

**Communications Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
Courtyard Marriott
10077 Brook Road, Glen Allen, VA
August 7, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests:
Gary Critzer, Chair		Ken Crumpler	Kelly Southard
Richard Rubino, Member-at-Large (Legal)		Wanda Street	Bruce Edwards
Connie Purvis, BREMS		Connie Green	
Melissa Wood, Member-at-Large (Training)			
Lewis Cassada, VITA			
Mike Keefe, VDEM			
Derrick Ruble, Tazewell County 911			
Hershel Kreis, NENA, VA Chapter			
John Korman, APCO, VA Chapter			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order & Introductions:	The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:03 a.m. There were three new members at the meeting: John Korman, Mike Keefe and Derrick Ruble. Everyone in the room introduced themselves.	
Approval of the minutes dated May 8, 2015:	A motion was made to approve the May minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
Committee Chair Report (Mr. Gary Critzer):	Gary welcomed the new members and briefly explained the structure of the Governor's Advisory Board to them. He also gave an overview of the purpose of the Communications Committee.	
OEMS Communications Coordinators Report (Ken Crumpler):	<p>Ken explained that this committee is never contentious and everyone here wants what is best for the system. He is proud to work with such great leadership and professionalism. He thanked everyone for being here and for their interest in joining this committee.</p> <p>The Department of Education is starting a statewide pilot program for high school students who are interested in 911 education for dispatchers. They will base the curriculum on the Priority 911 Dispatch program. The program development is in its infancy right now. The title is Emergency Medical Telecommunications. It is the desire of the Office of EMS to change the name to be more general and not medically specific.</p>	

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	<p>A motion was made to draft a letter to the Department of Education to remove the word Medical and call the course Emergency Telecommunications. The motion was moved by Connie Purvis and seconded by John Korman. Everyone was in favor of the motion and no one opposed. The motion was approved.</p> <p>Ken will reach out to DCJS and the Department of Fire Programs to advise them that a letter will be sent. The Chair agreed that they should be notified. Ken stated that he believes APCO and NENA were on the initial conference calls with the Department of Education. A meeting or teleconference may need to be held to discuss this program and the name. The committee also discussed what having this course would mean when entering the dispatch field. Melissa said that the person would probably test better having had a course such as this. John said that this would give them a knowledge base but they would still have to go through the agency's training.</p>	
New Business:	<p>Accreditation Language Change Ken mentioned that at the last meeting there were language changes; however, he feels that more changes should be made to clarify part B of the Accreditation Guidelines. Melissa suggested that the committee remove “within two years of employment” and insert the words “with successful completion of the PSAPs training program and is released for independent duty” or “upon the successful completion of the agencies’ training program”.</p> <p>A motion was made to accept the change above for language clarification. The motion was moved by Melissa and seconded by Connie Purvis. The motion was passed unanimously.</p> <p>Interoperability Connie Purvis mentioned that as we have discussed in the past, agencies need to have non proprietary radio systems for communicating from the ambulance to the hospital systems. Virginia has not moved very far on this. This is a real problem. Mike stated that they try to encourage everyone to use the standard interoperability frequencies. Ken stated that it may be worthwhile to include in the RSAF funding requests that if radio telecommunications equipment is being purchased, they should be programmed with interoperability channels. Connie read the <i>Code of Virginia</i> section that states what the agencies should have. The committee continued to discuss the issues with this.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	The following two PSAP applications were submitted for review and approval by the committee. They were tabled at the last meeting due to language issued that has since been clarified.	

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	<p>PSAP Accreditation Application Review – Fauquier Co. 9-1-1 PSAP Accreditation Application Review – Dickenson Co. 9-1-1</p> <p>A motion was made to approve Fauquier County 911 and Dickenson County 911 pending verification of their status based on the new language. The motion was moved by Connie Purvis and seconded by Richard Rubino.</p> <p>Richard recommended capturing information for the number of persons in training.</p>	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 a.m.</p> <p>2015 Meeting Schedule: November 12 (Norfolk Waterside Marriott)</p>	

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