

State Medevac Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
November 12, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests & Other Attendees:
Rick Cohen , PHI Air Medical	Victoria Smith , Chair/VNA (E)	Tim Perkins	Tim Kennedy, Henrico Doctors Hospital
Dwain Rowe , Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport (HEART)	Denise Baylous , Sentara Nightingale (E)	Melinda Carter	Brian Solada, HCA AirCare Eagle
Susan Rivers , Carilion Clinic Lifeguard	Tim Ryan , U.S. Park Police (E)	Kim Jones	Dempsey Whitt, VCU LifeEvac
Rebecca Griffin , Consumer Rep./GAB	Shawn Rivard , VA State Police (E)	Chris Vernovai	James Lovelady, HCA AirCare Eagle
Gabe Elias , State Communications Cmte./VDEM	Burt Bogue , VCU LifeEvac	Ron Passmore	Joseph Williams, Culpeper EMS
Al Thompson , Non-trauma Designated Hospital/Bon Secours	Ryan Morgan , Fairfax County PD		Cody Jackson, HEART
E = Excused			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to order:	In the absence of the chair, Tim Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.	
Introductions:	Everyone around the room introduced themselves.	
Review & Approval of the August 5, 2021 minutes:	Due to the extended illness of pertinent OEMS staff members, the August 2021 meeting minutes were unavailable.	
Chair Report - Torie Smith	No report.	
OEMS Report:	<p>-Ron Passmore provided the group a brief update of the status of the review and revision of the Virginia EMS Regulations. They will be discussed further at a future committee meeting.</p> <p>-Tim introduced the newest committee members: Al Thompson, representing non-trauma designated hospitals, and Gabe Elias, representing the State Communication Committee. Both Al and Gabe gave brief introductions about themselves.</p> <p>-Tim thanked everyone for their support of the 2021 Virginia EMS Symposium, and reminded the group that the Call for Presentations for the 2022 Virginia EMS Symposium is open, and encouraged the group, as well as their staffers, to submit to present. There is most definitely a need for more medevac related content at Symposium.</p> <p>-Kim Jones introduced herself, and provided an update on the status of the ESO project in Virginia.</p>	
Drone Workgroup – Susan Rivers:	<p>-Susan reported that there is definitely a need for a formal resumption of the workgroup. Susan also reported that there was a recent near miss involving a drone in the Roanoke area.</p> <p>-Gabe mentioned a product called “Fixed Flight Information Exchange”, and should have a report on it at a future meeting.</p> <p>-Rick mentioned a project called “Mission Go” – drones to be used for organ transport, and hopefully have a demo at a future meeting.</p>	
Virginia Helicopter EMS Program Update – Tim Perkins:	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 363 entries into the Helicopter EMS system in Q3 of the 2021 calendar year. 71% of those entries (259 entries) were for interfacility transports, which is consistent with information from previous quarters. The total number of turndowns is a decrease from 488 entries in Q3 of 2020. This data continues to demonstrate a commitment to the program and to maintaining the safety of medevac personnel and equipment.	
Program Announcements and Updates:	<p>Dempsey Whitt (VCU LifeEvac) reported that their comms center is up and running. Also, Southside Regional Medical Center is scheduled to have aircraft on site full time in December</p> <p>Al Thompson reported that St. Francis hospital has undergone an expansion, with an upgrade of their helipad.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	<p>Legislative Updates</p> <p>-Tim reported that he hadn’t been notified of any potential legislation forthcoming for the 2022 Virginia General Assembly session.</p>	
New Business:	<p>Air Medical Communications</p> <p>-A discussion took place related to air medical communications, specifically the VIPER program based in North Carolina. The question of whether or not a similar program should be developed for Virginia. An ad-hoc workgroup was created with Gabe, Jay Lovelady, and Tim Perkins volunteering to participate. A report on this will be made a future meeting.</p>	

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New Business (Cont.)	OEMS Airmed E-mail Distribution List -Tim reported that OEMS has had issues with the distribution list, and has been working with VITA to ensure that information is sent to the list without issue.	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:34 a.m. The May and August meetings will likely be at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Richmond.	2022 Meeting Dates: May 5 August 4 Additional Meeting TBD

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