

**Legislation and Planning Committee
Embassy Suites Hotel
Richmond, VA
November 15, 2024
8:00 a.m.**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	OEMS Staff:	Others:
Beth Adams (Vice Chair, NVEMS)	Beth Matish (VHHA)	Scott Winston	David Long (TEMS)
Bryan Rush (VML)	Jeff Meyer (VAGEMSA)	Ron Passmore	Joe Lang, VACEP
Steve Higgins (VAA)	Byron Andrews (VSFF)	Mohamed Abbamin	David Hupp, VPFF
Michael Player (VFCA)			Eddie Ferguson, VSFA
Gary Dalton (VAVRS)			
Ed Rhodes (At-Large)			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Welcome and Introductions	Beth Adams (Vice Chair, NVEMS Council) opened the meeting. She reported that Legislative and Planning Committee Chair Gary Samuel's term on the EMS Advisory Board has expired and was not able to attend this meeting.	Vice Chair Beth Adams opened the meeting at 8:00 am
II. Review and approval of August 2, 2024, meeting minutes.	The minutes from the August 2, 2024, meeting was reviewed by the Legislative and Planning Committee members.	Ed Rhodes motioned to approve draft minutes from August 2, 2024 meeting of the L&P Committee. The motion was seconded by Steve Higgins. Committee members unanimously approved August 2, 2024 meeting minutes.
III. OEMS Update - Quarterly Report to EMS Advisory Board (OEMS staff)	Scott Winston reported the Fitch and Associates Report was presented at a special meeting of the State Advisory Board on September 18 th . There was no discussion held at the meeting and the Board will address the report at future meetings and make comments on the report.	Scott Winston, VAOEMS Deputy Director, Education and Compliance and Ron Passmore, Division Director, Regulation & Compliance

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	<p>He also reported that the Next Step Workgroup transitioned to the EMS Stakeholders Workgroup and has essentially disbanded in June 2024. The VAOEMS Quarterly Report was distributed to the committee and will be posted on the VAOEMS Website.</p> <p>VAOEMS updates – There have been several personnel changes. Dr. Karen Owens and Norma Howard have left the office, and he has identified January 31st as his retirement date after over 39 years of service to state and local government with an official retirement date of Feb 1, 2025.</p> <p>Recruitment for State EMS Director still on-going. There were 74 applicants for the position from all over the country. This was narrowed down and about 10 individuals were interviewed. There are two out-of-state applicants invited for face-to-face interviews and the goal is to have the position filled by early January 2025.</p> <p>Jimmy Burch, EMS Program Representative Supervisor, retired effective October 1st.</p> <p>Ron Passmore, VAOEMS Division Director, Regulations & Compliance reported his division was not approved to return to 8 field positions, so some adjustments were made to the regions and that one vacancy remains.</p> <p>Chad Blosser, Education Coordinator resigned in September and Debbie Akers is filling in until the position is filled.</p>	
IV. State EMS Plan	<p>(CHaTR) (OEMS Staff) – Scott Winston mentioned that this item is a in “place holder” on the agenda and that additional information is available at this time.</p> <p>State EMS Plan, there are no updates at this time. The committee was reminded that an Interim Strategic EMS Plan was approved by this committee, the state EMS Advisory Board and the Board of Health.</p>	Scott Winston reported.
V. Regulatory Update (Ron Passmore)	<p>Periodic Review Durable DNR Regulations (12VAC5-66) – finished</p> <p>Update on Proposed Draft EMS Regulations (12VAC5-32) Rules-Regs- Committee-Approved-Jan-2023-Final-Draft-Chapt-32-Project-5100.pdf (virginia.gov) Ron Passmore reported that the EMS Regulations update are being reviewed, line by line, by the Attorney General’s Office before being submitted for approval.</p>	Ron Passmore reported.

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	<p>Final-Draft-Chapt-32-Project-5100.pdf (virginia.gov)</p> <p>Presented to and approved by EMS Advisory Board on May 5, 2023. Pending presentation to Virginia Board of Health. – Additional steps have been completed.</p> <p>Board of Pharmacy (BoP) Emergency Regulations for Medication Kit Exchange Update –</p> <p>Mike Player reported the open comment period has passed. (Michael Player’s written report is inserted here)</p> <p><u>Virginia Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Report</u> <u>Legislative and Planning Committee</u> <u>November 15, 2024</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>At the October 7, 2024, meeting of the Virginia Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup, we received reports from the regions that made it clear that the majority of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s EMS Agencies would not be ready for the medication kit transition on November 27, 2024. Most agencies are still in the process of obtaining their Virginia BOP CSR and/or US Drug Enforcement Administration License, and some are still struggling to find the resources required to make the necessary preparations to begin those processes.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>As a result, the VSHP, scheduled to meet for their annual conference in Williamsburg later that week agreed to discuss how hospitals might continue to restock the regional drug boxes for a few months past the November 27, 2024, deadline while minimizing their exposure to FDA enforcement to prevent a dramatic decline in the level of EMS care.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>On October 9, 2024, the FDA release a document entitled “DSCSA Exemptions from Section 582 (d)(1) and Other Requirements of the FD&C Act for Certain Trading Partners.” This changed the focus of the discussion at the VSHP conference and as the pharmacists believed the exemptions would give the hospitals the “cover” they need to continue the current regional EMS medication kit restocking program for a short period of time beyond the previous November 27, 2024, deadline. They prepared a recommendation which they then shared with VHHA and their membership.</u></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>On October 31, 2024, VSHP, in collaboration with VHHA, jointly recommended an extension for the transition timeline to no later than April 15, 2025, with the following considerations:</u></p> <p>-</p>	

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	<p><u>Transition Date:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1. <u>If the DEA publishes the final rule for Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (PPAEMA) with an enforcement date prior to April 15, 2025, the transition date will be the earlier of the two dates.</u> - 2. <u>For agencies that are ready to transition, it is encouraged that they work with their Regional EMS Council and local hospitals to transition earlier than April 15, 2025. This may allow agencies to have a “soft” launch to ensure that all processes work as designed prior to the full transition.</u> - 3. <u>For agencies that are challenged with meeting the April 15, 2025, transition date, work with Regional EMS Council leadership to address any obstacles and determine solutions.</u> <p><u>Readiness Updates and Ongoing Actions to Take:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1. <u>Progress Reports: EMS Agencies and Regional EMS Councils provide a monthly update on status for each agency CSR, DEA, and transition readiness to hospital leadership for hospitals to understand progress toward transition readiness and implementation.</u> - 2. <u>CSR is Established: EMS Agencies should continue to work towards readiness. For those that have received their CSR and are awaiting DEA, it is recommended to move forward with establishing Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) and Wholesaler accounts to the extent possible to reduce the overall timeline for implementation.</u> <p><u>Respectively Submitted</u> <u>Michael B. Player, MPA, NRP</u> <u>Executive Director</u> <u>Peninsulas EMS Council, Inc.</u></p> <p>Vice Chair Adams praised Mike and the committee for their diligence in completing their tasks and stated it was amazing work.</p>	

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<p>VI. 2025 Legislative Bills</p>	<p>JLARC study of VDH –</p> <p>Scott Winston provided a high-level overview. (Copies of the report were provided to committee members prior to the meeting).</p> <p>JLARC met on September 7th and submitted a report regarding numerous financial problems, lacking in efficient systems, staffing challenges and over reliant on contractors. Dr. Karen Shelton, State Health Commissioner, stated that VDH concurs with findings and will work to address them in a timely manner.</p> <p>Virginia Fire and EMS Stakeholders Priorities</p> <p>Ed Rhodes led a discussion regarding the designated legislative priorities identified by the Virginia Fire and EMS Stakeholders Legislative Group. The group identified a need to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated and Sustainable State Funding for High-Quality Fire and EMS response services across the Commonwealth • Funding for Firefighter Cancer Screening • Enhanced Retirement Benefits for 9-1-1 Dispatchers and Certain Hazardous Duty Positions within VDFP and VDEM • Relocation of the Virginia Office of EMS <p>EMS Funding</p> <p>There was an open discussion regarding OEMS Funding. Issues to be addressed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Medical Director contract • The role of the State Medical Director • Trauma Services funding-should it be kept with VAOEMS or somewhere else • The role of VAOEMS and EMS Councils in education and training • Should VAOEMS be moved to the Virginia Department of Public Safety • The makeup of the EMS Advisory Board • The appropriate number of EMS councils 	<p>Scott Winston provided an overview of the recent study of the Virginia Department of Health by JLARC.</p> <p>Ed Rhodes reported on a recent meeting of the Virginia Fire and EMS Stakeholders Legislative Group</p>

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	It was reported that the Executive Committee of the state EMS Advisory Board will be presenting a plan to address these topics during the meeting today.	
VII. Unfinished Business	Vice Chair Beth Adams reported that the Legislative and Planning / MDC Workgroup on Nomenclature – was formed to address two elements of concern. One, over the label of “EMS Physician” - to be a Medical Director you must be an EMS Physician and secondly, a mid-level practitioner’s ability to fill a role in an EMS agency in a medical direction or leader position. There has been no action for more than a year and it was decided to leave this as unfinished business until next meeting to see if it will be addressed.	
IX. New Business	<p>Periodic Review of Committee Membership Vacancy</p> <p>Beth Adams reported that the VHHA representative Elizabeth Matish and the VPFF representative David Hupp will be joining the committee have there are designated by the Advisory Board today..</p> <p>New appointments to EMS Advisory Board</p> <p>It was reported that several new board members have been added to the EMS Advisory Board.</p> <p>Impact of Fitch Report / Internal Audit on VDH and OEMS Impacts</p> <p>There was a lengthy and robust discussion regarding the validity of the Fitch Report and the many inaccuracies that were included within the final report. The major part of the discuss centered around how these reports, changes within VDH and VAOEMS will affect stakeholder groups.</p>	
X. Public Comment	There was no public comment beyond several attendees that participated in the open discussion above.	
XI. Next Meeting	The next meeting will be on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 8:30 AM at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Richmond, VA.	
XII. Adjourn	<p>A motion was made by Ed Rhodes and seconded by Beth Adams to adjourn the meeting. The committee approved. Vice Chair Beth Adams adjourned the meeting at 9:28 am.</p> <p>See Attachment: Copy of 2025 Virginia Legislative Priorities and Issues Report</p>	Vice Chair Beth Adams adjourned the meeting at 9:48 am.

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