

**Communications Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
Richmond Marriott Short Pump
4240 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23059
February 3, 2017
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests:
Gary Critzer, Chair	Richard Rubino (Excused)	Ken Crumpler	
John Korman, APCO	Derrick Ruble (Excused)	Wanda Street	
Mike Keefe, VDEM		Amanda Davis	
Melissa Wood, Member-at-Large (Training)			
Lewis Cassada, VITA			
Hershel Kreis, NENA			
Tracey McLaurin, LFEMS			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order & Introductions:	The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:00 a.m.	
Approval of the minutes dated November 9, 2016:	A motion was made to approve the November 9, 2016 minutes. The motion was moved by Mike and seconded by Melissa. The minutes were approved as submitted.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
Committee Chair Report (Mr. Gary Critzer):	<p>The Rules and Regulations Committee rejected the first draft of the communications sections of the regulations and stated that they were too complex. They suggested that we rewrite them and submit again. With Richard Rubino's assistance, another draft has been created. This draft was submitted to the Rules and Regulations Committee and was accepted.</p> <p>Gary Critzer also discussed the revision of the DCJS standards of communications officers and the requirements for continuing education. Was the Office of EMS contacted about EMD input? Ken replied that he was contacted informally and spoke with Jeff Flournoy of Eastern Shore 911 who is heading the APCO ProChart Committee. The conversations were informal but nothing has changed as far as he knows.</p>	
OEMS Communications Coordinators Report (Ken Crumpler):	<p>Large Scale Emergency Communications Response Plan</p> <p>The Telecommunications Emergency Response Team requirements for Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center were distributed to everyone. The reason Ken shared this is because there was discussion at the Office about the need or potential need for communications support for large scale emergency responses. We have discussed the possibility of relying on the APCO/NENA TERT Team, but discovered that the TERT Team has been dissolved. This left us with three other options. The first option is the regional HMERT Teams (Health and Medical Emergency Response Teams). We thought about incorporating a requirement to add a dedicated</p>	

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	<p>communications person to each team. The second option was to establish a partnership with Virginia Communications Cache. And the third option was to establish our own Virginia EMS TERT Team. Each of the three options has both positives and negatives. Ken discussed the positives and negatives of each. He asked the committee members to look at the qualifications on page two beginning with Knowledge, Skills and Abilities and provide feedback. Gary Critzer said he has seen information on the COML training for working with the Virginia Communications Cache to develop strategically located teams throughout the Commonwealth. He is not sure where they are in this process, but it would seem counterproductive to duplicate this process. Mike Keefe stated that they have radio operators (RADOS) and they have not set up communications infrastructure at a PSAP level. Gary stated that he likes the idea of a communications officer who is familiar with all disciplines-fire, EMS, law enforcement. After all the comments, it was the consensus of the committee that the Office of EMS should pursue a better working relationship with Virginia Communications Cache to make sure that communications needs are met. Per Gary, Ken or a member of this committee should attend those meetings in coordination with the SIEC and VDEM. A member of DCJS should be there also. We need to do what we can to avoid duplication. A single point of communication is what we need.</p> <p>Gary Critzer also mentioned that a RADO class would be excellent as a 1-Day class at symposium. Ken will look into getting this in.</p> <p>The Virginia Chapter of APCO/NENA Winter Conference is February 16 and Ken will be attending and will be doing an abbreviated presentation on the role of the PSAP. This will be at Chesterfield Public Safety Training Center.</p> <p>On February 15, Ken will attend an EMD meeting at Hopewell 911 Center with Jeff Flournoy. Prince George County has recently implemented EMD and so have Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Colonial Heights. Petersburg has not yet.</p> <p>Gary asked Ken if he has a comprehensive list of the PSAPs that do not do EMD. Ken stated that he does. He will send it out to the committee. Gary encouraged the committee to reach out to those areas through your travels and associations/organizations. Explain the importance of EMD and that we have an opportunity to assist them operationally and financially. Amanda stated that grant funding is still available at 100%. Gary asked the committee to think about this as a project or initiative called EMD Virginia, Project EMD or something to that effect. Ken has partnered with APCO and Jeff to push EMD. Gary wants to make an effort to add three new agencies a year until we are at 100% in Virginia. The committee will discuss this further at the next couple of committee meetings. John and Hershel both agreed that this will be a great initiative.</p>	<p>Ken will look into getting a RADO class in at symposium.</p> <p>Ken will send the non-EMD PSAP list out to the committee.</p>
New Business:	Mike Keefe stated that VDEM is in the initial phase of planning a statewide communications drill in the event of a mass casualty and destruction incident. The drill will focus on how they would	

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	<p>communicate with local emergency managers, request assistance and if there are enough resources to support the State.</p> <p>The Town Hall meetings have started and the first one was held at this Marriott last night on the future of EMT-I in Virginia. The next Town Hall meeting will be at the Virginia Fire and Rescue Conference in Virginia Beach the end of this month. All of the dates are listed on the OEMS website. The ability to submit electronic comments will also be on the website. There are two dates that have been secured in the Central Shenandoah and the Lord Fairfax regions. There is no plan or intent to take the EMT-I away as long as the provider maintains it. If the registry stops the assessment test and Virginia determines it will not develop one, the provider would be done at that point. But if a provider is a National Registry I, as of March 31, 2019, the National Registry will no longer issue an I card, they will get an A card. For those that want to transition to Paramedic the Office of EMS is working on developing a scholarship or tuition assistance program.</p> <p>Mike Keefe looked online and said there will be a DCJS Regulation Forum held on March 23, 2017 at the General Assembly building in Richmond (Committee on Training).</p>	
Unfinished Business:	<p>First Net Update – Mike Keefe The STARS program will be transitioning off of the portable radio frequencies (800 Mhz). State Police and STARS are in the process of gathering DVRS’ to have them reprogrammed in Canada. They are going to replace some hardware in them and put them back in the vehicles. Virginia is holding up First Net roll out in many of our border states, specifically Maryland and North Carolina which are both ready to move forward. Virginia has to opt-in or opt-out within 90 days of receiving the proposal.</p> <p>Update to C.O.V. EMS Rules and Regulations regarding Communications This was discussed in the chair report. A copy of the draft communications regulations was distributed to everyone present. Under number 9, 155.340 MHz is not listed. Remove 155.400 MHz (Tidewater HEAR) and replace with 155.340 MHz. The committee agreed to accept this document with the changes stated.</p>	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:56 a.m.</p> <p>2017 Meeting Schedule:) May 5, 2017 (Richmond Marriott Short Pump, 4240 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA) August 4, 2017 (Richmond Marriott Short Pump) November 9, 2017 (Norfolk Waterside Marriott)</p>	