**Provider Health and Safety Committee**

**Virginia Office of EMS**

**Virtual Meeting**

**May 6, 2022**

**8:30 a.m.**

| **Members Present:** | **Members Absent:** | **OEMS Staff:** | **Guests** |
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| Lisa Simba, Chair, Advisory Board | Wayne Myers | Karen Owens | Kelsey Rideout |
| Jack Sullivan, ESRI | Brian Hricik | Tim Perkins | Colby Mills |
| Valerie Quick, Thomas Jefferson EMS Council |  |  | Joey Hundley |
| Wayne Perry, Rappahannock EMS, OEMS |  |  | Jason Ferguson |
| Amy Ashe, Peninsulas EMS Council |  |  | Jessica Goodman |
|  |  |  | Amanda Loretti |
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| **Topic/Subject** | **Discussion** | **Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person** |
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| **Call to order:** | Meeting called to order at 08:30 by Chair |  |
| **Review and approval of Minutes** | Meeting minutes not approved due to lack of a quorum at the start of the meeting |  |
| **Introduction of Guests and New Committee Members** | Committee members and guests introduced themselves |  |
| **Instructions on how the meeting will run** | Karen Owens provided instructions on the new process for developing meeting minutes, including the recording of the entire meeting and the need to state the speaker’s name prior to them starting to speak. |  |
| **Committee Chair Report & Update** | As a new chairperson, the committee chair deferred to other committee members for their reports. |  |
| **Committee Member/Other Reports** | Jack Sullivan – provided information on the joint statement regarding the use of lights and sirens from the National Association of EMS Physicians and National Association of State EMS Officials. The paper’s basic message is the need for agencies to review their lights and sirens policies, especially during the transport of patients. The message is based on the recognition that the number of vehicle crashes is increasing and that lights and sirens may play a role in that. Karen stated that they would share the document on the webpage. |  |
| **Other Updates** | Karen provided an OEMS update, which included providing information on the new Emergency Planner and the support she will provide related to health and safety. She also shared an update on the 2022 data collection of the mental health survey. She reiterated the importance of the exposure website and the other links that we have now.  \*\*Amy Ashe entered the meeting at this time which brought the meeting to a quorum\*\* |  |
| **Old Business** | Karen deferred to Adam Harrell to provide an update on the decedent exposure testing kits. The issues that previously existed with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner have been resolved and now we are facing logistical issues related to storage, purchase, and shelf-life, as well as deployment of the kits during an exposure incident. Specifically, who will keep the kits and how will they be deployed. There is also a need to provide education to the hospitals and funeral homes on the legalities and logistics related to blood collection.  Additional conversation was had regarding deployment of the kits, as well as education about the use of the kits and the ability to acquire the kits after an incident. Karen will work with OEMS staff to purchase kits and get them to the regional councils while also working on ensuring the education on the resources is provided to the agencies. |  |
| **New Business** | Karen presented application from the Culpeper Police Department Peer Support Team. Valerie Quick made the motion for approval. Lisa Simba seconded the motion. Culpeper Police Department Peer Support Team was approved.  Additional conversation was had regarding the confidentiality and potential issues with HIPA. Karen provided additional information on that, as well as information on the code language requirements related to accreditation.  With a quorum, Karen asked if Jack Sullivan wanted to visit the statement on lights and sirens. Wayne Perry put forward a motion to push the joint statement to the advisory board and ask for their endorsement in sharing with agencies. Valerie Quick seconded the motion. During discussion Tim Perkins recommended getting support and perspective from other committees before requesting the support of the advisory board. After additional discussion Mr. Perry amended his original motion to present the paper to other advisory board committees with the request that they review it and determine whether they want their committee to endorse the paper as well. Valerie Quick seconded the motion and it passed with 100% support of voting members present.  Mr. Harrell presented information on the data collection opportunities that OEMS may be able to capture through ESO. He shared information on some of the data elements that can be collected that are not at this time. These data elements provide an opportunity for EMS agencies and administrators to take actionable and useable data to make policies and operational decisions. Currently he is sharing this as informational only, but would like the committee to look at whether or not there is an opportunity to activate portions of ESO that do not necessarily collect specific information, but provide notification of issues, such as a critical incident or traffic incident management issues. Additional conversations were held regarding the concerns about reporting and sharing | **Committee members were asked to consider what health and safety data elements they would like to have data on.** |
| **Public Comment** | Joey Hundley with Virginia Beach EMS shared his thoughts on the issue related to lights and sirens and his concerns about the number of different agencies that are providing input on the issue and what regulations exist that may impact the ability to adjust lights and sirens use. He also asked about the requirements on the mental health training legislation that went into effect recently (he believed January 21). He asked what OEMS staff had done to assist with the requirements. Karen provided information and clarification on the legislation. She stated that the legislation does not place a requirement on any state agency for oversight of ensuring that fire and EMS agencies meet the requirements. She stated that she would share the specific wording of legislation as it relates to EMS providers and share it with Mr. Hundley.  Mr. Colby Mills, a clinical psychology from Northern Virginia spoke to the committee on two separate items. The first was the national study on public safety mental health and the data that was collected on the survey. He also wanted to share himself as a resource for future mental health needs.  Jason Ferguson shared trouble finding instructors for CISM courses in his region. Karen asked that he reach out and she would provide additional resources and instructor contacts for him. |  |
| **Next Scheduled Meeting** | Next scheduled meeting is in conjunction with the August Advisory Board Meeting |  |
| **Adjournment** | Meeting Adjourned at 09:20 a.m. |  |
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