

**State EMS Advisory Board
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Office of EMS, 1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA
April 3, 2015
10:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Others:	Staff:
Gary Critzer, Chair Central Shenandoah EMS Council		Ed Rhodes VFCA/VAVRS	Gary R. Brown
Genemarie McGee, Vice Chair Tidewater EMS Council			Scott Winston
Bruce W. Edwards (re phone) EMS Advisory Board Representative on the Board of Health			Warren Short
David Hoback (re phone) Virginia Fire Chiefs Association			Robin Pearce
Marilyn McLeod, MD Blue Ridge EMS Council			Michael Berg
Ronald Passmore Southwest VA EMS Council			Irene Hamilton
Matthew J. Tatum Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators (VAGEMSA)			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order/Introductions	Gary Critzer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He asked for introductions around the room since there was participation via phone, as well.	
Approval of the Agenda	The draft agenda was approved.	
Approval of the Minutes	The minutes from the February 12, 2015 meeting was approved.	
Board of Health Meeting	<p>Mr. Critzer and Robin Pearce from OEMS were in attendance at the March Board of Health meeting. They provided the Board of Health a an overview of the Virginia Trauma System with the understanding that the Trauma Designation Manual would not be approved until the next Board of Health meeting. However, after the presentation, the Board of Health voted and approvedl the Trauma Designation Manual.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer thanked Robin Pearce and other office staff for their efforts; and especially Bruce Edwards for his help and leadership in getting the manual approved. Gary Brown and Robin Pearce also echoed special thanks to Bruce Edwards for his hard work and efforts to make this happen.</p> <p>Mr. Edwards made the committee aware that the Board of Health did remove the variance/exemption paragraph towards the end of the manual because they felt if you have manual based on national</p>	

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	<p>standards that you do not need to have an exemption or variance clause. The Board of Health voted unanimously to remove that paragraph; and they then voted unanimously to accept the Trauma Designation Manual with the amendment.</p>	
<p>Discussion regarding minimum hours for initial certification courses</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer reported that the EMS Advisory Board members would like to get clarification as to why they were not made aware or allowed to vet the new EMS Certification Delivery policy before it was announced at the February state EMS Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Critzer said most of the Board members think it is a good policy but are concerned because they had no prior knowledge of the new policy.</p> <p>David Hoback said that in addition, based on a conversation he had at the conclusion of the presentation given at the February EMS Advisory Board meeting, the perception seems to be that OEMS will no longer be pursuing the EMT-I at a state level and instead would only be doing the Paramedic level. Ron Passmore said he also does not have a problem with the policy. However, he said it is important that OEMS and the State EMS Advisory Board work together and have a relationship of trust. Matt Tatum is concerned that the policy feels tainted because it was not vetted through the State EMS Advisory Board. Dr. McLeod also was concerned because the Executive Committee was not made aware of the policy before the presentation that was presented at the board meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said he agrees with all the comments and said that his biggest concern is to make sure that the state EMS Advisory Board and the Office of EMS need to be on one accord. He said that for the most part that is the case but just in this one incident the state EMS Advisory Board members felt blindsided.</p> <p>At Gary Brown's request, Warren Short responded to the Board's questions and explained the situation from the Office of EMS's perspective.</p> <p>He told the committee that he had given that same presentation at two EMT Instructor updates since the last Board meeting, and the majority of the attendees had no objections. There were some concerns voiced in regards to the implementation of the 16 percentile; and after listening to the concerns, the Office of EMS decided to delay implementation of the 16 percentile until July 1, 2016.</p> <p>Mr. Short and Mr. Brown both emphasized the fact that the Office of EMS has no intention of phasing out Intermediate 99 at any time in the unforeseeable future. Mr. Brown reminded the committee that he has taken a strong stand on this issue over the past few years in several EMS stakeholder group meetings.</p> <p>Mr. Short explained that the announcement of the new EMS Certification Delivery Policy was presented at the EMS Advisory Board meeting, and not given to the state EMS Advisory Board as information or to vet earlier, because it was a time crucial issue; and also to prevent further spreading of rumors before the policy could even be announced.</p>	

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	<p>An Online Subcommittee had been working on this issue for approximately the last year and was in the process of making some decisions regarding the policy that would have created a quagmire for OEMS dealing with the legislators. In addition, rumors regarding the policy had already started circulating in the EMS community. Mr. Short said that at the same time they had several other issues that they needed to start addressing with traditional programs, out-of-state programs, and length of time it was taking for processing reciprocity.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer and Mr. Passmore said that if the Executive Committee had been made aware of this at their meeting on Thursday, prior to the last EMS Advisory Board meeting, they would have been supportive of this plan of action. Mr. Short reiterated that the Office of EMS was not intentionally trying to keep the state EMS Advisory Board in the dark.</p> <p>After much discussion, it was agreed that in the future if a similar situation occurs that the Office of EMS will at least make the Chair of the state EMS Advisory Board aware of any upcoming policy or procedure changes prior to announcing it to the EMS community or at a board meeting.</p>	
<p>2016 Legislative Agenda</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer explained that he put this on the agenda so the committee could start preparing for the upcoming legislative session.</p> <p>REPLICA Bill- Mr. Critzer discussed the fact that this year they came up against a hurdle trying to get the REPLICA bill passed. He said getting the REPLICA bill passed during the next General Assembly session is still a priority for the EMS system and he hopes that it is a priority for OEMS, as well.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said they need to work together to make this a successful endeavor in the next legislative session. Mr. Brown said the EMS Advisory Board and EMS need to make sure that the constituents make their voice heard before the next General Assembly session.</p> <p>Mr. Brown gave some background about the REPLICA bill. He also suggested that the state EMS Advisory Board needs to pass a resolution supporting the bill. He said that they need to get to the jurisdictions, through the state EMS Advisory Board and its committees, as well as the Regional EMS Councils. On a local level the jurisdictions need to be educated on the purpose and advantages of the REPLICA bill and encouraged to pass resolutions in support of the REPLICA bill. The jurisdictions need to communicate with their legislators sending them the resolutions and encouraging them to support this bill.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer said that the REPLICA bill should be the EMS system's number one priority for the 2016 General Assembly session. The committee also discussed Senators and Delegates that might be willing to sponsor the bill in the upcoming session.</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer is going to draft letters from the Executive Committee and The state EMS Advisory Board to the State Health Commissioner and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources supporting the REPLICA Bill as a top priority for the EMS System and they believe it should be sent back to the 2016 General Assembly.</p> <p>Scott Winston will work on a one page bullet list of benefits of the REPLICA bill that will be distributed to the jurisdictions. They will also draft a template Resolution to distribute to the jurisdictions.</p>

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	<p>Mr. Passmore suggested that the Virginia Municipal League (VML) and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) should definitely be asked to adopt a resolution supporting the REPLICA bill. Mr. Critzer agreed and said that they need to talk with the VML and VACO representatives on the state EMS Advisory Board. Mr. Critzer said that he is hopeful that at the next Board meeting they can distribute a bullet list of advantages to having the REPLICA bill passed by the General Assembly.</p> <p>Epi Pens – Mr. Rhodes said there is a bill from the last session in regards to the Auto Inject Epi Pens that was killed. Mr. Rhodes said that the Medical Society has put together a work group of providers and doctors through the Board of Pharmacy. They will be discussing the bill and it may be back on the agenda in 2016.</p>	
<p>Committee Assignment – TSO – Dr. Scott Hickey,</p>	<p>Mr. Critzer said that the Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee (TSOMC) has recommended that Dr. Scott Hickey, a representative of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), fill the vacant Emergency Physician seat on the TSOMC. Mr. Critzer asked the committee if anyone had an objection to Dr. Hickey filling the vacant seat.</p>	<p>The committee approved the appointment of Dr. Scott Hickey, a representative of ACEP, to fill the vacant Emergency Physician seat on the TSOMC.</p>
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<p>EMS Officer Class- Mr. Critzer said the EMS Officer classes have been postponed for a short time so the committee can do some more work on the delivery of the classes and slides. They will be taught but just at a later date.</p> <p>Regulatory Considerations- Mr. Critzer discussed a couple of regulatory considerations he would like OEMS to pursue for the next Regulations.</p> <p><u>EMT Instructors Ratings and Regulations</u> - Mr. Critzer said he thinks they need to discuss some regulations to deal with inadequate instructors. Mr. Critzer asked if there is anything they can do to require more accountability for the educators.</p> <p>Dr. McLeod discussed some of her issues in regards to accountability for EMS instructors. Mr. Critzer asked her to put this topic on the agenda for the next Medical Direction Committee meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Berg said they can craft some language and see if the Attorney General’s Office will approve the wording. Mr. Berg said he is sure there will be some backlash from the system, especially in areas where there are a limited number of instructors. Mr. Critzer said he agrees there might be some backlash, but he feels strongly that it is important to establish greater monitoring and oversight of the instructors.</p> <p>The committee discussed how instructors are rated. Ms. McGee gave an example of how they monitor for nursing and said that based on the stats their Board could make an instructor conditional. Mr. Short</p>	<p>Dr. McLeod agreed to put the topic of EMS instructors’ on the agenda for the next Medical Direction Committee meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer asked the Regulation and Policy Committee and The Training and Certification Committee to address the issue of instructor accountability and possible regulation changes.</p> <p>OEMS will start to generate letters to Medical Directors in regards to instructors pass/fail rate.</p>

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	<p>said he doesn't disagree but said he would like to find a concrete method of accountability for the instructors. Mr. Critzer said he likes the idea of making instructors conditional until they meet the requirements. Instructors would only be allowed to teach with a successful instructor. Mr. Critzer asked staff to think about it and ask that Regulation and Policy and Training and Certification Committees to put this topic on their agenda.</p> <p>Dr. McLeod said as Medical Directors if they signed off on an instructor they would like a letter regarding their pass rate. Mr. Short said that can already auto generate letters to the Medical Directors.</p> <p><u>Provider Rest</u> – Mr. Critzer asked if OEMS has the ability to regulate providers hours on an ambulance. Mr. Critzer asked if there was any interest in pursuing regulatory language that would regulate provider rest. The committee agrees that this is a worthwhile topic to address. Mr. Berg was asked to research the issue and provide information back regarding possible regulatory action.</p> <p>Mike Berg gave the committee an update on some other Legislative/Regulatory issues.</p> <p>FARC Packet – He said it needed some adjustments to the language per the Attorney General's Office. That packet has been resubmitted this morning through the Health Department.</p> <p>Affiliation Regulatory Fast Track Package – This package is in the Governor's office waiting for review and signature.</p> <p>Regulations – Mr. Berg said that a final exempt Regulatory packet needs to be put together since the "technical cleanup bill has been signed by the Governor.</p> <p>HB 977 – Background Checks – This bill has been signed by the Governor, which reverses the way that localities who have ordinances can do background checks, OEMS now needs to come up with a process.</p> <p>Background Check Wage Position - Mr. Berg said that they have been approved to hire for a second wage position for doing background checks. The job has been advertised and they will be doing interviews shortly.</p> <p>Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump Transports – Mr. Berg reported it was brought to their attention by a complaint from an out-of-state agency that they have agencies doing intra-aortic balloon pump transports with just a paramedic in the back of the ambulance. Mr. Berg said that the agency that was doing this was notified and has stopped this process. He said that is not part of the Scope of Practice of a paramedic. He said that there is going to be an attempt at the Medical Direction Committee meeting on April 9 to push the recognition of Critical Care Paramedics as a level of certification. Dr. McLeod said that she has researched does not show that a Critical Care Paramedic is qualified alone to transport a</p>	

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	<p>patient with an intra-aortic balloon pump.</p> <p>Ambulance Standards – Mr. Berg gave the committee an update on the status of the various ambulance standards. When the Transportation Committee meets in July they have been tasked with developing ambulance standards for the State.</p> <p>Mr. Berg also reported that he will be attending National Practitioner Data Bank training held in Gaithersburg, MD and that OEMS will be involved in two Fire/EMS studies, one for Essex County and one for Powhatan County.</p> <p><u>CE Report</u> - Warren Short reported at the next state EMS Advisory Board meeting there should be an action item for the new continuing education (CE) program that will be discussed in the next TCC and MDC meetings. National Registry is proposing a three component CE program, The proposal includes the National Continued Competency Requirements (NCCR), the Local Continued Competency Requirements (LCCR) and th Individual Continued Competency Requirements (ICCR). The proposed CE coming before the Training and Certification Committee, the Medical Direction Committee and to the Advisory Board will combine the LCCR with the ICCR into category 2 continuing education. The NCCR that is identified by the National Registry will become the new category 1 component.</p> <p>Trauma Triage Guidelines - Robin Pearce reported that the Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee is going to begin working on revisions to the Trauma Triage guidelines to add Geriatrics. She also reported that they are still in negotiations with the American College of Surgeons to do a statewide review of the trauma system in Virginia. She said that they will be reaching out to various members of the community. They will need representatives from hospitals that are not trauma systems as well as people from the community.</p> <p><u>Trauma Meeting</u> - Gary Brown reported that on Thursday they met with Dr. Trump, Chief Deputy Commissioner for the Health Department, and Amanda Lavin, their Attorney General’s office representative. Mr. Brown shared a detailed summary of the meeting that had been prepared by Paul Sharpe. This information and a plan of action will be presented in the August Office of EMS report to the state EMS Advisory Board.</p> <p>Dr. McLeod is cautious of the reporting of the Trauma Triage because she is not sure if the reporting will be accurate. She asked if there is a way that they will be able to assure that the reporting will be accurate. Robin Pearce said that they will be testing the reports and getting the kinks out before they start distributing the reports.</p> <p><u>OEMS Retirement</u> - Scott Winston reported that Carol Morrow retired. OEMS will be modifying the EWP for that position and recruiting for a replacement. Deadline for submission of application package for designation of Regional EMS Councils is October 1 and site reviews will be done early next year to</p>	

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	<p>be effective July 1, 2016.</p> <p><u>Updates on Automation at OEMS</u> - Mr. Winston talked about several databases that have been automated and revamped over the last year that is making our systems more efficient. They include the Symposium database, the E-Gift program for RSAF Funding and OIM is getting ready to undertake a project for reautomation of the Regulation & Compliance database.</p> <p><u>Board of Health</u> - Bruce Edwards gave an update on actions at the last Board of Health meeting. The Board of Health voted to move forward with NOIRA for abortion regulations. Also, the State Health Commissioner announced at the last Board of Health meeting that she will be setting up two panels, one a Physicians Panel to review the medical aspects and a panel to review the facility requirements for abortion clinics. The Board of Health wants someone from EMS on the Facility Panel. The EMS Representative is Robbie Dawson from Chesterfield Fire. They have also appointed Ron Reynolds the Deputy State Fire Marshall to the panel.</p>	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm.	

DRAFT