**Executive Committee Meeting**

**Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services**

**Embassy Suites Hotel, 2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294**

**February 2, 2023**

**5:00 p.m.**

| **Members Present:** | **Members Absent:** | **OEMS Staff:** | **Guests:** |
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| Kevin Dillard, Chair  Valerie Quick, Vice-Chair  R. Jason Ferguson – Professional Development Coordinator  Gary Samuels – Administrative Coordinator  Dr. Allen Yee – Patient Care Coordinator  Dillard “Eddie” Ferguson – Infrastructure Coordinator | Dr. Paula Ferrada – Trauma System Coordinator | Gary R. Brown  Adam Harrell  Scott Winston  Chad Blosser  Ron Passmore  Wanda Street  George Lindbeck  Mohammed Abbamin  Debbie Akers  Camela Crittenden  Michael Berg  Tim Perkins  Jasper Williams  Wayne Perry  Kelsey Rideout  Linda Harris  Lara Traylor  Charles Feiring | Dreama Chandler  Beth Adams  Stephen Simon  Matthew Marry  Jake O’Shea  John C. Bolling  Chris Montera  Rahil Dharia  Neha Sullivan  Michelle Ludeman  Amir Louka  David Long  Douglas Middlebrooks  Asher Brand  Michael Player  Ryan Scarbrough  Heidi Hooker  Jenny Wilson  Greg Neiman  Chris Christensen |

| **Topic/Subject** | **Discussion** | **Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **I. Call to order/Welcome: Kevin Dillard** | Mr. Dillard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.  **Approval of today’s agenda.** Two items were added to the agenda 1) Composition of Medevac Committee and 2) Financial Assistance Review Committee Rotation of Membership.  **A motion was made to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved with the two additions.**  **Approval of the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes**  **A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were approved.** | **The agenda was approved by unanimous consensus.**  **The minutes were approved by unanimous consensus.** |
| **II. Executive Committee and Office of Emergency Medical Services:** | **Discussion Items:**   * **2023 Legislative Update – Gary and Staff**   In the interest of time for the main topic discussion, Gary advised the committee to review the legislative grids that have been sent out weekly. A full update will be given tomorrow at the Advisory Board meeting.   * **OEMS Workgroup on Advisory Board Composition** * Valerie Quick, Chair * Cam Crittenden, OEMS Staff   Topic was discussed later in the meeting. Valerie was attending another meeting.  Valerie stated that the impetus for this meeting was to review the Advisory Board composition and match it up to other states throughout the country. They also looked at the differences in a policy board and an advisory board. The workgroup recommends that the Advisory Board move to a Policy Board and that the Office of EMS is moved to a department level. They found that the Board is very well represented with all different aspects of the Commonwealth. Also, in looking at the 2050 Agenda of the Future, there were a lot of correlations with our current board structure. Only a few minor changes were made to the current board composition such as removing the Medical Society of Virginia position and adding the Virginia Chapter of Emergency Physicians. The only other addition was a Virginia Education Coordinator. They also opted to remove the Consumer position (could be an Ad Hoc member) and the Virginia Nurses Association position (represented in other areas). **Valerie made a motion that the recommendations just mentioned be brought to the Advisory Board tomorrow for consideration. These recommendations would require legislative changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eddie Ferguson. All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**   * **Composition of the Medevac Committee – Tim Perkin**s   The committee members asked if the committee could be expanded, and the answer was yes. Every HEMS agency/stakeholder in the state was sent a letter of interest to participate on the Medevac committee and four agencies responded. **A motion was made by Gary Samuels to expand the Medevac Committee by four members. Jason Ferguson seconded the motion**. **All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.**   * **Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC) Membership Rotation – Mike Berg**   At the last FARC meeting, there was discussion about the possibility of losing four members of a six-member committee at once. A workgroup was formed to review ways to deal with this. There was an unfortunate death of a member, and another member left the state for a career opportunity. In doing this administratively, they extended the terms of two members. The terms are three-year terms that can be renewed once, for a total of six years. Then they must sit out for a term of three years in order to be appointed again. **Mr. Kevin Dillard made a motion to approve the rotation schedule as submitted.** Gary Samuels challenged this action due to the term limits being codified in the *Code of Virginia.* Gary Brown advised on how this change can be made based on intent. We do not need to go back to the General Assembly to make these types of changes. **All committee members were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.** |  |
| **III. Status of Hospital Diversion, EMS Parking, Delayed Unloading of Patients in Virginia** | Per Dr. Allen Yee, this concern was brought to the attention of the Medical Direction Committee. There is an increase in patient volume, hospital staffing problems and multiple factors impacting EMS and emergency departments, so how can we work together to improve our turnaround times and create some opportunities for improvement.  Dr. Sullivan, from Northern Virginia, explained that for the past year, they have experienced patients being held outside and told that they could not enter the ED until a room was available. Sometimes they waited for hours at a time. The risks of the patients waiting outside, outweighed the benefits. She gave some examples of patient scenarios and the impact this had on the patients as well on the EMS provider safety. The concern is that this practice is spreading to other hospital systems. Dr. Sullivan has been in communication with the Office of Licensure and Certification. The investigations that are ongoing are reactive to what has already happened. The goal is to come away with something proactive to prevent this from becoming an issue in the future at other hospitals.  Chris Christensen, of Western EMS Regional Council, compiled data and looked at the past 365 days of wait time in the Regions. Forty-five minutes is the 90th percentile. He discussed the trickle-down effect of diversions and having to transport patients to other hospitals.  The committee and guests continued to discuss this topic extensively. They discussed the Duty to Act clause, EMTALA (**Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act)** and two different standards of care. Dr. Louka publicly recognized Dr. Sullivan for advocating for her patients. This is her third time (at least) coming to Richmond to discuss this. It is exemplary that she has made this effort.  Dr. Yee created a draft white paper to address this issue and read the bullet points to be included in the paper. **Dr. O’Shea made a motion to accept the draft white paper as read.** It was decided that Dr. Yee will work with Dr. O’Shea and Matthew Marry tonight to complete the paper and present it to the Advisory Board tomorrow. |  |
| **IV. OEMS Division Reports** | 1. **Division of Executive Management and Support**   * **Gary R. Brown, Director** * **Scott Winston, Assistant Director** * **Adam Harrell, Associate Director** * **George Lindbeck, MD, State EMS Medical Director**   2. **Division of Community Health and Technical Resources – Tim**  3**. Division of Emergency Operations – Karen**  4. **Division of Regulation and Compliance Enforcement – Ron**  5. **Division of Public Information and Education – Marian**  6. **Division of Accreditation, Certification and Education – Debbie**  7. **Division of Trauma and Critical Care – Mindy**  No OEMS Division reports were given. |  |
| **V. Old Business** | None |  |
| **VI. Public Comment** | None |  |
| **VII. Adjournment** | The meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m. |  |

Transcribed by

Wanda L. Street,

Executive Secretary, Sr.