

Western Virginia EMS Council
Report from the State's EMS Advisory Board

The most recent meeting was held May 18, 2012 in Richmond, Virginia.

This past quarter, I made several trips to Richmond. On April 23, I attended the transportation committee meeting and helped score RSAF grant requests for ambulances. On April 27, I attended the executive committee meeting. On May 17, I attended the provider health & safety committee meeting. On May 18, I attended the communications committee and legislative and planning committee meetings.

During the communications committee meeting, I challenged the committee's recommendation requiring all grant requests for radio equipment to be P25 compliant. While this is practical in most applications, there are occasions when P25 is not recommended and a costly option that provides no added value. WVEMS is attempting to replace the MED9/10 repeaters to meet narrow banding requirements; however, it is ridiculous to require these to be P25.

The topic of "*where should EMS be located?*" in State government has surfaced again. One stakeholder group is advocating a campaign to get EMS elevated to the department level with a policy making board.

The executive committee has recognized the importance of completing an EMS needs assessment. It is likely that additional survey questions will be added to the Virginia Dept. of Fire Programs survey to help collect data on EMS-related needs.

Two budget amendments passed the Legislature that impacts EMS. The first one requires that initial National Registry testing fees at the EMR and EMT level be paid from the four-for-life. The other amendment directs \$500,000 from the general fund to fund two poison control centers. The original budget bill called for these funds to be paid from four-for-life. This creates some issues for Poison Control centers as the bill mentions studying two centers, but there is actually three centers in the Commonwealth.

The Board approved a white paper titled, "Patient Non-Transport for Motor Vehicle Collisions." The document is available on the OEMS website.

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