**Provider Health and Safety Committee**

**Virginia Office of EMS**

**May 5, 2023**

**8:30 a.m.**

| **Members Present:** | **Members Absent:** | **OEMS Staff:** | **Guests** |
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| Brian Frankel, Advisory Board |  | Karen Owens | John Bianco |
| Bubby Bish, VAVRS |  | Kari Magner | Jason Ferguson, Advisory Board |
| Amy Ashe, PEMS |  | Devin Chinault | Michelle Ludeman |
| Valerie Quick, Advisory Board, At-Large Member |  | Kelsey Rideout | Kim Craig |
| Wayne Perry, REMS |  | Jenn Kersey | Matt Lawler |
| John Bianco |  | Amanda Loreti | James Reynolds |
|  |  |  | Megan Middleton |
|  |  |  |  |

| **Topic/Subject** | **Discussion** | **Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Call to order:** | Meeting called to order at 08:30 by Brian Frankel |  |
| **Review and approval of Minutes** | A motion was made to accept the May and November meeting minutes by Amy Ashe and second by Wayne Perry. Meeting minutes approved. |  |
| **Introduction of Guests and New Committee Members** | Committee members introduced themselves. Chairman Frankel reported on additional members that have been invited to join the committee to represent various organizations.  |  |
| **Instructions on how the meeting will run** | Committee members were reminded to state their name prior to talking to assist with the transcriptions of the meeting. |  |
| **Committee Chair Report & Update** | The committee chair discussed the need to review committee membership and representation to ensure the right people are on the committee. Health and Safety is a broad topic and it is important to make sure we have the subject matter experts.The Committee chair reviewed the results of the survey sent out to committee members and the Advisory Board members. Conversation followed regarding some of the open-text responses, including the importance of data collection. Karen provided an update regarding previous discussions related to data collection, including ESO. Discussion was had about possibly doing a year end survey on various health and safety topics. Karen mentioned this may be something better done at a more global level, to include numbers of calls, etc.Chairman Frankel mentioned potentially seeing if it can be tied to recertification, where you have to answer questions upon submission of the recertification. | **Karen will discuss with ACE if that is a possibility. Will need to develop questions.** |
| **Committee Member/Other Reports** | **Infection Control Workgroup –** Valerie provided an update on recent incidents related to decedent exposure. She said the process works well, the hold up is getting the kits in the hands of the councils/agencies. She has created a flowchart for the process of getting the kit to mailing the kit and in between. Karen provided an update on obtaining the kits, including the potential to work with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to get kits through them. She will work with appropriate OEMS/VDH personnel and get the process moving. Karen discussed concerns about needing to solidify the notification process. Chairman Frankel also expressed concern regarding the importance of educating people about the process and making sure the councils are prepared to receive the kits.Motion was made by Valerie Quick for regional councils to receive the kits and develop regional plans. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.Karen Owens provided a report from the Office of EMS – She shared documents from the U.S. Fire Administration on various health and safety topics that could be good to share with agencies and providers or used to create EMS specific documents. This includes EMS Safety practices, workplace violence prevention, and ergonomics and wellness. The documents can be accessed here: [apps.usfa.fema.gov/publications/browse?sc=12](https://apps.usfa.fema.gov/publications/browse?sc=12)Karen also shared that a special project that the division has taken on is the development of resources, or at least centralized collection of, resources related to EMS line of duty deaths. Resources exist for fire and police LODD, but there are limited resources specific to EMS. This is the very early stages of the project so right now we are just collecting resources.Motion – “In the event of a line of duty death, the Office of EMS will provide a liaison that will assist with coordination across state agencies with line of duty and survivor benefits” Motion seconded  Discussion was held regarding the importance of not trying to overstep with the fire resources that might be in place in a fire/EMS LODD as well as the importance of making sure the liaison does not endorse specific resources Motion passed unanimously | **Committee members will share resources with Karen to start the data collection process.** |
| **Old Business** | Karen provided an overview of the position paper regarding EMS Safety Officer. Members will provide input and it will be reviewed at the August meeting.Motion made to accept the two applications for CISM-Peer support team accreditation (Va. LEAP and Fairfax Fire and Rescue). Motion seconded and approved.  | **Valerie will work on getting a small group together to develop objectives.** |
| **New Business** |  |  |
| **Public Comment** |  |  |
| **Next Scheduled Meeting** | Next meeting scheduled for August 4, 2023 in conjunction with the quarterly Advisory Board |  |
| **Adjournment** | Meeting Adjourned at 9:34 a.m. |  |
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