

Western Virginia EMS Council
Report from the State EMS Advisory Board

The most recent meeting was held May 9, 2014 in Richmond, Virginia.

The Office of EMS has issued guidance in regards to Mobile Integrated Healthcare and Community Paramedicine. The document is available on OEMS website at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/OEMS/NewsFeatures/GuidanceDocument-MobileIntegratedHealthcare.pdf>. It is likely that EMS agencies interested in providing MIH/CP programs will have to be licensed as home care organizations by the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Licensure and Certification, in order to comply with current Virginia law. The executive committee has created an ad-hoc committee to address this issue. The committee will consist of representatives (1) a medical director; (2) ED physician; (3) an EMS Administrator; (4) a home health care representative; (5) a representative from VDH Licensure & Certification; (6) a primary care physician; (7) an EMS provider; (8) a regional EMS council representative; (9) a hospital representative for the Affordable Care Act; and (9) a representative from VHHA.

Work continues on the Model Interstate Compact for EMS Personnel Licensure that will recognize EMS personnel working across state lines. Legislation is likely to be introduced in the 2015 General Assembly session to adopt the EMS Personnel Licensure Compact.

At the national level, it is likely that the ambulance standards will change to incorporate safety initiatives related to ambulance cots. Once these standards are in place, it will likely increase the cost of an ambulance by \$25,000 to \$40,000. Because of the changes safety related, it is not likely that they will “go away.” The Advisory Board voted to ask that the implementation of these standards be delayed at least one year to allow agencies to better preparation for the price increases.

The next meeting of the EMS Advisory Board is scheduled for August 8, 2014 in Glen Allen, Virginia. Thank you for your confidence in me to represent the Council on the Advisory Board. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Wagoner