

**Communications Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of EMS
Richmond Marriott Short Pump
4240 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23059
August 4, 2017
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests:
Gary Critzer, Chair	Mike Keefe, VDEM	Ken Crumpler	Chris Vernovai
John Korman, APCO		Wanda Street	Bruce Edwards
Derrick Ruble, Tazewell County 911		Amanda Davis	
Lewis Cassada, VITA		Samuel Burnette	
Hershel Kreis, NENA			
Richard Rubino, Member-at-Large (Legal)			
Tracey McLaurin, LFEMS Reg. Council			
Melissa Wood, Fredericksburg PD			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order & Introductions:	The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:02 a.m.	
Approval of the minutes dated May 5, 2017:	A motion was made to approve the May 5, 2017 minutes. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
Committee Chair Report (Mr. Gary Critzer):	<p>Mr. Critzer stated that he does not have a lot to report, but he has had an opportunity to attend one of the HB1728 Workgroup Meetings, in which Derrick is attending. Ed Rhodes, who is leading the Regulations sub-committee of the workgroup approached Mr. Critzer about adding a seat to the State Medevac Committee for a communications representative as appointed from this committee or the communications community. Mr. Critzer complied and today we need to appoint someone to serve on the State Medevac Committee. He asked for volunteers and Melissa Wood agreed to serve on the medevac committee. He thanked Melissa for volunteering.</p> <p>Mr. Critzer also mentioned that with his recent appointment to the State Board of Health, he will not be able to chair this committee. It is time to think about someone else to chair this committee. John Korman has volunteered and Gary will had his name to the nominating committee.</p>	
OEMS Communications Coordinators Report (Ken Crumpler):	<p>Ken reported that he and Sam went to Powhatan County for their EMD Accreditation presentation on June 26. They also accompanied the APCO Pro-CHRT Committee in New Kent County to do an EMD presentation on June 30.</p> <p>Ken stated that the initial agenda included Prince George County 911 under the PSAP Accreditation; however, they have not fully implemented yet. They are unable to get their Power Phone software to</p>	

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	<p>communicate with their CAD system. Once this situation has been rectified they will be able to fully implement EMD.</p> <p>Gary asked Ken how the new reaccreditation process was going. Ken stated that it is going well.</p> <p>APCO Pro-CHRT Committee – Derrick Ruble Derrick reported that APCO has reached out to New Kent, Hopewell, Cumberland, Buckingham and Floyd. There was also an outreach to Rockbridge County. Ken is also working on updating the EMD map. Derrick also stated that more education is needed to explain what EMD is and to ensure that we are not telling them what to do, we are only offering recommendations. The white paper may need to be updated to explain the impact and benefit to the field responder.</p> <p>FirstNet – Mike Keefe-Thomas Mike was not present at today’s meeting. Gary Critzer stated that Virginia has opted in to participate in FirstNet and is the first state to do so. Derrick stated that the metropolitan areas of the Commonwealth will be pretty well off. The suburban areas will look really good and the rural areas will finally see some improvement. There are some advantages to being the first to opt in. Derrick feels that it will help public safety tremendously. He also feels that the cost of data service will decrease. The committee continued to discuss FirstNet and Lewis Cassada will send out the dates of the FirstNet meetings.</p>	<p>Lewis will send the FirstNet meeting dates to Ken for distribution.</p>
<p>New Business:</p>	<p>HB1728 Air Medical Workgroup – Derrick Ruble</p> <p>a) <u>Workgroup Update</u> This House Bill workgroup began due to a medevac billing issue. The workgroup was divided into three sub-committees: billing, dispatch and regulations. Derrick is on the dispatch sub-committee and they are looking at a training program specifically for PSAPs, Fire and EMS. The other project they are discussing, and Derrick will work with VITA on, is an online GIS mapping system. Each sub-committee has to submit recommendations to be incorporated into the final report that will submitted to the VDH Commissioner by October 16 and then to the Governor by December 1.</p> <p>b) <u>Statewide Mutual Aid Channel</u> The committee discussed the issues with using different channels. The interoperability channels need to be added into the helicopters. Bruce Edwards stated that this same conversation was held 25 years ago when he chaired this committee. If you critique any type of MCI drill, what is the main problem every single time? It’s communications. There has got to be a solution to this. Gary stated that one way is to install all of the interoperability channels that are applicable to your frequency band in all of the units in your area, including helicopters. You don’t have to do a high-band initiative. Gary stated that every public safety organization in the state from fire to law enforcement to EMS, etc.</p>	

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	<p>needs to push for the installation of the applicable federal interoperability channels in every radio in their jurisdiction. The solution is there, its' just a matter of getting everyone to do it. The committee can work on a best practice paper concerning this and work with PSAPs to get it out.</p> <p>PSAP Accreditation applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mecklenburg County 911 <p>A motion was made to approve the Mecklenburg County 911 PSAP application as submitted. All committee members were in favor of the motion. None opposed.</p> <p>Ken will follow up with Mecklenburg for their presentation.</p> <p>Amanda Davis reminded everyone that when RSAF grants are approved for EMD, a special condition is added that says they must get PSAP accreditation in one calendar year. Ken stated that it should say one calendar year from program implementation. Ken will get the wording to Amanda for clarity.</p> <p>Amanda stated that the new grant cycle opened on August 1 and closes on September 15.</p>	<p>Derrick and other committee members will work on a Statewide Mutual Aid best practices paper.</p>
Unfinished Business:	None.	
Public Comment:	<p>Lewis stated that he has been using ECATS and it is cool. The committee members stated that they like it too. ECATS is Emergency Call Tracking System. It is the first universal 911 Call Reporting System that provides real-time reporting analytics to the 911 industry. Eventually everyone will be using it.</p> <p>Melissa stated that DCJS has confirmed that dispatchers will have to have 24-hour in-service every two years to include active shooter.</p>	
Adjournment:	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:04 a.m.</p> <p>2017 Meeting Schedule: November 9, 2017 (Norfolk Waterside Marriott)</p>	