

**State Medevac Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
November 17, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests & Other Attendees:
Dwain Rowe , Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport	Victoria Smith , VENA, Chair (Excused)	Scott Winston	Cody Jackson, Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport
Lt. Shawn Rivard , VSP MedFlight	Burt Bogue , VCU LifeEvac	George Lindbeck	Brian Solada, HCA AirCare Eagle
Rick Cohen , PHI Air Medical	Ryan Morgan , Fairfax County Police Aviation	Cierra Brown	Dempsey Whitt, VCU LifeEvac
Gabe Elias , VDEM	Denise Baylous , Nightingale	Wanda Street	Carlie Smith, AirLife Virginia
Al Thompson , Non-trauma Center Rep, Bon Secours	Chad Gainey , AirLife Virginia	Chris Vernovai	Kim Jones, ESO
Rebecca Branch Griffin , Consumer	Susan Rivers , Carilion Clinic Lifeguard	Adam Harrell	Robbie Conner, Centra One
	Tim Ryan , U.S. Park Police	Hybrid OEMS Staff:	Andrew Fletcher, Centra One
		Daniel Linkins	Jeff Weber, VSP MedFlight I
		Kelsey Rideout	Sid Bingley, Carilion Life-Guard
		Greg Woods	Ryan Hite, Carilion Life-Guard
		Linda Harris	

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to order:	Mr. Dwain Rowe is the acting chair this morning. He called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Tori is out with a sick family member and Tim has tested positive for COVID.	
Introductions:	Everyone around the room introduced themselves. Mr. Rowe reminded everyone to be sure to sign the roster that is going around the room.	

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Review & Approval of the August 4, 2022 minutes:	The August minutes could not be approved as there was no chair or quorum. The minutes will be presented at the next meeting in February.	
Chair Report – Victoria Smith:	No report.	
OEMS Report:	<p>Mr. Scott Winston reported that the Quarterly EMS Report has been posted on the OEMS website. Please review it for all the latest updates from each division. Here are some of the highlights: Legislative and Planning will have an action item tomorrow at the Advisory Board to approve the State Strategic and Operational EMS Plan. This Plan has been in development for a few years and will hopefully be approved tomorrow. The Chapter 32 of the EMS Rules and Regulations will be reviewed for final approval in January. This will go to the Advisory Board in May 2023. If approved, it will go to the Board of Health in September 2023. The most recent Regional Council to become a hybrid office is the Central Shenandoah EMS Regional Council. Grey Woods is the Executive Director and is now a full-time employee with OEMS.</p> <p>Mr. Adam Harrell stated that we are all recovering from symposium. He thanked everyone that were either sponsors, exhibitors or instructors at this years’ event. We are already planning next years’ symposium and the call for presentation will be opening soon. As the General Assembly session starts, Gary Brown will be sending out legislative grids weekly with bills pertaining to all facets of EMS. The data systems are still moving forward: trauma registry, stroke registry, patient registry, etc. We are still receiving interest in the Hospital Data Exchange interconnects. ESO is here this week so please reach out to them if you have questions.</p> <p>Scott also mentioned an upcoming bill by Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) that pertains to the Department of Health Professions. It’s titled Professional Use by Practitioners. It gives EMS providers authority to administer medications and devices. VHHA wants to amend this section and add language that states this is “drafted”. This creates conflicts throughout the administrative regulations. Scott explained this bill in further detail to the committee. He also spoke about the bill for EMS being recognized as an Essential Service.</p> <p>Tim sent an email stating that there were several HEMS offerings at symposium, and he hopes that this will continue next year.</p>	
Drone Related Items:	Nothing new to report or discuss at this time.	
Virginia Helicopter EMS Program Update – Tim Perkins:	<p>a. Statistics Report 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 358 entries into the Helicopter EMS system in Q3 of the 2022 calendar year. 69% of those entries (250 entries) were for interfacility transports, which is consistent with information from previous quarters. The total number of turndowns is an increase from 363 entries in Q3 of 2021. This data continues to demonstrate a commitment to the program and to maintaining the safety of medevac personnel and equipment.</p> <p>b. Turndown reporting See above for turndown information for the third quarter.</p>	

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Air Medical Communications Workgroup – Gabe Elias:	The workgroup met and defined what the problem is. The workgroup will meet with the OEMS Communications Committee. We have a statewide P25 ID plan for radios. One of the gaps that was identified by Jay Lovelady is that there is no allocation specifically for air ambulance or for private EMS. When an aircraft goes to a locality and wants to use their P25 radio system, they need to assign some IDs for your radio. And then when you go to the next locality, you get another ID. The plan is to have a single ID for the radio no matter what locality you are in. The next step is to work on the allocation piece.	
Program Announcements and Updates:	<p>Carlie Smith, AirLife VA – Ms, Smith reported that they were Gold Sponsors at symposium and had an absolute blast. She thanked OEMS for a wonderful event.</p> <p>Brian Solada, HCA AirCare Eagle – Another great year at the EMS symposium. Brian thanked everyone and looks forward to next year.</p> <p>Cody Jackson, Highlands Emergency Air Transport – No report.</p> <p>Robbie Conner, CentraOne – Still recovering from the symposium.</p> <p>Lt. Shawn Rivard, VSP – At the last meeting, Lt. Rivard reported that they were on 16 hour shifts because of staffing. MedFlight II and Southwest Virginia is back up to 24 hour shifts as of August 21st. MedFlight I may be back up to 24 hour coverage in February or March. VSP has hired two pilots and will hire three more. The Bell 412 that we bought two years ago is finally completed and is located in Southwest Virginia. We are also looking to purchase a Bell 412EPX for Southwest as well so we can finally get rid of the Airbus.</p> <p>Rick Cohen, PHI Air Medical – Mr. Cohen reported that PHI has just completed a new deal with Valley Health. The AirCare 4 base has always supported Valley Health, but it’s more substantial now. The aircraft will probably be branded for Valley, but it’s still a part of PHI’s program.</p> <p>Dempsey Whitt, VCU LifeEvac – Our program was asked what it would look like if we did not send a medic to the helipad when you come to VCU. Most hospitals do not do this, but we have traditionally done it. The initial conversation is that if you need a medic, request a medic when you call in your report. This is very preliminary, and more information will be forthcoming. The VCU Children’s hospital helipad has been completed, but it is still closed. It may open in April tentatively. There is a bridge from the Children’s hospital to the main hospital. We will be doing a walkthrough in January. He will report back in February on the walkthrough and landings.</p> <p>Dr. Lindbeck stated that he doesn’t think you can call that person a medic. You’d have to call them a person authorized and trained to help you unload, some other title.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	<p>a. Medevac Resource Guide – Tim’s email stated that they are still waiting on an updated GIS map.</p> <p>b. Committee Composition Updates – If there is any interest in serving on the committee or to continue serving, please send him a letter stating so. Mr. Solada mentioned proxy votes and whether or not this is in the Bylaws. Mr. Scott Winston stated that he will look at the Bylaws and bring some information back to the next meeting in February.</p>	Mr. Winston will look at the Bylaws concerting proxy voting.

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New Business:	<p>Carlie Smith proposed having a quarterly safety topic such as wires, mental health, radio communications and other simple topics that we all could release that has every single air medical logo on it or it could be released through the Office of EMS. We are open to ideas. She feels that as an air medical community, we could do a better job of providing a unified safety front and making sure that everyone is talking about it. It doesn't have to be complicated and we can have a quick meeting about the quarterly topic. She is all for a safety-first mindset and will do what she can to help with this.</p> <p>Sid Bingley mentioned an education program called HEAT: Helicopter Emergency Accident Training which is targeted at fire departments for assisting us with hard landings, fires, etc. It is designed to teach them general access to the helicopter. It gives them a better sense of the dangers of being around the helicopter; when to approach and how to approach safely. This has been presented to some of the local fire departments and was also presented at symposium.</p> <p>Dwaid Rowe suggested that Carlie speak to Susan about this initiative.</p> <p>Mr. Rick Cohen mentioned moving caches across the state. It was suggested that he speak with Karen Owens at OEMS about this.</p> <p>Mr. Daniel Linkins stated that CSEMS will have an CSEMS Expo March 9th – 11th. It a partnership between Lord Fairfax, PEMS and CSEMS Regional Councils.</p> <p>Mr. Al Thompson stated that Bon Secours is also having an EMS Expo the first and second weekends in March.</p>	
Public Comment:		
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:49 a.m.	2023 Meeting Dates: February 2 May 4 August 3 November 16 (Tentative)

Transcribed by Wanda Street, Executive Secretary, Sr.