

Legislation and Planning Committee
Embassy Suites by Hilton Richmond
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
August 2, 2019
9:00a.m.

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Gary Samuels (Chair)	Rich Orndorff, Jr. - excused	Gary Brown	Jim Cady Jr.
Rob Logan (Vice Chair)	Steve Higgins - excused	Chris Vernovai	
Michael Player		Ron Passmore	
Gary Dalton		Chad Blosser	
Ed Rhodes		Hannah Lyons	
Byron Andrews		Scott Winston - absent	
Jeff Meyer			
Jake O'Shea, MD			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Chair Gary Samuels called the meeting to order at 09:01 AM.	
II. Review and Approval of May 2, 2019 Minutes	Motion to approve minutes made by Rob Logan and seconded by Mr. Ed Rhodes. The minutes from May 2, 2019 were unanimously approved after review by the committee.	May 2, 2019 meeting minutes approved by the committee.
III. OEMS Update – Quarterly Report to EMS Advisory Board (OEMS Staff)	OEMS Quarterly Report. Mr. Chris Vernovai informed the committee that the Workforce Development Committee has no updates to the state EMS plan, and are finishing up and compiling the draft state EMS Plan. Some committee members questioned if he received all the necessary notes from different committees to compile the draft plan. One committee member asked when the draft plan will be completed. Mr. Chris Vernovai responded that everything should be compiled in the coming weeks. Chair Gary Samuels explained that the committee would like the Board to approve the state EMS Plan at their November 2019 meeting. Chair Gary Samuels mentioned that the committee needs to decide on a date to meet in October in order to review the document Mr. Chris Vernovai is working on. Chair Gary Samuels stated that the committee would revisit deciding on a date in October at the end of the meeting.	
IV. REGULATORY UPDATE	a. Proposed Draft EMS Regulations. Chair Gary Samuels indicated a draft was discussed in the Rules and Regulations Committee meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Ron Passmore explained to the committee that the Rules and Regulations Committee is working on Mobile Integrated Healthcare and Critical Care Transport regulations so that the process is not delayed by	

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	<p>uncertainties about regulations. A committee member added that they are examining the scope of practice, which will aid the Rules and Regulations Committee in creating accurate and appropriate regulations. Chair Gary Samuels stated that the verbiage in the draft EMS Regulations (Chapter 32) must be precise. Mr. Rhodes added that the committee need not be too aggressive in their use of the word “licensure” so that groups within the Commonwealth do not try to remove the Office of EMS’ licensing ability. A committee member suggested that the Rules and Regulations Committee use the word “certification” and add the word “licensed” in parenthesis to avoid conflicts.</p> <p>b. Regional EMS Council Re-designation. Chair Gary Samuels stated that everything is completed but ODEMSA was the only region that did not receive unconditional re-designation. ODEMSA received a conditional designation pending identification of a permanent office location. He established that CSEMS was not re-designated, but that the other ten of the eleven were.</p> <p>c. Fingerprint Background Check. OEMS will be utilizing FieldPrint to perform finger print based background checks. This method is more efficient because background cards would frequently get stuck together. OEMS Director Gary Brown stated that there is no firm date as to when FieldPrint will officially become OEMS’ standard for the fingerprinting process, but that OEMS would be outsourcing the process by way of contracting.</p> <p>d. Regulations Governing Durable DNR, Periodic Review. Chair Gary Samuels stated extensive changes to the Durable DNR (12VAC5-66) are not anticipated, but anyone interested may examine the periodic review posted on the town hall. The public comment period on the DDNR Regulations is open from August 5 until August 26, 2019.</p>	
<p>V. LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS IN THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY</p>	<p>a. SB1226 (Community Paramedic) and MIH-CP Update. (Mr. Tim Perkins was absent) Chair Gary Samuels stated that the committee would wait for Mr. Tim Perkins to return. Mr. Chris Vernovai told the committee that he would offer fliers that give details about the MIH-CP Summit in Charlottesville, VA at the Holiday Inn-Monticello on Friday, August 16.</p> <p>b. House Bill 1943 and OCME Workgroup Update. Chair Gary Samuels addressed the committee and explained the following: There have been problems with blood borne exposure from decedents that are not transported to the hospital. In the Quarterly Report to the EMS Advisory Board, there is an excellent write up on the activities of the workgroup. Key stakeholders met with OCME, Amanda Lavin, and several police and fire chiefs. There was a discussion with Mr. Scott Winston and Dr. George Lindbeck, which gave information about the situation. There may not be one single way to make things happen in a timely manner. A</p>	

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	<p>committee member mentioned that there are only two organizations willing and able to test blood of decedents, one of which is LabCorp located in Burlington, North Carolina. Chair Gary Samuels requested that the Quarterly Report to the EMS Advisory Board be consulted for direction in this situation, and that it is a work in progress. The chair asked the committee if they felt that they needed to push forward, or watch the situation play out, to which a committee member responded that he felt it was better to push forward if the committee expected any progress to be made. Mr. Ron Passmore stated that he was present at that meeting and that additional time is needed before any legislation will be ready for the General Assembly. Mr. Gary Brown told the committee that Dr. Lindbeck would be able to answer more probing questions about the subject.</p> <p>c. Virginia Fire Services Council Pre-Legislative Summit Chair Gary Samuels stated to the committee that five legislative items were developed at the last Virginia Fire Services Council meeting held on July 17.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The first item is a comprehensive JLARC study on cancer occurrence in fire fighters. Incidence of cancer in fire fighters has become a significant occurrence; therefore, changes to Workers Compensation coverage is being pursued. ii. The second legislative item was a discussion fire chiefs had about school safety in public buildings. House bills 1728 and 1735 implicated that the use of barricade devices makes it difficult to rescue and extricate individuals from public buildings. As a result efforts are being made to ensure that the barricades do not hinder rescue attempts. iii. The third legislative item was regarding the VA Fire Programs fund and aid to locality (ATL) money. There has been speculation if there is any alternative way to fund the fire programs. The issue is that they are funded by a special fund rather than by the general fund, but they need to be fully funded. More to follow on this issue. iv. The fourth legislative item is that VA Fire Prevention is investigating binary explosives as well as laws relating to them. They had a bill that failed last year because they were unable to clearly define what binary explosives were. A committee member mentioned that binary explosives are explosives that detonate when someone shoots them. v. The fifth legislative item is that law enforcement agents should be added to the presumption statute for workers compensation due to PTSD. In fact, individuals who work in the realm of public safety as a whole should be covered under the statute. <p>Chair Gary Samuels announced to the committee that there have been efforts to expand broadband into the more rural areas in order to support report writing. The next date of the Virginia Fire Services Pre-</p>	

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	<p>Legislative Summit has the potential to be September 12, but he has not received anything from Chief Kopczynski. The meeting will be held in the same location. The only things from Chair Gary Samuel's report that affect the Legislative and Planning Committee is the mental health piece of providing public safety providers with resources to combat PTSD and the JLARC study about cancer incidence in fire fighters. However, the JLARC study will not be completed until December. Likewise, Robbie Dawson is leading the PTSD piece. But we will stay informed about those two items and keep the board and committee members advised.</p>	
VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS	<p>Mr. Chris Vernovai is still going to hand out the fliers for the MIH summit at the Holiday Inn-Monticello.</p> <p>Chair Gary Samuels asked if the EMS Symposium is coming up. Mr. Gary Brown answered that the 40th EMS Symposium would take place in November and that over 400 classes are scheduled.</p>	
VII. NEW BUSINESS	<p>A committee member commented that the quarterly report was revised. They then asked Mr. Ron Passmore to clarify the revision, to which Mr. Passmore responded that he was not sure that he could clarify. The member began to ask more specific questions and who must be fingerprinted, and if any unaffiliated person must be fingerprinted. Heavy discourse began between the committee member, Mr. Ron Passmore, and Mr. Chad Blosser regarding fingerprinting regulations and requirements of the Office of EMS. Chair Gary Samuels asked if individuals are required to be fingerprinted when they receive their paramedic certification, who will pay for the fingerprint service? Mr. Ron Passmore clarified that if they are an EMS provider, the Office of EMS will pay for their fingerprinting.</p> <p>Mr. Chad Blosser also specified that now when EMS agency representatives log into their portal, they must approve or deny any pending requests for affiliation. This will help address discrepancies on rosters.</p> <p>There was substantial discussion between committee members about expanding the entities recognized by the Commissioner to dispense Narcan under Standing Orders. There was concern that individuals other than pharmacists; EMS personnel, police personnel, firefighters, and criminal justice officers would be able to administer Narcan. When Narcan is obtained at a pharmacy, the individual must sign saying they understand how to administer it. However, if EMS personnel start dispensing it before leaving the site of an EMS response, there is no guarantee that it will be used properly. There is a risk that someone can administer too much Narcan, which can cause serious health problems. The committee agreed that while it may seem like a good idea to distribute Narcan after an overdose response, it may set a precedent for medication to be dispensed by EMS providers. This situation should be avoided.</p>	
VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT	<p>Chair Gary Samuels asked if there was any public comment, and there was none. He mentioned that discussion was needed for possible dates for meeting in October in order to examine the state plan. The October meeting will replace the November meeting of the committee. Mr. Gary Brown indicated that</p>	

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	there is conference space ready for meeting at the Office of EMS. Chair Gary Samuels requested that committee members send dates they are available to him and Mr. Scott Winston.	
XI. ADJOURN	Chair Gary Samuels made a motion to adjourn at 10:08 am. The committee approved.	Chair Gary Samuels made a motion to adjourn at 10:08 am. The committee approved the notion.