

State EMS Advisory Board
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel, 2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
August 4, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Advisory Board Members Present:	Advisory Board Members Absent:	VDH EMS Staff:	Guests:
Kevin L. Dillard, Chair	John C. Bolling (EXCUSED)	Gary Brown	Greg Neiman
Beth Adams Roemmelt	Dreama Chandler (EXCUSED)	Scott Winston	Mike Watkins
Kim Craig	Benjamin Nicholson, MD	George Lindbeck	Tanya Trevilian
Angela P. Ferguson	Sadie Jo Thurman	Tristen Franklin	Afton Jamerson
Dillard Eddie Ferguson		Gary Critzer	Michael FaJohn
R. Jason Ferguson		Michelle Catalla	Stephen Pincus
Paula Ferrada, MD		David Edwards	Melissa Meador
Brian J. Frankel		Melinda Carter	Ali Akbar
Rebecca Branch Griffin, Ph.D.		Tim Perkins	Ray Whatley
Matt Lawler		Mohammed Abbamin	Stephen Simon
Patrick McLaughlin, MD, MS		Amber Wells	Kelley Rumsey
Daniel Norville		Michael Berg	Steve Powell
Jeremiah O'Shea, MD		J. Bryan Hodges	Peppy Winchel
Valerie Quick, Vice Chair		Ron Passmore	Kat Fivelstad
James Reynolds		Daisy Banta	Al Thompson
Marlon Matthew Rickman		Karen Owens	Michelle Ludeman
Bryan Rush		Wanda Street	Mike Riddle
Gary Samuels		Jessica Rosner	Chris Montera
Sonny Saxton		Ashley Camper	David Long
Victoria Smith		Cam Crittenden	Bubby Bish
Bill Streett		Chris Vernovai	Larry A. Oliver
Gary W. Tanner		Chad Blosser	Cassie Herman
Joseph Williams		Debbie Akers	Ed Rhodes
Allen Yee, MD, FAAEM		Daniel Linkins	Jeremy Bennett
		Wayne Perry	Byron Andrews
		Kelsey Rideout	Amy Ashe
		Charles Feiring	Gary Dalton
		Mary Kathryn Allen	Heidi Hooker
		Amanda Loreti	Matthew Allen
		Ray Whatley	Anthony Wilson
		Lara Traylor	Kohout Jaromir
		Greg Woods	Zac Chrisley
			Shannon Russell
			Colin Whitmore
			Justin B. Adams
			Craig Bride

Gregory Jones
 Robert Trimmer
 John Craig
 Connie Moore
 Dallas Taylor
 Autumn Davis
 Kathryn Bass
 Monty Dixon
 Jenn Kersey
 Megan Middleton
 Joseph Greer
 John Bianco

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Call to order – Kevin Dillard, Chair:	<p>The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., at which time the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p> <p>Approval of the May 5, 2023, Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Gary Tanner to approve the May minutes. Dr. Paula Ferrada seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.</p> <p>Approval of the August 4, 2023, Meeting Agenda – A motion was made by Gary Samuels to approve today’s agenda. Mr. Joseph Williams seconded the motion. The agenda was approved as submitted.</p>	<p>The May minutes were approved as submitted.</p> <p>Today’s agenda was approved as submitted.</p>
II. Chairman’s Report – Kevin Dillard:	<p>Mr. Dillard asked everyone to keep board member, J. C. Bolling in your thoughts. He is in the hospital and has had surgery for a serious medical condition. He spoke with Mr. Bolling’s wife this morning and he is recovering well.</p> <p>Mr. Dillard congratulated Dr. Jake O’Shea on his new position at HCA. Good luck! He also congratulated Gary Brown for 43 years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Everyone applauded this accomplishment. Of all the directors across the state, Gary has the most seniority.</p> <p>The 31st National EMS Memorial Service was held a couple of weeks ago in Arlington. Fifty-nine EMS providers who died in the line of duty were recognized.</p> <p>Mr. Dillard attended the Communications Committee Meeting that was held in Bristol, and he gave a shout out to Sonny Saxton and the committee on the great work that they do. There were a lot of presentations that day. He also recognized Sam Burnette, Amber Wells, Kari Magner and Devin Chinault of the Office of EMS for their work at OEMS and a successful meeting with a great attendance.</p>	
III. Vice Chair Report – Valerie Quick:	Ms. Quick had no report at this time.	
IV. Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and	Mr. Hicks was not present.	

Preparedness – Bob Hicks:		
V. Office of EMS Report:	<p>Gary Brown The Quarterly Report went out to the State EMS Advisory Board, to the Regional Councils and others on our distribution list. We are still having some issues with the attachments in the email, so Gary followed up with links in another email. The Report is posted on the OEMS website.</p> <p>The Governor has not announced appointments yet for the Advisory Board. Mr. Brown asked the board members to please continue to serve until the appointments are announced.</p> <p>The State Board of Health meeting is September 14, 2023. The State EMS Plan and the periodic review of the DDNR Regulations are on the agenda. Thanks to Gary Critzer, there will also be a Lunch and Learn about EMS to provide information to the Board on the EMS System in Virginia. Also, the Virginia Ambulance Patient Offloading Times will be discussed. The Office of EMS was tasked with establishing a workgroup to look at this matter. All information gathered will go before the Board on September 14.</p> <p>The Annual EMS Symposium registration will open on August 7. There will be over 400 classes and is the largest EMS conference in the country. It is also one of the largest attended EMS conferences in the country as well. Once registered, you will be able to reserve a hotel room on the portal. The registration fee will be waived for Advisory Board members along with one nights’ lodging. The next Advisory Board meeting will be Friday, November 17, here at the Embassy Suites.</p> <p>Scott Winston House Bill 2175 was a bill that passed to look at the sustainability and funding for Fire and EMS services across the Commonwealth. There are many staffing issues related to mental health, opioid overdoses, funding, etc. A study/survey was done over a six-week period and a workgroup was formed to meet virtually every two weeks. Scott discussed some of the statistical data of the survey to include the response rates, funding and personnel concerns, volunteer decline rates, minimum staffing requirements, etc. The workgroup will look at how other states are funding their services. Virginia Department of Fire Programs is the primary lead on this, and Scott, Mohamed Abbamin, Adam Harrell, and Michael Berg are on the workgroup. There is a lot of work to be done. A report is to be submitted to the General Assembly the first of October. The draft report will be completed by August 25th. Scott thanked everyone who participated in the survey.</p> <p>Adam Harrell Adam was on annual leave.</p> <p>George Lindbeck, MD, State EMS Medical Director Dr. Lindbeck had no report.</p>	
VI. State Board of Health EMS Representative Report – Gary Critzer:	<p>Gary Critzer reported that the State Board of Health (BOH) last met on June 15. There was a full agenda, and it was also the first meeting for Dr. Karen Shelton. She was welcomed to the Health Department and to Board and we received a comprehensive report from her about VDH and the current ongoings. There were a number of regulatory actions for consideration from Vital Records, waterworks fees, patient-level data system and regulations for the licensure of hospitals. There was also a report</p>	

	<p>from the Nominating Committee and Mr. Critzer was honored to be elected as Chair for another year. As Gary Brown alluded, the Office of EMS has been invited to the next meeting on September 14 at 9 a.m. at the Perimeter Center. Mr. Dillard will give an update on his recent trips to the Ukraine in the support of the medical mission that is ongoing in that country. Mr. Critzer invited the Advisory Board members to attend in support of the Office of EMS.</p>	
<p>VII. Regional EMS Council Executive Directors – Heidi Hooker:</p>	<p>Tracey McLaurin could not attend the meeting today. The Council Directors continue to meet online monthly and in person quarterly. They met on Wednesday of this week. Council staff has been meeting to discuss performance improvement measures and how to best create reports needed for regional use. On Wednesday, OEMS updated the Council Directors on a number of topics including the timeline on the upcoming RSAF grant cycle, the status of contract modifications, psychomotor testing, etc. A short presentation was provided by Director Peppy Winchel, of the Thomas Jefferson Regional Council, on the autism training that they helped UVA create for first responders. It is their hope to expand this training to all Council Regions within the Commonwealth in the future. They also discussed IT related topics at the meeting. Several Councils will be revamping their websites.</p>	
<p>VIII. Standing Committee Reports and Action Items:</p>	<p>a) Executive Committee – Kevin Dillard The Executive Committee met briefly last evening. There were various project discussions. Updates will be given on those discussions under the committee reports. The next Executive Committee meeting will be November 16 at 5 p.m.</p> <p>b) Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC) – Kevin Dillard The Spring cycle closed out with 112 applications for 215 items, totaling over \$19 million in requests. We could only award \$3 million. The priority will be increased funding for EMS agencies via the \$4.25 for Life fund. As we know, equipment pricing has increased significantly, but the funding has not. The current cycle is open, with a deadline of September 15. Those awards will be announced on January 1. The next meeting (regional tour) will be September 27 – 29 on the Eastern Shore.</p> <p>c) Administrative Coordinator – Gary Samuels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules and Regulations Committee – Dan Norville The Rules and Regulations Committee met briefly yesterday. We would like to remind everyone that all of Chapter 32 and all of its’ supporting documents are on the OEMS website for review. It should go to the State Board of Health at the December 15th meeting. A line-by-line comparison is being done of Chapter 31 and 32 so it can move forward to the BOH. • Legislative and Planning Committee – Gary Samuels The Legislative and Planning Committee met this morning and had no action items. There was robust discussion on EMS physician nomenclature and also the use of physician assistants and their practitioner roles in EMS. We will have two or three people work with Medical Direction on a workgroup to look at the verbiage and the impact the wording has on the legislation and regulations. This will be an ongoing workgroup. They also discussed House Bill 2147 and the survey and funding. The committee looked at new legislation that could be coming forward and received input on the funding. The by-laws workgroup will be getting together to look at some changes that have been proposed. More information will be forthcoming before the next meeting in November. 	

d) Infrastructure Coordinator – Eddie Ferguson

- **Transportation – Eddie Ferguson**

The Transportation Committee has not met since the last Advisory Board meeting.

- **Communications Committee – Sonny Saxton**

The Communications Committee met in Bristol Virginia last week and it was very well attended. There are no action items to bring forth. It was an all-day work session with presentations. There is a lot of work underway with regards to communications in Virginia. Mr. Saxton gave a shout out on the EMS Quarterly Report which had some very good information on communications. He encouraged everyone to forward the report to your comms and 911 folks.

- **Emergency Management Committee – Joseph Williams**

The Emergency Management Committee met yesterday and had a quorum. They had one action item and he deferred to Karen Owens of OEMS. Mrs. Owens stated that the triage tag information and motion was submitted for your review, discussion, and hopeful approval. There was a year’s worth of work done by the committee and the workgroup to review the triage process in Virginia. **Per Mr. Dillard, the motion was presented by the Emergency Management Committee, so no second is needed.** There was some discussion about the verbiage, the word “mandate” was asked if it was necessary. Karen stated that the tags are required according to regulations. Dr. Yee stated that the triage tags are not used. Should the requirement be removed? Karen provided feedback to Dr. Yee. Dr. McLaughlin chimed in with feedback also on the weight aspect of the tag. Karen stated that weight is not required to be collected on the tag but wanted the opportunity to collect it. It was suggested to insert the word “recommended” in place of “mandate”. **There was more discussion on the triage tag, and it was ultimately decided to table the motion. All committee members were in favor of tabling the motion except one. The motion carried.** Mr. Williams also spoke of the creation of an electronic triage tag which will take a while to implement. We will be getting stakeholders to join the workgroup to assist with this effort.

e) Professional Development Coordinator – R. Jason Ferguson

- **Training & Certification Committee – R. Jason Ferguson**

The Training and Certification Committee met on July 12 and had one action item. The committee discussed the EMS High School workgroup which is being established. They also discussed establishing a workgroup on apprenticeship and Mr. Ferguson spoke to a representative from the Department of Labor & Industry yesterday about this. The concept is setting up a training site process to leverage funding to recruit individuals in the EMS field and they can work their way up the ladder to other levels and keep those individuals at that agency for a period of time. The action item before you is the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) Student Minimum Competency Model Guideline. This was presented by Ms. Debbie Akers. We bring this item to the Board for approval. It was sent to the Medical Direction Committee and was endorsed by them. **The Chair asked for the committees’ approval. All committee members were in favor of the motion to approve this document. None opposed. The motion carried.** The next TCC meeting will be here on October 4.

- **Workforce Development Committee – Valerie Quick**

The Workforce Development Committee met yesterday and have no action items. There are a couple of EMS Officer classes in September in Petersburg and Abingdon. In October there is one in Rockingham. There will be a double header at symposium this year. From the recruitment and retention group there is a Keeping the Best course on Sunday at Symposium for becoming facilitators.

- **Provider Health & Safety Committee – Brian Frankel**

The Provider Health and Safety Committee has no action items to report. A healthy discussion was held this morning on two items: 1) establishing a workgroup to focus on goals and objectives and 2) developing a position paper to be sent to the Advisory Board on establishing an EMS Safety Officer position within the Commonwealth. The committee discussed decedent blood collection kits and the procurement process. The committee also discussed Line of Duty Deaths and making resources accessible via a website to help family members in their time of need.

f) Patient Care Coordinator – Allen Yee, MD

- **Medical Direction Committee – Allen Yee, MD**

The Medical Direction Committee met on July 13 and had no action items. We did approve the use of Cyanokits at the Advanced EMT Level. There was also some discussion on the term EMS physician. This term is generally reserved for those doctors that are boarded in EMS. In the *Code* language for EMS physician refers to those that are Operational Medical Director Physician Course Director. A workgroup is working on this, and we will be partnering with Rules and Regulations on this also. We will also be looking at the roles of Physician Assistants.

- **Medevac Committee – Victoria Smith**

The Medevac Committee met yesterday and there are no action items to bring forward. OEMS staff gave brief updates on various items including symposium. Medevac will be well-represented this year at symposium with various education content. Statistics on weather turn-down incidents have been consistent with previous quarters. There was discussion on helicopter safety especially drones and an increase in laser strikes. A safety workgroup has been formed to look at these items. There was also discussion on interoperability communications. A proposal was made to the Executive Committee to rename the committee to State Air Medical Committee to better align with our mission and goals as a committee.

- **EMS for Children Committee – Patrick McLaughlin, MD**

The EMSC met yesterday and had no action items. The EMSC Committee will award up to 50 grants for symposium registration fees (\$125). You can apply by contacting David Edwards at david.edwards@vdh.virginia.gov. The only requirement is that you sign up for at least three pediatric classes. The bulk of our meeting yesterday was a hands-on exercise with live children using the pediatric ambulance restraints that the EMSC provides to agencies. Please email David the names of the pediatric restraints that you have had the most success with so that we

may be able to make good purchases in the future. Dr. Yee implored agencies to develop policies and procedures for the safe transport of children in ambulances. Please use the restraining devices to transport kids appropriately.

g) Trauma System Coordinator – Paula Ferrada, MD

- **Trauma Administrative and Governance Committee – Paula Ferrada, MD**
The TAG met this morning. All of the committees have created necessary workgroups to complete the topics and objectives that they are working on. This has greatly helped with continuing communication and partnerships.
- **System Improvement Committee – Mike Watkins reported for Dr. Stan Kurek**
The SIC met yesterday. The committee reviewed the data report/dashboard. There is still work to be done, but they were excited to see the information that was presented.
- **Injury and Violence Prevention Committee – Cassie Herman reporting for Corrie Miller-Hobbs**
The IVP committee met briefly yesterday and VHHA did a legislative report for the committee.
- **Prehospital Care Committee – Mike Watkins**
The PCC met yesterday and have no action items. During the review of the data that was presented, they discovered that Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) was skewed and excluded from the trauma data. A workgroup will work on this.
- **Acute Care Committee – Dr. Terral Goode**
The ACC met yesterday and continue to fill vacant seats on the committee. The interfacility transfer criteria workgroup continue discussions and edits.
- **Post-Acute Care Committee –Beth Broering (Not present)**
Dr. Ferrada reported that the PAC met yesterday and had a quorum. They continue to work on ways of gathering patient discharge data and dispositions.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee –Kelley Rumsey, MD**
Dr. Rumsey reported that they had a very robust meeting yesterday and had a quorum with all committee members present. They received an update from the Office of Emergency Preparedness and well as the Regional Healthcare Coalitions
- **Trauma Program Manager’s (TPM) Meeting – Tanya Trevilian**
The TPM meeting was held yesterday. The trauma program managers discussed the updates to the Trauma Designation Manual. We introduced some new TPMs to the group. They discussed a wide range of topics such as trauma bay issues, TNCC, safety in triage area, etc. They also discussed getting the Performance Improvement group together and an updated registrar list.

IX. Public Comment:	None.	
X. Unfinished Business:	None.	
XI. New Business:	None.	
XII. Adjournment:		The next Advisory Board meeting dates for 2023 are: November 16 & 17

Transcribed by
Wanda L. Street
Executive Secretary, Sr.