

Virginia EMS Advisory Board

February 13, 2015

Meeting Summary

Please see the Quarterly report from OEMS

Chairman's Report: Deferred.

Board of Health Report: Chief Deputy Commissioner Dr. Trump spoke on Ebola Preparedness, highlighting some areas where we all need to be better prepared period. Infectious disease preparedness should be a continued focus. Encouraged requests through RSAF for training, equipment, etc. for infection control.

OEMS Report: Gary Brown, Director of the Office of EMS, reminded the Board that the activities of the Office of EMS over the past quarter can be found in the Office of EMS Quarterly Report to the State EMS Advisory Board. The report is also available on the OEMS website.

Mr. Brown gave the Board some updates on key items which affect the EMS system.

- The February Quarterly Report has detailed information regarding the General Assembly session and the Budget Bill.
- Mr. Brown reviewed some key portions of the Budget Bill and the General Assembly session legislation that affects OEMS and the EMS community.
 - HB1584 and SB938 – these two bills are a technical clean-up and rewrite for EMS legislation already in the Code of Virginia. Both bills have been passed out of their chambers with amendments.
 - HB1660 and SB997 – these two bills are related to criminal background checks. Mr. Berg gave the audience an update on these two bills. He said SB997 allows the locality to make a decision based on EMS regulations if the individual is eligible for certification. The locality will notify the Office of EMS and the locality can then make any additional exclusionary criteria they may wish as to whether an individual is eligible for employment with their agency. It has been passed on the House for action
- HB1584 and SB938 – These two bills relate to the recognition of EMS personnel licensure interstate compact. Mr. Brown reminded the group that this information has been in discussion with the Board and contained in the Quarterly Reports for the last two years.

Mr. Brown explained that the Senate bill was passed and is now going over to the House for action. It has been assigned to HWI Subcommittee 3. The House bill however was killed in HWI Subcommittee 3. Therefore, it is doubtful if the Senate bill will be passed in the House.

- New Personnel in OEMS –
 - Paul Sharpe introduced his new Trauma Critical Care Coordinator, Robin Pearce.
 - Michael Berg introduced his two new Program Representatives – Scotty Williams who will be representing the Northern Virginia area and Doug Layton who will be representing the Central Shenandoah, Thomas Jefferson and part of the Blue Ridge region. Mr. Berg also announced that Regina Garcia is the wage employee who does all the Fingerprint/Background work.
- State EMS Medical Director – George Lindbeck, MD

- DEA – Dr. Lindbeck reported that he met with the DEA when attending the NAEMSP meeting. He said that the DEA is looking at their regulations that relate to EMS. Even after his meeting, Dr. Lindbeck is concerned that the Virginia EMS drug kit program does not adhere to DEA's paradigm for drug registration and control.
 - Naloxone – Dr. Lindbeck said that the Naloxone legislation will probably be approved in some form and he encouraged the system to start thinking about how they will deal with that program.
 - OMD Workshops – Dr. Lindbeck reported that the cycle is underway and that the schedule is posted on the OEMS and VACEP websites. Dr. Lindbeck encouraged the audience to let him know of any topics that they would like to have covered in the workshops.
 - Dr. Lindbeck announced that EMS is now a board certified specialty for physicians. Approximately 14 Virginia doctors, including Dr. Lindbeck, have taken and passed the EMS board to obtain certification.
- EMS Certification Course Proposal Presentation – Warren Short from OEMS gave a presentation regarding a proposed EMS Certification Course program. OEMS plans for this program to take effect on July 1, 2015. The presentation identified some issues in regards to how EMS education courses are being delivered in the State; issues regarding how EMS courses are currently funded; information regarding the proposed policy change and how it will affect EMS providers. Mr. Short emphasized that the proposed program only applies to initial EMS certification courses.

Board of Health EMS Representative Report: Bruce Edwards, EMS Representative to the Board of Health, gave the audience an update on actions from the last Board of Health meeting, which was held on December 4, 2014.

- The Abortion regulations were a major agenda item that was discussed at the meeting.
- The educational luncheon topic was about the VDH Rural Health Program .
- The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 19 at 9 am at the Perimeter Center.

Gary Brown added that the State Trauma Care Program will be the educational topic for the working lunch at the next Board of Health meeting. It will be conducted by Paul Sharpe and Robin Pearce from the Office of EMS.

Executive Committee: Mr. Critzer reported that the Executive Committee met on Thursday and they also met in January.

- In January they had an organizational meeting for the new Executive Committee members. They received staff updates from OEMS and discussed priorities for the upcoming year.
- At the meeting on Thursday, they discussed legislation and received additional updates from OEMS staff, including an update from Paul Sharpe on V3 of NEMESIS..
- Mr. Critzer reported that the REPLICA bill, which is very important to EMS, is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday, February 17 at 8 am by HWI Subcommittee 3 in House Room D. The Governor supports this bill, as well as the EMS Advisory Board, who voted to support the bill at its November meeting; and all of the constituent organizations. Mr. Critzer encouraged the audience to contact the members of the committee and ask them to support the bill.
- The inaugural meeting for the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Workgroup, which Mr. Critzer appointed, was held on Thursday. The group's purpose is to investigate and develop an opinion and best practices ideas for mobile integrated healthcare in Virginia.

FARC: Robert Trimmer, Chair of FARC gave the report to the Board.

- The group met on Thursday.
- In December 2014 grant cycle there were \$8.9 million of funding requested and they awarded \$5.2 million. This quarter they have processed \$2.1 million in payments.
- Michael Berg attended the meeting to discuss Change Notice 8 and how it may affect requests for ambulance funding to the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund. They are looking into adjusting prices based on the increase costs of ambulances.
- E-gift has had a number of updates and functionality controls put in to make it easier to use.

Mr. Critzer also reported that FARC took a look at their policies in regards to funding nontraditional items for FARC; e.g., supporting conferences or other initiatives related to the EMS system in Virginia.

- Mr. Trimmer said they did discuss this yesterday. They looked at items funded in the past and how many times they may have been funded, as well as the committee make up at the time they were funded. They felt that all the items they funded were good funding choices. They will get back to Gary Brown with their response.

Dr. Trump said he appreciates the work of FARC. He reported that both the Commissioner and he look at the grant requests and the details of what is being requested and what is being funded. He acknowledges that the committee has the flexibility of determining what should and should not be funded. However, he appreciates that they are looking at their procedures to assure that we are operating within what the Code of Virginia allowances.

Rules & Regulations: Jon Henschel, Rules and Regulations Committee Chair, reported that the committee did not have any action items. He asked Michael Berg to give the audience an update in regards to the issues surrounding the ambulance standards.

- Ambulance Standards –
 - The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is working on their version 2 which will be out in 2016.
 - The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) is reviewing the public comments submitted for their document. They will be meeting on February 28 to finalize the document. The plan is for the document to be published and in effect by October 1, 2015.
 - The General Services Administration (GSA) that administers the KKK 1822 F version of ambulance standards has not made a decision as to which standard, if any, that they will adopt. They may extend the K standards again. Change Notice 6 was submitted last year but did not come to fruition. Change Notice 7, which encompasses all of the change notices of the last several years, has been published. Change Notice 8 is available for public comment starting in April. The intent of this change order is to recognize the SAE standards for equipment mounts, seats and the cot retention systems. They are confident that Change Notice 8 will go into effect on July 1, 2015. Ambulances manufactured after July 1 with the Star of Life emblem will have a cot retention system, which will make them more costly to purchase.

Mr. Berg also reported that the Transportation Committee has a work session scheduled to start looking at all the standards so they can make a recommendation regarding ambulance standards to the EMS Advisory Board.

- Regulatory Packets – Mr. Berg reported that two regulatory packets are still waiting for AG review.
 - Financial Assistance Review Financial Packet is still waiting for review. He spoke with the AG liaison earlier in the day and she is working on language to get approved by her supervisor so this can be moved forward.
 - The EMS agency affiliation Regulatory Packet Fast Track has gone to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for approval before it goes to the Governor's Office.

Legislative & Planning: Joan Foster, Committee Chair, gave her report. She said they have no action items and she referred to Mr. Scott Winston to give a report on the meeting held earlier in the day.

- They had a discussion regarding the bills currently before the General Assembly. They discussed the State EMS Plan that was approved by the Board of Health last year. They have established a schedule to start reviewing the Plan the last quarter of this year so they will be ready for presentation to the Board in 2017.

Transportation Committee: Mr. Tatum, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met and they discussed the various different ambulance standards. The committee will have a daylong work session at their July meeting to discuss revising the Virginia ambulance standards. Their next meeting is in April to review ambulance grant requests.

Communications Committee: Gary Critzer, Committee Chair, gave his report. The committee met earlier in the day. They have no action items.

- They received an update on a report that was recently released regarding next generation 911 technology for Virginia. It is a detailed report, and OEMS can provide a link to the report if anyone would like to see it.
- CPR Standards as it relates to the certification of Emergency Medical Dispatchers.

They will be meeting again in May.

Emergency Management Committee: David Hoback, Committee Chair, reported that they have no action item.

- In Partnership with the Department of Fire Programs and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, they have secured the software, Mutual Aid Net, which is a web-based system that will allow for typing, managing and inventory of state, local resources for state and local deployment if needed. The cost was approximately \$18,000 and the money came from VDEM. Mr. Hoback reported that they will be putting together a focus group to start the implementation of this endeavor. It will include all disciplines of public safety.
- They reviewed the EMS Domestic Preparation and Improvement Strategy distributed by the U.S. Government that includes approximately 10 recommendations for EMS. As it moves through the various committees, they will be discussing it at their next couple of meetings.

The Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was rolled out at the EMS Symposium in November and they want to get it rolled out region wide. They want to approach the Regional EMS Councils for help in getting it rolled out through the region.

Medical Direction: No Report

Medevac Committee: Anita Perry, Medevac Committee Chair, reported that the committee met on Thursday and they have no action items.

- Air Transport of the STEMI Patient – Ms. Perry reported that they have started data collection for that project on January 1 and they hope to have a report for the Board in May.

- WeatherSafe Data – They are continuing to gather and assess data. No follow-up letters were required this quarter because of helicopter shopping, which is good.
- Landing Zone Data – The committee received a presentation regarding a program focused on landing zone data and safe operations around specific landing zones across the state. Tim Perkins will be working with the vendor and they hope to be able to develop a partnership with the vendor.

Their next meeting will be in May.

Trauma System Oversight & Management Committee: Dr. Michael Aboutanos, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met on December 4.

- The committee got an update on the Trauma System Designation Manual which will be presented to the Board of Health on March 19.
- The committee discussed the three vacant positions on their committee. The EMS provider representative position was filled by Sid Bingly. Dr. Aboutanos will be accepting recommendations for the other two positions and hope to have them filled soon.
- Their Trauma Nurse Coordinators are currently undertaking a couple of task force projects – one on development of educational material for trauma triage and the other is a study group for geriatric trauma and triage.
- Dr. Aboutanos gave a presentation from their Trauma Care Performance Improvement Report.

Following Dr. Aboutanos presentation, he answered questions from the Board.

Dr. Trump thanked the Trauma Committee and everyone who worked on the report. He asked the committee to look at a new Position Statement that has been recently released by the American College of Surgeons factoring population needs into trauma designation and distribution of trauma systems. They ask the committee to look at that statement and provide some recommendations as to how that would fit into the trauma system in Virginia in the future.

Mr. Critzer referred the Board to Appendix F of the Quarterly Report, the Trauma Care Performance Improvement Report, and he entertained a motion for the Board to receive this report. A motion was made and properly seconded to receive the report as presented.

EMS for Children: Dr. Samuel Bartle, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met on January 8. The committee does not have any action items.

- The committee has been discussing taking the Hospital Preparedness for Pediatric Emergencies further to discuss how they can improve the various hospitals to care for kids in the emergency departments.
- The committee discussed medication errors that occur in pediatric patients and trying to analyze and better address the errors and improve on medication administration for kids.

The Pediatric track at EMS Symposium will be reinstated this year.

Training & Certification: Ronald Passmore, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met on January 7. They had no action items.

- They created a workgroup to look at the Intermediate Certification process in anticipation that the National Registry will stop offering an Intermediate Certification test. Larry Oliver has been asked to Chair that workgroup.

Workforce Development: Jose Salazar, Committee Chair, reported that the committee met earlier in the day. The committee did not have any action items.

- EMS Officer Subcommittee – They will be conducting two pilot programs, one in Richmond beginning March 24 that will run for four consecutive Tuesday nights and the last day will be on Sunday. The other pilot program will be held in Loudoun County beginning on March 23, running on five Mondays and the last one will be on a Sunday. Following the completion of these two pilots, the committee will make any necessary changes and then it will be rolled out for EMS Officer 1.
- Standards of Excellence – The group has had several meetings and the Standards are published on the OEMS website. They are looking into piloting with four or five EMS agencies to see if they can go through the process.

Recruitment and Retention Network – Their next meeting will take place during the Virginia Fire Chiefs Conference on February 20.

Health & Safety: Daniel Wildman, Committee Chair, reported that the committee has met several times since the last EMS Advisory Board meeting.

- The committee will be offering safety bulletins that will be going out through the OEMS media each month.

The EMS Workforce Development Committee asked them to look at the Health and Safety portion of the EMS Officer Program. They do have comments and feedback for that committee. They have also been asked to help identify and clarify the term “abandonment” as it applies to violence in the workplace for EMS providers.

EMS Council Executive Directors: Greg Woods reported that the organization has met two times since the last EMS Advisory Board meeting.

- They met on December 4, and at that meeting they agreed as a group to utilize their quarterly meetings in an effort to improve collaboration and best practices across regional EMS councils by engaging in educational activities for their board members, bringing some of them from their regions to some of the Regional EMS Council Executive Directors Group meetings at least a couple of times a year.
- They discussed specific IT issues that the regions need in order to better serve their constituents and build off the successes that have been accomplished with the State IT structure. Scott Winston is working with them to identify some of those areas.
- They had their election of officers. The Nominating Committee made a Bylaw recommendation to allow Greg Woods to serve one more term. He was reelected as Chairman. Mike Player was elected as Vice Chairman, Chad Blosser was reelected as Treasurer and Tracey McLaurin as Secretary.
- The committee met on Thursday. They had no action items.

The committee has gone on record in support of the REPLICA bills both in the Senate and the House.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Ferguson
WVEMS Advisory Board Representative