

**Training and Certification Committee  
OEMS Office – 1041 Technology Park Dr, Glen Allen, Virginia**

**July 6, 2011  
10:30 am**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>Staff:</b>	<b>Others:</b>
Larry Oliver – Chair Dave Cullen Kathy Eubank Holly Frost Donna Hurst Tom Jarman Stephen Rea	Dr. Hasan Nick Klimenko Jeffrey Reynolds	Gary Brown Michael Berg Warren Short Greg Neiman Chad Blosser	Marcia Pescitani Lynn Barbour Heidi Hooker Debbie Akers

<b>Topic/Subject</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person</b>
<b>I. Welcome</b>	The meeting was called to order at 10:44 am	
<b>II. Introductions</b>	Introductions were not necessary.	
<b>III. Approval of Agenda</b>	The Committee reviewed the Agenda for today's meeting. ( <b>Attached</b> )	<b>The Agenda was approved by general consent.</b>
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	The Committee reviewed the minutes of the April 6, 2011 meeting ( <b>ATTACHMENT: A</b> )	<b>Motion By: Stephen Rea To: Approve the Minutes of the April 6, 2011 PDC meeting as presented. Seconded by: Dave Cullen  Unanimously Approved</b>
<b>V. Reports of Committee Members</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Officer Reports – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Larry Oliver – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Executive committee met last month to discuss the make-up of Committees and reappointments.</li> <li>b. Larry took the VEMSES exam and feels it is a fair and equal assessment. He</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>did spend some time studying, and feels it will benefit those folks planning to take the Exam.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Reports of Committee Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Medical Direction Committee (MDC) – Dr. Hasan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Dr. Hasan is not present, but there has been no action in MDC</li> <li>b. Quarterly MDC meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been canceled.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Office of EMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. BLS Training Specialist – Greg Neiman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. VEMSES-Have had 100 attempts at the exam. Currently have a 60% pass rate. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Had around 10 Instructor/ALS-C's take the Exam after the Update in Blacksburg.</li> <li>2. Next offering of the Exam will be after the ALS-C Meeting in Roanoke on July 15.</li> <li>3. Is currently available at any CTS. Register with the Council.</li> <li>4. ALS-C's who are taking the exam need to decide, are they taking the VEMSES or are they starting the process to become Instructors now instead of waiting for the EC transition. They just need to be given the right test packet at the CTS's.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Next Instructor Update is set for tomorrow night July 7, 2011. Registration has closed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Next in-person update will be at VAVRS Convention in September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Institute <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. June Institute had 12 people certify as Instructors.</li> <li>2. Had two ALS-C's attend in anticipation of the requirements to bridge to EMS EC</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Funding and Accreditation – Chad Blosser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Accreditation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AEMT Accreditation and OPTIONAL Accreditation of BLS Programs are still on hold until the new Regulations go into effect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Documents for programs interested in pursuing AEMT and OPTIONAL BLS Accreditation are available on the web now for completion. Please hold them until we open the process.</li> <li>b) The process for Accredited Intermediate and Paramedic programs will be abbreviated to add AEMT and OPTIONAL BLS to their existing Accreditation. Chad will send out the application.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Northern Virginia Community College, Tidewater Community</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>College, and Jefferson College of Health Sciences have recently completed reaccreditation site visits by CoAEMSP.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. State accredited programs who have their initial Paramedic Accreditation Site visits by CoAEMSP coming up are Southside Virginia Community College, Lord Fairfax Community College and one other site.</li> <li>4. State Intermediate Accredited Programs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No new applications.</li> <li>b) Two reaccreditation site visits are coming up: Rappahannock Community College and Norfolk Fire.</li> <li>c) Southside Virginia Emergency Crew may not be seeking reaccreditation.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>b. EMSTF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ended FY 2011 with \$2.6M allocated out of the \$3.2M in the fund.</li> <li>2. FY 2008 has finally been closed out <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Auditing firm, Clifton/Gunderson, randomly chose 10 contracts for auditing. The Office provided back-up documents. Contractors will be contacted to complete the audits.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. FY 2012 Contracts opened June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. To date we have committed \$758,000 out of the \$3.2M.</li> </ol> <p>iii. ALS Training Specialist-Warren Short</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. As you may know, Tom Neytral has accepted a position with Chesterfield Fire. His last day was yesterday and he starts with them next Monday. The Office has divided up his duties and has received preliminary approval from VDH to hire his position. The request is now in the Secretary's office.</li> </ol> <p>iv. Division of Educational Development-Warren Short</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Test Examiner Positions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviewing applications and setting up interviews</li> <li>2. 3 Levels of Positions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Supervisor</li> <li>b) NREMT Test Reps/Supervisors</li> <li>c) CTS Examiner</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>v. Other OEMS Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gary Brown <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New Regulations are still in the Secretary's Office. After that they will move to the Governor's Office. Once signed they will go to the Registrar for another 30 day public comment period.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>b) Any questions regarding recent information on Line of Duty Death and agency responsibility should be directed to Gary.</p>	
<p><b>VI. Previous Business</b></p>	<p>a. Proposal to move to NREMT Testing Statewide (<b>ATTACHMENT: B</b>)</p> <p>The Committee discussed the deliverables requested from the Office at the last meeting (<b>ATTACHMENT: C</b>)</p> <p>Warren Short had a brief presentation (<b>ATTACHMENT: D</b>)</p> <p>Discussion continued regarding the proposal</p>	<p><b>Motion by: Dave Cullen</b>  <b>To: Take the Proposal off of the table and reopen discussion.</b>  <b>Second by: Stephen Rea</b></p> <p><b>Unanimously Approved</b></p> <p><b>Warren will provide list of current and proposed Pearson Vue Sites.</b></p> <p><b>Original Motion:</b>  <b>To accept the proposal from the Office of EMS to move to National Registry testing for all levels statewide and to allow recertification via CE.</b></p> <p><b>Roll Call Vote requested by Kathy Eubank:</b></p> <p><b>Holly Frost-For</b>  <b>Tom Jarmon- For</b>  <b>Donna Hurst-For</b>  <b>Dave Cullen-For</b>  <b>Kathy Eubank-Against</b>  <b>Stephen Rea-For</b></p> <p><b>Larry Oliver: Chair only votes on a tie.</b></p> <p><b>Final Vote: 5 to 1 in support of the</b></p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
		<b>Motion. Motion Passes</b>
<b>VII. New Business</b>	None	
<b>VIII. Public Comment</b>	The Office will be contacting each of the Constituent Groups for membership on PDC to start in 2012	
<b>IX. Dates for 2011 Meetings</b>	January 5, April 6, July 6, October 5	
<b>X. Adjourn</b>	Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm	

DRAFT

Training & Certification Committee  
Wednesday, July 6, 2011  
OEMS Office – 1041 Technology Park Dr, Glen Allen, VA 23059  
10:30 AM  
Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome**
- II. Introductions**
- III. Approval of Agenda**
- IV. Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2011**
- V. Reports of Committee Members**
  - a. Officer Reports
  - b. Reports of Committee Members
    - i. Chairman Report
    - ii. Medical Direction Committee - Dr. Nael Hasan
    - iii. Others
  - c. Office of EMS
    - i. BLS Training Specialist-Greg Neiman, OEMS
    - ii. Funding and Accreditation-Chad Blosser, OEMS
    - iii. ALS Training Specialist- Warren Short, OEMS
    - iv. Division of Educational Development (DED)-Warren Short, OEMS
    - v. Regulation & Compliance – Michael Berg, OEMS
- VI. Previous Business-none**
  - a. **Proposal to move to NREMT Testing Statewide**
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Dates for 2011 Meetings**
  - a. ~~January 5, 2011-canceled~~
  - b. ~~April 6, 2011~~
  - c. ~~July 6, 2011~~
  - d. ~~October 5, 2011~~
- X. Adjourn**

**Attachment: A to the  
July 6, 2011 TCC Minutes**

**Approved  
April 6, 2011  
Minutes of the TCC**

**Training and Certification Committee**  
**OEMS Office – 1041 Technology Park Dr, Glen Allen, Virginia**  
**April 6, 2011**  
**10:30 am**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Staff:	Others:
Larry Oliver – Chair	Dr. Hasan	Scott Winston	Marcia Pescitani
Dave Cullen		Michael Berg	Lynn Barbour
Kathy Eubank		Beth Singer	
Holly Frost		Thomas Nevetral	
Donna Hurst		Greg Neiman	
Tom Jarman		Chad Blosser	
Nick Klimenko		Dr. George Lindbeck	
Stephen Rea			
Jeffrey Reynolds			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<b>I. Welcome</b>	The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am	
<b>II. Introductions</b>	Introductions were not necessary.	
<b>III. Approval of Agenda</b>	The Committee reviewed the Agenda for today’s meeting. ( <b>Attached</b> )	<b>Motion By: Dave Cullen</b> <b>To: Approve the Agenda as presented.</b> <b>Seconded by: Nick Klimenko</b>  <b>Unanimously Approved</b>
<b>IV. Approval of Minutes</b>	The Committee reviewed the minutes of the October 6, 2010 meeting ( <b>ATTACHMENT: A</b> )	<b>Motion By: Dave Cullen</b> <b>To: Approve the Minutes of the October 6, 2010 PDC meeting as presented.</b> <b>Seconded by: Jeffrey Reynolds</b>  <b>Unanimously Approved</b>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<b>V. Reports of Committee Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Officer Reports – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Larry Oliver – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Professional Development Committee’s name has been changed to better reflect its mission. It will now be called the Training and Certification Committee.</li> <li>b. Gary Brown discussed changes to the policies and procedures of the Governor’s EMS Advisory Board. We have the potential for 19 people to change on the Board this year. Bylaw changes have altered the structure of the sub-committees with an eye on better collaboration and information coming from committees to the full Board to reduce surprises and give them time to review the issues. Jason Campbell is the coordinator for this Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Reports of Committee Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Medical Direction Committee (MDC) – Dr. Lindbeck/Tom Nevetral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Committee is working on a number of White Papers</li> <li>b. Dr. Hasan was appointed to replace Dr. Lane as a representative from MDC.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Office of EMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ALS Training Specialist – Tom Nevetral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. New changes to AHA probably won’t be seen in exams until the new questions have been successfully piloted.</li> <li>b. Effective July 1, NR will begin testing the Advanced EMT. Our enhanced providers should do well on the exam. Encourage your Enhanced Providers who want to pay for the exam to attempt it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Process will be the same for EMT, will need to complete a form for us and submit an application online to the Registry.</li> <li>2. Will need to take the written and 7 Station Practical</li> <li>3. Trauma Medical IV and Bolus Airway, Cardiac Arrest AED Random Skills</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. BLS Training Specialist – Greg Neiman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instructor Pretest deadline for the June Institute is April 16, 2011</li> <li>2. Next Instructor Practical is set for mid-May 2011. Most likely will be held here in Richmond.</li> <li>3. Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) February Institute had 12 people certify as Instructors.</li> <li>b) Next Institute hopefully will be in Blacksburg in conjunction with the VAVRS Rescue College in June.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>b. EMS Instructor Updates – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We continue to offer monthly Online Instructor/ALS-C Updates</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Next one is scheduled for first Thursday in May.</li> <li>b) Next in-person update will be at VAVRS Rescue College in June.</li> <li>2. The schedule of Updates for 2011 can be found on the OEMS website here:  <a href="http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Training/EMS_InstructorSchedule.htm">http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Training/EMS_InstructorSchedule.htm</a></li> <li>iii. Funding and Accreditation – Chad Blosser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Still running smoothly, still accepting contracts, still have money for FY 2011</li> <li>b) FY-2012 contracts will be moving forward and hope to have them posted in early June, 2011</li> <li>c) Working with Karen Owens to move some Emergency Ops Courses to the EMSTF funding stream.</li> <li>d) We don't know anything yet about next year's funding amount.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Accreditation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A number of CoAEMSP visits for paramedic reaccreditation have taken place.</li> <li>b) A number of 5 year renewals for State Intermediate are coming due and site visits have been held.</li> <li>c) When new regulations go into effect Advanced EMT Programs will be required to be accredited. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) EMT optional accreditation will also be available when the regulations go into effect.</li> </ul> </li> <li>d) A couple of Regional Councils that are currently Intermediate Accredited are seeking Paramedic accreditation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>iv. Division of Educational Development-Tom Nevetral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Our web page is up to date on all of the Virginia Education Documents, Practice Analysis, Gap Analysis, and VEMSES</li> <li>b. Instructors, please ensure they are using the Phoenix and/or Gap analysis for CE</li> <li>c. Please encourage students to log into their portal during class and give them basic instructions on how to work through it.</li> <li>d. Look at what the publishers are offering and start making decisions about what you may want to use in the future.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Chad Blosser-We are looking at the creation of an Agency Portal and hoping for rollout near the end of the year. Will allow Agencies to have more information on their members.</p>	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>Nick Klimenko asked about the Instructor Error correction process. Chad replied that it has been an overwhelming success and have significantly dropped the number of errors in the system.</p> <p>v. Other OEMS Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Michael Berg <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) DDNR regulations are still in the Governor’s Office for 216 days. Once approved will go to the Registrar to sit for 30 days for comment.</li> <li>b) New Regulations are in the Secretary’s Office. After that they will move to the Governor’s Office. Once signed they will go to the Registrar for another 30 day public comment period.</li> <li>c) Town Hall – Regulations are still available online. A duplicate record was recently removed.</li> <li>d) Will meet with Regulatory staff in June to ensure they are up to speed.</li> <li>e) After an audit, it was found that the CTS Examiners should be employees instead of contractors. Testing will be moving back to DED and a Wage Supervisor will be hired to oversee the process of testing, CTS and NR.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Gary Brown-No Report</li> <li>3. Scott Winston – No Report</li> </ol>	
<b>VI. Previous Business</b>	None	
<b>VII. New Business</b>	<p>a. Proposal to move to NREMT Testing Statewide (<b>ATTACHMENT: B</b>)</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding this proposal.</p>	<p><b>Motion by: Nick Klimenko To accept proposal Seconded by: Jeffrey Reynolds</b></p> <p><b>Motion to Table until the next Quarterly Meeting by Stephen Rea</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by Tom Jarman</b></p> <p><b>Unanimously Approved</b></p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>The Committee requested the following information prior to the next meeting  Estimate of the financial impact of this change and current costs associated with CTS.  Cost estimate of current test writing and validation  Pass/Fail for current vs previous practical exam</p> <p>b. Revision of Practical Exam Skill Sheets  The committee recommended that OEMS make the changes necessary to the Skill Sheets to bring them in compliance with the Education Standards, then</p>	Warren Short
<b>VIII. Public Comment</b>	<p>Marcia Pescitani-Northern Virginia is not currently charging for Practical Testing  Lynn Barbour introduced herself as the Program Coordinator for ODEMSA</p>	
<b>IX. Dates for 2011 Meetings</b>	<del>January 5, April 6, July 6, October 5</del>	
<b>X. Adjourn</b>	Meeting adjourned at 1:17pm	

**Attachment: B to the  
July 6, 2011 TCC Minutes**

**Proposal to move to  
NREMT testing Statewide**

## Considerations for Virginia EMS Certification Testing

The Office presented to the EMS Advisory Board Executive Committee, Training and Certification Committee and the Medical Direction Committee a proposal to move toward a certification process that is congruent with the EMS Agenda for the Future and the EMS Education Agenda for the Future. These documents were produced back in the late 1990's as guidance for a maturing EMS System. The future is here and Virginia is very fortunate to have had the guidance and support of the various EMS system components that prepared the Commonwealth in a manner that over the years has placed us ahead of a majority of states and a leader in complying with the current EMS Systems' design as endorsed by the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO).

The National EMS Education Agenda developed five integrated primary components. Listed below are those components and where Virginia's compliance with each component stands.

- National EMS Core Content – Compliant
- National EMS Scope of Practice Model – Compliant
- National EMS Education Standards – Compliant – Will be activated July 1, 2012
- National EMS Education Program Accreditation – Compliant – Well ahead of a majority of states.
- National EMS Certification – partially compliant – (Compliant at Intermediate and Paramedic) Need to add EMR, EMT, and AEMT.

As demonstrated, Virginia is well positioned for compliance with all the educational components. The last component is that of National EMS Certification.

The proposal staff presented will initiate the process of moving Virginia toward full compliance with the National EMS Agenda. Although not all the details have been fully addressed, this document is submitted to provide you with an overview of the project. The Training and Certification Committee is the lead on this project in association with the Medical Direction Committee.

The timing of this proposal has become somewhat of an urgent matter. The Atlantic EMS Council (AEMSC) was formed in the 1970's and was comprised of seven member states (PA, NJ, WV, MD, DE, VA, and NC). One of the initial projects of the Council was to gather the training coordinators from each member state and develop a standardized, written certification examination. This process was designed to assure a valid, psychometrically sound and legally defensible written certification examination was developed and utilized in each member state. Those sound and guiding principles has been a guiding force for the member states ever since. Unfortunately, the process for developing certification examinations is no longer feasible. The ability to continue producing valid, psychometrically sound and legally defensible examinations will end January 2013 or possibly sooner. A discussion about the process of developing certification examinations by the AEMSC member states was held in December, 2010. The ability for Virginia and other member states to produce certification examinations that meet current item response development requirements has become severely compromised. It is essential high stakes, state EMS certification examinations be validated, psychometrically sound

and legally defensible. As such an alternative must be sought. None of these alternatives are as cost efficient as the one we have utilized in Virginia over the past 30 plus years. Although there are several vendors capable of developing EMS certification examinations, only one can achieve both Virginia EMS certification needs and has been endorsed by a national EMS organization as meeting the objectives of the National EMS education agenda. At the annual meeting of the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) held in October 2010 in Norfolk went on record as recognizing the National Registry of EMTs (NREMTs) as the national testing service for EMS. The cost of testing, whether or not by the National Registry or other vendors is essentially the same, once you consider item response development, test production, test centers, all Virginia Certification levels (FR (EMR), EMT, Enhanced (AEMT), Intermediate (Intermediate 99) and Paramedic) and change in IT needs. After review of the various available options, the Division of Education Development submitted a proposal to OEMS executive management for review and consideration.

The proposal establishes use of the National Registry of EMTs certification examination process for all initial EMS certification levels recognized in Virginia. This would include EMR (our current First Responder), EMT, AEMT (our current Enhanced), Intermediate and Paramedic. The basic design mirrors the current practice for certification at the Intermediate and Paramedic level.

Several of the components we are investigating include the following:

1. Written test sites – The Office is currently in discussions with National Registry to determine locations and number of sites. We are using data from 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.
2. Cost of Exam – The Office is conducting discussions with National Registry to establish a billing process that allows the State to cover the cost of the initial written test attempt by EMRs and EMTs.
3. Automation of Reciprocity for Virginia programs – Discussions will involve National Registry and our Office of Information Technology to design and implement a process whereby we can automate reciprocity, thus removing the need for Virginia program graduates to apply for reciprocity.

Recertification would also take on a new process. Virginia would not require that providers maintain their National Registry although this option is available. This is the practice currently available for Intermediate and Paramedics. However, recertification in Virginia would require that providers at all levels comply with the Virginia continuing education program. Upon completion of the continuing education requirements, the provider would be eligible for recertification. The provider could recertify immediately or delay recertification until their anniversary month. The change being proposed is that recertification for eligible providers would be automatically processed during their certification anniversary month unless they requested electronically that it be done earlier. The proposal removes the requirement for an OMD waiver. Recertification for all providers, regardless of agency affiliation, will be by continuing education. Should a provider go into re-entry, the provider must pass the National Registry written test after they receive eligibility through Virginia continuing education. This test will be at the expense of the provider. Current re-entry regulations would apply.

In summary, the proposal being considered by the Training and Certification Committee in association with Medical Direction Committee will place all initial testing through the National Registry of EMTs. Initial certification test attempt costs will be covered by the Office for EMR and EMT. Recertification will continue to require compliance with the Virginia continuing education program but will remove the need for an exam waiver. Eligible providers who have completed the continuing education program will automatically be recertified during their anniversary month or at their discretion, upon their request if prior to this date. Implementing this component places Virginia as 100% compliant with national standards for EMS Education.

This process will be posted on our web page so that all Virginia EMS System stake holders (Agencies, OMD, Providers, Educators, and Regional Councils) can follow. This will surely raise many questions. You are encouraged to call the office and/or contact any member of the Training and Certification Committee.

Regards,  
The Division of Education Development

DRAFT



**Attachment: C to the  
July 6, 2011 TCC Minutes**

**Deliverables**



## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

### Department of Health

#### Office of Emergency Medical Services

1041 Technology Park Drive

Glen Allen, VA 23059-4500

Karen Remley, M.D., MBA, FAAP  
State Health Commissioner

Gary R. Brown  
Director

P. Scott Winston  
Assistant Director

1-800-523-6019 (VA only)  
804-888-9100  
FAX: 804-371-3108

### Memorandum

TO: Training and Certification Committee

FROM: Division of Educational Development

DATE: July 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Request by TCC

This document includes a response to Training and Certification Committee (PDC) for the following information:

1. Estimate of the financial impact of this change (i.e. moving toward National Registry Testing for all levels) and current cost associated with CTS.
2. Cost estimate of current test writing and validation.
3. Pass / Fail for current vs. previous practical exam.

The following data are estimates based upon current conditions and previous discussions the office has had with test vendors. The information does not review the history of the current test item development nor the issues faced by the AEMS council.

## Pass/Fail Statistics for Current and Former EMT Practical Exam

Virginia EMT Test Results from 01-Jan-2002 through 31-Aug-2009																			
Level	Written					Practical					Individual Station Results								
Level	Tests	Pass	Fail	% Fail		Tests	Pass	Fail	% Fail		St.1 AED	St.2 TRA	St.3 MED						
B	26250	24834	1416	5%		30934	24390	6544	21%		1034 (3%)	4423 (14%)	1995 (6%)						
Virginia EMT Test Results from 01-sep-2009 through 22-Jun-2011																			
											St.1 MED	St.2 TRA	St.3 AW	St.4 Bld	St.5 Joint	St.6 LB	St.7 TX	St.8 KED	St.9 SIS
B	8710	7176	1534	18%		9812	6482	3330	34%		1368 (14%)	1575 (16%)	188 (2%)	193 (2%)	194 (2%)	210 (2%)	222 (2%)	270 (3%)	249 (3%)

### Estimate of the financial impact of this change and current costs associated with CTS

CTS Expenditure FY 08-09 - \$ 237,915 – \$4,497 Written / 4773 Practical

CTS expenditure FY 09-10 - \$ 207,260 – \$4,368 Written / 4910 Practical

CTS Expenditure FY 10-11 - \$ 172,780 (not yet at year end) – 5012 Written / 5674 Practical

Current allowed Fee for Practical Exam - \$50.

Estimate cost to state if paying for initial EMT Written exam (\$70 X 5000 = \$350,000)(Does not include FR/EMR)

Changing to a National Registry EMT examination has little to no impact on the practical exam. However, if with the proposed ability for accredited sites to host a practical, there could be a cost savings to students.

### Cost estimate of current test writing and validation

Cost associated with current/past test generation: ~ \$14,000 annually for up to 3 written exams.

- 1) AEMS Council Membership
- 2) Test Generator Maintenance
- 3) Staff Time \$2784 + (item development = \$2400) = ~\$5500

Estimates for private vendor = ~ \$238,200 – \$313,200

- 1) For a single paper based EMT test with state providing SME's \$75,000 to \$100,000.
- 2) Estimated 3 test a year - \$225,000 to \$300,000.
- 3) Add in the cost of SME's for item writing – 6 SME's (Travel , lodging, meals, time x 4 sessions) = \$13,172
  - a. 287 miles (.50) =  $.5 \times 2 \times 287 \times 6 \times 4 = \$6,888$
  - b. 191/ night lodging =  $191 \times 6 \times 4 = \$4,584$
  - c. 71 / day meals =  $71 \times 6 \times 4 = \$1,700$
- 4) This does not take into account costs for computer testing.
- 5) The availability of SME's is of concern since our call for participation was poor at best for BLS and nearly non-existent for ALS.

**Attachment: D to the  
July 6, 2011 TCC Minutes**

**Presentation by  
Warren Short  
Regarding Pearson  
Vue and Testing  
Locations**



# Considerations for Testing and Recertification

## Virginia's Completion of the National EMS Puzzle



## Where we are

- Based upon the five integrated primary components listed in the “National EMS Education Agenda”
  - 1) National EMS Core Content – **Compliant**
  - 2) National EMS Scope of Practice – **Compliant**
  - 3) National EMS Education Standards – **Compliant-activation scheduled for 7-1-2012**
  - 4) National EMS Program Accreditation – **Compliant**
  - 5) National EMS Certification – **Partially Compliant**



# Why Change Now?

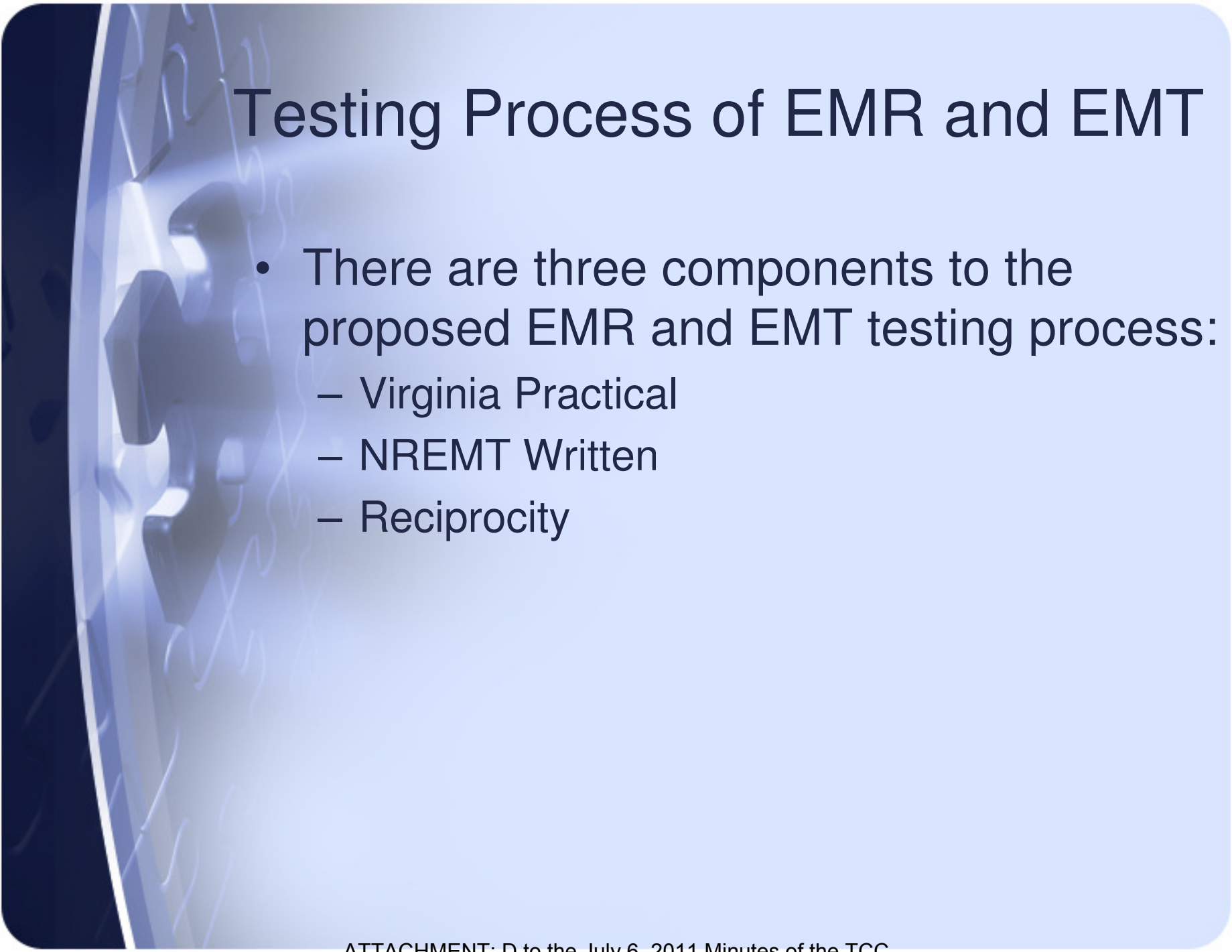
- Significant decrease in the Atlantic EMS Council's ability to create examinations
- The need to continue providing valid, psychometrically sound and legally defensible examinations
- To better comply with the current validation process
- Lack of participation from SMEs
- Standardize the entire initial certification process for Virginia
- Be fully compliant with the National EMS Education document






## No Change to the Following

- Virginia Course Approval Request
  - Current process remains the same
- Course Enrollments
  - Current process remains the same
- Completion of the Course Student Disposition Report (CSDR)
  - Current process remains the same




# Testing Process of EMR and EMT

- There are three components to the proposed EMR and EMT testing process:
  - Virginia Practical
  - NREMT Written
  - Reciprocity




# Virginia Practical – Proposed Process

- Course Coordinator marks the CSDR
  - Students are automatically issued Eligibility Letters in their EMS Portal
  - Student takes letter to CTS site
- Current Virginia Practical Examination process will be followed
- Practical scores will be recorded and processed using current methods
- Two Paths
  - Accredited Programs
  - Non-accredited programs



## Accredited Programs – Practical Process

- Accredited programs with 15 or more students can arrange with the Office to have testing done on-site.
  - Less than 15 students -----> CTS Site
- Office will schedule test site in conjunction with accredited program and send a Test Representative
- Accredited Site required to adhere to CTS Guidelines for Virginia Practical
  - Students may retest (only 1 time) onsite based upon available resources



## Non-accredited Programs – Practical Process

- Students are required to test the Virginia Practical at a CTS Site
  - Current Regional Council processes for CTS Sites will be followed
- Students may retest (only 1 time) onsite based upon available resources



## NREMT Written Examination – Access by Students

- Course Coordinator marks the CSDR
  - Students are issued Eligibility Letters
  - Student completes Virginia Practical at a CTS Site
- Student registers online with NREMT
- Upon successful completion of the Virginia Practical:
  - OEMS will authorize NREMT to issue an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter
  - The Office is aiming to automate this process with NREMT
- Examination follows NREMT policy



# Instructor Requirements

- Education Coordinators will be required to register on the NREMT website as “Program Directors”
  - If instructor/coordinator currently hold NREMT certification, they can simply add a role to their NREMT account
  - Office will approve instructors in NREMT database
- Registration allows instructors to track their students and allows the Office to track outcome statistics per instructor.
- The Office will only approve/recognize Va. certified/endorsed “instructors” eligible to conduct initial certification programs.



## Examination Cost

- Virginia is considering covering the cost of the initial National Registry EMR and EMT written attempt:
  - EMR Exam runs \$65.00
  - EMT Exam runs \$70.00
- Virginia averages ~ 6000 tests per year
  - Estimated costs of \$420,000 / year



What questions do you have on NR testing?




# Reciprocity

- All current Virginia approved levels will obtain Virginia Certification via reciprocity
  - This process will be similar to the current process for Intermediate and Paramedics
  - The Office plans to automate this for all levels for students who are enrolled in Virginia approved programs
- Certification levels include:
  - EMR
  - EMT
  - AEMT
  - Intermediate
  - Paramedic



# Recertification in Virginia

- Virginia providers will **not be** required to keep National Registry
- Recertification will solely be CE based
- Completion of CE requirements awards recertification eligibility to the provider
  - Recertification will be initiated by:
    - Upon request of the provider via the EMS Portal  
OR
    - Automatic recertification during provider's anniversary month.



## Required Activities to Accomplish by 7-1-12

- OEMS must seek updates to the Code of Virginia
- OEMS must seek updates to certain regulations
- Develop electronic data exchanges with NREMT
- Conduct orientation for EMS Educators
  - Approve EMS Educators for NREMT
- Identify and publish Pearson Vue Testing Center locations



# Questions and Comments

## Completing the National EMS Puzzle