

**Workforce Development Committee Meeting  
Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
2925 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294  
May 6, 2021  
10:30 a.m.**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>OEMS Staff:</b>	<b>Virtual Attendance:</b>
<b>Valerie Quick</b> , Chair	<b>William “Gene” Dalton</b> , WVEMS Council	Gary Brown	Paul Hoyle
<b>Mike Watkins</b> , VAGEMSA	<b>Robert Ryalls</b> , JCFD (Retired)	Chris Vernovai	Cody Jackson
<b>David Tesh</b> , VA Recruitment & Retention Network		Tim Perkins	R. Jason Ferguson
<b>Byron Andrews</b> , VSFA		Wanda Street	
<b>Dreama Chandler</b> , VAVRS		Hannah Lyons	
<b>Christopher Payne</b> , Navy Region Mid-Atlantic		George Lindbeck	
<b>Christina Smith</b> , VACO		Adam Harrell	

<b>Topic/Subject</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person</b>
<b>I. Call to Order and Introductions:</b>	Valerie Quick called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. A moment of silence was held and Bruce Edwards who passed away in August 2020 was honored for his contributions to EMS.	
<b>II. Review and Approval of Feb. 6 2020 Minutes:</b>	A motion was made to review and approve the February meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as submitted.	<b>The February 2020 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.</b>
<b>III. Introductions</b>	Everyone around the room and virtually introduced themselves.	
<b>IV. Chair’s Report – Valerie Quick:</b>	Ms. Quick stated that the committee needs to regroup and see if we have any follow up since the last meeting. Last year the committee discussed establishing a Diversity Workgroup and we will need to get back on this.	
<b>V. OEMS Report:</b>	<b>Chris Vernovai</b> – The Office of EMS is slowing getting back into in-person meetings. No meetings have been held for EMS Officer or Standards of Excellence.  <b>Gary Brown</b> – The EMS Symposium will be held this year. We will be using four hotels. There will be no hands-on classes and few nighttime activities, however, the Awards Reception will be held on Saturday. The Advisory Board and other committee meetings will not be held at symposium. There will not be any virtual or live stream classes. The Office of OEMS has a new Attorney General, Christa Samuels.	

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	<p><b>Adam Harrell</b> – The electronic patient care reporting system is transitioning from ImageTrend to ESO. The Office is working in collaboration with the Western Virginia EMS Council to contract with ESO. The ImageTrend contract is continuing. Agencies may make the decision to utilize either reporting system.</p> <p><b>Gary Brown</b> – The quarterly report is available on the OEMS website for more in-depth information on each of the Office of EMS divisions.</p>	
<b>VI. EMS Officer – Chris Vernovai:</b>	The last EMS Officer class was held in March 2020. We have had requests for classes and a virtual platform, but this is not feasible for this class. Will start to move forward with in-person classes very soon.	
<b>VII. Standards of Excellence – Tim Perkins:</b>	A decision was made to put this on hold due to the pandemic. Still need to re-review the agencies that were given SOE status. There are still agencies that are interested and would like to be considered for SOE.	
<b>VIII. Virginia Recruitment and Retention – Dave Tesh:</b>	Dave has spoken with Lori Hill who is a chair for the Network and a schedule has not been put together for this year’s meetings. They are currently working on that now. The Recruitment & Retention Coordinators Certification Course has two offerings June 26 and 27 in Orange Co. from 8 am - 5 pm, and the other in Botetourt on October 16 and 17 from 8 am – 5 pm also. Spencer Cheatham is the contact person for these courses. If more information is needed, he will forward the email upon request. The R & R Coordinators have been meeting virtually every month and their next meeting is May 27.	
<b>IX. Unfinished Business:</b>	<p><b>a. Keeping the Best Tool Kit – Dave Tesh</b> A Toolkit Was scheduled at symposium last year, but there was no symposium. Will try again this year. John Bianco submitted a presentation and a R &amp; R Roundtable will be held this year also. It was well received last year.</p> <p><b>b. EMS Provider Survey – Chris Vernovai</b> The survey was put on hold, but they survey is pretty much ready to be launched. Valerie Quick suggested adding the COVID response to the survey.</p> <p><b>c. EMS Agency Survey – Chris Vernovai</b> No update.</p> <p><b>d. State EMS Plan – Chris Vernovai</b> The EMS State Plan was approved in June 2020.</p> <p><b>e. EMS Diversity – Valerie Quick</b> This workgroup will be restarted as stated earlier.</p> <p><b>f. G3 Funding Update – R. Jason Ferguson</b> The G3 Initiative takes effect July 1. Individuals who qualify for the Initiative can be up to 40% above the poverty level. It cuts costs for the EMS departments and agencies’ education funding. The committee discussed the impact of this funding.</p>	

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<b>X. New Business:</b>	<p>Mike Watkins spoke about the significant impact due to the loss of EMS volunteers. He also spoke about the recruitment and retention issues that the agencies are faced with. Tim stated that he is working with Chris to identify status changes in the provider portal. An email will be sent to ask why the change in the status. They are trying to gather more data on this. Adam discussed the ways that ESO can help with affiliation issues.</p> <p>The committee discussed mandatory survey questions to maintain certification. A workgroup should be established to gather questions. Adam will work with Vincent Valeriano and the ACE Division on this. Chris will send out the questions to the committee.</p> <p>Mike asked how many standalone EMS agencies are out there. The Office will find out this information based on how they are classified. Mike would also like to look at salaries. He was asked to send his questions to Adam via email.</p> <p>What is the outcome that we want from the survey? It is becoming rather long. This is what Vince can look into to determine the desired outcomes. Valerie stated that some of the outcomes would be demographics and general workforce questions that would be part of the certification. The other survey consists of a gross analysis of the workforce and would be done every 10 years. She thinks the committee should reevaluate the survey questions, as some of the questions may be irrelevant due to COVID.</p> <p>Tim Perkins reported that as of February 19, 2021 there were just under 12,000 unaffiliated EMS providers in the state. A small percentage of them could be hospital-based EMS. Also as of the same date, there were 36,712 certified EMS providers.</p>	
<b>XI. Public Comment:</b>	None.	
<b>XII. Adjournment:</b>	<p>The next meeting will be August 5, 2021 at the Embassy Suites, Richmond.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.</p>	<b>2021 Meeting Dates: August 5, 2021</b>