

Training and Certification Committee
OEMS Office – 1041 Technology Park Dr, Glen Allen, Virginia
January 4, 2012
10:30 am

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Staff:	Others:
Larry Oliver – Chair Dave Cullen Holly Frost Donna Hurst Tom Jarman Nick Klimenko Stephen Rea	Kathy Eubank-Excused Dr. Hasan-Excused Jeffrey Reynolds-Excused	Gary Brown Scott Winston Michael Berg Warren Short Greg Neiman	Lynn Barbour

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Welcome	The meeting was called to order at 10:47 am	
II. Introductions	Introductions were not necessary.	
III. Approval of Agenda	The Committee reviewed the Agenda for today's meeting. (Attached)	Motion by: Dave Cullen To Approve the Agenda as presented Seconded by: Tom Jarman Unanimously Approved
IV. Approval of Minutes	The Committee reviewed the minutes of the July 6, 2011 meeting (ATTACHMENT: A)	Motion By: Donna Hurst To Approve the Minutes of the July 6, 2011 TCC meeting as presented. Seconded by: Dave Cullen Unanimously Approved

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
V. Reports of Committee Members		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Officer Reports – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Larry Oliver – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Executive committee met December 5-6, 2011 b. The Committee met with Division Managers at OEMS to discuss priorities and plans for the future. b. Reports of Committee Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Medical Direction Committee (MDC) – Dr. Hasan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dr. Hasan is not present, however there were a number of white papers approved at the last MDC meeting. c. Office of EMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Staff Introductions-Warren Short <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Debbie Akers was introduced as the new ALS Training Specialist b. Peter Brown was introduced as the Coordinator of Testing and Test Examiners ii. BLS Training Specialist – Greg Neiman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Had 11 Candidates attend and pass the Practical on December 17, 2011. 2. Next Institute is scheduled for February 11-15, 2012 and will be held in the Glen Allen area. b. VEMSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current Statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Time Pass Rate: 51.93% (121/233) 2nd Time Pass Rate: 67.65% (23/34) 3rd Time Pass Rate: 50.00% (1/2) Overall Pass Rate: 53.90% 2. Have had a number of Instructors/Coordinators balk at having to take a knowledge exam. If we had a high 1st time pass rate and 100% second time pass rate, I would agree, we are wasting our time, but the current stats shows this is an important assessment tool. 1st time pass rate percentage must be taken lightly as a number of folks have admitted not studying and only taking the first attempt to “see what we are asking” but the low second-time pass rate is very concerning. 3. Currently have 2 versions of the essays but will be rolling out 2 new versions soon. Appears word has gotten out about what topics the essays cover. 	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Had 7 Instructor/ALS-C's take the Exam in Chincoteague on November 30, 2011 5. Had a large number of Instructors/ALS-C's take advantage of the 2 tests offered at Symposium and the one after the VAVRS Convention 6. Is currently available at any CTS. Register with the Council. 7. 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. <p>c. Instructor Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schedule for 2012 is posted on the web. Have gone to the second Thursday of the month, every other month. First Update is scheduled for January 12, 2012 and will be Online. We no longer require pre-registration for the Update, instead we will e-mail all Instructors with information on how to access the online update in advance. Remember, Instructor/Coordinators only need to attend 1 update every two years. <p>iii. ALS Training Specialist-Debbie Akers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. We have reinstated the process to endorse ALS-Coordinators and are planning to put the first group through the Adult Education and Admin portions of the Instructor Institute in February. <p>iv. Funding and Accreditation – Warren Short</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Accreditation and EMSTF reports were distributed. (ATTACHMENT: B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion of the second-half funding requirement that a student be affiliated at the time of testing for the program to receive the funds. A concern was expressed at the low amount of money that has been requested/committed especially in light of the current budget problems. <p>v. Division of Educational Development-Warren Short</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Defining National EMS Program Accreditation</i> document. (ATTACHMENT: C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Warren distributed the document that was prepared by NASEMSO. Virginia is ahead of the pack in regards to requiring National Accreditation. b. Agency Portal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. About 20% of the Agencies have come on-board since the new Portal opened December 5, 2011. 2. Agencies need to come on board and affiliate their members quickly to ensure a seamless Waiver Recertification Process. 3. Agency CEO is a "Super User" and can go in and assign "Updater" and "Viewer" status to others within or outside the agency. 	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>4. Agency can request to add a provider, and the provider will then confirm or provider can request affiliation and the Agency will confirm.</p> <p>5. There is no limit to the number of agencies a provider may be affiliated with.</p> <p>6. Notifications are handled by e-mail to the address listed in the system.</p> <p>c. Considerations for Virginia EMS Testing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Process was presented and approved by TCC, Endorsed by MDC and approved by the EMS Advisory Board. 2. Unfortunately, changes were made after the plan was approved. Warren distributed a memo regarding the changes to the plan (ATTACHMENT: D). Discussion on these points was extensive. <p>Discussion was held on the motion.</p> <p>Extensive discussion was held on the motion.</p>	<p>Motion by: Nick Klimenko That: The Governors Advisory Board and Executive Committee review the impacts and implications of these changes to the previously approved "Consideration for Virginia EMS Certification Testing." Second by: Dave Cullen</p> <p>Motion was withdrawn by Nick Klimenko.</p> <p>Motion by: Dave Cullen That: The Training and Certification Committee moves that the EMS Advisory Board NOT reaffirm its position in support of moving all testing to the National Registry of EMT's beginning July 1, 2012, UNLESS changes 1 and/or 2 are included. Seconded by: Tom Jarman</p> <p>Unanimously Approved</p>

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
	<p>d. Consolidated Testing- Peter Brown</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examiner Positions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have 5 Supervisory Positions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Larry Oliver 2) Tom Nevetral 3) Mike Staats 4) Mark Cromer 5) Brad Ayers b) CTS Examiners <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 2 vacancies in Western SW 2) 3 Vacancies in TJ 2. Looking to make a few changes as we move forward. <p>vi. Other OEMS Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Michael Berg <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Day 141 - New Regulations are still in the Governor's Office. Do not expect them to move until after the General Assembly session ends, April, 2012. 	
VI. Previous Business	None	
VII. New Business	<p>Dave Cullen asked who to contact regarding the Council becoming a Pearson View Site. Warren advised they should contact Heidi Erb at the National Registry.</p> <p>Holly Frost asked how other areas handle CTS' Committee members discussed.</p>	
VIII. Public Comment	<p>Lynn Barbour of ODEMSA advised: Bon Secours in conjunction with Henrico Fire is offering an EMS Expo the last weekend of January. PHTLS Class being held January 14, 15 ODEMSA will be doing a National Registry Test February 4th.</p>	
IX. Dates for 2012 Meetings	January 4, April 4, July 11, October 3	
X. Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 1:37pm	

Training & Certification Committee
Wednesday, January 4, 2012
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 July 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. ALS Training Specialist- Debbie Akers, OEMS
 - iii. Funding and Accreditation-Warren Short, OEMS
 - iv. Division of Educational Development (DED)-Warren Short, OEMS
 - v. CTS and National Registry Testing – Peter Brown, OEMS
 - vi. Regulation & Compliance – Michael Berg, OEMS
- VI. Previous Business-**
 - a. **Proposal to move to NREMT Testing Statewide-Revised**
- VII. New Business-none**
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Dates for 2012 Meetings**
 - a. ~~January 4, 2012~~
 - b. April 4, 2012
 - c. July 11, 2012
 - d. October 3, 2012
- X. Adjourn**

**Attachment: A to the
January 4, 2012 TCC Minutes**

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

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

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

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

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"> b. Reports of Committee Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Medical Direction Committee (MDC) – Dr. Hasan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Dr. Hasan is not present, but there has been no action in MDC b. Quarterly MDC meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been canceled. c. Office of EMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. BLS Training Specialist – Greg Neiman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. VEMSES-Have had 100 attempts at the exam. Currently have a 60% pass rate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Had around 10 Instructor/ALS-C’s take the Exam after the Update in Blacksburg. 2. Next offering of the Exam will be after the ALS-C Meeting in Roanoke on July 15. 3. Is currently available at any CTS. Register with the Council. 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. b. Next Instructor Update is set for tomorrow night July 7, 2011. Registration has closed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next in-person update will be at VAVRS Convention in September. c. Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June Institute had 12 people certify as Instructors. 2. Had two ALS-C’s attend in anticipation of the requirements to bridge to EMS EC ii. Funding and Accreditation – Chad Blosser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Accreditation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> 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. 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. 2. Northern Virginia Community College, Tidewater Community 	

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"> 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. 4. State Intermediate Accredited Programs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) No new applications. b) Two reaccreditation site visits are coming up: Rappahannock Community College and Norfolk Fire. c) Southside Virginia Emergency Crew may not be seeking reaccreditation. <p>b. EMSTF</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ended FY 2011 with \$2.6M allocated out of the \$3.2M in the fund. 2. FY 2008 has finally been closed out <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 3. FY 2012 Contracts opened June 2nd, 2011. To date we have committed \$758,000 out of the \$3.2M. <p>iii. ALS Training Specialist-Warren Short</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As you may know, Tom Nevetral 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. <p>iv. Division of Educational Development-Warren Short</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Test Examiner Positions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing applications and setting up interviews 2. 3 Levels of Positions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Supervisor b) NREMT Test Reps/Supervisors c) CTS Examiner <p>v. Other OEMS Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gary Brown <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	

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>VI. Previous Business</p>	<p>a. Proposal to move to NREMT Testing Statewide (ATTACHMENT: B)</p> <p>The Committee discussed the deliverables requested from the Office at the last meeting (ATTACHMENT: C)</p> <p>Warren Short had a brief presentation (ATTACHMENT: D)</p> <p>Discussion continued regarding the proposal</p>	<p>Motion by: Dave Cullen To: Take the Proposal off of the table and reopen discussion. Second by: Stephen Rea</p> <p>Unanimously Approved</p> <p>Warren will provide list of current and proposed Pearson Vue Sites.</p> <p>Original Motion: 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.</p> <p>Roll Call Vote requested by Kathy Eubank:</p> <p>Holly Frost-For Tom Jarmon- For Donna Hurst-For Dave Cullen-For Kathy Eubank-Against Stephen Rea-For</p> <p>Larry Oliver: Chair only votes on a tie.</p> <p>Final Vote: 5 to 1 in support of the</p>

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

Professional Development 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: B to the
January 4, 2012 TCC Minutes**

**Accreditation and EMSTF
Reports**

Accredited Training Site Directory

As of December 30, 2011



Accredited Paramedic¹ Training Programs in the Commonwealth

Site Name	Site Number	# of Alternate Sites	Accreditation Status	Expiration Date
Associates in Emergency Care	15319	4	National – Initial	CoAEMSP
Center for EMS Training	74015	1	State – Full	January 1, 2013
Central Virginia Community College	68006	--	National – Initial	CoAEMSP
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College	08709	5	National – Initial	CoAEMSP
Jefferson College of Health Sciences	77007	--	National – Continuing	CoAEMSP
Lord Fairfax Community College	06903	--	State – Full	January 1, 2013
Loudoun County Fire & Rescue	10704	--	National – Continuing	CoAEMSP
National College of Business & Technology	77512	--	National – Initial	CoAEMSP
Northern Virginia Community College	05906	1	National – Continuing	CoAEMSP
Patrick Henry Community College	08908	1	State – Full	July 31, 2013
Piedmont Virginia Community College	54006	--	National – Continuing	CoAEMSP
Rappahannock EMS Council Program	63007	--	State – Full	December 31, 2012
Southside Virginia Community College	11709	1	State – Full	CoAEMSP
Southwest Virginia Community College	18507	4	National – Continuing	July 31, 2011
Tidewater Community College	81016	3	National – Continuing	CoAEMSP
VCU School of Medicine Paramedic Program	76011	4	National – Continuing	CoAEMSP

1. Programs accredited at the Paramedic level may also offer instruction at EMT- I, EMT - E, EMT - B, FR, as well as teach continuing education and auxiliary courses.
 - Southside Virginia Community College had its initial CoAEMSP site visit on Dec ½, 2011. They will learn the outcome of their visit in the spring or summer of 2012.
 - There are four (4) state programs still in need of obtaining CoAEMSP accreditation by the January 1, 2013 deadline established by National Registry: Center for EMS Training, Lord Fairfax Community College, Patrick Henry Community College and Rappahannock EMS Council.
 - There are several currently accredited state Intermediate programs which have inquired about becoming accredited at the Paramedic level. These programs are: Central Shenandoah EMS Council and Western Virginia EMS Council. The process for accreditation at the paramedic level in Virginia is described Attachment A and on the OEMS web page at: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/Training/Paramedic.htm>

Accredited Intermediate¹ Training Programs in the Commonwealth

Site Name	Site Number	# of Alternate Sites	Accreditation Status	Expiration Date
Central Shenandoah EMS Council	79001	--	State – Full	May 31, 2015
Danville Area Training Center	69009	--	State – Full	October 31, 2013
Franklin County Public Safety Training Center	06705	--	State – Full	July 31, 2012
Fort Lee Fire		--	State – Conditional	November 30, 2011*
James City County Fire Rescue	83002	--	State – Full	February 28, 2014
John Tyler Community College	04115	--	State – Full	February 28, 2012
WVEMS - New River Valley Training Center	75004	--	State – Full	December 31, 2011**
Norfolk Fire Department	71008	--	State – Full	July 31, 2016
Old Dominion EMS Alliance	04114	1	State – Full	August 31, 2012
Rappahannock Community College	11903	1	State – Conditional	July 31, 2012
Roanoke Regional Fire-EMS Training Center	77505	--	State – Full	January 31, 2015
UVa Prehospital Program	54008		State – Full	July 31, 2014

1. Programs accredited at the Intermediate level may also offer instruction at EMT - E, EMT - B, FR, as well as teach continuing education and auxiliary courses.

* Fort Lee Fire is in the process of scheduling a follow-up visit with OEMS. They are currently not offering any EMS training programs.

** WVEMS - New River Valley Training Center obtained a variance granting an extension on their reaccreditation until June 30, 2012.

Emergency Medical Services Training Funds Summary

As of December 30, 2011





EMS Training Funds Summary of Expenditures

Fiscal Year 2010	Obligated \$	Disbursed \$
40 BLS Initial Course Funding	\$442,119.00	\$281,079.57
43 BLS CE Course Funding	\$66,360.00	\$37,108.00
44 ALS CE Course Funding	\$194,880.00	\$83,437.50
45 BLS Auxiliary Program	\$128,000.00	\$13,280.00
46 ALS Auxiliary Program	\$476,000.00	\$97,480.00
49 ALS Initial Course Funding	\$844,815.00	\$455,611.54
Total	\$2,152,174.00	\$967,996.61

Fiscal Year 2011	Obligated \$	Disbursed \$
40 BLS Initial Course Funding	\$787,116.00	\$478,577.49
43 BLS CE Course Funding	\$84,000.00	\$36,995.00
44 ALS CE Course Funding	\$235,200.00	\$102,252.50
45 BLS Auxiliary Program	\$98,000.00	\$12,920.00
46 ALS Auxiliary Program	\$391,680.00	\$125,760.00
49 ALS Initial Course Funding	\$1,057,536.00	\$488,111.94
Total	\$2,653,532.00	\$1,245,115.33

Fiscal Year 2012	Obligated \$	Disbursed \$
40 BLS Initial Course Funding	\$707,487.00	\$160,452.08
43 BLS CE Course Funding	\$98,280.00	\$16,537.50
44 ALS CE Course Funding	\$243,600.00	\$30,782.50
45 BLS Auxiliary Program	\$80,000.00	\$3,680.00
46 ALS Auxiliary Program	\$274,000.00	\$52,760.00
49 ALS Initial Course Funding	\$1,207,710.00	\$351,175.05
Total	\$2,611,077.00	\$615,387.13

**Attachment: C to the
January 4, 2012 TCC Minutes**

*Defining National EMS
Program Accreditation*

Defining National EMS Program Accreditation



Background

When the EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach (Education Agenda) was published by the US Dept. of Transportation in 2000, many EMS professionals embraced the concepts of the Education Agenda as visionary and a way to enhance the profession by bringing EMS to an educational par with other allied health professions. With the Core Content, Scope of Practice Model, and Education Standards firmly established in our implementation toolkit, all that remains to be completed is National EMS Program Accreditation and National EMS Certification. Since the National Registry of EMT's (NREMT) announced the decision to require paramedic applicants to graduate from a nationally accredited education program by 2013, there has been much discussion over what it means to be "nationally accredited."

Defining National Accreditation

The primary purpose of program accreditation is student and public protection. There are two generally accepted national accreditation processes for education programs in the United States: a non-governmental higher education enterprise such as the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or by the government, for example, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE).

According to the federal laws that guide the U.S. Department of Education:

- **Accrediting agency or agency means** a legal entity, or that part of a legal entity, that conducts accrediting activities through voluntary, non-Federal peer review and makes decisions concerning the accreditation or preaccreditation status of institutions, programs, or both.
- **Nationally recognized accrediting agency, nationally recognized agency, or recognized agency means** an accrediting agency that the Secretary recognizes under this part (Title 34 CFR Part 602—The Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies).

CHEA is an association of 3,000 degree-granting colleges and universities that recognizes 60 institutional and programmatic accrediting organizations: it is the embodiment of self-regulation of academic quality through accreditation. Accreditation through CHEA is a standards-based, evidence-based, judgment-based, and peer-based process. Its purpose is to ensure and strengthen academic quality and ongoing quality improvement in institutions and programs.

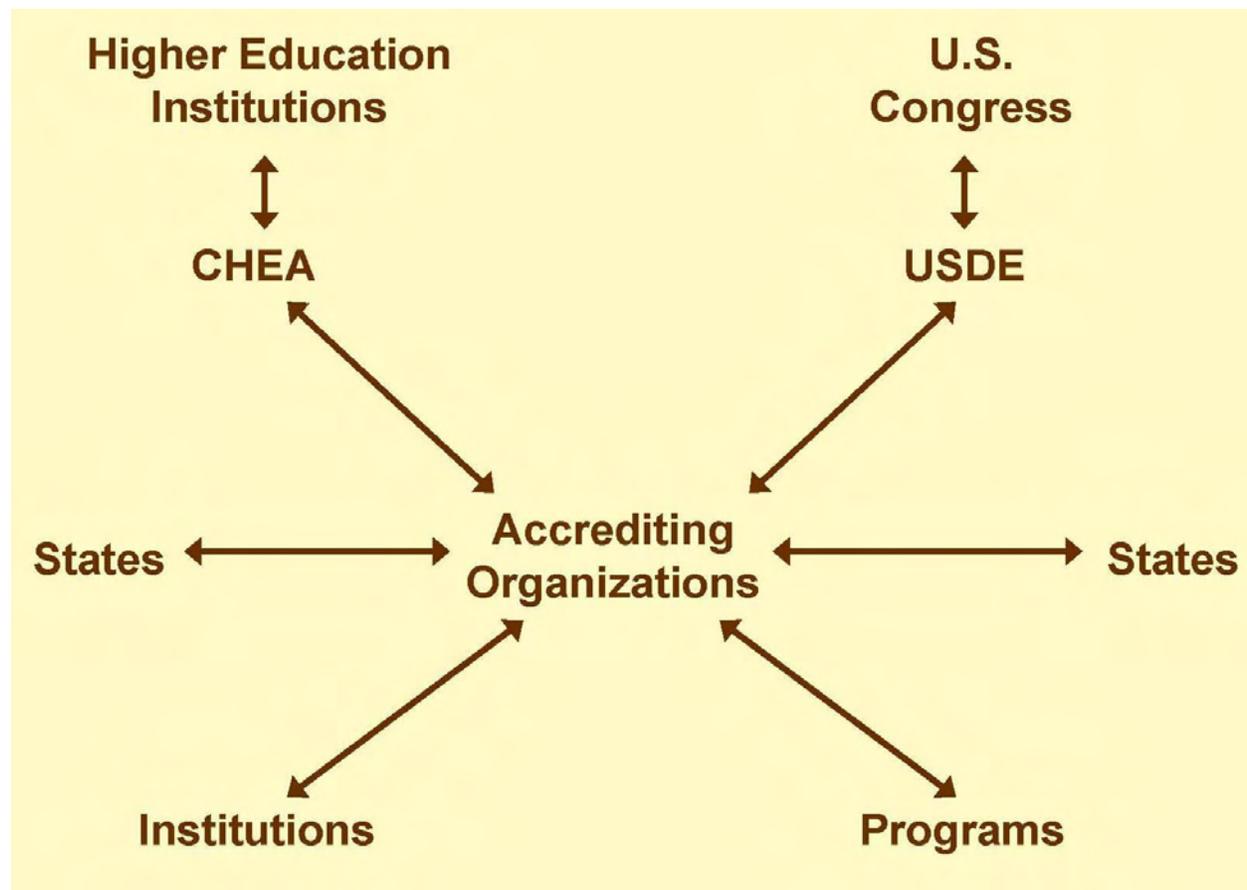
The USDE procedures and criteria for recognizing accrediting agencies are contained in Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations (available at <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>.) The U.S. Secretary of Education (Secretary) is required by statute to publish a list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies that the Secretary determines to be reliable authorities as to the quality of education or training provided by the institutions of higher education and the higher education programs they accredit. The Secretary only evaluates accrediting agencies that apply for recognition, and certain criteria for recognition that are unrelated to the quality of accrediting activities limit the scope of the Secretary's recognition activities. The Secretary recognizes accrediting agencies to ensure that these agencies are, for the purposes of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), or for other Federal purposes, reliable authorities regarding the quality of education or training offered by the institutions or programs they accredit. The procedures and criteria exist primarily to ensure the quality of institutions and programs for which the government provides federal funds and for which the government provides federal aid to students. Governmental entities (such as states) can meet "nationally recognized agency" criteria and meet Title VI funding requirements through compliance with Title 34, Part 602.

Defining National EMS Program Accreditation

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) is the largest medical accrediting agency in the US and representatives of ALL medical specialties and organizations serve on its Board. CAAHEP is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). It is a non-profit, non-governmental agency, which reviews and accredits over 2100 educational programs in twenty two allied health science occupations. The CAAHEP Board of Directors is the accrediting body of CAAHEP that awards or denies accreditation after review of accreditation recommendations made by their Committees on Accreditation. There are currently 18 Committees on Accreditation in the nation. Accreditation is granted to EMS education programs through the review and recommendation of CAAHEP's Committee on Accreditation for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). Representatives from several national EMS organizations currently serve on the CoAEMSP Board, which is responsible for writing the policies and procedures for EMS program accreditation. Together, CHEA and CAAHEP define national education program accreditation standards. NASEMSO supports this rigorous non-governmental process to ensure fair and unbiased reviews of EMS programs.

The Relationship of National Accreditation to State Government

Accreditation is private (nongovernmental) and nonprofit – an outgrowth of the higher education community but it has a complex relationship with government, especially in relation to funding higher education. It adds value to society through assuring quality, enabling government to make sound judgments about the use of public funds, aiding the private sector in decisions about financial support and easing transfer of program credit. Program accreditation does NOT replace any state's authority to license educational programs. **Licensure ensures regulatory compliance and accreditation ensures program quality.** The following graphic depicts the complex relationships among various partners involved in national accreditation:



Source: Council for Higher Education Accreditation

Defining National EMS Program Accreditation

According to a recent NASEMSO survey:

- 70% of States indicate they will require National EMS Program Accreditation by December 31, 2012.
- Another 17% of States indicate they will require National EMS Program Accreditation by 2017.
- The remaining 13% are indeterminate about a deadline.
- The number of States that have indicated that they will not require National EMS Program Accreditation sometime in the future = zero.

Rationale for EMS Community Support of the CoAEMSP

The *Education Agenda* was developed through a consensus process with input from national EMS stakeholders including national EMS organizations, and many individuals and practitioners. The following chart outlines the rationale for EMS community support for the CoAEMSP.

WHAT THE EDUCATION AGENDA SAYS	COMPLIANCE INDICATORS
A single national accreditation agency will be identified and accepted by state regulatory offices.	Currently, CoAEMSP is the <u>only</u> organization with standards and guidelines specific to EMS programs that has completed the CAAHEP process to be recognized as an accreditation agency.
This accrediting agency will have a board of directors with representation from a broad range of EMS organizations.	CoAEMSP member organizations include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) ○ American Ambulance Association (AAA) ○ American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) ○ American College of Cardiology (ACC) ○ American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) ○ American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP) ○ American College of Surgeons (ACS) ○ International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) ○ National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) ○ National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) ○ National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) ○ National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) ○ National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)
The accreditation agency will develop standards and guidelines for all levels of EMS education with broad community input. All EMS accreditation will include self-study, site visitation, and commission review, but the standards and guidelines vary according to level.	CoAEMSP Standards and Guidelines are available at www.coaemsp.org
The accreditation agency will adopt the National EMS Education Standards as the basis for evaluating the content of all EMS instruction and will develop a process for accreditation that is appropriate for each level of EMS instruction as determined by the National EMS Scope of Practice Model.	CoAEMSP Policies and Procedures are available at www.coaemsp.org .
Accreditation will be achieved by a process as close to other allied health occupations accreditation as possible, given the resources and constraints imposed by the system.	The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) is the largest medical accrediting agency in the US and representatives of ALL medical specialties and organizations serve on its Board. CAAHEP is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). It is a non-profit, non-governmental agency, which reviews and accredits over 2100 educational programs in twenty two allied health science occupations. There are currently 18 Committees on Accreditation in the nation. Accreditation is granted to EMS education programs through the review and recommendation of CAAHEP's Committee on Accreditation for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP).

Defining National EMS Program Accreditation

Summary of National EMS Program Accreditation

There are two basic types of educational accreditation, one identified as “institutional” and one referred to as “specialized” or “programmatic.” Institutional accreditation normally applies to an entire institution, indicating that each of an institution’s parts is contributing to the achievement of the institution’s objectives, although not necessarily all at the same level of quality. Specialized/programmatic accreditation normally applies to the evaluation of programs, departments, or schools which usually are parts of a total collegiate or other postsecondary institution. The unit accredited may be as large as a college or school within a university or as small as a curriculum within a discipline.

The Accrediting Procedure

Standards: The accrediting agency, in collaboration with educational institutions, establishes standards.

Self-study: The institution or program seeking accreditation prepares an in-depth self-evaluation study that measures its performance against the standards established by the accrediting agency.

On-site Evaluation: A team selected by the accrediting agency visits the institution or program to determine first-hand if the applicant meets the established standards.

Publication: Upon being satisfied that the applicant meets its standards, the accrediting agency grants accreditation or preaccreditation status and lists the institution or program in an official publication with other similarly accredited or preaccredited institutions or programs.

Monitoring: The accrediting agency monitors each accredited institution or program throughout the period of accreditation granted to verify that it continues to meet the agency's standards.

Reevaluation: The accrediting agency periodically reevaluates each institution or program that it lists to ascertain whether continuation of its accredited or preaccredited status is warranted.

Click [here](#) to review 34 CFR Part 602 regarding the Secretary’s Recognition of Accrediting Agencies.

Source: US Department of Education

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**Attachment: D to the
January 4, 2012 TCC
Minutes**

**Considerations for
Virginia EMS
Testing Revisions
Memo**

Changes To The
“Considerations For Virginia EMS Certification Testing”
As Originally Submitted And Supported By
The EMS Advisory Board During The August 2011 Committee Meeting.

1. The proposal for the Office to incur the cost of the initial National Registry (NR) examination for the BLS levels as presented was not supported by VDH due to concerns over the lack of a consistent and sustainable source of funding to cover the initial NR examination fees for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). The Office has been directed to encourage EMS agencies and personnel to identify other sources of funds to support this initiative.
2. The proposal to allow recertification to occur based upon compliance with continuing education requirements did not receive support for inclusion in the VDH legislative packet to be considered as an administrative bill. Therefore, no change in the current recertification process will occur. Recertification will continue as it is today, which requires that a provider upon completing all continuing education requirements must, prior to their current EMS certification expiration either:
 - a. Pass the current written EMS certification examination for the eligible level
or
 - b. If affiliated with a licensed EMS agency, be waived from the written examination by their affiliated agency’s operational medical director.