

**State Medevac Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
May 4, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests & Other Attendees:
Victoria Smith , VENA, Chair	Rebecca Branch Griffin , Consumer	Gary Brown	Cody Jackson, Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport
Rick Cohen , PHI Air Medical	Lt. Shawn Rivard , VSP MedFlight	Adam Harrell	Chris Shaffer, PHI Air Medical
Gabe Elias , Emergency Communications, VDEM	Dr. Jennifer Lobb , Level III Trauma Center Representative	Michael Berg	Brad Fields, Med-Trans
Al Thompson , Non-trauma Center Rep, Bon Secours		Michelle Catalla	Jay Lovelady, HCA
Dwain Rowe , Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport		Amber Wells	James Reynolds, Chesapeake Fire
Susan Rivers , Carilion Clinic Lifeguard		Devin Chinault	Sid Bingley, Carilion Lifeguard
Carlie Smith , AirLife Virginia		Ron Passmore	Cody Main, LifeEvac
Denise Baylous , Nightingale		Wanda Street	Kayla Long, Centra One
Dempsey Whitt , VCU LifeEvac		Kelsey Rideout	Mike Keefe, VDEM
Brian Bowman , Fairfax County Police			Michelle Ludeman, NOVA EMS Council
Sgt. Tim Ryan , U.S. Park Police			Tarsha Robinson, ODEMSA
Jermaine Clayborne , UVA Health/Pegasus			Gary Samuels, Bon Secours
Robert Conner , Centra One			Hunter Baylous, IWVRS
Brian Solada , Air Care Eagle			Jeff Weber, VSP MedFlight I
Mack Tolbert , Wake Forest Baptist AirCare			Kasey Seay, Pittsylvania Co.
			Chris Christensen, WVEMS

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to order:	Ms. Smith called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A moment of silence was held for those we lost since the last meeting.	
Introductions:	Everyone around the room introduced themselves.	
Review & Approval of the February 2, 2023, minutes:	Dwain Rowe made a motion to accept the February meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Dempsey Whitt. All committee members were in favor of the motion. None opposed. The	The minutes were approved as submitted.

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	motion carried.	
Chair Report – Victoria Smith:	No report.	
OEMS Report:	<p>Gary Brown stated that everything is in the Quarterly report.</p> <p>Adam reported that symposium preparations are underway. OEMS wants to ensure that the Medevac community is represented in not only the vendor hall but also in education, if anyone is interested in either, please see Tim.</p> <p>Tim stated that today is the day to get any presentations added by emailing him. Gary reported that the committee met on Monday and had nearly 1,000 courses submitted and they were whittled down to about 400. We usually offer about 350 courses at symposium.</p> <p>Mike Berg mentioned a study on the safe transport of children in ambulances. Workgroups have been created to start developing written standards for the testing process. This will be a three-phase process: writing the process and standards, the actual testing, and then publishing it to be adopted as a standard. Mike is soliciting help connecting with an air-to-ground transport specialist that understands FAA certs and how an air-based device is attached to a ground ambulance. If anyone has an interest in working with him on this, please let Mike know. Susan Rivers agreed to help with this.</p> <p>OEMS new employee, Amber Wells introduced herself as the PSAP Specialist/EMD Accreditation Coordinator. She is looking at revamping the EMD accreditation process.</p>	
Drone-Related Items:	<p>Susan stated that she has not had any drone incidents in a very long time. She asked if there is any opportunity to use the weather turndown system for reporting laser and drone incidents. Tim stated that there probably is. He will check on this. There were a few hang glider incidents in different areas.</p> <p>Adam informed the committee that the Office is working on a provider health and safety registry and one aspect of that is being able to record near misses for ground crews. We could add air medical to include drone and laser reporting and anything else you would like to track from a committee perspective.</p> <p>Riverside Health System is partnering with a drone service to deliver medication to the Eastern Shore and Tangier Island. Please be aware of this.</p>	Tim will check on laser or drone reporting capabilities in the weather turndown system.
Quarterly Safety Project – Carlie Smith:	<p>Carlie spoke about everyone picking one of the topics such as weather conditions, VFR/IFR, pilot considerations, aviation hazards, mental or physical health, landing zone best practices, radio communication best practices, emergency shut-down procedures, helicopter shopping, pilot training, or risk management. Everyone will pick a topic and record a 60-second video using the Office of EMS logo. Not anything too crazy. PHI has been doing some wonderful 60-second videos, let's not reinvent the wheel, do something very similar. Pick one each quarter to have a proactive safety mindset. The videos could go on the OEMS YouTube Channel and/or the OEMS Facebook page per Tim. Tim will send the list out and everyone will choose a topic. The committee agreed that once a quarter is a good goal.</p>	Tim will send the list out for agencies to choose a topic for their 60-second video.

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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 417 entries into the Helicopter EMS system in Q1 of the 2023 calendar year. 71% of those entries (298 entries) were for interfacility transports, which is a slight increase from information from previous quarters. The total number of turndowns is an increase from 327 entries in Q1 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:	<p>Gabe stated that coordination continues but nothing to report today.</p>	
Program Announcements and Updates:	<p>Dwain Rowe – At Highlands there has been some turnover of employees, which is very unusual. They’ve had two long-serving members that have retired: Susie Perkinson and Mitch Hathaway. They have hired new employees in those positions. Highlands is still looking to hire more pilots.</p> <p>Dempsey Whitt – MedFlight nurses are coming back to VCU LifeEvac starting in July and that puts them at full staff. The Children’s Hospital of VCU opened on the 30th and the helipad opened yesterday. Please review the information Tim sent out yesterday. There were also some directions on operating the night ops lighting system. They have also changed out the lights on the main helipad with friendly lights.</p> <p>Carlie Smith – AirLife Virginia is incredibly busy and fully staffed. Air Methods has recently released a new online and in-person critical care flight readiness training program and also an EMS review is coming out.</p> <p>Brian Solada – No report.</p> <p>Susan Rivers – No report.</p> <p>Jermaine Clayborne – UVA is switching vendors by July 1.</p> <p>Robbie Conner – Liberty University has a huge influx of over 1,000 aviation students. They have 20 new airplanes coming in. This is impacting us because we have been diverted with a patient on the way to Lynchburg. They’ve had 7 or 8 minimum diversions. Something to be aware of if flying in that area.</p> <p>Rick Cohen – CAMTS coming up this summer. They have two paramedic openings.</p> <p>Brian Bowman – They have moved into the new facility and are getting used to the new place.</p> <p>Tim Ryan – There has been a couple of personnel changes: a new commander, Mark Asperson and, a new Chief of Police, Jessica Taylor.</p>	

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	<p>Mack Tolbert – Nothing to report.</p> <p>Denise Baylous – No report, but a quick question. Has anyone gone to McGuire Hospital? They have had a significant issue in landing on their helipad. There are certain procedures to follow.</p> <p>Sgt. Jeff Weber – No report.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	<p>a. Medevac Resource Guide – Tim is waiting on permission to use the mapping software. He will get with Devin Chinault on this.</p> <p>b. Committee Composition Updates – The new committee composition with the additional four seats were approved by the Executive Committee in February. We welcome Jermaine, Brian, Robbie, and Mack to the table.</p>	Tim to meet with Devin about the mapping software.
New Business:	<p>Delinquent ECPR Submissions Dwain Rowe stated that Med-Trans received notification from the Office of EMS on delinquent ECPR submissions. This is a growing problem. Brad Fields explained that the patient care records should go into the system within 12 hours. They did not realize that this requirement had changed in 2012 from 24 to 12 hours. One of the things that needed to be fine-tuned was the reason that they were going beyond the 12 hours. One of the reasons was the data. Is everyone having the same issues? Another reason is the need to rest after flights, another is back-to-back flights, etc. How do we get beyond this? Adam provided some insight on why this changed. This originated because of a receiving facility complaint. They want something tangible to go in the patient’s record of what was done during the patient’s transport. As of right now, the submission time is an average of 17 hours for all of you combined. Ron Passmore suggested working with your hospital systems and asking them to call you directly. Detailed data analysis is being collected for each agency and can be given to you collectively or individually.</p>	
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:57 a.m.	2023 Meeting Dates: August 3 November 16

Transcribed by Wanda Street, Executive Secretary, Sr.