

**State Air Medical Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
February 1, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests & Other Attendees:
Susan Rivers , Carilion Clinic Lifeguard	Victoria Smith , VENA, Chair - EXCUSED	Tim Perkins	Cody Jackson, Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport
Gabe Elias , Emergency Communications, VDEM	Jennifer Lobb, MD , Level III Trauma Center Rep., Inova Loudoun	Wanda Street	Jeff Weber, VSP Med Flight
Al Thompson , Non-trauma Center Rep, Bon Secours	Brian Bowman , Fairfax County Police - EXCUSED	Devin Chinault	Michelle Ludeman, NVEMS Council
Dwain Rowe , Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport	Capt. Shawn Rivard , VSP MedFlight - EXCUSED	George Lindbeck	Travis Mason, AirLife VA
Jermaine Clayborne , UVA Health/Pegasus		Ron Passmore	Kat Fivelstad, UVA
Carlie Smith , AirLife Virginia		Greg Woods	Ryan Hite, Carilion Life-Guard
Denise Baylous , Nightingale			Sid Bingley, Carilion Life-Guard
Dempsey Whitt , VCU LifeEvac			Kayla Long, Centra One
Mack Tolbert , Wake Forest Baptist AirCare			Chris Shaffer, PHI Air Medical
Sgt. Tim Ryan , U.S. Park Police			Lance Hamilton, Fairfax Co.
Rick Cohen , PHI Air Medical			Gregory Jones, Med Flight
Robert Conner , Centra One			Vince Mancano, VSP Med Flight
Brian Solada , Air Care Eagle			Gary Samuels, Bon Secours
Rebecca Branch Griffin , Member-At-Large, Consumer			David Long, TEMS
			Rhiannon Killen, UVA
			Jay Lovelady, HCA
			Alecia Hamm, TJEMS Council
			Cody Main, LifeEvac
			Michael FaJohn, Henrico Doctor's Hospital
			Melissa Meador, Greene Co.

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to order:	<p>Victoria Smith is on vacation in Hawaii and Tim Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A moment of silence was held to honor those who were lost since the last meeting.</p> <p>Gabe's workgroup report was moved up on the agenda because he had to leave.</p>	
Introductions:	Everyone around the room introduced themselves.	
Review & Approval of the November 16, 2023, minutes:	Mack Tolbert made a motion to accept the November meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Carlie Smith. All committee members were in favor of the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
Air Medical Communications/Interoperability Workgroup – Gabe Elias:	At the last meeting, we discussed ways to leverage FirstNet Public Safety Broadband Network within the air medical community, and the documentation was sent out to the committee by Tim. Gabe received very helpful feedback. He has reached back out to the Federal authorities. We will need something in writing from both the FCC and the FAA to approve this. He is currently waiting to hear back from the subject matter expert at First Net. As soon as he hears back, Tim will send the workgroup an update.	
Chair Report – Victoria Smith:	No report.	
OEMS Report:	<p>Tim reported that no new RSAF applications are being accepted for the Spring 2024 cycle. Also, unfortunately, there will not be an EMS Symposium in 2024. Please let Tim know of any educational events going on in your respective areas/regions.</p> <p>The Acting Director Cam Crittenden was called on the phone. She stated that she has noticed an uptick in education that HEMS has been providing and she thanked everyone. The Office of EMS will help in any way possible to support the education. She also wanted to tell Patrick Parker happy birthday. Dwain stated that he was taken to dinner last night. Cam also stated that things are looking up at OEMS with the pass-through funds from VDH. Dr. Karen Shelton and Christopher Lindsay have been great leaders. She spoke about Fitch and Associates being with us for six months to dive into how we do business and possibly establish ways to better our system. They will provide us with a report by the end of the summer.</p>	
Drone-Related Items:	No discussion.	
Quarterly Safety Project – Carlie Smith:	Carlie stated that her video has been recorded. It was a minute and a half in length. She would love to have some assistance with getting the video together with all the proper logos. It was suggested to add the words "Brought to you by the State Air Medical Committee" along with the OEMS logo and the Air Methods logo or the last page with all the committee logos. She will send it to Tim for final approval. Everyone was requested to send their most updated logos to sarah.smith@airmethods.com . Her topic was on wires.	
Virginia Helicopter EMS Program Update – Tim Perkins:	<p>a. Statistics Report</p> <p>The amount of data submitted to the Medevac Helicopter EMS application (formerly known as WeatherSafe) continues to be robust. In terms of weather turndowns, there were 353 entries into the Helicopter EMS system in Q4 of the 2023 calendar year. 69% of those entries (264) were for interfacility transports, which is consistent with information from previous quarters. The total number of turndowns is down from 354 entries in Q4 of 2022. For the 2023 calendar year, there were 1,549 entries into the system, which was an increase from the 1,445 entries for the 2022 calendar year.</p>	

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	<p>b. Turndown reporting No new information or issues.</p> <p>c. Laser Strike reporting This is to be added to the hazard list. Once added, please be sure to have someone enter this information. Carlie received an email from the FAA reporting a 41% increase in laser strikes from 2022. There were 13,304 reports from pilots last year. Tim will forward this message to the committee as many did not receive it.</p>	<p>Tim will get Laser Strike reporting added to the hazard list.</p>
<p>Program Announcements and Updates:</p>	<p>Mack Tolbert – No report. Lance Hamilton – No report.</p> <p>Brian Solada – No report.</p> <p>Carlie Smith – No report.</p> <p>Jermaine Clayborne – No report.</p> <p>Robbie Conner – At the last meeting we talked about the helipad in Farmville. Since that meeting, he has met with the CEO of the hospital and has made zero progress. He has spoken with other programs and there are ongoing issues. We have offered a couple of different locations where the LZ could be placed but there will be construction taking place soon in those areas. A unified effort may be needed from several helicopter programs in order to make progress. The property owners will not cooperate with cutting the trees down. They feel the trees act as a sound barrier but are in the way. Denise suggested bringing in risk management to advise on the safety and risk aspects.</p> <p>Tim Ryan – No report.</p> <p>Dwain Rowe – Mr. Rowe applauded Robbie’s efforts and spoke about an incident at Pulaski Hospital involving some trees. The hospital actually cut the row of trees back after the incident.</p> <p>Denise Baylous – No report.</p> <p>Rick Cohen – No report.</p> <p>Dempsey Whitt – The main rooftop helipad is out of service. They are using the helipad at the Children’s Hospital with a couple of small glitches. Please give at least a 15-minute mark. We appreciate your patience.</p> <p>Al Thompson – For those of you who go to Southside Medical Center there is a slightly muddy swamp where helicopters are landing in when there is one on the helipad. The EMS Coordinator has gone to the Administration about this concern, and a secondary landing area will be created upon contract approval.</p>	

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	<p>More to come at the next meeting.</p> <p>Vince Mancano – Lt. Shawn Rivard will be away from the office for an extended amount of time and Vince will be filling in for him.</p> <p>Susan Rivers – Susan has been participating in a group about the safety of combative patients and plans to submit to do an ECHO presentation to talk about that subject as well. She would like to have your stories from your med crews to share and prompt good discussion if ECHO approves. Carilion will be sponsoring the welcome dinner for the southern route of the EMS National Bike Ride on May 4. They leave out of Roanoke on May 5th. Lastly, there is increased crime in the Danville area and the safety of the helipad. There are no security staff or police there. Travis Mason stated that the airport is 6 miles from the hospital and Centra is 3 miles from the hospital. They cannot land there without permission. The committee members from that area discussed ways to make it more safe and secure.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	None.	
New Business:	<p>Travis Mason – He is a volunteer at ECHO (Every Coast Helicopter Operations) which is 100% volunteer-run. ECHO will be hosting an event called 202 Public Safety Aviation Conference at the Richmond Marriott Downtown, September 30 - October 2. More information can be found at www.echoflightcrew.org under Events on the menu tab. More volunteer members are needed to teach classes, serve on panels, etc.</p>	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 a.m.	<p>2024 Meeting Dates: May 2 August 1 November 14</p>

Transcribed by Wanda Street, Executive Secretary, Sr.