

**Communications Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway
Richmond, VA 23294
May 3, 2019
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests:
John Korman , Chair	Derrick Ruble, Tazewell County 911	Rich Troshak	Steve
Richard Rubino , Member-at-Large (Legal)	Mike Keefe-Thomas, VDEM (Excused)	Sam Burnette	
Hershel Kreis , NENA	Tracey McLaurin, LFEMS Reg. Council		
Gary Tanner , VACO			
Lewis Cassada , VITA			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to Order:	The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by the chair, John Korman.	
II. Committee Chair Report (John Korman):	<p>Review/Approval of February 8, 2018 meeting minutes.</p> <p>A motion was made by John Korman to approve the minutes. John Korman pointed out that there was a typo on page 6 after the first paragraph. The 0 should be deleted. The motion was seconded by Gary Tanner. All committee members were in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Mr. Korman reported that at the last meeting, the committee discussed holding the meeting at the Fall Virginia APCO/NENA Conference which is October 22 – 25 and rotating it at symposium every other year. Is this something that the committee would still like to do? The committee agreed that they would like to hold the meeting in Roanoke in lieu of the November meeting in Norfolk. It was also suggested to hold the meeting at the Fall Conference in Roanoke one year and the next year hold it at the Spring Conference in Virginia Beach. That way we would have maximum coverage for those that attend the conferences. Sam pointed out that some of the committee members still have the obligation to attend the EMS Advisory Board so they need to work out those logistics.</p> <p>Rich stated that we should go ahead and set up the October meeting for now and see how it goes. He stated that the best day to hold the meeting would be the Tuesday, October 22. Rich will look</p>	The minutes were approved as submitted with one correction.

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	<p>at the availability of both Tuesday and Wednesday to see which would be the better option for the Communications Meeting.</p> <p>Richard Rubino made a motion to explore moving the Spring meeting to Virginia Beach and the Fall meeting to Roanoke this year at the APCO/NENA Conferences and to consider, in future years, moving both the Spring meeting to VA Beach and the Fall meeting to Roanoke on alternating years. The motion was seconded by Gary Tanner and all attending committee members were in favor of the motion.</p> <p>John Korman stated that the committee members received an email from Sam Burnette, which included the redesigned EMD Accreditation certificate. He really likes it. He thanked Sam for the time, energy and effort to redesign it.</p> <p>A motion was made by Richard Rubino to accept and approve the redesigned EMD Accreditation Certificate. The motion was seconded by Hershel Kreis. All attending committee members were in favor of the motion.</p> <p>John stated that he appreciates Mike Keefe-Thomas volunteering at the February meeting to assist in the development of training objectives for Fire/EMS dispatch. As discussed, the Department of Criminal Justice has state training objectives for law enforcement, but there is none for Fire/EMS. There has been no movement on this yet. I liked what Hershel stated at the last meeting, perhaps a title of Recommended Practices for Fire/EMS. Is this something that we can discuss further at the August meeting and start on a story board/white board? Sam reached out to the Department of Fire Programs and they were on board with this project.</p> <p>Sam and Rich sent an email last month regarding the State’s Strategic and Operational Plan. This plan is to be revised every three years. The Communications Committee strategy initiative 3.3 should have been reviewed. Is there any feedback related to this? No one had any feedback.</p> <p>Per Rich, this was an informational item, but we wanted the committee to have an opportunity to review that section of the Plan and provide feedback. The committee started to discuss the EMD Accreditation program. Rich will go into more depth during his presentation. The State EMS Plan presentation was shown at this point in the meeting instead of under New Business. Rich went over the EMD language in the Plan and the positive aspects of the program. He also had a map showing the areas of EMD implementation. The committee further discussed mandating the EMD program, rural dispatch, and the possibility of having a question/answer sheet and a white paper to dispel objections and concerns.</p>	

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	<p>Rich also pointed out that more recognition should be done on the EMD “saves”. This will help to reinforce EMD. Rich proposed getting a Resolution from the General Assembly strongly encouraging localities to get EMD because it is important for the citizens and their safety.</p> <p>Rich also presented the benchmarking of other commonwealth states. EMD is mandatory for all PSAPs in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. EMD is not mandatory in Kentucky.</p> <p>Richard Rubino asked if is worth looking at Pennsylvania to see what they have done for ideas to get EMD mandatory. Rich can look into it and provide information at the next meeting.</p> <p>Rich then presented the barriers to implementation.</p> <p>Gary Tanner made a motion to support the creation of a special grant for new EMD requests. The motion was seconded by Hershel Kreis. All committee members were in favor of the motion.</p> <p>The committee also discussed whether or not to submit legislature to mandate or require EMD across the state of Virginia. Some committee members do not want to use the words “mandate” or “require”. Hershel stated that we could recommend a goal of EMD implementation in 100 percent of all PSAPs in Virginia.</p> <p>Hershel Kreis made a motion that we recommend legislation that will set as a goal of the implementation of EMD across the Commonwealth within the next five years. Gary Tanner seconded the motion. All committee members were in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Rich stated that the best way to accomplish this, for the grant requests, is to do a presentation for the Grant Committee.</p> <p>The last item that John has for is report is the 911 SAVES (Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services) Act. The Bureau of Labor & Statistics categorizes 911 professionals as clerical workers. This essentially does not give dispatchers credit for lifesaving acts, advance skills sets and the trauma and stress that is endured. NENA, the National Emergency Number Association, has developed a link that allows individuals to send an email to local politicians. This Act was developed for reclassification of dispatchers and 911 personnel.</p>	
<p>III. OEMS Report (Rich Troshak):</p>	<p>OEMS Office Construction Update Most of the office renovation is complete meaning all the painting and carpeting is done. We are essentially waiting on furniture/cubicles to be delivered and put together.</p> <p>RSAF Grants: 9 agencies submitted communications grants this cycle</p>	

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	<p>Interoperability updates: SCIP plan update, FirstNet initiative, COMLINC upgrades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich, Sam and a few other OEMS staff attended a two-day workshop of the SCIP Plan and it was very productive. • Rich and Sam attended a FirstNet presentation at VSP. Rich was also invited to a FirstNet workshop in Fairfax. • There are upcoming opportunities for COMLINC equipment upgrade funding as well as sustainment and training funding. State Police will be hiring additional technicians for COMLINC. 	
<p>IV. Committee Member Reports:</p>	<p>Virginia APCO – John Korman No report.</p> <p>Virginia NENA – Hershel Kreis Hershel reported that the APCO/NENA conference is next week. James City is now using RapidSOS and is quite pleased with it. It is very promising. This is free for PSAPs that use the RapidLite Emergency Interface. It also is tied in with Uber and MedicAlert.</p> <p>Regional EMS Directors Representative – Tracey McLaurin Not present.</p> <p>State Interoperability Executive Committee – Derrick Ruble Not present.</p> <p>Virginia Association of Counties – Gary Tanner The Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Jeremy Bennett, will be at the Advisory Board meeting and will be attending future Communications Committee Meetings.</p> <p>Virginia Municipal League – (Vacant)</p> <p>VDEM – Mike Keefe-Thomas Not present.</p> <p>VITA/PSC – Lewis Cassada In relation to the discussion earlier about EMD, Lewis mentioned the Text to 911 Legislation that is in the <i>Code of Virginia §56-484.16, b.</i> that reads: “On or before July 1, 2020, each PSAP in the Commonwealth shall deploy equipment, products, and services necessary or appropriate to enable the PSAP to receive and process calls for emergency assistance sent via Short Message Service (SMS) text messages in a manner consistent with FCC Order 14-118 and any other FCC order that affects the deployment of SMS text-to-9-1-1”. Upon such deployment, the PSAP shall notify the FCC’s PSAP Text-to-911 Readiness and Certification Registry.” This is mandating texts to 911. VITA is in support of this.</p>	

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	<p>Member-at-Large – Richard Rubino FCC is still enforcing tower stations that are not being properly operated. Please be sure that the operations and the licenses match. Richard anticipates that fines will be issued.</p> <p>The FCC has set forth a proposal that would reduce emergency response times and ultimately save lives by enabling 911 call centers and first responders to more accurately identify the floor level for most wireless 911 calls made from multi-story buildings. In an emergency, the ability to locate wireless 911 callers quickly and accurately is of critical importance to first responders and those they are seeking to help. This proposes to specify a vertical location accuracy metric (z-axis) of plus or minus 3 meters for 80% of indoor wireless E911 calls.</p> <p>The FCC has granted some rural waivers for public use of interoperability. One was in Tennessee involving an electric cooperative allowing them to use the statewide 800mhz system in Tennessee to be interoperable during emergencies. A volunteer fire company in Pennsylvania has also received a waiver to increase their antenna height.</p>	
V. New Business:	<p>State EMS Plan Update This was a part of Rich’s presentation under the Committee Chair Report. They will be separating Accreditation and EMD in section 3.3.2 of the plan.</p> <p>EMD Program Review This was a part of Rich’s presentation under the Committee Chair Report.</p>	
VI. Unfinished Business:	<p>EMD Accreditation Review/Update Sam stated that the steps in the EMD accreditation process is being reviewed and may possibly be revised. He wants to make it well documented and wants consistency. Rich is validating the process.</p> <p>Fire/EMS Emergency Communications Training Standards Discussed under the Committee Chair report.</p> <p>Confirm November location, date, and time Discussed, but has not confirmed whether the Fall meeting will be in Roanoke instead of Norfolk.</p>	Rich is reviewing and validating the EMD Accreditation process.
VII. Public Comment:	None.	
VIII. Adjournment:	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:59 a.m.</p> <p>The next meeting is August 2, 2019 – Embassy Suites Hotel</p>	