**EMS Emergency Management Committee**

**Virginia Office of EMS**

**February 2, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.**

| **Members Present:** | **Members Absent:** | **OEMS Staff:** | **Guests** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Joe Williams, Chair | David Hoback | Karen Owens | Matthew Allen |
| Matthew Marry, VHHA | Robert Gelormine | Kari Magner | Byron Andrews (Sterling Rescue) |
| Michael Player, Va-1 DMAT | Tarry Pribble | Charles Feiring (CSEMS) | Chris Montera (ESO) |
| Ray Whatley, VAGEMSA |  |  | Dan Norville |
| Bubby Bish, VAVRS |  |  | Tim Donahue (Naval Hospital – Portsmouth) |
| James Moss, VDH Office of Emergency Preparedness |  |  | Wendy Clement (TPN – Portsmouth Naval) |
| Stephanie Hackett, Hampton Roads MMRS |  |  | Reginald Middlebrooks (Naval Medical Center – Portsmouth) |
|  |  |  | David Long (TEMS) |
|  |  |  | Donna Hurst (Sentara RMH) |
|  |  |  | Britney Ewers (Sentara Williamsburg Trauma) |
|  |  |  | Andrew Slater |
|  |  |  | Peppy Winchel |

| **Topic/Subject** | **Discussion** | **Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Call to Order** | Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m. |  |
| **Presentation(s)** | No presentations for this meeting |  |
| **Information on Meeting Instructions and Introductions** | Karen Owens provided a reminder to committee members that they need to state their name prior to speaking. Mr. Burnette also reminded attendees to spell out any acronyms or other items for the transcriptionists. |  |
| **Review and approval of last minutes & meeting agenda** | Committee meeting minutes from November 17, 2022, were approved with a change to the date of the meeting minutes as noted by Committee Chair in opening. |  |
| **Committee Chair Report** | No report from the Committee Chair |  |
| **Committee Member/Other Reports** | Karen Owens presented for Robert Gelormine (VEMA Representative) who was unable to attend. January 18th, VEMA attended Lobby Day with the General Assembly. Met with VDEM leadership and lobbyists from various areas to discuss the importance of funding for VDEM and dedicated emergency managers. VEMA continues to prepare for the upcoming VEMA Annual Symposium, March 20-23, on the James Madison campus. A link will be distributed via email for those who would like to attend.  Matthew Marry provided an update from VHHA, including the partnership with VDH working on Virginia’s updated crisis standard of care plan, which should finish up by the end of March. April 19, in Richmond at the Westin, VHHA and VDH will be hosting the 2023 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit. The event is free of charge to Virginia Healthcare agencies, long-term care, EMS, etc. The Summit offers a robust agenda with subject matter experts from across the country coming to share best practices on emergency preparedness. There will be some continuing education credits available. The link will be sent to Karen Owens for distribution.  James Moss shared that the Public Health Declaration issued for Monkeypox expired on January 31, 2023 and was not renewed. Monkeypox has not been eradicated, but at a level that is very sustainable and with therapeutics and vaccines that are available, it is very manageable. On January 11, Uganda declared the end of the current Ebola virus outbreak. We had no cases within the Commonwealth, but the Commonwealth did have one of the five receiving airports in the nation, leading to an increase level of awareness and preparedness. VDH continues to build out and update plans and policies regarding that because there were some new lessons learned, to include partners and players have changed over the last 4-5 years. Biden Administration also advised this week that the national public health emergency declaration issued for COVID would not be renewed and the end date will be May 11. VDH is waiting on Federal partners to share additional information and resources on this topic. Further discussion occurred around the use of commercial EMS agencies as the primary transport resource for Ebola or other emerging infectious diseases. Discussion also covered annual or biannual survey to determine capability or interest in being a agency made capable with training and equipment.  Michael Player provided an update from VA-1 DMAT including information on the trainings that have occurred.  Stephanie Hackett provided an update on the Hampton Roads on MMRS, advised they were pursuing Pulsera for MCI and patient tracking for the Peninsula and Tidewater regions.  Ray Whatley advised VAGEMSA would be meeting the evening of February 2, 2023. He also took the opportunity to provide an update on activities in the Northern Virginia area, including information related to the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System Steering Committee recommending funding for a new patient tracking system. |  |
| **Office of EMS Report** | Karen Owens advised attendees that the call for presentations for 2023 Symposium is now open and encourages early submission to allow for as many courses as possible. If anyone has issues with getting into the Portal for submission, please reach out to the Office of EMS for assistance. Currently, OEMS is conducting an after-action review of 2022 Symposium. Karen also reported the Emergency Operations Division will be welcoming a new employee, Amber Wells, on February 10, who will serve as a liaison between 911 centers, to implement the regulations related to EMD requirements that start July 2024. |  |
| **Unfinished Report** | **MCIM Work Group Presentation** –  Karen Owens reported to the committee feedback received from Training, Education, and Certification committee, Medical Direction, and the regional council meetings, which was also handed out to attendees on a one-page document. There were concerns about transitioning from both triage systems to just SALT and that the presented tag was too busy and could be daunting. Karen also advised NASEMSO’s Health and Medical Preparedness Council conducted a survey across all 50 states about the use of triage and triage systems, and the triage tags in their states. This survey indicated over half of the states are still using START and JumpSTART.  Discussion then continued about the need for feedback from other stakeholders and the workgroup needed a larger representation of the regions. Ray Whatley and either Bubby Bish or Tarry Pribble will be added to the workgroup to expand representation. The workgroup needs to decide if a re-do or a reapproach is needed for the triage tag, what information is needed for continuity of care from ambulance to the hospital, does the training program need to be updated, and if a universal triage system is a realistic option for Virginia. |  |
| **New Business** | Matthew Marry reminded attendees of the 2023 Virginia Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Summit on April 19 at the Westin, Richmond. Registration opens February 15. |  |
| **Public Comment** | None |  |
| **Next Scheduled Meeting** | Next scheduled meeting is May 4, 2023 |  |
| **Adjourn** | The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m. |  |
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