

**State Medevac Committee Meeting
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services
Embassy Suites Hotel
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294
August 3, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Guests & Other Attendees:
Victoria Smith , VENA, Chair	Brian Bowman , Fairfax County Police	Tim Perkins	Cody Jackson, Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport
Gabe Elias , Emergency Communications, VDEM	Dr. Jennifer Lobb , Level III Trauma Center Representative	Wanda Street	Chris Shaffer, PHI Air Medical
Al Thompson , Non-trauma Center Rep, Bon Secours	Rebecca Branch Griffin , Member-At- Large - Consumer	Daniel Linkins	Brad Fields, Med-Trans
Dwain Rowe , Highlands Emergency Air Rescue & Transport	Rick Cohen , PHI Air Medical	George Lindbeck	Jay Lovelady, HCA
Susan Rivers , Carilion Clinic Lifeguard		Kelsey Rideout	Ryan Hite, BPD/Carilion Life-Guard
Carlie Smith , AirLife Virginia			Sid Bingley, Carilion Life- Guard
Denise Baylous , Nightingale			Ethan Dressler, Carilion Life- Guard
Dempsey Whitt , VCU LifeEvac			Miranda Landrum, Carilion Life-Guard
Capt. Shawn Rivard , VSP MedFlight			Jason Ferguson, GAB/BREMS
Sgt. Tim Ryan , U.S. Park Police			Gregory Jones, Med-Flight
Jermaine Clayborne , UVA Health/Pegasus			Bryan Saunders, VDEM
Robert Conner , Centra One			Gary Samuels, Bon Secours
Brian Solada , Air Care Eagle			Michael FaJohn, HCA HDH
Mack Tolbert , Wake Forest Baptist AirCare			Berit Voldnes, Fairfax Co. PD
			Lance Hamilton, Fairfax Co. PD
			Autumn Davis, Valley Health WMC
			David Long, TEMS
			Greg Neiman, VCU Health
			Michelle Ludeman, NVEMS

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 May 4, 2023, minutes:	Gabe Elias made a motion to accept the May 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:	Tim reported that registration for the annual symposium is opening on August 7, 2023. There is a good amount of HEMS content, however, there is not enough for a full Medevac Track. The registration link is on the first page of the OEMS Website. There will also be a lodging option there after you have registered. The cost is \$125 per person.	IMPORTANT: The Symposium was canceled after this meeting.
Drone-Related Items:	Susan Rivers gave an update on the Drone Up email that went out on the Listserv. The intent was to see how it might work for supply delivery within a health system. There were a lot of lessons learned on both the healthcare side, from the Medevac side, they were ultra-conservative in their ability to fly whenever there was an aircraft inbound or outbound. Of the 70+ flights over the 10 days, they had downtime of 46% due to inbound helicopters. Many health systems are doing this, and Susan feels that in the future it will be a good way to deliver supplies to those in need. She would love to form a workgroup with others who have done this to create best practice developments. Denise, Carlie, Dempsey, and Susan have agreed to participate on the workgroup.	A workgroup was created to develop best practices for the drone supply delivery program.
Quarterly Safety Project – Carlie Smith:	Carlie stated that she is still waiting for everyone to choose a safety topic. She will send them out again. Please get back to her quickly on this. Carlie will also include a link to the PHI safety video. The first video is hoped to be released the beginning of next year.	
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 366 entries into the Helicopter EMS system in Q2 of the 2023 calendar year. 74% of those entries (274 entries) were for interfacility transports, which is a slight increase from information from previous quarters. The total number of turndowns is a small decrease from 396 entries in Q2 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 stated that he has no new update.	
Program Announcements and Updates:	<p>Jermaine Clayborne – UVA has a new aircraft, and everything is going well.</p> <p>Robbie Conner – Centra One had a laser strike in the past month which was reported.</p> <p>Susan Rivers – Nothing from the Medevac side. She is working with Carilion New River Valley Medical</p>	

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	<p>Center to have a standardized HEMS process with Carilion Roanoke Memorial for flight followers. More to come on this.</p> <p>Capt. Shawn Rivard – MedFlight lost a senior trooper-pilot, Ben Farmer. Please keep his family in your prayers. They also had a laser strike with one of the police aircraft. They just ordered another aircraft for MedFlight II.</p> <p>Chris Schaffer – PHI’s CAMTS inspection is the 27th through the 29th of this month. We are fully staffed.</p> <p>Dempsey Whitt – Children’s Hospital helipad is operational, and we have had several children flown in and out. The new helipad information sheet has been distributed. Everything is going well, and we are fully staffed, but looking for one more pilot.</p> <p>Brian Solada – Tomorrow is Brian’s birthday per Victoria. Brian had no update.</p> <p>Carlie Smith – AirLife Virginia won the Western EMS Council Outstanding EMS Agency Award and will be in the running for the State. This is very exciting. Air Methods released our EMS Review which is an online CEU platform. If anyone is interested in more information, let Carlie know.</p> <p>Tim Ryan – Nothing to report.</p> <p>Mack Tolbert – Fully staffed on the air care side. Having a hard time recruiting respiratory therapists. Had a couple of positions open for 18 months and offering a massive sign-on bonus. The committee discussed cross training.</p> <p>Dwain Rowe – H.E.A.R.T. is fully staffed on the medical side, but still looking for some pilots and have shifted some around. Last weekend was the National EMS Memorial Service in Crystal City. Dwain shouted out Rick Cohen who showed up on the route. Susan pointed out that Dwain was the route coordinator. Susan stated that Dwain and Tim did a nice job.</p> <p>Denise Baylous – Denise reported that they had a cockpit update to a 65750.</p> <p>Lance Hamilton – Fairfax Police are fully staffed, and everything is going great. Thank you for having us.</p>	
Unfinished Business:	<p>a. Medevac Resource Guide – No update.</p>	
New Business:	<p>Gabe stated that last week the Office of EMS held the Communications Committee Meeting met in Bristol. There was a really good turnout. They discussed communications in EMS and interoperability and had some great presentations.</p> <p>Gabe also mentioned the SAFECOM Nationwide Survey. This survey is done every five years for an assessment of nationwide emergency communications. This is important for funding opportunities.</p>	

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	<p>Training for Emergency Communications Interoperability – There is an upcoming class for a Communications Unit Technician Class. This class is very technical in setting up portable towers, radios and doing the work of communications at the incident. It is a four-day class for up to 16 students on September 25 – 29 in Chilhowie. On October 7 and 8, there is an Auxiliary Communicator Class (amateur radio, military). This will be held in Montgomery County. In December in the Hampton Roads area (TBD), a Communications Unit Leader Course will be held.</p> <p>The Virginia APCO Conference is coming up on October 25 – 27 in Roanoke. More information can be found at www.Virginia-APCO.org.</p> <p>Brian Saunders of VDEM spoke of a yearly Air Operations (AirOPS) exercise to test the plan and channel frequencies. Tim stated that he had been to one of these exercises and one of the things that came out of it was that the LZ Directory is out of date. Please assist by updating the hospital you are based at and the hospital transport information by sending the updated information to Tim.</p> <p>David Long, Executive Director of the Tidewater EMS Regional Council, stated that they are moving through the final phases of their MCI plan revision. The plan was rewritten and not just updated. One of the concerns that came up during the review was communications. This is an informal request to ask about interest in this. Tim will send out Mr. Long’s contact information to the committee.</p> <p>Tim Perkins spoke about a Stroke Survey that was distributed from the Office of EMS and Office of Family Health Services. The deadline to complete the survey is tomorrow, August 4, 2023. We are trying to get as many agencies as possible to complete the survey.</p> <p>Tim will recommend to the Executive Committee this afternoon, that the committee’s name is changed to State Air Medical Committee. He feels that it is appropriate because air medical is more encompassing of things that aren’t related to medical evacuation. The name better reflects the mission of the committee and does not need a vote.</p> <p>Susan Rivers asked about an update of the Regulations. Tim will get an update from Ron Passmore and pass it on the committee.</p>	<p>Send updated LZ hospital transport information to Tim via tim.perkins@vdh.virginia.gov.</p>
Public Comment:	None.	
Adjournment:	The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 a.m.	2023 Meeting Dates: November 16

Transcribed by Wanda Street, Executive Secretary, Sr.