



Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2024

DIRECTORS PRESENT (Listed Alphabetically by First Name)

See the list at the end of the minutes.

GUESTS

Byron Andrews, Sterling Volunteer Rescue

Tim Perkins, CHATR Division, OEMS

Call to Order

Council President Nate Strong welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

- No representatives from the public were present to address the Board.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the NVEMSC Board of Directors held on December 7, 2023, were sent for review by email.

- Beth Adams made a motion to accept as written, seconded by Jamie Cooper.
- The minutes were **unanimously approved**.

Treasurer's Report

The financial reports for December and January were sent via email for review.

- Beth Adams made a motion to approve the financials as submitted. Seconded Kate Kramer
- The financials were **unanimously approved**

President's Report

President Nate Strong had the following report:

- Ray Whatley has resigned, and Laura has been appointed the Interim Executive Director until we establish a process for a new one
- Moved, have temp office at FS403 and PO Box

Executive Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Laura Vandegrift submitted the following report:

- The Council has vacated the office space in Gainesville and now has shared office space at FS403
 - The new physical address is 4081 University Drive, 4th Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030
 - The new mailing address is PO Box 648, Gainesville, VA 20156
- **OEMS Audit**
 - All outstanding quarterly contract payments have been received as of February 2, 2024.
 - Cam Crittenden, Acting Director of OEMS, and Frank Gresh, On-Site Consultant from Fitch & Associates, will come to FS403 to meet with Council staff and representatives from three of our agencies.
 - They are seeking to learn more about the Councils, what the agencies need from OEMS, and how the Councils impact what they do as an agency.
- **Regional Paramedic Program**
 - The CoAEMSP LSSR was submitted

- The DC DOH application was submitted
- Paramedic Prep Week is scheduled for March 11 - 15 at the Ballston GW Campus.
- Next steps are to schedule site visits with CoA and DC DOH
- They are working with legal on FERPA waiver for candidates so they can keep agencies apprised of any academic difficulty
- Student Count:
 - ACFD 11 students
 - Manassas 2 students
 - DCFEMS 11 students
- **Stroke Smart Coordinator Position**
 - We invited four candidates to interview this week
 - Two withdrew their interest
 - One no-show
 - One successful interview
 - We have solicited interview availability for three more
 - We have re-listed the free job postings on both LinkedIn and Indeed
- **OMD Workshop**
 - The NVEMSC is hosting the OEMS Spring EMS Medical Director CE Workshop at FS403 on Thursday, March 13, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Unfortunately, this overlaps the Trauma PI meeting that will take place via Zoom from 9a-11a.
 - As always, refreshments, beverages, and lunch will be provided
 - Please email Marybeth.mizell@vdh.virginia.gov or michelle@vaems.org to register.
 - As a reminder, only 1 class during the November to May sessions will count towards your OMD recertification
- **Inova/NVEMS EMS Symposium**
 - Inova and NVEMS are co-sponsoring a one-day continuing education event on Monday, March 4th, at the Inova Center for Personalized Health, 8100 Innovation Park Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031.
 - This will be a free event that includes breakfast, lunch, and parking provided by Inova
 - We are thrilled that the registration of 120 is currently full, and Craig French has had numerous requests to be placed on a waitlist.
 - Craig is working on getting a larger room at this location to hold up to 200 participants, allowing us to open 80 more spots.
 - A copy of the schedule and topics will be attached to the minutes
- **Regional EMS Awards**
 - We will open the NVEMSC Regional EMS Awards nominations soon
 - We hope to get nominations for all 12 categories and the EMS Student scholarship
 - We will also need volunteers for the Awards Committee, again with a total commitment of 2-3 hours after the nominations are received
- **Whole Blood Program**
 - We met with IBDS and agency leadership last Thursday
 - The MOU is not finalized yet
 - Several agencies asked for a copy of the most recent version to view and confer before approval
 - City of Manassas Fire & Rescue plans to go live with their program by the end of this month

STATE AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stroke Smart Update

Michelle Ludeman advised there is nothing further from Laura's update. The staff is actively interviewing for the position.

AHA Training Center

Michelle Ludeman will be handling all AHA needs at this time. Please get in touch with her at michelle@vaems.org with any questions or needs.

State EMS Advisory Board

Beth Adams provided the following written report:

- **OEMS Next Steps Workgroup (1/26/2024):**
 - Presentation by Chris Lindsey (COO)
 - Total deficit = \$33,285,939 in unpaid bills to the Commonwealth's EMS community and contractual commitments over and above available DMV motor vehicle registration fee collections.
 - Presentation by Todd Sheridan /Frank Gresh from Fitch & Associates – 6-month contract
 - 1st priority fiscal management
 - Three buckets re: OEMS form/function
 - what's required by code – what's moral & ethical (right to do) – what's nice to have.
 - Site visits to every regional EMS Council + stakeholders
- **Rules & Regulations Committee (2/1/24)**
 - Nothing yet from DEA.
 - Chapter 32 still preparing comparison document (line by line, old vs. new) to enter step2 of process.
 - Chapter 66 (Durable DNR) waiting on AG approval before presentation to Board of Health
 - Report on the Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup (met in December, next meeting Feb 12)
 - FDA will begin enforcement of Drug Supply Chain Security Act (AKA 'track & trace') on 11/1/2024.
 - Workgroup developing a toolkit to help agencies prepare for the anticipated end of med kit exchange.
- **Executive Committee** did not meet.
- **Legislative & Planning Committee (2/2/24)**
 - No spring cycle RSAF grants but honoring all previously awarded grants. RSAF grant funds cannot be used to pay for contracts signed prior to the award of the grant.
 - Update on EMS-related bills in the General Assembly. Happy to provide the latest legislative grid if interested.
 - Report on the Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup
- **Advisory Board (11/17/23)**
 - Presentation Christopher Lindsey (COO-VDH)
 - Dr. Shelton presented information before the House Appropriations Committee & the Senate Finance Committee 1. Her testimony provided an overview of what has

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transpired at OEMS related to a history of moving funds amongst accounts to cover shortfalls, services being provided without appropriate funding, overspending of contracts, and little to no VDH oversight. Commissioner Total deficit = \$33,285,939 in unpaid bills to the Commonwealth's EMS community and contractual commitments over and above available DMV motor vehicle registration fee collections.

- Shelton asked for support of the Governor's proposed budget to exclude the transfer of \$12.5M in FY24 and FY25 by OEMS to the General Fund.
- It was also noted that Governor Youngkin authorized approximately \$8.1M in one-time carryover funds to enable OEMS to make overdue payments in the short-term to include Return to Locality and regional EMS Council payments. In the last two months, OEMS has made over \$5.4M in payments to localities, and \$3.8M in payments to regional EMS Councils.
- Internal audit ongoing / criminal investigation ongoing
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study of VDH/OEMS
- Presentation by Todd Sheridan /Frank Gresh from Fitch & Associates
- 2023 Governor's Awards will be presented at GAB meeting on May 3.
- Advisory Board approved:
 - minimum triage tag dataset,
 - EMD training must meet approved standards, e.g., APCO, IAED-Priority Dispatch, NECI 9-1-1, PowerPhone EMD
- Public comment from a southern VA rescue squad member re: negative impact for rural agencies with the anticipated end of hospital drug box exchange.

Provider Health and Safety

No representation from the committee

Medical PI Committee

Craig French provided the following update:

- The next meeting is April 10th.
- The last meeting in January was about CO emergencies and hyperbaric chamber use. It was very interesting to learn that most patients should go to the closest ER, not directly to a chamber
- Pediatric to speak to devices and therapies that children may be at home with, so working on case management and PICU that could do a presentation
- Next meeting for July meeting MARCUS alerts

Trauma PI Committee

Michelle Ludeman provided the following update:

- The December meeting was canceled because both chairs were unavailable
- We have moved those topics to the March Trauma PI Meeting scheduled for March 13, 2023.
- The topic is field amputations, and GW Hospitals Surgical Strike Team will present for the group on their process and what it took to get approvals, liability insurance, etc.

Medevac Committee

Rick Cohen advised of the following:

- It will likely be a 10-year project since VA doesn't have a statewide radio trunk system, and Medevac encompasses more than just one county, but they are trying to work with First Net for

push-to-talk options that could be for future use. It is illegal to use cellular devices in helicopters, per FCC currently. May use First Net and away from traditional radios

Patient Tracking Workgroup

Jamie Cooper provided the following update:

- They are re-birthing the workgroup and committees; they had a meeting a few weeks ago
- Jamie is seeking interested parties to move this group forward
- If you are interested or have personnel interested, please email him at Jamie.cooper@loudoun.gov
 - He can provide information on commitment, length of time, etc.

Regional Medical Directors & State Medical Direction Committee

Dr. Morgan provided the following update:

- The State Medical Direction Committee met on January 4th in Richmond
 - There was a presentation from Caroline Juran, the Executive Director for the Virginia Board of Pharmacy, which was the same PowerPoint presentation that we had in December from VA BOP, but the director had some different insights
 - Her stance/position in terms of regulated medical equipment was that they have no interest in sharps, life packs, or other items that don't require a prescription, so they don't require a pharmacy license; only things with a prescription require a pharmacy license
 - Her stance on the regulations and everything within them is that the regulations have been in place for years, and her organization's posture hasn't been to look for problems.
 - There was discussion specifically about agencies with multiple stations and one license, and they are, in theory, out of compliance if they remove drugs from the ambulance and put them in a locked cabinet. Good discussion on this concern and more discussion around this in the future
- There was a presentation from Karen Owens about decedent blood collection and testing for the rare instance when the patient dies, and there is an exposure, how agencies could collect and then test a decedent's blood
 - The State is currently working with a vendor and has proposed that each EMS Council has an account, maintaining the purchase of collection supplies and handling the billing.
 - Michelle Ludeman is working on that for NVEMSC
- Dr. Morgan and Dr. Neha Sullivan are working on white papers on an OMD Bill of Rights and concerns about agency QA programs. They want to get, in writing, statements on the medical director's role in QA programs, what happens if an OMD separates from an agency, and what happens when that relationship is broken
- During our regional medical direction meeting, they discussed the Regional Stroke Plan and the OMDs deciding on appropriate guidance to take stroke patients to appropriate facilities
- Beth Adams asked if there was any discussion about the workgroup about NPs, PAs, and EMS physician nomenclature.
 - Those subjects are in the works, but there is no update on those questions about nomenclature per Dr. Morgan

Training and Certification Committee

Michelle Ludeman provided the following report:

- EMS Scholarship Program: Chad Blosser reported.
 - As of the end of 2nd quarter, \$878,500 has been approved. \$44,000 is awaiting approval. \$378,000 remains in the scholarship fund for awarding the initial \$1.3 million. Payments continue to be delayed 120-180 days from their approval. A new MOU is still being reviewed for approval with VDH and OEMS.
- Debbie Akers reported
 - The SW EMS Council continues to serve as the fiscal agent for the scholarship program. Once Dr. Shelton signs the MOU, the monies can be transferred to the SW EMS Council with an expectation of payment 30 days after that (February 2024).
 - NREMT scoring has been significantly delayed since last month. Psychomotor testing is being graded; however, delays persist.
 - On 20 October, due to the financial crisis, we had to suspend the QA/QI process for programmatic visits. The Medical Director of the education program continues to be responsible for verifying competency of their programs. We cannot return to the old Consolidated Test Site process or reinstitute the QA/QI process.
 - As of 01 January, the Office of EMS has implemented a new requirement. Students who do not register within the first five days of your course start will be required to apply for a variance. For educators, if you have not approved your students within the first 30 days of your course, you will receive a formal warning with subsequent interaction by Regulation and Compliance for action.
 - NREMT caught states entirely off guard with the 2025 CE requirements. Anyone planning to recertify in 2025 will be required to submit proof of pediatric competency (10% of the overall CE requirement).
 - They are looking to reevaluate the NCCR/LCCR/ICCR categories. Regions continue to have the ability to require specific training in the LCCR category. Personnel can be flagged and delay their recertification based on regional requirements. They will need a workgroup to look at our NCCR requirements. This will change the CE distribution for the 2025 recertification process. Brian McIntosh will be leading this workgroup. This project would need to be completed by July for review by TCC/MDC and approval by the EMSGAB in August 2024 to be ready for the NREMT 2025 recertification cycle.
- Education Coordinator Program
 - 765 in the system.
 - The EC Institute was scheduled for the last week of January for Leesburg, with 30 EC Candidates attending.
 - A list of planned EC updates is published on the OEMS website.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaw Committee

- Brian Orndoff advised that the committee met recently to review and update the document.
- The updates were sent via email for review and were presented during this meeting
- Need to change Healthcare Systems Partners needs to remove Hospital because we invoice them separately through Hospital Donations

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- Additionally, for hospital donations, we need to remove “donation” and change to “fee” because of specific regulations for donations for for-profit organizations/hospitals
- Keith with sidebar with Beth and submit it to the bylaws group and incorporate it into the document to be sent by email in advance of the next meeting
- Please submit any changes before the end of this month, and the committee will meet and have any changes out before 3/10.

Hospital Diversion Plan

- VHASS updated definitions, and all items highlighted
 - For example, special advisory into re-route/diversion
- Dr. Morgan said a GAB had a meeting at state medical direction about a position statement about how these are just requests. If facilities have a diversion policy, they are only requests that EMS may decline. It may be important to put this in here because we go around with a hospital that claims to be on diversion, and EMS still shows up. Maybe adding this language could help in the intent of this document to show that it is a request and not an order
 - Keith Morrison advised that Reston Hospital had a lengthy discussion about this. The other piece is expecting the hospital to call each dispatch center as a follow-up because not everyone is in VHASS and every 2 hours or shift changes. Once it’s done here, it needs to return to NVERS for the EMs to approve it.
 - Lee Warner said it feels like the pendulum is rotated/shifted lately. In years past, as soon as they got busy, they’d be quick to say re-route to lessen the impact on the ER staff. Now, there is a lot of corporate pressure to not go on re-route when perhaps some legitimately need it. Maybe we’re softening the term by special advisory, but Inova facilities or others are so busy that they need to be on re-route and take the patient to another hospital to lessen the load
 - Craig French said he agrees – is the form at the end for everything or just for issues?
- Beth Adams made a motion to accept as amended with change to update the missed change of “re-route” to “special advisory,” seconded by Keith Morrison.
- The Hospital Diversion Plan was **unanimously approved**.

Awards Committee

- We need a handful of volunteers to be on the regional awards committee.
- The time required is approximately 1-2 hours in the spring once the nominations have been received.
- The committee reviews the nominations for each category and determines the regional award winner.
- If you are interested in being part of the committee, please notify the Council.

JURISDICTIONAL REPORTS

City of Alexandria Fire Department: Erin Mustian reports

- 11 graduating from recruit school on March 10th
- ten paramedics in school
- A new recruit school will start on April 15.

Arlington County Fire Department: Kate Kramer reports

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- The EMS Battalion Chief retired last Friday, and they have not appointed a replacement yet
 - Additionally, they have not designated a replacement for Council voting in their place
- They are anticipating the start of the GW paramedic program
- They have new protocols with some significant changes
 - The addition of droperidol for behavioral emergencies
 - Ancef for open fractures
 - They used their first dose yesterday for an open ankle fracture
 - Added rocuronium for RSI
 - Added IV Tylenol for pain

City of Fairfax Fire Department: Battalion Chief Brian Orndoff reports this is nothing new to report

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department: Deputy Chief Lee Warner reports

- EMS specialists were put in service a month ago. They are three advanced practitioners working the AM side of the 24-hour shift three days a week.
 - Their CAD designators will be ALS401, 402, and 403.
- They recently rolled back 8 ALS transport units to all BLS
 - This will adjust the EMS transport platform to 23 ALS and 20 BLS units.
- They are performing targeted reduction of ALS suppression units, intending to maintain at least 1 in a first-due area, but trying to vet that out to alleviate mandatory overtime

Fairfax County Police Helicopter Division: Paul DeHaven reports

- They are putting both aircraft through 5000-hour overhauls, making changes to the aircraft and medical suite. The most significant change was going away from having its own ambulance-style stretcher and going back to the old days to have the patient on a transport medium in the aircraft for transport.
 - For example, the patient will need to be on a Reeves or backboard, and they have a sled type of device that will separate from the aircraft, but it doesn't have dropdown wheels. They will need a 4-point carry or stretcher to move them to the aircraft, but they won't take the stretcher.
 - The first aircraft was completed a week ago, and the second will be renovated soon.
 - If anyone wants to do station/shift/squad for the new configuration, please reach out.
- They currently have two in the paramedic program with VCU and will finish in early spring.

Loudoun County Combine Fire and Rescue System: Deputy Chief Jamie Cooper

- They currently have a recruit school in session with 30
- nine people are finishing their Capstone for the AEMT to Paramedic bridge class
 - They are seeing success and are ready to welcome them to the system soon
- Another AEMT class is scheduled for late March
- They are hosting an EMS supervisor school in early March for those agencies who are interested

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City of Manassas Fire & Rescue: Billy Barton advised there was nothing new to report

MWAA: BC Gary Hubble reported

- They have one paramedic finishing their internship and awaiting an interview with the medical director at this time
- They hope to have around-the-clock EMS supervisors at both airports soon
 - They currently have two on day work only as the 24/7 position was eliminated with the previous administration.
 - While they're slow to get back to two, 24/7, it is necessary

Prince William County Fire & Rescue: Andrew Sanders reported

- They just had a recruit class graduate with 23 recruits and have another class in session with 29
- They have 18 students in paramedic class that is scheduled to finish in June
- Frank Orefice is the Battalion Chief in EMS Ops, and BC Chip Morrison has returned to the field
- They will have an upcoming staffing change and will have an EMS Division Chief soon
 - Currently, the position is not yet filled
 - They will oversee all of EMS
- The three engine companies left to transition to ALS are 502, 506, and 516.
 - Once complete, all 22 engine companies will ALS, which is a welcome change
- They will also have EMS Supervisors starting in the September timeframe and will transition 6-8 medics to BLS around the same time as other jurisdictions
- They will be posting their OMD position soon once it's approved through HR
- Lt. Sanders posed a question to the group: If you upgrade an out-of-jurisdiction ambulance to transport an ALS and the BLS provider asks the paramedic to complete the run report on the BLS unit's tablet, different software, and different agency, how would your agency handle this scenario?
 - Arlington County advised that the ALS provider does their chart and BLS does their chart, saying, "ALS transport by the xxx agency." They would not have the provider do a chart on someone else's hardware and software
 - Fairfax County Fire & Rescue advised they echo what Arlington does. And on the billing end, the understanding is that the transporting jurisdiction is who does the billing
 - MWAA advised they also do the same as Arlington. Each provider and agency does their report
 - Alexandria Fire Department advised they also do the same as the other agencies
 - Tony Barone from Emergility said another aspect to consider is that the author of the report is legally responsible for it and who would be called to court for it.

Northern Virginia Community College: Kathleen Deal reports

- The spring semester started January 6th and ends May 10th.
- In the past few months, the VCCS EMS Advisory Board met to look at the curriculum, which is standardized in VCCS with the wants and needs of OEMs. No one has changed the requirements for the paramedic program but readjusted courses for EMTs to accommodate stepping in and out at the AEMT level; it doesn't change much or impact students, just what semester they are offered
- The 20th anniversary of the Medical Education Campus is this year. They are planning a celebration in May. More details to follow
- Dr. Franke advised that NVCC got a state-of-the-art simulator through a grant.

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- It's called HAL S5301
- They are shocked at how up-to-date it is. AI learning can speak and simulate seizures and strokes.
- It's a fantastic device; we've come far with these simulators.
- There are currently only about 12 in the country due to the cost, which is about six figures
- They are very thankful they got the grant.
- They have been using it in class now and getting good feedback.

OEMS Program Representative: Chris Vernovai reported

- Any updates have been reported already in this meeting
- There was an email from OEMS yesterday on the status of the audit; it was sent through the Council listserv as well

PHI Aircare: Rick Cohen advised there was nothing to report

Physicians Transport Service/AMR: Kate Passow reports

- There are no updates from PTS specifically
- As a reminder, the Nation EMS Memorial Bike Ride is coming up soon
 - NEMSBR.org is where you can locate the details
 - The East Coast ride will end in the DC area in mid-May, and the National Weekend of Honor will be the weekend of July 19th.
 - The council has provided refreshments for the Weekend of Honor in the past, and they appreciate the continued support

Inova Fairfax Hospital: Craig French reported

- On March 4th, as previously mentioned, a free EMS Symposium will take place.
 - There is currently a waitlist of 20 in addition to 120 registrants
 - He is working with another group to switch rooms to get 180 -200 seats.
- Starting next Monday, Inova will no longer require masking in the ERs until further notice.
 - An official email will go out soon detailing that
- Inova Alexandria will stop doing thrombectomies for stroke patients, but he is unsure of the exact date.
 - He will find out and get an update out to the group; he believes it is June 30th but will confirm

Reston Hospital: Keith Morrison reported

- There has been some recent question on whether Reston does take LVO patients, and he confirms that they do
 - He will get a re-announcement together to send it out.
- Hopefully, they are in the home stretch for the construction refresh in ED, which is supposed to be done in March or April.
 - With the construction, no badge is needed to get to the pharmacy; go down the hallway and swipe through the halls.

StoneSprings Hospital: John Wanamaker reported

- They have opened a new cath lab for non-emergency STEMI patients.

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EMERGILITY – Tony Barone reported

- In 2023, they launched a special program called Responder Care, established with the announcement of Brian Hricik's cancer diagnosis.
 - From March to December 2023 –
 - They raised \$25k in private donations.
 - Cared for 35 responders and families in several jurisdictions
 - They are still seeking volunteers for administrative and operations positions.
 - This program was not intended to fall underneath Emergility permanently and was designed to be its own 501c3, which they are working toward.
- They participate in the Alexandria George Washington Birthday Parade on Monday, February 19th.
 - They will have two vehicles and banners
- They are also participating in the Alexandria St. Patrick's Parade March 2nd

NEW BUSINESS

- Financial Assistance Review Committee (FARC)
 - The Council needs to submit a designee to represent the region on the FARC Committee
 - The qualification is someone who is experienced with RSAF grants, state & local government, and business practices and needs to be familiar with EMS practices and terminology
 - The commitment is 140 hours per year.
 - Appointment goes to the committee and not to the state so we don't need several names like we do for the Governor's Advisory Board nominations
 - Submit your name to Laura or Michelle by May 30 if you are interested
 - **Beth Adams stated she nominates Byron Andrews**
 - He accepted her nomination for this position

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There was a motion to adjourn at 11:41 pm.

Board meetings for 2024 are as follows.

April 18, 2024

June 20, 2024

September 19, 2024

October 17, 2024

December 19, 2024

CERTIFICATION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Northern Virginia EMS Council

PO Box 648

Gainesville, VA 20156

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I, Laura Vandegrift, Interim Executive Director of the Northern Virginia EMS Council, certify that the above minutes are a true and correct transcript of the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia EMS Council held via Zoom on February 15, 2024, and that the meeting was duly called and held in all respects in accordance with the laws of the state of Virginia and bylaws of the corporation and that a quorum was present. The minutes were officially approved at the April 18, 2024, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia EMS Council.



Laura Vandegrift
Northern Virginia EMS Council

4/18/2024

Date