

**State Medevac Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Richmond Marriott Short Pump
4240 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23060
May 3, 2018
10:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests & Other Attendees:
Jason D. Ferguson , Chair	Donna Hurst , Augusta Health	Tim Perkins	Michael Berg
Susan Smith , Carilion Clinic Lifeguard	Kate Challis , Johnston-Willis Hospital	George Lindbeck	Brian Solada
Julia Marsden , Consumer Rep/GAB	Jay Lovelady , VCU LifeEvac	Wanda Street	Bruce Edwards
Terry Austin , VCU LifeEvac/Air Methods	Tim Ryan , U.S. Park Police	Ron Passmore	Jethro Piland
Shawn Rivard , VSP			Henderson McGinnis
Chris Shaffer , PHI Air Medical			Jason Post
Dwain Rowe , Wings Air Rescue			Vince Mancano
Jennifer Basham , Fairfax Co. Police			Allan Belcher
Denise Baylous , Sentara Nightingale			Chris Parker
			R. Jason Ferguson
			Maggie McCauley

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to order:	The Chair, Jason Ferguson, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.	
Introductions:	Everyone around the room introduced themselves. Mr. Ferguson recognized Ron Passmore as a new employee of the Office of EMS and offered him an opportunity to say a few words. Mr. Passmore introduced himself and stated that he is the new Division Manager for Regulations and Compliance. His email address is ron.passmore@vdh.virginia.gov .	
Review & Approval of the February 1, 2018 minutes:	A motion was made to review and approve the February meeting minutes. The motion was moved by Dwain Rowe and seconded by Terry Austin. The minutes were approved as submitted.	The February 1, 2018 minutes were approved as submitted.
Chair Report – Jason Ferguson:	Jason did not have a report at this time. The Vice Chair, Julia Marsden, did not have a report.	
OEMS Report:	<p>Tim stated that he has been selected to fill the Division Manager position for Community Health and Technical Resources (CHATR). For now, Tim will remain the OEMS liaison for Medevac. At some point there may be changes. Tim's former position of EMS Systems Planner is being posted for the next two weeks. He is hoping to have the position filled by symposium.</p> <p>Tim reported that there has been some leadership changes at VDH. Dr. Levine left her position as State Health Commissioner in April and shortly after Dr. Melton, former Chief Deputy Commissioner of VDH, was appointed as the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. As of now, Dr. M. Norman Oliver is the Acting State Health Commissioner.</p>	

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	William “Billy” Fritz has filled the BLS Training Specialist position of OEMS. Cam has lost two people in the Trauma Division who were responsible for data so any data requests will be delayed until she gets new staff members.	
Project Synergy Work Group Update – Anita Perry:	No report. Anita was not present.	
Drone Workgroup – Susan Smith:	<p>a. Drone Safety Update Susan stated that she attempted to send an updated version of the PowerPoint to Tim for distribution; however, it was too large to email. She wants to share it so that it can be used by any air medical system for their presentations. Susan and Tim will figure out a solution to get the PowerPoint distributed. It was updated with some of the regulation changes that occurred over the past year. It is very generic and is on the VDH template.</p> <p>Terry Austin has shared this PowerPoint with other area managers who are starting to build their agencies. They feel that drones will be the next big causes of accidents.</p>	
Virginia Helicopter EMS Program Update – Tim Perkins:	<p>a. Statistics Report The Medevac Helicopter EMS application (formerly known as WeatherSafe) continues to see an increase in the amount of data submitted. In terms of weather turndowns, there were 689 entries into the Helicopter EMS system in the first quarter of the 2018 calendar year. 66% of those entries (459 entries) were for interfacility transports, which is consistent with information from previous quarters. The total number of turndowns is an increase from 570 entries in the first quarter of 2017. This data is utilized to maintain safety of medevac personnel and equipment.</p> <p>b. LZControl Tim has no update.</p>	
Program Announcements:	<p>Terry Austin, VCU LifeEvac – No big changes at LifeEvac. We are noticing an increase in personal injuries. Crew members have had injuries stepping off the helicopter or while loading patients. Also, we have had 11 company-wide bird strikes in the last two days.</p> <p>Shawn Rivard, Virginia State Police – Shawn reported that MedFlight has a new Sergeant as of March 10, Vince Mancano. He is the Area Commander for the Richmond Base. He is a retired Navy Officer and is doing a great job. We have two helicopters in the budget and we are waiting for approval.</p> <p>Chris Shaffer, PHI Air Medical – Chris reported that they have also had a ton of bird strikes. Within the last six months, they have had three that penetrated the cockpit. In the last one, it was a flock of wood ducks, three or four of them actually penetrated through the cockpit. Chris thanked Fairfax for landing the crew and transporting the crewmember to the hospital. The aircraft is still being refurbished. Everybody is safe and back at work.</p>	

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	<p>Denise asked if they are finding more bird strikes at a certain altitude. Terry stated that it was suspected that a bird strike may have been the cause of an earlier crash. The Federal Government has a website that shows migratory bird and duck patterns. They suggest that pilots fly over 3,000 feet. Chris stated that all of their strikes have been at night and at 2,000 feet. He read that if you decrease your speed by 10 knots, it drastically decreases the impact. He also stated that they are researching new windshields, face masks, etc.</p> <p>Jennifer Basham, Fairfax County Police – In the past Jennifer asked for everyone’s weight policy and PHI sent an Edible Arrangements.</p> <p>Denise Baylous, Nightingale – There is ongoing construction at Norfolk General. The rooftop helipads are completed and will open pending inspection. The ground pad will be kept and there is some construction around the ground pad. More information to come on the roof. Updated operational policies and procedures will be sent to Tim for distribution.</p> <p>Dwain Rowe, Wings Air Rescue – No report for Wings. However, he and Tim will be participating in the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride.</p> <p>Susan Smith, Carilion Clinic Life-Guard – The Carilion Clinic Life-Guard’s Annual Rotor Run 5K will be held on June 2 at the River’s Edge Sports Complex, 302 Wiley Drive, S.W, Roanoke, VA. All proceeds will go toward scholarships for students of Jefferson College of Health Sciences. Their Annual EMS Nursing Conference will be August 18 at The Inn at Virginia Tech. In regard to developing an AAMS Chapter, we will be meeting after the Medevac for a brief phone call. Those that are interested, please stay for the 15-20 minute phone call.</p> <p>Michael Berg, UVA Pegasus – Michael reported that the RFP process is moving forward to get a new helicopter. Accreditation is coming up next year, so we are making sure all T’s are crossed and all I’s are dotted. From a construction standpoint, the smaller of the two cranes may be coming down this weekend. The new pad is complete but is not open yet. Ken Welliver, pilot, who has been with Pegasus for a very long time has retired as of last month. UVA will hold EMS week activities for both air medical and ground programs. The uniformity of Nurse Practitioner workgroup is no longer necessary. They will operate in a flight nurse role for air medical at UVA, not sure how they will operate at the hospital level.</p> <p>Allan Belcher, CentraHealth – Peter Martin, Chief Flight Nurse for many years, is no longer with CentraHealth. WSET News has three pilots and will operate a drone as well. They have met with the air authority, CentraHealth, local EMS, Fire and Police. They assure us that they will comply with Medevac services and will keep open lines of communication. Periodically, there is a crane up at Centra Southside Community Hospital as they are expanding their oncology services at the hospital. CentraOne is working on their CAMTS Accreditation. Construction will soon begin for the parking deck in front of the hospital near the east tower. Part of the parking deck will be underground. He will keep everyone updated on the construction.</p>	

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Unfinished Business:	<p>a. House Bill 777 This bill will resurface during the 2019 General Assembly session.</p> <p>b. House Bill 778 & Senate Bill 663 Both of these bills passed both houses. They will be enacted effective July 1, 2018. George and Tim has not had a chance to work on this, but will schedule time soon for it. If agencies have consent forms, please send them to Tim. He will need inter facility forms as well. Mike Berg asked if a small workgroup will be needed to work on these forms. Tim stated that he was not sure. He will discuss it with Gary Brown and Scott. Tim will send everyone a copy of the legislature. The committee discussed the ramifications of the Bills.</p>	<p>All air medical agencies are asked to send consent forms to Tim, including inter facility forms.</p> <p>Tim will speak with Gary Brown and Scott Winston about whether a small workgroup should be established.</p>
New Business:	<p>Speaking of workgroups, the Chair stated that some of the recommendations from the HB1728 workgroup have not been worked on. Chris Parker stated that the Executive Committee met last week and discussed being proactive by inviting the staff member from Delegate Ransone's office to the Medevac meetings to discuss the matter ahead of the 2019 General Assembly.</p> <p>Tim mentioned House Resolution 3378 and Senate Resolution 2121 which are currently in Congress and is called Ensuring Access to Ambulance Services. It involves reimbursement rates by Medicare and Medicaid. It also requires air medical services to submit cost data and it would also make CMS disclose their information to bring rate levels closer.</p> <p>Tim spoke of the EMS Memorial Bike Ride and he will be riding for Jay Cullen and Karen Wagner who passed away in March. He is also asking for donations to support him on the ride. The Bike Ride starts in Boston next Saturday (May 12) and ends at the National Harbor on the following Friday (May 18). The National EMS Memorial Service is Saturday, May 19th. This is Tim's 11th year.</p>	<p>More communication will be sent on the HB1728 recommendations.</p>
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:03 a.m.	<p>2018 Meeting Dates: August 2 November 7 –Norfolk Waterside Marriott</p>