

**State Medevac Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
May 2, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

| Members Present: | Members Absent: | OEMS Staff: | Guests & Other Attendees: |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jason D. Ferguson , WVEMS, Chair | Donna Hurst , Augusta Health | Tim Perkins | Vince Mancano |
| Chris Shaffer , PHI Air Medical | Susan Smith , Carilion Clinic Lifeguard | George Lindbeck | Joel Atwell |
| Terry Austin , VCU LifeEvac/Air Methods | Denise Baylous , Sentara Nightingale (Excused) | Wanda Street | Shelly Arnold |
| Tim Ryan , U.S. Park Police | Dwain Rowe , Wings Air Rescue (Excused) | | Mike Garnett |
| Jay Lovelady , VCU LifeEvac | Kate Challis , Johnston-Willis Hospital (Excused) | | Joe Trigg |
| Julia Marsden , Consumer Rep/GAB | Shawn Rivard , VSP (Excused) | | Katie Rodman |
| Jennifer Basham , Fairfax Co. Police | | | Jeff Tanner |
| | | | Chris Parker |
| | | | Sid Bingley |
| | | | Mitchell Hathaway |
| | | | Greg Cassis |

| Topic/Subject | Discussion | Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person |
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| Call to order: | The Chair, Jason Ferguson, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A moment of silence was held for fallen medevac service members. | |
| Introductions: | Everyone around the room introduced themselves. | |
| Review & Approval of the February 7, 2019 minutes: | A motion was made to review and approve the February meeting minutes. The motion was moved by Jay Lovelady and seconded by Terry Austin. The minutes were approved as submitted. | The February 7, 2019 minutes were approved as submitted. |
| Chair Report – Jason Ferguson: | The chair stated that there has not been a great deal of activity since the February meeting. The HB1728 workgroup has not met. After the last meeting, Mr. Ferguson stated that he went to the Capital Building to meet with the senator, but he was unavailable. He spoke with the legislative aid about initiatives concerning HEMS and what they could open dialogue about them before they become actionable items in the legislature. He will continue to press on with this during the down season. | |

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| OEMS Report: | <p>Tim Perkins stated that most of you know that the Office of EMS has been undergoing a significant renovation and he has not had an office since February and he is hoping that by the end of this month, he will have office space. The phone system and network was down for a few days, in the past couple of weeks, but has since been restored. It has been an interesting experience. The best way to reach Tim and other office staff is by email.</p> <p>The Division of Educational Development no longer exists. It is now called the Division of Accreditation, Certification and Education (ACE). There is also a new, separate division called the Division of Consolidated Testing and Video Production. OEMS is currently in recruit for the Manager position of ACE.</p> <p>Plans are in full swing for the 40th Annual EMS Symposium. Gary Brown keeps saying that it will be the biggest and the best this year. There will be some different evening activities to include a motivational speaker/magician. We usually hold the Medevac meeting on the Wednesday of symposium, which will be November 6.</p> | |
| Drone Workgroup – Susan Smith: | <p>a. Drone Safety Update Per Mr. Ferguson, Susan was not able to make this meeting, but had a new item that will be discussed under New Business. He also asked Tim about the status of the PowerPoint presentation. Tim stated that he needs to talk to Susan before posting it on the OEMS website as it is a very large document.</p> | |
| Virginia Helicopter EMS Program Update – Tim Perkins: | <p>a. Statistics Report The Medevac Helicopter EMS application (formerly known as WeatherSafe) continues to grow in the amount of data submitted. In terms of weather turndowns, there were 636 entries into the Helicopter EMS system in the first quarter of the 2019 calendar year. 63% of those entries (403 entries) were for interfacility transports, which is consistent with information from previous quarters. The total number of turndowns is a slight decrease from 689 entries in the first quarter of 2018. This data continues to show a commitment to maintaining the safety of medevac personnel and equipment.</p> | |
| Program Announcements: | <p>Terry Austin, VCU LifeEvac/Air Methods - No report.</p> <p>Chris Shaffer, PHI Air Medical – No report.</p> <p>Jay Lovelady, VCU LifeEvac – Jay reported that as of yesterday, blood products have been put on all regional aircraft-both LifeEvac and Air Methods. He is glad to have that in place. VCU has announced two big construction projects. A freestanding emergency facility will be built in New Kent which will have a helipad and also a Children’s Hospital will be built in downtown Richmond. One building will be torn down and another will be built in its place and it will have a rooftop helipad, so VCU will have two rooftop helipads.</p> <p>Tim Ryan, US Park Police – Park Police has a new Commander, Lt. John Dillon.</p> <p>Jennifer Basham, Fairfax Co. Police – No report.</p> <p>Joel Atwell, MedStar – No report.</p> | |

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| | <p>Jeff Tanner, CentraOne – No report.</p> <p>Sid Bingley, Carilion Clinic LifeGuard – Blood products have been put on all three aircraft the beginning of last month. The process has gone smoothly.</p> <p>Mitchell Hathaway, Wings Air Rescue – Wings has been selected by Valley Health Systems, which is a 21 hospital system in Southwest VA and Eastern Tennessee, to be their air medical provider. We will continue to have helicopters in some current locations and we are working with VSP to provide air medical services to the Valley Health regions.</p> <p>Greg Cassis, UVA Pegasus – Pegasus is interviewing to replace the interim manager with a full-time manager and that should be accomplished within the next week. They are reorganizing some of their internal positions. They are completely in-service on the air and ground units with blood and plasma products.</p> <p>Carilion Clinic LifeGuard – Susan asked Jason Ferguson to report that the Starpoints Training is July 13th. The Annual 5K Rotor Run is July 6th. Registrations can be made at https://rotorrun.org.</p> | |
| Unfinished Business: | <p>a. Legislative Updates Tim stated that the form that we developed to satisfy HB663 are online and was sent out to the committee. Tim asked if anyone has needed to use it. There was no response from the committee. He will start tracking the downloads and use of the form as that information will be beneficial for the patrons of the bill. He has been in touch with VHHA and they have not had to use it either.</p> | |
| New Business: | <p>Julia Marsden had a question about an article she read that had to with the delivery of packages via drones in rural areas. She wanted to know how this would impact regulations. Has anyone heard about this? Terry Austin stated that he has heard of it and has concerns. The committee discussed this and will research and follow up with the committee on their findings. It was suggested that Susan contact the company for more information since the company is in her regional area. Terry Austin will reach out to his contact at the Maryland Office of EMS for more information.</p> <p>Susan asked Jason to read an item of discussion concerning the OEMS Scope of Practice and Formulary revisions. The OEMS Scope of Practice that was approved on February 8th has notes that specifically state that IABP, REBOA and ECMO are out of the maximum allowable scope of practice for paramedics. This includes maintenance or monitoring. While we, LifeGuard, do not transport ECMO or REBOA patients. We do transport IABP patients. The LifeGuard nurse and paramedic hold the competency and validation responsibilities for the management of IABP equally. The specific statement on the new Scope of Practice that limits our paramedics is in conflict with 12VAC5-31-885, the section that states that helicopter EMS paramedics in the Commonwealth are required to train on the IABP if its' within their mission profile. Dr. Lindbeck stated that he has replied to an email from the medical director in that region and he doesn't think there is a conflict. The HEMS regulations say that paramedics need to train on that if it is within their profile. It is not within the Scope of Practice to transport those patients without a registered nurse, PA or physician. The committee discussed this topic briefly.</p> | |

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| | <p>Susan also wrote that as she looked deeper at the Scope with regards to the medication, she realized that there are at least three classifications of medication that are excluded from the practice of the paramedic. Dr. Lindbeck stated that he will double check on this. Susan wrote that these agents are fairly typical and should not be discontinued on the patient simply in order to meet the regulations on the ALS ground crew nor should they be escalated to CCT or helicopter transport with an RN just because of specific patient need. Dr. Lindbeck stated that he doesn't believe any of those medications changed. He also stated that the Scope of Practice document is a living document, meaning that it is a standard topic item on the Medical Direction Committee agenda and can be changed at any time. The issue of expanding the intermediate Scope of Practice is very limited. This has been a major topic of discussion on the Scope of Practice.</p> | |
| Public Comment: | None. | |
| Adjournment: | <p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 a.m.</p> <p>The August meeting will be here at the Embassy Suites.</p> | <p>2019 Meeting Dates: August 1 November 6 –Norfolk Waterside Marriott</p> |

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