

# Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services – An Overview

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# Virginia OEMS

- The Virginia Office Of EMS is a Division of the Virginia Department of Health.
- OEMS was established in 1968, upon the passage of the Virginia Ambulance Law, which called for the development and enforcement of standards for all ambulance services, whether volunteer, commercial or municipal.

# The OEMS Mission

- To reduce death and disability resulting from sudden or serious injury and illness in the Commonwealth through planning and development of a comprehensive, coordinated statewide emergency medical services (EMS) system; and provision of other technical assistance and support to enable the EMS community to provide the highest quality emergency medical care possible to those in need.



# Divisions Within OEMS

The OEMS has several divisions within it, with specific tasks:

- Administration
- Division of Educational Development
- Regulation and Compliance
- Trauma/Critical Care
- Emergency Operations
- Technical Assistance to Localities

# Current Projects - OEMS

- The Trauma Program designates Trauma Centers within Virginia. Currently, there are 14 designated Trauma Centers. The initial designation is good for 2 years, then upon review, the redesignation is good for 3 years.
- Virginia served as a pilot state for the HRSA BIS Model Trauma System Planning and Evaluation Tool.

# Current Projects - OEMS

- Each EMS agency must complete a “Run sheet”, called a Prehospital Patient Care Report (PPCR). OEMS is working on a program to make this document electronic.

# Current Projects - OEMS

- The Emergency Operations Division is currently working on an EMS MCI Template and Toolbox for EMS Agencies to utilize in any Mass Casualty Situation.
- Additionally, the Emergency Operations Division continues outreach efforts to educate localities about the availability and utilization of task forces throughout the state



# Current Projects - OEMS

- OEMS in cooperation with Virginia OHPP and the Western Virginia EMS Council, are undertaking a comprehensive study of EMS systems surrounding Critical Access Hospitals in Virginia.

# Current Projects - OEMS

- In 2007, the EMS systems surrounding following CAH facilities will be evaluated:
  - Carillion Giles Hospital – Pearisburg
  - Stonewall Jackson Hospital – Lexington
  - R.J. Reynolds Hospital - Stuart

# Current Projects - OEMS

- In 2008, the EMS systems surrounding following CAH facilities will be evaluated:
  - Dickenson Community Hospital – Clintwood
  - Page Memorial Hospital - Luray
  - Shenandoah Memorial Hospital - Winchester

# Current Projects - OEMS

- The Technical Assistance Division has developed several guides for EMS Providers, Administrators, and Services to use in solving many current issues, including:
  - Recruitment and Retention
  - Billing for Service
  - Discipline and Due Process
  - EMS Strategic Planning

# Future Projects - OEMS

- During the pilot phase of the HRSA BIS Tool, many needs were identified that have FLEX applicability. Through FLEX funding, steps to develop a more inclusive trauma system, utilizing community and rural hospitals to form an additional trauma center designation level.

# Future Projects - OEMS

- Through FLEX funding, OEMS, and the trauma stakeholders in Virginia, would attempt to undergo an American College of Surgeons Facilitated Trauma System Consultation. It is intended for the process to provide guidance on how to best add the new level of trauma center designation that would designate certain rural and community hospitals.

# Future Projects - OEMS

- Also, Virginia's rural and community hospitals would need an educational avenue to introduce trauma care. Programs such as the Rural Trauma Team Development Course would be an excellent means to that end.

# Future Projects - OEMS

- Stroke care has become one of the “hot button” topics in health care today. This is especially true in rural areas, where delays in access to healthcare is often common.
- OEMS is happy to participate in any project to promote improved awareness, treatment and outcomes for stroke.

# Future Projects - OEMS

- The Electronic PPCR program is currently being developed for future implementation. It is anticipated that the majority of project costs will come from other funding streams, but additional funds are needed for personnel and infrastructure costs.

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# Future Projects - OEMS

- The Emergency Operations Division continually seeks funding and other means to promote the need for Health and Medical Emergency Medical Response Teams (HMERT) throughout Virginia. Many rural areas in Virginia are several hours from the nearest HMERT team.

# Future Projects - OEMS

- EMS System Improvement Templates
  - Self assessment guides for EMS system improvement
- Standards of Excellence
  - Criteria for services to exceed state minimums for licensure
- Guides for integration of career personnel into volunteer systems
- Management and leadership standards
  - Designed to allow agencies to gauge the abilities of personnel as leaders or managers.

# Challenges of Rural EMS in Virginia

- Lack of jurisdictional support
- Lack of effective mutual aid agreements and integrated emergency response plans
- EMS education and training that is available and accessible
- Finding and securing revenue streams to finance growing financial needs for EMS

# Challenges of Rural EMS in Virginia

- EMS Medical Direction
- EMS Radio Communications
- Patient transfers to partner facilities
- EMS Response to MCIs
- Recruitment and retention

# Questions?

# Contact information

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OEMS Webpage -

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Thanks for your attention...

