

**State Medevac Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
November 16, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests & Other Attendees:
Victoria Smith , VENA, Chair	Susan Rivers , Carilion Clinic Lifeguard	Tim Perkins	Cody Jackson, Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport
Gabe Elias , Emergency Communications, VDEM	Jermaine Clayborne , UVA Health/Pegasus	Wanda Street	James "JR" Reynolds, Advisory Board Member
Al Thompson , Non-trauma Center Rep, Bon Secours	Jennifer Lobb, MD , Level III Trauma Center Rep., Inova Loudoun	Cam Crittenden	Greg Cassis, UVA Pegasus
Dwain Rowe , Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport	Capt. Shawn Rivard , VSP MedFlight	Ron Passmore	Michael FaJohn, Henrico Doctor's Hospital
Brian Bowman , Fairfax County Police		George Lindbeck	Kat Fivelstad, UVA
Carlie Smith , AirLife Virginia			Ryan Hite, Carilion Life-Guard
Denise Baylous , Nightingale			Sid Bingley, Carilion Life-Guard
Dempsey Whitt , VCU LifeEvac			Kayla Long, Centra One
			Andrew Fletcher, Centra One
Sgt. Tim Ryan , U.S. Park Police			Maggie McCauley, Nightingale
Rick Cohen , PHI Air Medical			Gregory Jones, Med-Flight
Robert Conner , Centra One			Autumn Davis, Valley Health
Brian Solada , Air Care Eagle			Gary Samuels, Bon Secours
Mack Tolbert , Wake Forest Baptist AirCare			David Long, TEMS
Rebecca Branch Griffin , Member-At-Large, Consumer			Patryck Parker, VCU LifeEvac
			Jay Lovelady, HCA
			Justin Nelson, VHC

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to order:	The Chair, Torie Smith, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A moment of silence was held for those that were lost since the last meeting.	
Introductions:	Everyone around the room introduced themselves.	

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Review & Approval of the August 3, 2023, minutes:	Dempsey Whitt made a motion to accept the August meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Al Thompson. All committee members were in favor of the motion. None opposed. The motion carried.	The minutes were approved as submitted.
Chair Report – Victoria Smith:	No report.	
OEMS Report:	Cam Crittenden stated that she is the Acting Director of OEMS at this time. The Office is working through the difficulties that are being faced. The State Health Commissioner, Dr. Karen Shelton and Mr. Christopher Lindsay will be at the Advisory Board meeting tomorrow to speak about the current status of OEMS. We ask that you bear with us and if you have any questions, please ask me, Tim, or Dr. Lindbeck. A question was asked by Mr. Gary Samuels about next year’s symposium. Cam stated that OEMS will likely not have one in 2024, planning would have begun by now. The agencies and regions have stepped up and are holding expos and mini-symposiums across the state, please check the OEMS website for dates and times. You may or may not be aware, but Gary Brown has retired from the Office of EMS, and we thank him for his tenure.	
Drone-Related Items:	<p>David Long, Tidewater EMS Executive Director, stated that there are two drone projects going on. One is on the eastern shore, an initiative between ODU Drone Up and Riverside Health Systems. We are completing phase 2, doing pharmaceutical deliveries, and heading into Phase 3. The other project is Duke and the American Heart Association in delivering AEDs through drones. James City County is the target organization or jurisdiction for this process.</p> <p>It was mentioned by Al Thompson that all Bon Secours facilities in the Richmond area are doing surveys of the hospitals with drones starting the last week in November. He will get the information out to Tim to be distributed to the committee. More information to follow.</p>	
Quarterly Safety Project – Carlie Smith:	Carlie stated that she sent a list out for everyone to pick a topic. She is hoping to kick this off with a quarterly video that is put together the beginning of 2024. She would like everyone to pick a topic by the end of this year. She can re-send the list if necessary. It was requested to re-send it.	
Virginia Helicopter EMS Program Update – Tim Perkins:	<p>a. Statistics Report The amount of data submitted to the Air Medical Helicopter EMS application (formerly known as WeatherSafe) continues to be robust. In terms of weather turndowns, there were 397 entries into the Helicopter EMS system in Q3 of the 2023 calendar year. 67% of those entries (269 entries) were for interfacility transports, which is a slight increase from information from previous quarters. The total number of turndowns is an increase from 358 entries in Q3 of 2022. This data continues to demonstrate a commitment to the program and maintaining the safety of medevac personnel and equipment.</p> <p>b. Turndown reporting No new information or issues.</p>	
Air Medical Communications Workgroup – Gabe Elias:	Gabe Elias reported that the workgroup was trying to find a way connect area EMS across the State to bridge the gaps. Mr. Elias recently read a report from FirstNet. He will send the report to Tim to be distributed to the committee. FirstNet did a nationwide, public safety broadband network study over a couple of years on aviation and maritime. There has been some testing in Virginia with FirstNet push to talk, which is their mission critical push to talk application and it is quite functional. We have demonstrated connecting that to Virginia’s CommLink interoperability system and from there to locality radio systems and Stars. Gabe proposed to the	Gabe will send the FirstNet report to Tim for distribution to the committee.

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	<p>group to develop a coalition or pilot program where we try to leverage broadband in a way that is sustainable in the air and do an interoperable talk path across a handful of public and private aircraft and bring that back down to land. He is not sure if this addresses every capability that we wanted, but pending your input, he feels it addresses a lot of it.</p> <p>The question was asked, “Will FirstNet work in areas that are underserved, where there is lack of cell service?”</p> <p>Gabe replied that FirstNet may give a little bit of an extended range, but that is why a pilot is being proposed. He is interested in learning what this looks like in the air.</p> <p>The committee is very interested and wants more information, so Gabe will get the report out. Jay Lovelady would love to participate in the testing process. Rick Cohen also would be interested. Dwain Rowe and Denise Baylous also expressed interest.</p>	
<p>Program Announcements and Updates:</p>	<p>Before the program announcements were given, the Chair, congratulated the programs that won awards: Air Care Eagle, Air Methods, Air Life Virginia, and LifeEvac had 17 members that received awards! Tim pointed out that Office is working on a plan to properly acknowledge all the award winners.</p> <p>Robbie Conner – Centra One has a new flight medic who is about two weeks into his orientation. There has been a lot of discussion around the Centra radio frequencies for different facilities, this has been going on for a couple of years. Centra, as a health system, has decided to move to State Med-2 and have that at each facility. Also kept in service a Med-9 at Lynchburg, a HEAR at Farmville and another Med-9 at Gretna. They found that the Med-9 and the HEAR aren’t being utilized very much and when utilized the systems are down. So, there is a big push internally for all air medical to utilize the Med-2 channel. There is some talk about transitioning away from the HEAR channel as well.</p> <p>On another note, Dempsey spoke about the continued overgrowth of trees around the pad in Farmville. They are a pretty significant safety concern.</p> <p>Robbie stated that the trees are not on the hospital property, but he wanted to know if Robbie had any update on this. The residents are using the trees as a sound barrier and prefers not to cut them. There is some discussion about relocating the helipad, looking at different locations. Unfortunately, the initial goal is to get the trees cut back.</p> <p>Rick Cohen – PHI has been recertified for another three years after their CAMTS meeting.</p> <p>Dwain Rowe – No report.</p> <p>Brian Solada – No report.</p> <p>Carlie Smith – No report.</p>	<p>Robbie will send this information to Tim to distribute to the committee.</p>

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	<p>Denise Baylous – Nightingale has also requested Southampton to cut back their trees by their helipad and will comply. No ETA on when this will happen.</p> <p>Mack Tolbert – Nothing to report.</p> <p>Tim Ryan – Park Police made a new pilot a couple of weeks ago. All of the candidates, the majority of the candidates, are internal so they come on as officers and move to the medic side of the helicopter and then train up to be pilots. It's a long process and kind of a big deal when they get to make one. They are excited about that.</p> <p>Rebecca Branch Griffin – Nothing to report.</p> <p>Brian Bowman – Brian congratulated Tim Ryan and the Park Police for celebrating 50 years of service. (applause)</p> <p>Dempsey Whitt – No report.</p> <p>There were no other program reports.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated Mack Tolbert for being one of the Top 40 RN's, in North Carolina. (applause)</p>	
Unfinished Business:	<p>Mr. Gary Samuels stated that at the last meeting it was requested to have the committee's name be changed from Medevac Committee to Air Medical Committee. This was discussed with the Bylaws Committee and will be voted on at the Advisory Board meeting tomorrow. Once approved, the change will go into effect immediately.</p> <p>Tim Perkins asked if anyone has recently used the Air Medical Transport Authorization form. Do you know how to access it? He will send the link out. This was one of the things that came out of the HB-1728 committee. We developed a form intended for healthcare providers to notify a patient or his or her authorized representative if the healthcare provider is requesting Air Medical transport for the patient, who may not have an emergency medical condition. The committee briefly discussed this and stated that this is something that the hospitals are supposed to do.</p>	
New Business:	<p>Matt Drake, burn surgeon of Chippenham, introduced himself and reported that they are awaiting the official letter from their burn designation review to become an adult and pediatric burn center. Then they will go for the National Burn Application. He wanted to get the word out about Chippenham's burn services.</p>	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:36 a.m.	<p>2024 Meeting Dates: February 1 May 2 August 1 November 14</p>