

**Legislation and Planning Committee
Office of EMS
Glen Allen, VA
September 23, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Gary Samuels (Chair)	Jake O’Shea, MD (excused)	Scott Winston	Bubby Bish
Beth Adams (Vice Chair)	Jeff Meyer (excused)	Chris Vernovia	
Steven Higgins		Tim Perkins	
Gary Dalton		Mohamed Abbamin	
Ed Rhodes			
Byron Andrews			
Bryan Rush			
Michael Player			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Welcome and Introductions	Chair Gary Samuels called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.	
II. Review and Approval of Aug. 5, 2022 Minutes	OEMS is awaiting the transcript of the August 5, 2022 meeting of the Legislative and Planning Committee meeting from County Court Reporters, Inc.	
III. OEMS Update – Quarterly Report to EMS Advisory Board (OEMS Staff)	<p>Mr. Scott Winston provided the committee members an update on the following topics:</p> <p>2022 Virginia EMS Symposium is scheduled to take place Nov. 9 – 13 in Norfolk, VA. Registration as of last week was approximately 1,100. Registration will remain open another three weeks.</p> <p>EMS Funding Needs Assessment will be conducted by the VCU Performance Management Group. The assessment will be conducted before the end of this year and information and data from the assessment will be reviewed in order to determine how much increase in funding for EMS is needed.</p> <p>Rules and Regulations Committee of the state EMS Advisory Board meets on Wednesday, October 5 at 1 PM to review the Final Draft of Chapter 32 EMS Regulations.</p> <p>Personnel Updates: Cam Crittenden has been hired as the Adjudication Officer for OEMS. The Training and Development Coordinator position at BREMS closes next week. The Regional EMS Office Director position for Southwest Virginia closes on Friday, September 23. Applications will be</p>	

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	<p>reviewed and interviews scheduled in October 2022. Two Technical Resource Specialist (TRS) positions for the REMS regional EMS office are awaiting approval for recruitment.</p> <p>Krista Samuels, Assistant OAG has announced she is leaving her position effective October 7, 2022. Ms. Samuels is reviewing questions related to recognizing EMS as an essential service before she leaves her position at OAG.</p>	
<p>IV. State EMS Plan</p>	<p>The L&P committee approved the final draft of the state EMS Plan on October 16, 2019. The final draft of the state EMS Plan was approved by the full state EMS Advisory Board on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019. The plan was presented to the Board of Health (BoH) for review and approval at the June 04, 2020 meeting.</p> <p>The current version (2020-2022) of the State EMS Plan is available for download via the OEMS website at the link below: http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/emergency-medical-services/state-strategic-and-operational-ems-plan/</p> <p>Gary Samuels and Chris Vernovai lead the committee on a review of the final draft of the 2023-2025 state EMS Plan.</p> <p>The committee discussed the need to regularly report on the progress of the plan to the state EMS Advisory Board. A comparison document to allow a quick reference on the current status of the state EMS Plan should be developed. Updates on accomplishments completed and progress that has been completed to date should be reported by organizations identified as accountable parties with the responsibility to work on the identified objective(s) and action steps.</p> <p>Currently, it is not easy to determine what has and what has not been completed related to the state EMS Plan. Having the ability to report on the status of action steps and objectives is important to be able to track the progress of the plan. A statement regarding updates on the state EMS plan will be included in the introduction for the plan.</p> <p>The committee discussed including the VDH mission statement (The Mission of the Virginia Department of Health is to protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia) and vision statement (Become the healthiest state in the nation) in the state EMS Plan.</p> <p>The glossary of commonly used acronyms was updated.</p> <p>All reference to Virginia Pre-hospital Information Bridge (VPHIB) was removed from the plan and replaced with Virginia EMS Patient Care Information System.</p>	

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	<p>Updates and edits to the Strategic Initiatives, Objectives, Accountability, and Action Steps were discussed by the committee and consensus developed on all changes, additions, deletions to the plan.</p>	<p>Submit final draft 2023-2025 State EMS Plan with edits to the state EMS Advisory Board as an action item at their November 18, 2022 meeting.</p>
<p>V. EMS as an Essential Service</p>	<p>EMS needs to be recognized as an essential service; the same as police and fire departments. Non-fire based EMS systems could benefit from recognizing EMS as an essential service.</p> <p><u>The goal of legislation to recognize EMS as an "essential service" are:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ensure a minimum capability across the state. Counties must ensure the availability of a basic level of EMS (minimum standards for EMS personnel). 2) Provide flexibility to organize and finance EMS systems to reflect local circumstances. Counties must be given discretion on how to meet these basic requirements. 3) Provide resources (financial, technical, equipment/supplies, etc.) to support voluntary improvement in the EMS system over time. One aspect should include dedicated funding to support county efforts to meet requirements. <p>Less than 12 states deem EMS an “essential service.”</p> <p>A number of states (SC, NY, and IL) are introducing legislation to recognize EMS as an essential service.</p> <p>Mr. Winston is awaiting guidance from Krista Samuels, OAG concerning advice for drafting language for a bill to recognize EMS as an essential service.</p> <p>The committee reviewed the talking points (One of the E’s in EMS stands for “Essential”) that were developed by the workgroup and agreed to distribute and use these statements when talking to others about recognizing EMS as an essential service.</p>	
<p>VI. Unfinished Business</p>	<p>There is no unfinished business.</p>	
<p>VII. New Business</p>	<p>The Committee discussed pursuing legislation during the upcoming 2023 session of the Virginia General Assembly related to EMS as an Essential Service, Increase funding for EMS, and Elevating the Virginia Office of EMS to a Department within the Secretary of Health and Human Resources or the</p>	

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	Secretary of Public Safety. There was general, but not unanimous consensus, to first focus efforts on recognizing EMS as an Essential Service. Once this action is completed, use data and information from the EMS Funding Needs Assessment to request an increase in funding for EMS and elevate the OEMS to a Department.	
VIII. Public Comment	Chair Gary Samuels asked if there was any public comment, and there was none.	
IX. Next Meeting	The next meeting will be on Friday, November 18, 2022 at 8:30 AM at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Richmond, VA.	
X. Adjourn	A motion was made by Byron Andrews and seconded by Beth Adams to adjourn the meeting. The committee approved. Chair Gary Samuels adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.	Chair Gary Samuels adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

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