

**State Medevac Committee Meeting
Office of Emergency Medical Services
1041 Technology Park Drive
Glen Allen, Virginia
May 13, 2010
10:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests & Other Attendees:
Allen Yee, Chair	Chris Perkins	Tim Perkins	Allan Belcher
Terry Austin	Dr. James Dudley	Wanda Street	Christopher Cannon
Jonathan Collier	Jason Hefner	Michael Berg	Maggie McCauley
Carol Lee Fisher-Strickler	David Poulsen	George Lindbeck	Darryl Lazar
Paul Davenport		Gary Brown	Glen Sostak
Ed Brazle		Scott Winston	Anita Ashby
Mark Smith			Bruce Edwards
			Garrett Wymer
			Ken Burchell
			Shawn Rivard
			Kathy Baker
			Marilyn McLeod
			Tim Hodge
			Brian Solada
			Mark Holden
			Allen Wolfe, Jr.

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to order:	The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Allen Yee.	
Introductions:	Everyone around the room introduced themselves.	
Review & Approval of the February 11, 2010 minutes :	A motion was made to approve the previous minutes. The motion was moved by Paul Davenport and seconded by Jonathan Collier.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
Chair Report – Dr. Allen Yee:	Dr. Yee stated that it has been quite a busy season for the air medical industry. The industry is facing increasing pressure for utilization. There have been numerous articles about the fatality rate and utilization. He applauds all the agencies involved in project synergy and what everyone is doing to improve patient care and outcomes.	
OEMS Report – Tim Perkins:	Tim explained a few housekeeping items: 1) If anyone has phone calls, please step outside of the building because OEMS staff are working in the cubicles outside of the conference room. 2) If anyone receives travel reimbursements at least twice a year, an EDI form will need to be completed to have your reimbursements sent electronically to your accounts. Wanda has the forms. Tim sent out information on the Medevac Resource Document and if there are any changes that need to be	

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	<p>made, please submit those to him as soon as possible. To review the Resource Document and your agency information, click here: http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Files_page/Medevac/MedevacResourceInfo.pdf.</p> <p>OEMS is still trying to schedule the retreat. It looks like it may be held this fall.</p> <p>Tim is again participating in the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride which will begin in Portland, Maine and end in the Alexandria/Washington, DC area. It begins May 15 and ends May 22, so Tim will be out of the office the entire week. For more information, go to www.muddyangels.org. Donations are also welcome.</p>	
<p>Virginia WeatherShare Program Development Update/Safety Work Group Update – Paul Davenport:</p>	<p>Paul reported that he has not received the information for April yet, but for the February/March period there were 142 submissions and several instances of helicopter shopping.</p> <p>Submissions: PHI – 54 Nightingale – 8 LifeGuard – 53 Pegasus – 2 LifeEvac – 22</p> <p>A WebEx session was held and several agencies have attended or have been in touch to get their system on board. Paul reported that he hopes to add a checkbox that asks if you were told to call someone else. He also wants to add the ability of programs to pull their own reports. Also, out-of-state agencies now have the ability to log in.</p> <p>The disaster drill is scheduled this summer. This will require the Medevac agencies to log into the WebEOC and there will be a notification of an incident. You will have to go into the incident page. This will create a secure “chat room” for all of the agencies and the communications centers to have a heads up of current responses to the incident.</p> <p>Another WebEx is scheduled before the next meeting and an invitation will go out. Chris Cannon will ask East Care and another agency to come on board.</p> <p>As discussed at the last meeting, a draft letter has been created to address helicopter shopping. It will be sent to the committee members within the next few weeks. It will come from the State Medevac Committee. The letter will go to facilities to educate them on what helicopter shopping is. The committee was asked to make suggestions as to who the letter should be addressed to. It was suggested to send it to hospitals, communications centers, etc. Chris Cannon stated that the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) is aware of helicopter shopping via a Referendum and it has become a positive practice of emergency nurses. It will be discussed at the National ENA Conference in September. Dr. Yee asked if the information should be shared with other organizations in the state such as Virginia Association of Fire Chiefs. Chris agreed that it should be shared. He would be happy to get a draft Referendum for the committee.</p>	<p>Chris Cannon will provide a draft copy of the helicopter shopping Referendum for the committee.</p>
<p>Project Synergy Work Group Update – Susan Smith/Anita Ashby:</p>	<p>Anita reported that UVA is the only agency not participating. Per Chris the available data as of now is probably 2010 1st quarter data based on the trauma registry. Dr. Yee recommended presenting the data and benefits of the project to the Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee at their December 2 meeting. Wanda was asked to arrange this with Paul.</p>	
<p>Other Work Group</p>	<p>No updates on the Communications or Regulations work groups as they have not met. Since Louis Seay will</p>	

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<p>Updates:</p>	<p>not be able to chair the Regulation work group, a new chair will need to be appointed.</p> <p>Bruce explained that the <i>Code of Virginia</i> had language saying that meetings cannot be held by teleconference unless everyone attending by teleconference has publicly advertised their locations. Bruce approached the Board of Health and asked them to support a letter to the Attorney General’s office to review the <i>Code</i> concerning this. Also, three people on a committee cannot meet without advertising it as a meeting. It was discovered that any sub-committee or work group of the Advisory Board Committees falls under the same structure. We did not know that this applied to sub-committees and work groups. Teleconferencing saves time and money especially now. Many of the committees are cutting back to two or three meeting a year instead of four.</p> <p>What can be done is that an email can be sent out to the members of the work group by the Chair of the workgroup, but the responses cannot be replied to all. You can respond back to the Chair only. The Chair can compose an email of all the responses and send it out.</p> <p>Another solution would be to have the work groups meet for an hour before or after this meeting.</p> <p>Bruce also explained how the changes made in the By-law committee affect the Medevac committee. There are four Committee Focus Areas: Administrative, Infrastructure, Patient Care and Professional Development. The Medevac committee will be under the Patient Care focus area. Copies of the State EMS Advisory Board Proposed Committee Structure were distributed. This, along with the Draft By-laws, will be presented tomorrow at the Governor’s Advisory Board. Dr. Yee feels that the structure was well thought out.</p>	
<p>Program Announcements:</p>	<p>Paul Davenport, Carilion Clinic LifeGuard – Carilion will be sending out information on the new hospital which opens May 22 as Carilion Giles Community Hospital in Pearisburg. Please note that a light pole is close to the helipad. A red light will be placed on top of it to make it more visible. Paul will note this on the Medevac helipad alerts.</p> <p>Jonathan Collier, PHI – No report.</p> <p>Shawn Rivard, MF I – Greg Jones couldn’t be here today, he is at MCV with his mother who is undergoing surgery. Nothing further to report.</p> <p>Terry Austin, MF II – A helicopter lost an engine the day before yesterday and John Ratliff had to act quickly to land the aircraft safely. Lesson learned - manufacturer training was well worth it. Both people on board were able to walk away unhurt. As of May 1 MedFlight III is no more but will maintain police presence at the base. Also as of May 1 Don Childs retired and is currently at Liberty University working as a chief flight instructor.</p> <p>Ed Brazle, Virginia Beach Police – They received 150 applications for one pilot position. Interviews will be held in June.</p> <p>Mark Holden, Wings Air Rescue - No report.</p>	

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	<p>Allen Wolfe, MedStar – MedStar passed the CAMTS certification.</p> <p>Brian Solada, LifeEvac – Filled the paramedic position that was open and has a nurse position now open at the West Point base. If anyone flies to Memorial Regional in Mechanicsville, they have an alternative landing zone. It's about 100 yards southwest of the current one. A helipad is being laid and should have a LZ in about 60 days. Can only land there during daylight hours because of overhead construction on one side.</p> <p>Chris Cannon, Nightingale – Nightingale has a new flight nurse and are on track to receive a new aircraft in a year.</p> <p>Ken Burchell, US Park Police – Park Police has a new commander, Mike Libby, who has no aviation experience. He is very excited about the position and Ken will try to get him to the next meeting. New rescue techs coming on board. Chris wants to stay on the committee.</p> <p>Kathy Baker, VCU Health Systems/LifeEvac – No report.</p> <p>Allan Belcher, CentraOne – Program started on May 1 in Lynchburg. Things are going well and he appreciates everyone's support. He introduced Dr. Marilyn McLeod who is the new Operational Medical Director. A new helipad is built at the new North Halifax Fire Dept. Allan will send Tim the information to add to the LZ directory.</p> <p>Anita Ashby, WellmontOne – WellmontOne's base change from Greenville, TN to Sullivan County, TN which was completed as of March 1.</p> <p>Tim Hodge, Pegasus – No report.</p> <p>Carol Lee Fisher-Strickler – Carol thanked everyone in the room for their outstanding services to the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia.</p>	
<p>Unfinished Business:</p>	<p>a) Proposed EMS Regulations Update – Michael Berg The proposed EMS regulation comment period has ended. A work session has been scheduled with the Regulation & Policy Committee on June 8, at 1001 Technology Park Drive, to review the public comments and make recommendations. When the review is complete and OEMS accepts the recommendations, they will be forwarded to the Attorney Generals office. Michael is hoping to have this process completed so that the new regulations can be initiated on January 1, 2011. Michael invited someone from the Medevac to attend the work session to discuss air medical issues. Brian Solada and Jonathan Collier will volunteer to attend the work session on June 8 at 10 am.</p> <p>There were some major public comments concerning the air medical services: 1) Paul Davenport – Need clear understanding of personnel classification and flight training.</p>	<p>Brian Solada and Jonathan Collier will volunteer to attend the work session at OEMS on June 8 at 10 am.</p> <p>A motion was made for committee support of the public comment submitted by Paul Davenport concerning personnel classification</p>

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	<p>Dr. Yee made a motion for the committee support of the public comment submitted by Paul Davenport concerning personnel classification and flight training.</p> <p>2) Paul Davenport – Comment was about equipment. Paul felt that #3 should include language that clearly states the design and dimensions of the interior cabin eliminate or address head strike areas. Areas that could pose a head strike concern should be padded or otherwise eliminated if possible. A portion of the regulations addressed head strike concern but there was no mention in the design specifications. There was much discussion about this issue. The committee feels that the OEMS program representatives need to be educated on this when making inspections. Per Paul Davenport, this education/training was offered before but the offer was not accepted. He feels that it should be revisited. Dr. Yee suggested that this comment is tabled for now and propose it for the next regulation revision. The committee agreed. Gary Brown also proposed the option of including it in the regulations with a delayed implementation of 3 years or 5 years, whatever is decided. The head strike issue could then be taken to the safety committee to address further. A clear definition of head strike should be stated first. Michael informed that he would be happy to have the program reps educated in this matter. They meet in October in Roanoke. There are 8 reps.</p> <p>3) Jonathan Collier - Both providers (paramedic and nurse) on the aircraft should be Basic EMTs. There may be a significant cost factor to get all of the nurses EMT trained. There needs to be a clear definition of what “equivalent education” means. Dr. Yee proposed that this committee design a curriculum that we all use to train all flight nurses. Paul stated that it sounds like a refresher EMT-B course. Per Michael Berg, online education can be taken through TRAINVirginia. Brian and Jonathan will work on establishing what “equivalent education” is.</p> <p>4) Jonathan Collier – There is a requirement for extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) training. In intensive care medicine, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) is an extracorporeal technique of providing both cardiac and respiratory support oxygen to patients whose heart and lungs are so severely diseased or damaged that they can no longer serve their function. Some agencies don’t require ECMO. It was stated that most agency mission statements require ECMO. If your mission statement includes this, then it is a requirement.</p> <p>Michael Berg also mentioned that the variance process for agencies has changed. When submitting variances it must have local governmental support/approval from where they reside; not the address with whom they are affiliated with. Again, the provider must have local government support/approval from where they reside. There are no exceptions.</p> <p>Michael also informed everyone that the Drug Enforcement Administration has issued an interim rule that becomes effective June 1 with regard to electronic signatures of prescribers of medications. If a Dr. writes a prescription and they have met the DEA requirement for electronic signatures and the third party vendor verifications are met, a pharmacy can receive it electronically. Unfortunately, for those using the tough books, unless the third party vendor has verified that the electronic signature meets the DEA requirements, the electronic signature cannot be accepted. Also, the pharmacy will no longer accept stamped signatures or faxes. Must be original signatures. Michael is awaiting approval of the memo from the Attorney General’s office. After the memo is approved, it will go out to all of the EMS agencies and physicians. Contact Michael Berg for more information at michael.berg@vdh.virginia.gov.</p>	<p>and flight training. All in favor = 6 Opposed = 0</p> <p>Brian and Jonathan will work on establishing what “equivalent education” is.</p>

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New Business:	<p>Tim reminded everyone that the state furlough day is Friday, May 28 and OEMS will be closed. If anyone has certifications that are about to expire, the paperwork needs to be received by May 27.</p> <p>Tim also stated that he received an email from Chief Kevin Rychlik from the Virginia Airborne Search and Rescue Squad and he would like to do a presentation about the Squad at the next meeting. More information can be found at www.airbornesar.com.</p> <p>The next meeting will possibly be October 21. Tim will be sending out an email.</p>	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:07 p.m.	The next meeting will be in October at 10:00 at 1041 Technology Park Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23059.