

**State EMS Advisory Board Meeting  
Friday, August 3, 2001  
Richmond, Virginia**

**Attendees:** Donald Barklage, Earl Carter, Scott Chandler, Chip Decker, Margaret Dolan, M.D.; John Freeman, Richard Johnson, George Langford, Joanne Lapetina, M.D., A.V. Maddra, Elizabeth Martin, Stewart Martin, M.D., Genemarie McGee, David Palmer, Linda Sayles, Robert Stout, Kent Weber, Claude Webster, Jeffrey Young, M.D.

**Absences:** Thomas Harvey; James Hurlock (excused); Michael Player (excused); Ed Snyder (excused); and Carl Wentzel, III, M.D. (excused)

**Others in Attendance:** Ruth Robertson, Carol Morrow, Karen Head, Deborah Edwards, Everette Vaughan, Ron Kendrick, Paul Fleenor, Sabrina Braithwaite, Rob Logan, Jim Chandler, Bill Meadows, Ken Clark, David Cullen, Melissa Doak, Ken Updike, Jon Donnelly, Don Wilson, Wanda Legge, Melinda Duncan, Connie Purvis, Michael Berg, Rusty Hundley, Mike Harmon, Gary Brown, Scott Winston and Irene Hamilton

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Lapetina, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes as they stand. The vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT .....** Dr. Joanne Lapetina

Since the last meeting, Dr. Lapetina reported that she wrote the Maternal and Child Health Bureau on behalf of the State EMS Advisory Board because there was a grant available that had to be submitted by August 4 for \$35,000. The EMSC report will have more information regarding this grant. The grant, was through EMSC, but it benefits trauma health systems for all Virginians, not just pediatric patients. It is a needs assessment of trauma systems for each state. Using the needs assessment the federal government can be approached for needed funds to augment our trauma capabilities.

Dr. Lapetina spoke about the Focus Group meeting that was held in July to discuss how business is done with the regional councils and boundaries and lines. There was no consensus of exactly how they should do regional council business. This issue is still being explored.

Dr. Lapetina said that they have no current thoughts as to how funding will be approached next year but they have some thoughts that they are working on.

**VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT .....Dr. Jeffrey Young**

Dr. Young has no report.

**STATE EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT..... Dr. Carol Gilbert**

Dr. Gilbert deferred to Dr. Stewart Martin since most of her report would also be reported by Dr. Martin.

**STATE EMS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Gary Brown .....Director, Office of EMS**

The Office of EMS Report is contained in the Quarterly Report to the Advisory Board. Mr. Brown made a few housekeeping announcements. The State Health Commissioner, Dr. Peterson, is being considered for an appointment in the Bush Administration with the Bureau of Global Health. Pending Senate confirmation, Dr. Peterson will be leaving the Health Department, probably within the next couple of months. There has been no decision about an Interim/Acting Commissioner at this time.

Mr. Brown recognized the three recent retirees from the Office of EMS, Anita Brennan, Neil Stallings, and Bill Meadows (who will be retiring the end of August.) Mr. Brown thanked attendees at the retirement reception held on Thursday night. Retirees received resolutions and plaques. Mr. Brown announced that Kim Owens has been hired by the Office of EMS to fill the receptionist position vacated by Anita Brennan. The Office of EMS has received approval to hire for Neil Stallings position; and they have submitted a request to fill Bill Meadows position. Also, the Program Representative Supervisor, Bill Downs, has resigned his position. There is a pending request to fill Mr. Downs position.

Mr. Brown asked any board members who don't have an assignment on a standing committee of the Advisory Board to notify him.

Mr. Brown reminded the Advisory Board members that the next Board meeting will be held November 16, 2001, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Richmond. The EMS Advisory Board agreed to not have the last meeting of the calendar year held at the Symposium. Mr. Brown announced the proposed meeting dates for the next year, and said that no decision has been made as to the meeting location for next year. The Office of EMS has received proposals from several hotels, including the Sheraton West, Embassy Suites, the Cultural Arts Center and the Hilton Garden. Currently, because of the new conference center format being adopted by the Embassy Suites it is doubtful that next year's meetings will be held there; and in all possibility the Sheraton West might be the location for the Board meetings in 2002. The dates for 2002 are: February 8; May 10; August 9; and November 15.

Don Barklage announced that VAGEMSA is leaning towards having their meetings on Friday morning, the day of the EMS Advisory Board. VAGEMSA thinks that this may

allow them to get more members to attend both their meeting and the Advisory Board meeting.

Mr. Brown announced that Symposium brochures have been mailed and that registrations are coming in at a rapid pace. Advisory Board members wanting to attend the Symposium will have their fee waived. In addition, one night of your hotel stay will be picked up by the Office of EMS. Any board member interested in attending the Symposium need, to complete a registration form.

Mr. Brown discussed the HJR 164 Training Study. In the report to the Advisory Board this study was included as Attachment A. Distribution of this study was delayed due to edits and reviews by the administration. The Office of EMS only received their copy after the May 2001 Advisory Board meeting.

Mr. Brown told the Board that they have internally appointed a work group to look at emergency medical dispatch and they did present a position paper to the EMS Advisory Board in 1999. After they have met internally and reviewed the position paper, the Office of EMS would like to have the Board reassign this subject matter. Based on factors identified in the position paper as barriers in implementation of a statewide EMD program, suggested roles and questions to be answered and in light of this OEMS position, OEMS to like to see this reassigned to an Ad Hoc Committee of the Communications Committee to address this issue and present a report back to the Advisory Board.

**MOTION: The State EMS Advisory Board agrees that the EMD Position Paper originally presented to the State EMS Advisory Board in 1999 should be reassigned to an Ad Hoc Committee of the Communications Committee to address the issues raised in the paper after the internal review by the OEMS workgroup. The Ad Hoc Committee would prepare a report and present its findings back to the Advisory Board on February 8, 2002.**

The above motion was made and properly seconded and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. Hearing no discussion the vote was taken. The motion carried unanimously, 18 Yeas; 0 Nays; 0 Abstentions.

Mr. Brown discussed EMS Management for Special Events, an issue that has been on the horizon for some time. A committee has been established to discuss this subject. The Office of EMS requests that the EMS Advisory Board appoints this as an ad hoc committee as well so that the committee can conduct its work and make a report back to the EMS Advisory Board.

**MOTION: The EMS Advisory Board recommends establishing the EMS Management for Special Events as a stand alone Ad Hoc Committee, and that Everette Vaughan chairs the committee.**

The above motion was made a properly seconded and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken. 18 – Yeas; 0 – Nays; 0 – Abstentions. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Brown also reported that the Office of EMS has made a lot of improvements to the web site, the Internet Access Project. Board members were encouraged to access the web site and see the changes. Mr. Brown reviewed some of the information accessible on the web.

- All providers can access their CE Reports on the web;
- there is an EMS provider name search available;
- EMS provider by primary EMS agency affiliation search available.
- The EMS Bulletin is available on the web;
- Two technical assistance manuals are available on the web – one on strategic planning and one on discipline and due process of the EMS agencies.
- The recent agreement with federal EMS agencies is available;
- Version 3 of the Rules and Regulations.
- There are also a couple of PowerPoint presentations regarding DDNR
- Consolidated Grants Application Packets.
- Address changes can be made on the web.
- The new ALS CE requirements information is also on the web.

The OEMS web site is one of the Health Department's more active sites.

Mr. Brown asked Everette Vaughan, OEMS staff, to give the Board a briefing on the National Boy Scouts Jamboree that took place in Fort A.P. Hill. The jamboree is held every four years. This year the jamboree started on July 21 and the ended on August 1. The Office of EMS was there at the request of the Rappahannock EMS Council to assist them in running the EMS operations during the event. The jamboree is open to the public. The EMS command post trailer was set up at the arena shows. OEMS worked closely with the Boy Scouts Health and Safety Team, NDMS, the military, and the REMS Council and the Department of Emergency Management. Everette reported that at the arena one night 120 patients were seen.

Mr. Brown discussed a bill passed by the 2001 General Assembly HJR 604. Mr. Brown received a fax message this morning in regards to this bill. Amigo Wade, Division of Legislative Services, a senior attorney is assigned to staff this joint committee. Established by the 2001 General Assembly, this eight member joint sub-committee is directed to review the regulations and guidelines governing the volunteer fire departments and EMS services. As the state's lead agency for regulating emergency medical services OEMS is a participant. The first meeting is August 23 in House Room C of the General Assembly Building. At this meeting they are asked to give an overview that the office plays in regulating volunteer EMS services with particular care to the pre-hospital patient care reporting procedures. Mr. Brown said that he plans to meet next week with OEMS office personnel to pull together what their plans will be to make a

presentation to the joint sub-committee. Delegate Landes will be chairing this particular committee that will be made up of several members of the House and the Senate.

**Scott Winston ..... Assistant Director, Office of EMS**

Scott talked about the retirements and resignation in the Office of EMS. Scott said that three of the four vacancies occur in programs that come out of his supervision and direction. There will probably be a period of time when all three positions are vacant at the same time under units that he supervises. They are moving ahead as quickly as possible to fill the positions. Neil Stallings position has been advertised and they have received 13 applications. They will be interviewing five persons for that position on August 22 in the Central Shenandoah Council office. Dave Cullen and Ken Pullen are working with regional council representatives to put together the interview panel. The hope is to fill the position by the early part of September. Scott said that they are awaiting approval from the Commissioner to fill the vacancies for Bill Meadows and Bill Downs positions. Upon approval they will promptly begin recruitment and advertisement for those positions. They intend to advertise nationally for the Training Manager position. In an effort to continue services and continued supervision, in the interim basis effective with Bill Meadows retirement September 1, Scott Winston will act as the Training Manager for OEMS; and Dave Cullen will be Acting Program Manager Supervisor until that position is filled.

The Office of EMS also has to change the provider that they are using for their email group that could be joined through their web page. LISBOT is being discontinued on August 20, and they will be going to the same provider but a different service LISTBUILDER. The only difference is that they will have to pay for the service now that they were getting for free. It does not look like there will be any interruption in service.

There is a very short reference to the statewide agency radio system in the Advisory Board report. Scott attended a meeting on August 2 of the STARS Group that is primarily being coordinated through the Virginia State Police. They have had previous references to this project in the Advisory Board reports. They were referred previously as the shared land mobile radio communication system and now it has an official name, STARS. It is a land mobile radio system that will provide not only voice but data communication in linking 19 state agencies.

An RFP has been developed using a company called CTA out of Lynchburg. That RFP was released on August 1, and it is a five volume RFP, 3200 plus pages. They are looking for a system integrator that can bring all this together and make it work. The deadline for submission of the proposal to bid to the RFP is September 28. There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on August 17 and they look to award the contract on or about January 10.

The initial phase of this project will take place in the Richmond area, comprising the Virginia State Police district that includes Richmond. After that is complete and accepted then they will expand the project to the other six Virginia state police districts. It is anticipated at this point that the Richmond district will be on line on or about July 2003. They will have a three month evaluation period of the system; and acceptance period and if they are happy and satisfied then this project will be continued and replicated in the other six districts. If they don't like it then the project stops. If you are interested in looking at the RFP you can do so by going to the web site for DIT. [www.dit.state.va.us](http://www.dit.state.va.us) Go to their section on procurement and the RFP # is 2001-035.

The Governor passed in the latter part of June an executive order, Executive Order 76, which officially creates a user-agency review committee. The primary contact is Everette Vaughan and Gary Brown and Scott Winston are alternates on the committee. The committee has the responsibility of coordinating and developing activities surrounding the implementation of this radio system, including evaluating the bid proposals and looking at the operational function issues surrounding the radio system. This is a statewide, state agency communication system and there will exist a potential to create portals for local government to access the statewide system.

Recognition of Bill Meadows-

- VAGEMSA recognized Bill Meadows and presented him with a plaque on his pending retirement.
- Dave Palmer recognized Bill Meadows on behalf Norfolk Fire and Paramedical Services, and presented Bill with a "Class Act" award.
- Dr. Lapetina read a resolution presented to Bill Meadows from the State EMS Advisory Board.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Communication Committee** .....Scott Chandler

No formal report action. Scott said that there is an EMD workshop scheduled the day before the Symposium. Flyers will be going out for that next week.

**CISM** ..... Linda Sayles

No action items. Our attendance was a little lower this year at the 2001 Virginia CISM Conference. They think lower attendance was possibly due to the fact that the previous month there was a national program in Baltimore. Their next training is scheduled May 29-June 1, 2002. Their next meeting is August 22 at the Office of EMS.

**Disaster Response Committee**

The new Mass Casualty Incident Management I & II Program has been produced. This was part of a National Highway Safety grant for 2000-2001. The instructor roll outs will start next weekend in Virginia Beach. The second roll out is scheduled in Charlottesville

and is already full. The program does get Category I continuing education. The instructor resource kit contains hard copy of Module I Participant Manual and Instructor Manual, Module II Participant and Instructor Manual. CD that comes with the package has everything, even the PowerPoint for both programs on it. It is on there so that instructors can edit it according to regional protocols. They have also revised the START and added to that the JUMPSTART video that goes with the program. They have 10 rollouts scheduled; one will also be at the Symposium. The roll outs should be completed by the end of March; and Everett has already had another request to do a roll out in March.

**MOTION: The State EMS Advisory Board agrees to change the name of the Disaster Response Committee to the EMS Emergency Management Committee.**

The above motion was made and properly seconded and the chair opened the floor for discussion. Hearing no discussion, the vote was taken. 18 – Yeas; 0 – Nays; 0 – Abstentions. The motion carried unanimously.

**EMSC** ..... Dr. Margaret Dolan

EMSC recognized Bill Meadows for the support that he has given to the pediatric training in Virginia, particularly through the Symposium. They have no action items.

Information items: They end their second year of the implementation grant on August 31 and go into partnership grant phase, which means at the monetary level they change from \$250,000 to \$100,000 per year and that has a lot of implications for them. They have been working hard to acquire additional funding. They got almost \$5,000 from Children’s Miracle Network to supply five tapes to each of the 11 regions. They have applied again for DMV funding to continue the training, injury prevention and data work that they have been doing. If they are funded it will include \$5,000 for each region for assistance development. It will be a way of continuing what they have done at the implementation grant; just using DMV funds to do it.

They have also submitted the application for the EMS for Children Trauma Supplement Funds. There is federal money available to do needs assessment of the trauma system. The Feds needed a vehicle that could get the money out quickly before the end of 2001. Because the EMSC is in all 50 states, they decided to put the money through the EMS for Children program. The EMS for Children program is applying with the Office of EMS. It is for \$35,000. It is to do a statewide needs assessment of the trauma system, all ages. They will do this with two statewide meetings, one in October and one in November and at this time they will do a needs assessment and complete a report that will go to the Feds. Any money left over from the supplemental funds will go to each of the regions to address priority needs decided by the stakeholders at those meetings.

The implementation grant ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August they are not allowed to have any carryover of funds into partnership. EMSC is not of the money for systems development has to be spent by August 31. So far only Thomas Jefferson and Blue Ridge have spent

all of their money. The regions need to either spend their money or give it back. Rescue Squad Assistance Fund for last year have paid for a total of six PEPP Courses. Tidewater, Southwest, Central Shenandoah have all completed courses. ODEMSA is hosting one before December 31 and two will be sponsored by EMSC at the Symposium. They are still trying to do a survey of OMDs about knowledge, skills and attitudes about EMS for Children. Bill has agreed to distribute the OMD Pediatric Survey at the meeting of the Medical Direction Committee this month; and hopefully they will get that survey, get it defined and distributed statewide to OMDs.

*ARRIVE ALIVE* video - Dr. Levick who has spoken the past two years at the EMS Symposium crashes ambulances and sees what happens to the patients and providers inside. There are very dramatic results showing significant injuries and deaths. Dr. Levick was featured on the Discovery Channel; they got a copy of the video and sent one to each region. They are trying to get some funding to copy the video again and send it to each of the EMS agencies.

**Evaluation Committee** .....Dave Cullen

PPCR/PPDR is going well. They now have a program that is very dedicated. They met with VAGEMSA yesterday and got immediate results to have some users come to the Office of EMS and spent approximately an hour with the programmer. Probably within a month they will be able to collect a significant amount of data. PPCR and reporting, the letters are going out this week, each agency will receive a password. Question was asked about a technician or medical director run review indication box, check box on the Patient Care Report. They are now in the “N” series. They are still accepting the red “M” series but they are now in the red “N” series and therefore there is an updated PPCR form coming to you when you request resupply. A lot of agencies already have them. Dave said that they plan on updating the form at least annually. Dr. Gilbert suggested OEMS finds out the implications of a box that is marked QA. Sometimes if you say this case was reviewed in QA it has odd implications for what is discoverable later. Dave said they are open to putting it back on the form in the future.

**F.A.R.C.** ..... Kent Weber

At the May meeting, a total of \$1, 897,098.85 was awarded and it was broken down into the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund of \$1.5 (plus) million; EMS Management 24K; ALS Training Funds \$350K; for the total amount.

The next meeting is August 22 at 11 a.m. at the Office of EMS.

**MOTION: Nominate on behalf of the Tidewater EMS Council, Robert W. “Rusty” Hundley to serve as a member of the Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC) for the prescribed term.**



The following motion was made and properly seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion. A brief bio Mr. Hundley was given. Hearing no other discussion, the vote was taken. 18 – Yeas; 0 – Nays; 0 – Abstentions. The motion carried unanimously.

**Human Resources and Training .....Dr. Lapetina**

They have not met since their last meeting. Their next meeting is August 15 at the Office of EMS. The report of Education and Training is in the Quarterly Report.

**Medevac .....Genemarie McGee**

The committee met August 1 at the Office of EMS. No action items; some informational items. Med Flight III will become operational on September 1, 2001. There has been quite a bit of discussion about MCV and their rooftop helipad. The local FAA agent has made some interpretation, they actually turned away an INOVA's aircraft with a patient on board. They are having some interpretations about whether a 412 can land on that helipad or not. They were not previously notified of that. There is also some discussion of his interpretation of whether every pilot has to land on that helipad first before he will allow them to come in.

They are seeking clarification on that. They spent most of their time meeting, they were outlining a statewide Medevac educational guideline that will serve as a template for the State EMS Office when they come and do inspections and particularly for any new carriers. They are continuing to work with the State EMS Office to get a compromise for the required vehicle equipment for Medevac services. Their next meeting will be October 17 at 10:30 at the Office of EMS.

**Medical Direction Committee..... Dr. Stewart Martin**

The Medical Direction Committee will be meeting August 14 at the Office of EMS. One issue that they will be taking up again is the issue of intubations for medics in training, CTs or new Intermediate and Paramedics. It is becoming a larger issue. Anyone particularly interested in that issue is invited to attend the meeting. They will be discussing this and trying to come up with some solutions. This is actually a national problem.

**Public Information and Education..... Ruth Robertson**

No action items. The committee is continuing to work on a Success Story Video for Recruitment and Retention. They will still accept ideas of successful R&R projects from any of the agencies. Three committee members will do workshops at the Symposium. Bob Ryalls will do one on the Durable Do Not Resuscitate Program; Doug Young and Lou Hatter will do a workshop on Working With the News Media.

**Regulation and Policy** ..... Claude Webster

They have met since the last meeting and discussed several issues. One issue is the development of a policy guide so that it can be used in the field to interpret the new regulations should they be approved. Dave Cullen attended the Board of Health meeting this morning to answer questions about the Rules and Regulations. Mr. Webster asked Dave Cullen to report on the Board of Health meeting. Mr. Cullen presented the regulations that the Commissioner had already approved. The Board was officially adopting her decision. It passed without any comments relating to the regulations.

Dave Cullen pointed out that the communications issue is a sticking point, and when that was presented Board of Health member, Ms. Cody, thought that bypass or diversion was part of the communications problem. Dave assured Ms. Cody that he would let the Advisory Board know her concern. Everything else was very positive.

The question was asked if there is a particular committee tasked with the diversion problem at this time. Dr. Lapetina said that she has discussed this several times. Diversion is considered a regional issue rather than a statewide issue. Dr. Lapetina feels that it is probably an inter-regional issue and is probably something they need to look at as a state.

Jon Donnelly, ODEMSA, explained two things. One, what Dr. Lapetina described. That is in terms of regions, the regions are putting together some type of regional response. That is a topic subject of the EMS Symposium this year. The second issue is what happens when we have specific diversions. They have taken their diversion and task force and is trying to come up with a prehospital response to the psychiatric diversion issue because it has caused them to have a problem with having to transport patients outside of the region. What that does is reduces the number of ambulances they have available within the region but it also puts a burden on the other hospitals that are outside of the region. The task force is looking into the local issue. The larger issue is that this not only affects the Richmond area but the entire state of Virginia. Therefore, the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association has called a meeting on August 16 to look at this problem to try and figure out from the statewide approach how to enhance the number of psychiatric beds that are available.

Gary Brown reported that he was in a meeting with the new Secretary of Health and Human Resources, Dr. Rossiter. Gary briefed him on what is taking place in the terms of Capitol Medical Center closing; and Gary has been briefing the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner on this issue. They have asked that something is done at the state level above the Office of EMS. Gary pointed out that it is a bigger health care issue.

**Transportation** ..... George Langford

Several meetings ago the Transportation Committee was tasked with the duty to come up with a proposed list for light duty rescue trucks and they have correlated a package and they would like approval of this Board to say that this is the minimal amount of

equipment that should be on a light duty crash truck. Mr. Langford distributed the list for Board members to review.

**MOTION: The list developed by the Transportation Committee be accepted as the minimal amount of equipment that should be on a light duty crash truck.**

The above motion was made and properly seconded and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. The question was asked how this related to other standards. After thorough discussion, Mr. Langford suggested that they table the motion until the next meeting and give the board members more time to review the list.

**MOTION: The EMS Advisory Board agree to table the proposed equipment list submitted by the Transportation Committee until the members have reviewed the list.**

The motion was made and properly seconded to table the first motion until the committee could review the list. Mr. Brown asked that Mr. Langford send them an electronic copy of the list so that it can be distributed to the Board members. Dr. Martin also asked that he get a copy of the list for review by the Medical Direction Committee.

A few meetings ago, Mike Player asked that the Transportation Committee look into the safety of highway workers and working incidents. The Transportation Committee has developed some guidelines for the safety of EMS workers at scenes. This proposal today is very similar to a plan that has been accepted by several fire associations. Mr. Langford suggested that because of the length of the report, they would suggest that the committee take some time to review the report.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be September 27 at 3 p.m. in conjunction with the VAVRS Convention. The Transportation Committee also announced that the F.A.R.C. asked them to come up with some guidelines to let them know when to and when not to replace ambulances and the Transportation Committee recommend that those decisions should be made at the lowest possible level. Whoever is operating that unit should make that decision. The Transportation Committee recommends to the F.A.R.C. that maybe they need some more elaborate questioning on the application.

**Trauma System Oversight and Management Committee ..... Dr. Young**

There were two trauma site reviews in May and there are set up to be three verification reviews and one designation review in the fall. There are not action items. Dr. Dolan described the EMSC Grant initiative that the committee will cooperate with. The staff is working on an extension of Poison Control funding for coming years.

**Regional Councils ..... Jim Chandler**

No action items. There is a new Executive Director for the Peninsulas EMS Council, Don Wilson. Don has a background in hospital administration. He retired as an executive in a hospital for the Navy. He brings a lot of valuable experience to his region as well as to the Regional Directors group. They had a meeting yesterday and spent a good part of the meeting discussing as a follow up of the meeting several weeks ago to look at the regional boundaries and the number of regions. Jim said that he has provided some recommendations to Gary Brown. Jim reported that the summary in the OEMS Quarterly Report indicated consensus. They agree to disagree that there was not consensus. They feel that the summary report is a little misleading in that regard.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Nominations Committee.....Dr. Jeffrey Young**

The Nominations Committee met. They put forth Dr. Lapetina to continue as chair and Dr. Young to continue as Vice Chair. The committee chairs that they contacted agreed to stay on and the chairs that they did not contact also agree to stay on. They leave it up to Dr. Laeptina to choose a chair for the Evaluation Committee.

**MOTION: The EMS Advisory Board agree to accept the nominations of the Nominations Committee.**

The vote was taken. 18 – Yeas; 0 – Nays; 0 – Abstentions. The motion carried unanimously.

**Proposed Rules and Regulations**

Don Barklage made the following motion.

**MOTION: The EMS Advisory Board support and endorse the draft proposal pertaining to the communications section of the proposed Rules and Regulations submitted at the May 11, 2001 Advisory Board meeting for review and consideration by Scott Chandler.**

The motion was seconded and the floor was opened for discussion.

Don Barklage made comments based on the Northern Virginia EMS Council and the VAGEMSA organization. Through the multitude of revisions and review of the proposed EMS regulations, VAGEMSA is very appreciative and thankful to staff in

putting together these regulations. They are also pleased to be a participated member in the process. At the meeting yesterday, with the exception of the communications portion of the regulations as they are currently under Version 3, they stand in full support of that entire package of EMS regulations as they are proposed.

VAGEMSA's concern with the communications section is recognizing that the intent is to ensure interagency operability throughout the state during any event of any magnitude as they are currently drafted requiring one of three possible frequencies, where as Agency A might select one frequency; Agency B might select another frequency, and likewise, it still doesn't meet the intent of ensuring interagency operability. As a number of the urban systems is migrating to 800 megahertz radio systems, the requirement to have that radio frequency in the EMS vehicles would require an expenditure of large sums of money in addition to the millions of dollars that is being spent on 800 megahertz radio systems as they are.

Mr. Barklage referred back to the last Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Barklage indicated that the proposal recommended by Scott Chandler was more of a performance based regulation. It would allow and ensure interagency operability and require that any agency that is a licensed EMS agency have the ability to communicate with any and all units that they must have a mutual aid contract with. Mr. Barklage pointed out that if they put that into regulations now that as the communications ability develops over the years and if there is a single frequency that all agencies can tap into without requiring a substantial amount of money and purchase an expenditure of new radios then they could address it at that point. But the performance based draft that Scott Chandler had proposed ensured that on the 99.9% times that they perform emergencies day in and day out that they can communicate within their system, they can communicate within their region and any other jurisdictions that they have mutual aid contracts with.

Mr. Webster said he attended all of the public hearings that was held by the Office of EMS. The common denominator through all of the hearings was the issue regarding communications. Mr. Webster said therefore he thinks it would be very remiss if they don't address this issue and get it resolved. Mr. Webster pointed out that they have done a good job of addressing all of the other issues that have been brought before the committee in regard to the regulations. This was the one issue that was the common denominator due to the expense and the logistics. Mr. Webster, therefore, feels that it would be better to support Mr. Chandler's recommendation; and he endorses Mr. Barklage's motion. Mr. Webster said that even though the STAR program is on the horizon it is at least two years off. Mr. Webster pointed out that if they accept and adopt a regulation that cannot be enforced and that they know that people will not adhere to; and if they issue variances to the regulation from the beginning, then that is not a good sign or policy for the Board or the Office of EMS to adopt. Mr. Webster, therefore, recommends that they follow what Mr. Barklage recommends.

After more discussion the Chair called for a vote on the motion. **The vote was taken. 18 – Yeas; 0 – Nays; 0 – Abstentions. The motion carried unanimously.**

David Palmer made the following motion.

**MOTION: The Governor’s EMS Advisory Board approve the Version 3 revision of the proposed Rules and Regulations governing EMS in Virginia with the understanding that the yet to be written Policy and Compliance manual will provide reasonable flexibility, interpretation and enforcement.**

The motion was seconded and the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

The question was asked if the Board would be approving something that is not quite resolved, in as far as the communications issue isn’t totally resolved. The question was asked when they will finish getting all the comments from Version 3. The Chair said that there is a 60 day Public Comment period but it has not started yet. So the question was asked when it would be appropriate to approve or endorse Version 3. The Chair said probably before that period. Dave Cullen said that the 60-day comment period will start the day that it is published in the Register. So that should take place before the next meeting of the Advisory Board. Dr. Gilbert pointed out that there are still some issues from some of the committees that have not been addressed. Dr. Gilbert said that this should be considered before the Board putting their stamp of approval on the Rules and Regulations.

Based on the discussion, Mr. Palmer agreed to withdraw the motion at this time.

The question was asked if the EMS Advisory Board would ever have the opportunity to endorse the Rules and Regulations prior to the Department of Health Public Hearing. At that point, that the Department of Health/OEMS staff will taken any comments received during that period and formulate them into the final version of the regulations. Therefore, it was asked if it would ever come back before this Board for any expectation of endorsement.

Gary Brown said they have an obligation as a state agency and staff to listen to the motions and recommendations of this Board. The Office of EMS will, even though they are not in the official 60-day public comment period, are still in a fact-finding endeavor. They are receiving comments that have led up to the process where they are now. Gary said that he would reconvene the staff internally to listen to those comments and to objectively look at the comments because they also have an obligation to the Board of Health to relay to the Board of Health the comments they have received.

Mr. Brown explained that the Board of Health today approved the Rules and Regulations, Version 3, which was approved by the Commissioner. This approval just pushes the Rules and Regulations into the next phase, the Public Comment period. During this process, as the State EMS Advisory Board, the Board should reconvene the Board for a special call meeting, if necessary, to advise the Board of Health that the EMS Advisory Board has endorsed the final version of the Rules and Regulations.

Scott Winston advised the Board members that there is a Regulatory Town Hall that can be accessed on the web site, where you can identify the particular agency you wish to track, and anytime there is action relative to a proposed regulation, you will receive an email notifying you that there has been a change to the regulation. The web address is [www.townhall.state.va.us](http://www.townhall.state.va.us) .

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY KENT WEBER**

Jon Donnelly asked the Board to recognize Kent Weber on celebrating his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday.

George Langford said that in his business meeting the question was asked if there is any current programs or ideas going through the General Assembly to provide any tax relief for the volunteers. Dr. Lapetina said that there is none that she is aware of at this time. Buck Maddra asked if there isn't some local tax relief such as county tags and personal property tax levied against vehicles. It was pointed out that there is a lot of local initiatives for relief to volunteers. Buck Maddra pointed out that having tax initiatives might help with the retention problem around the state. Gary Brown said that there might be some initiatives coming up in the coming session of the General Assembly. Gary said that perhaps the Advisory Board should restart a Legislative Committee to look at legislation that would benefit EMS.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Hearing no more business the motion was made and properly seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene M. Hamilton