS will go “green” meaning that the Office will no longer automatically mail certification cards for initial or recertification. Providers may individually request a mailed copy through the OEMS Provider Portal. All certification cards are accessible via the Provider Portal and through the OEMS Mobile App that she strongly encourages everyone to download and utilize. As soon as a student enrolls in a Virginia EMS certification program and receives their number, they have access to the mobile app. This app provides real-time updates of awarded CE, impending expirations, etc.</p> <p>The OEMS Provider Portal now provides the ability for a provider to unlock their account through the portal without the assistance of the Help Desk. This has significantly reduced the number of work tickets generated for locked accounts by</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>over 75%. Any provider or student that is inactive, does not have a password, or an email address on file will still need to contact the Help Desk for resolution.</p> <p><i>Question provided by Mike Watkins regarding the option or ability to generate a semi-permanent card that does not list the expiration date on it since the dates are verifiable on the app and website. He was advised that this would require a regulatory change.</i></p> <p>The Virginia Free CE Account contract expires on December 1, 2025. The Office is in the final stage of negotiation with the awarding of the next contract. It is not known yet which vendor will be selected; however, it is part of the contract that communications occur when sunsetting courses or creating courses to ensure the Office of EMS mirrors the course coding correctly under the applicable National Education standards and NREMT.</p> <p>2. ACE Division - Chris Vernovai – We continue to see issues where students that successfully completed Virginia-based initial certification programs are successfully obtaining their National Registry certification and then submitting reciprocity, legal recognition, and some challenge applications to the Office. This creates additional unnecessary workload and the potential for two certifications to be issued inadvertently. We ask that educators reinforce in the Last Day Paperwork that submitting reciprocity and/or legal recognition and/or challenge application is not necessary as the student will be awarded Virginia certification after receipt of the NREMT certification in the Office. With all the NREMT changes, there have been some delays in the awarding of Virginia certification which may also contribute to your students inappropriately submitting these applications. This delay has tapered; however, the Office continues to receive requests.</p> <p>Chris Vernovai advises that he is actively working on streamlining and cleaning up the ACE Division webpage to include updates, organization, and making resources more readily available. Any suggestions for improvement may be sent to Chris for review and potential inclusion. Also, Chris asked that anyone submitting “dead link” issues to please include the URL to ensure the Office can accurately address the actual dead link.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>The Office of EMS has also created a tab dedicated to upcoming education programs, conferences, and conventions to help promote EMS education within Virginia and beyond. Any organizations that have upcoming education programs, please send the flyer to Chris so the event can be added to the tab.</p> <p>The 11th EMS Officer I program for 2025 was just completed and the 12th will be this coming weekend in Woodbridge. Any organization that may potentially be able to host future events, please reach out to Chris as the Office works to develop the 2026 schedule. The EMS Officer II program remains in development. NFPA will be releasing shortly the standard for the EMS Officer. Utilizing this standard, the EMS Officer I and II programs will be updated to ensure we incorporate the necessary changes.</p> <p>3. Administration Updates</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Director – Dr. Maria Beermann-Foat – Dr. Beermann-Foat was unable to attend this meeting due to a previous commitment.</p> <p>4. Deputy Directors –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Cam Crittenden – Unable to attend.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b. Wayne Perry – Nothing to report.</p> <p>H. OEMS Divisional Updates –</p> <p>1. Regulations & Compliance – Ron Passmore – We are in progress of working on the Chapter 32 process as well as the Statewide EMS Plan. We encourage stakeholder feedback for any items for those two projects. We are looking to streamline the regulations through expansion of the supporting referenced documents.</p> <p>Ron Passmore also mentioned that the Board of Health is meeting tomorrow to act on the results of the Regional Council RFA process so we should have office</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	certification of the seven Regional EMS Councils that will take effect in January 2026.	
VI. Committee Discussion Items	<p>B. Previous Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EMS Governor’s Advisory Board Structure – Matt Lawler discussed the proposed structure changes to the Governor’s EMS Advisory Board and its committees and workgroups. The intent is to vote on the proposed changes at the November 2025 meeting. Nominations have been submitted from the Nomination Workgroup for new executive members including the Chair and Vice Chair of the GAB. 2. Training and Certification Committee Goals & Objectives Workgroup – Matt Lawler provided a report including the handout for the committee. The questions posed at the July 2025 were discussed in detail. Changes were recommended and made to the Goals & Objectives document based on the discussion. A motion was made by Larry Oliver to accept the Goals & Objectives as presented. The motion was seconded by Mike Watkins. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried. 3. EMS EC Recertification Exam Workgroup – Brian McIntosh – Reported that the questions were not sent to the Workgroup due to a communication error. This will be resolved this week. Once the Workgroup has had the opportunity to review and recommend further changes, the Office of EMS will work to finalize the questions with a goal of implementing the new questions for January 2026. 4. Supporting Underperforming EMS Education Programs – Dr. Charles Lane – This stemmed from a discussion that occurred during the July 2025 meeting. This issue was taken to the Medical Direction Committee to discuss consistency, reliability, and validity of testing. Part of this may be resolved based upon contractual obligations of the newly designated Regional Councils. A consensus of the Training and Certification Committee was to table this discussion until January following the newly designated Regional Councils contract negotiations. 	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p> <p>Motion made and duly seconded. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Tabled for the January 2026 meeting.</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>5. Education Coordinator I & II – Christopher Kroboth – Provided a handout to the committee to review. It was recommended that any changes to this program be placed in the TPAM for flexibility rather than in Regulations due to the difficulties in changing or modifying regulations. Committee discussion ensued with recommended changes to the document. Christopher Kroboth advised he would update the documents for another presentation at the January 2026 meeting. No action taken.</p> <p>6. Training EMS Regulatory Change Workgroup – Larry Oliver – The workgroup met on September 23, 2025. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2025, to work through the remainder of the definitions applicable to training and certification with a goal of having proposed changes to be reviewed and potentially adopted at the January 2026 meeting.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Chairman Lawler reminded the committee that any proposed changes would need to be ready for submission and review for the Regulatory Compliance Committee meeting planned for February.</p> <p>7. Psychomotor Examination – Chairman Lawler – Dr. Yee had previously brought up concerns regarding the necessity of a psychomotor examination for re-entry, legal recognition, and challenge candidates and the test’s validity and applicability. The committee discussed the topic and again agreed to take no action as the testing requirements are in-line with NREMT, the EMS Compact, and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>Christopher Kroboth to present at January meeting with changes.</p> <p>Larry Oliver to provide recommended changes to committee prior to the January 2026 presentation.</p> <p>No action taken by committee.</p>
<p>VII. New Business</p>	<p>B. New Business:</p> <p>2. Training Program Administration Manual Updates – Debbie Akers – As the Chapter 32 updates remain in progress, we know that many policies in the TPAM are outdated and are being worked on internally to the Office. It is our intention to have the updates ready for the January 2026 meeting.</p> <p>3. National Registry Pass Rates – Debbie Akers – In April of 2025, the NREMT started administering its new TEI EMR and EMT certification examinations. The NREMT pass</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>rates were presented to the committee; however, NREMT acknowledges that the information is inaccurate and will require retooling. The committee took no action based upon this new information.</p> <p>4. The EMS for Children Preparedness Survey – Mike Watkins – The survey has been sent out to agencies. We encourage responses to help us to develop additional programs to support additional education programs for the pediatric population to include pain management as we discussed earlier.</p>	N/A
VIII. Public Comment	<p>B. Public Comment:</p> <p>1. Bob Page, representing himself, has requested to present his study regarding evidence-based medicine and ventilatory skills to the Training & Certification Committee at the January 2026 meeting.</p>	No objections noted – Mr. Page will be added to the January 2026 TCC agenda.
IX. Dates for 2026 Meetings	<p>B. Scheduled dates:</p> <p>3. January 7, 2026 changed to January 14, 2026 4. April 1, 2026 5. July 1, 2026 changed to July 8, 2026 6. October 7, 2026</p>	January 2026 meeting will be held at ODEMSA (Parham Rd).
X. Adjourn	<p>A motion was made by Christopher Kroboth to adjourn the meeting with a second by Brian McIntosh. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:23 PM.</p>	Motion to adjourn was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Brian P. McIntosh
Vice Chair / Recording Secretary

**Attachment B to the
January 14, 2026**

**Training and
Certification
Committee
12VAC5 – Chapter 32
Change Log**

Regulation / TPAM Change Log Document

Definitions

- Added “ACGME” definition
 - Pg. 1
- Added “Associate medical officer” definition
 - Pg 4
 - This was pulled directly from the MDC suggested edits
- Updated “Candidate” definition
 - Pg 4
- Removed “Certification Examiner” definition
 - Pg 5
- Added “Duty practitioner” definition
 - Pg 7
 - This was pulled directly from the MDC suggested edits
- Updated the definition of “EMS Education Coordinator” if the new levels are approved
 - Pg 7
- Added “EMS Fellow” definition.
 - Pg 8
- Updated “EMS Physician” definition
 - Pg 8
 - This was pulled directly from the MDC suggested edits
- Updated “EMS student” definition
 - Pg 8
- Added “EMS Intern” definition
 - Pg 8
- Added “EMS Observer” definition
 - Pg 9
- Updated “Medical Control” definition
 - Pg 11
- Updated “Program Director” definition
 - Pg 13
 - This is pending approval of EC levels
- Removed “Student” definition – duplicate
 - Pg 16
- Updated “Training Officer” definition
 - Pg 16

Regulatory Section Updates

- Updated 12VAC5-32-1350. Certification through reciprocity
 - Pg 71
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1370 EMT certification challenge
 - Pg 71
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1530. Student course enrollment
 - Pg 75
 - Minor grammar change
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1560 Continuing education record submission
 - Pg 77
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1600 Maximum BLS or ALS course enrollment
 - Pg 77
- Removed 2 and 2A from 12VAC5-32-1700 Psychomotor competency verification and examination procedures
 - Pg 79
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1720. Examination security and review
 - Pg 79
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1760 Emergency medical technician certification.
 - Pg 80
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1770 Advanced life support certification course expectations
 - Pg 81
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1790 Advanced emergency medical technician certification
 - Pg 81
- Updated 12VAC5-32-1830. EMS education coordinator if the new levels are approved
 - Pg 83

TPAM Notes

- This workgroup **is not recommending changes** to certification period timelines.
- EMS Education Coordinator updates **may be required** if EC levels are approved.

TPAM Sections Requiring Update or Clarification

- **12VAC5-32-1400**
 - TPAM needs language defining how many days an EC has to submit CE documentation.
- **12VAC5-32-1510**
 - TPAM needs clarity on the submission timeframe for CE course approval requests.
- **EMR program review**

- Alignment with NEMSES standards required.
- Belongs in TPAM, not regulation.
- **Gender-neutral language**
 - Replace any he/him references with they/them.

Pending EC Level Approval – Required Regulation Updates

- Update “Program Director” definition → must specify Level 2 EC
- Expand and clarify “EMS Education Coordinator” → Level 1 vs Level 2
- Update “Physician Course Director” to align with Level 2 oversight of initial programs
- Update “Course Announcement” and course approval language → Level 2 only for initial certification
- Adjust all sections assigning instructional authority to ECs → specify level as appropriate
- Review accreditation and clinical/internship oversight language → ensure Level 2 responsibility
- Audit and update related enforcement/credentialing language