

**Training and Certification Committee**  
**OEMS Office – 1041 Technology Park Dr, Glen Allen, Virginia**  
**Special Call Meeting – March 7, 2012**  
**10:30 am**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Staff:	Guests:
Larry Oliver – Chair	Holly Frost - Excused	Gary Brown	Gary Critzer
Dave Cullen	Dr. Hasan	Scott Winston	Wayne Perry
Kathy Eubank	Donna Hurst - Excused	Warren Short	Melinda Duncan
Nick Klimenko	Tom Jarman - Excused	Greg Neiman	
Stephen Rea	Rick McClure – Excused	Chad Blosser	
Jeffrey Reynolds		Debbie Akers	
		Peter Brown	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<b>I. Welcome</b>	The meeting was called to order at 10:50 am	
<b>II. Introductions</b>	Introductions were not necessary.	
<b>III. Charge</b>	The Committee reviewed the Charge for today's meeting. ( <b>Attached</b> )	
<b>IV. Discussion</b>	The Committee and Guests discussed the charge and options available.	<b>Motion by: Nick Klimenko</b> <i>Certification candidates who have completed a Virginia approved initial certification Basic Life Support Training Program (FR/EMR and EMT-Basic/EMT) shall have their initial (first attempt) National Registry written certification examination fee paid from the portion of the EMS funds specifically</i>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
		<p><i>earmarked in Code § 46.2-694 (A.)(13.)(e.).</i></p> <p><i>A review of this process shall be conducted by the EMS Advisory Board every three (3) years or as warranted by changes in the Code of Virginia or Commonwealth of Virginia Budget pertaining to the funding of Emergency Medical Services.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by: Dave Cullen</b></p> <p><b>Vote: Unanimously Approved</b></p>
<b>V. Assignments</b>	Please review the document sent via e-mail and be prepared to finalize it at our next meeting	
<b>VI. Next Meeting</b>	April 4, 2012, 10:30am	
<b>VII. Adjourn</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm	

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE of  
VIRGINIA EMS ADVISORY BOARD  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
MARCH 7, 2012  
10:30 AM  
1041 TECHNOLOGY PARK DR  
CONFERENCE ROOM A & B

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Introductions as needed
- III. Charge

The Training and Certification Committee is charged with providing a recommendation(s) to the Office of EMS and the state EMS Advisory Board for a funding allocation methodology to ensure sufficient funds are available for the payment of initial testing fees associated with National Registry EMR and EMT examinations. These funds will come from the additional 0.25 cents of the \$4.25 allocated in §46.2-694 of the Code of Virginia to pay for the costs associated with the certification and recertification training of EMS personnel. These funds shall be distributed in a manner to serve the greatest financial need of individuals or EMS agencies and maximize the number of individuals certified as EMS providers in the Commonwealth. Items to consider should include but not be limited to:

1. Short term and long term sustainability of the Fund
2. Equitable distribution of the Fund
3. Greatest demonstrated financial need
4. Simplest administrative process to manage the Fund

Committee recommendation(s) will be considered during the May 2012 state EMS Advisory Board Meeting and submitted to the Commissioner for consideration and action at the June 15, 2012 meeting of the Virginia Board Of Health.

Committee recommendations will be considered during the May EMS Advisory Board Meeting and hopefully included for action during the Board Of Health Meeting following the EMS Advisory Board Meeting.

- IV. Discussion
- V. Assignments as needed
- VI. Next meeting
- VII. Adjourn

**Attachment: A to the  
March 7, 2012 Special Call  
TCC Minutes**

**Motion Approved by TCC  
Re: NREMT Testing Costs**

*The Training and Certification Committee, after reviewing all of the available options, proposes the following action item:*

Certification candidates who have completed a Virginia approved initial certification Basic Life Support Training Program (FR/EMR and EMT-Basic/EMT) shall have their initial (first attempt) National Registry written certification examination fee paid from the portion of the EMS funds specifically earmarked in Code § 46.2-694 (A.)(13.)(e.).

A review of this process shall be conducted by the EMS Advisory Board every three (3) years or as warranted by changes in the Code of Virginia or Commonwealth of Virginia Budget pertaining to the funding of Emergency Medical Services.

Supporting Points:

- EMS Regulations in Virginia establish EMT as the minimum required staffing level for an ambulance. If OEMS does not fund the initial cost of testing as a result of utilizing the National Registry (NR) certification examination, it is an unfunded mandate.
- Approximately 5,000 to 6,000 initial EMS certification written examinations are administered annually, at no cost to the candidate at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level. The cost of the National Registry written examination for EMR is \$65 and \$70 for EMT. The anticipated fiscal impact of utilizing the National Registry examination at the EMR and EMT level is between \$325,000 and \$420,000 on an annual basis.

Initial start up costs to develop, administer and process a state developed EMS certification examination at five (5) separate levels will cost approximately \$1M compared to the projected cost to utilize NR examinations. In addition, if NR examinations are utilized in Virginia, there will be less equipment and printing costs for OEMS and more time available for staff to serve our customers and constituents.

- Implementing National Registry testing in Virginia is the final step in meeting all objectives outlined in the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*.
- Funding to cover the cost of initial NR testing at the EMR and EMT levels will come from the portion of the EMS funds specifically earmarked in Code (§ 46.2-694) to pay for the costs associated with the certification and recertification training of emergency medical services personnel. These funds were allocated as a result of HJR 743 (2007) which established the Joint Legislative Subcommittee Studying Incentives for Fire and Rescue Squad Volunteers. Members of the subcommittee recognized the importance of creating a consistent and reliable source of funding to promote the recruitment and retention of EMS personnel by enacting a \$0.25 increase in the \$4-for-life vehicle registration fee.
- The National Registry and Pearson Vue have agreed to open a minimum of 12 additional computer testing locations sites, for a total of 17 sites around the state, in order to reduce the amount of travel required by test candidates.
- As the source of these funds is paid by the citizens of the Commonwealth, and having certified EMS Providers, in either of these EMS levels, is a benefit to all of the citizens of the Commonwealth in the event of a medical, traumatic, natural or man-made emergency, the use of these funds should be available to all testing candidates and not just limited to those who are affiliated with licensed EMS Agencies.

- The State of Maryland, an original member of the Atlantic EMS Council, has implemented the process of paying for initial certification testing.