



Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council

Board of Directors Meeting

Held Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2023

DIRECTORS PRESENT (Listed Alphabetically by First Name)

Adam Lieb	adam.lieb@fairfaxcounty.gov
Beth Adams Roemmelt	beth.adams@fairfaxcounty.gov
Chip Morrison	cmorrison@pwcgov.org
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Kate Kramer	kkramer@arlingtonva.us
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Rachel Short	rachel.short@loudoun.gov
Ray Whatley	ray@vaems.org
Richard Cohen	rcohen@phiairmedical.com
Tom Arnoto	tarnoto@pwcgov.org
Tony Barone	tony@emergility.com

GUESTS

None

Call to Order

Council President Nate Strong welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

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

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the NVEMSC Board of Directors held on December 15, 2022, were sent for review by email

- Beth Adams made a motion to accept the minutes with the corrections above, seconded by Mark Franke, MD
- The minutes were **unanimously approved**.

Treasurer's Report

Laura Vandegrift provided the following report in the absence of Keith Morrison:

- The financials for December 2022 and January 2023 were sent via email before the meeting.
 - Beth Adams made a motion to accept the financial reports as submitted, seconded by Mark Franke, MD
 - The Treasurer's Report and financials were **unanimously approved**

President's Report

President Nate Strong advised of the following:

- No report today

Executive Director's Report

Ray Whatley, Executive Director provided the following report in his absence:

- The OEMS contract was signed and went into effect on January 1.
- Regional Educator position approved.
 - Discussion with E-board scheduled to discuss options.
- Stroke Smart Coordinator has shifted to contract funding
- This is an auto-renewal contract until 2027.
 - Budget modifications are allowed beginning July 7, 2023.
- Regional Paramedic Program
 - GW MFA and EHS are on board
 - Two-year Pilot program with first class in DC (Goal - Foggy Bottom Campus - Ross Hall)
 - Goal is September 2023 (9-5) for a 9 month Academy style program
 - 22 students needed
 - Tuition \$10,000 per student
 - Students from NOVA and DC, COG as needed but not much interest from MD
 - 4:1 ratio needed
 - Clinical field internship will be done by the agency, cross-agency may be allowed
 - Capital Items will be needed from participating agencies: ex. Monitors, stretchers, etc.
 - Instructors will need to become DC providers to become DC Instructors. Will need to affiliate with MFA, which can be inactive provider status.
- We now have a separate Medical/PI meeting
- Psychomotor Testing for legal recognition, challenges, and reentry can be done by approved personnel yet to be identified. Agencies will continue to have the ability to perform the testing within their agencies.
- FARC received approval to modify the current committee by GAB. NOVA will not need a new rep at this time.
- Triage and Triage Tags - The original workgroup has been expanded to include other stakeholders across the state. NVEMSC did receive 20,000 START triage tags. We have another 20,000 that can be modified if needed.

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- EMSAB approved a Patient Diversion position paper at February’s meeting. We will send it out to the BOD. Beth can brief out further.

STATE AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stroke Smart Advocate Report

Margaret Probst presented an update. Her presentation can be found at the end of these minutes

AHA Training Center

Ray Whatley provided the following report:

- Alexandria will begin implementation of Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) for field personnel soon
- **Participate in Damar Hamlin’s #3forHeart CPR Challenge™**
 - The American Heart Association is honored and excited to be working with Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin for Damar Hamlin’s #3forHeart CPR Challenge™.
 - #3forHeart is a social media-based challenge launched by Damar, with the support of the American Heart Association. #3forHeart is Damar’s personal call to action for everyone to learn CPR and pay it forward after his own life was saved by CPR. Head to heart.org/3 to take the challenge!
 - Damar Hamlin’s #3forHeart CPR Challenge™ has 3 steps:
 - Learn: Visit Heart.org/3 and watch the video to learn Hands-Only CPR.
 - Give: Donate to the American Heart Association to fund CPR education and training, and other lifesaving programs and scientific research.
 - Share: Challenge 3 friends by tagging them with #3forHeart on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!
- **Accelerated Agendas for HeartCode BLS Courses**
 - Recognizing that many students who complete HeartCode BLS online come to the hands-on skills session with some level of competency and can demonstrate mastery of high-quality CPR skills, the AHA has developed accelerated agendas for HeartCode BLS skills sessions. These agendas are intended for providers who are experienced in the skills of basic life support, are renewing their AHA BLS course completion card, and have successfully completed the online portion of HeartCode BLS. For more information on the accelerated HeartCode BLS agendas, please review the new [Training Memo and agendas](#) posted on the AHA Instructor Network.
 - 48 minutes without optional lessons, 1 hour 10 minutes with optional lessons

State EMS Advisory Board

Beth Adams provided the following written report:

GAB Executive Committee met on February 2, 2023

- Dr. Neha Sullivan from PWC provided a presentation in addition to a representative from the Office of Licensing & Certification about the ongoing issue with EMS wall time/parking at Sentara. The Office of Licensure & Certification serves as the investigator for the CMS. They investigate any EMTALA complaints & submit their results to CMS. He repeatedly said that decisions about EMTALA violations come from CMS. Any & all rulings come from CMS. Although CMS is somewhat inconsistent in releasing reports, specifically not all investigations result in CMS conclusion reports.

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- Approved a draft position statement that basically says diversion is a request, not a directive, also “if the front door is open, the back door is open” & EMS should enter ED when they arrive even if there is no bed immediately available. The Medical Directors Committee committed to working with Virginia Hospital & Health Association to develop a supporting white paper on the issue.
- Board composition workgroup finalizing their recommendations.
- Approved the position statement forwarded by the Executive Committee.
- Chapter 32 will be presented to the GAB at the May meeting to begin the onerous review and approval process.
 - Slated to go to the Board of Health in September.
- Spring RSAF cycle is open until March 15.
- Presentation regarding the 2022 Virginia Stroke Survey report

Legislation & Planning Committee met on February 3, 2023

- HB1472 and SB1246 (EMS as essential service)
 - Both HB 1472 and SB 1246 began in different forms but through substitutes, are now in conformity. Both have been engrossed – now will now wait for "cross over." (Feb 8)
 - *VACO objected to the use of "shall ensure" that essential emergency medical services are maintained throughout the entire locality.*
 - *"Seek to" was added back to each bill to return the language to "shall seek to ensure".*
 - *On a positive note, we were able to add "essential" in two places in these bills which now read, "shall seek to ensure that essential emergency medical services are maintained throughout the entire locality" and "An emergency medical services agency that responds to medical emergencies for its primary service area as defined by the local emergency medical response plan shall be a designated emergency response agency (DERA) and recognized as an integral and essential part of the official public safety program of the county, city, or town with responsibility for providing emergency medical response."*
- **General Assembly scheduled to adjourn on February 25, 2023**

Of note: Virginia Senate blocked confirmation of Commissioner of Health Colin Greene on 2/8/2023

[Virginia Senate Democrats reject three Youngkin appointees - The Washington Post](#)

Medical & Trauma PI Committee

Dr. Scantlebury advised of the following in Dr. Morgan’s absence:

- Medical PI meeting was on January 25, 2023
 - The first meeting was held to discuss the future framework for regional discussions on medical topics outside the scope of existing Stroke/Cardiac (and Trauma) meetings.
 - Dr. Morgan and Ray Whatley facilitated the conversation.
 - Craig French (Inova) and Kate Kramer volunteered to Co-Chair the group moving forward and Beth Adams also indicated a willingness to assist.
 - There was some conversation about considering rotating the Chair/facilitator position to encourage one agency to lead the discussion/presentation on a specific topic on a rotating basis.

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- Several topics were brought forward for the next meeting and Heat Emergencies with a potential guest speaker (Athletic Trainer from Arlington County) was selected.
- Regional Stroke meeting held 1/24, but Drs Morgan and Scantlebury were not able to attend
- No Trauma meeting since our last Board meeting

Medevac Committee

Rick Cohen provided the following:

- The discussion was mostly based on reorganizing the committee's structure to include additional companies that have not been a part of the committee in the past. It sounds like they may be adding 3 more seats to our committee but it doesn't affect our region much

Regional Medical Directors & State Medical Direction Committee

Dr. Scantlebury provided the following update in Dr. Morgan's absence:

- The state medical direction committee meeting held in Richmond on January 5th
- There was a discussion on updated ASCOT Trauma triage guidelines
- There was discussion on APPs (PA/NP) in EMS agencies and a general desire to clarify what roles should be in relationship to EMS Medical oversight in collaboration with EMS Physician (OMD)
- There was further discussion on SALT -v- START with OMDs advocating for the flexibility to permit regions/agencies to use the method of choice recognizing that neither method is ideal and the challenges with re-educating an EMS workforce as well as costs such as printing tags etc.
- The hospital wait time issue impacting PW County was discussed with the GAB meeting on February 2nd to develop a position statement
- There was also a meeting at the NAEMSP conference of the Virginia Chapter of NAEMSP on January 26th
 - General discussion was on state Board of Pharmacy DEA matters (no major updates), wall time, and the role of APPs in EMS issue
- Regional OMD zoom meeting was held on January 24th and this month's meeting is being held at noon today

Provider Health and Safety

Michelle Ludeman provided the following report:

- This committee last met on Friday, February 3, 2023.
- They have a new chairperson Chief Frankel from Stafford County Fire and Rescue.
- On Feb 10 the 911 Centers will now be under OEMS.
- The committee has received a plan to secure decedent test kits for provider exposure response. Still working on what should be used. A contract is being written now.
- They also discussed a lack of a centralized process for reporting struck-by incidents. Jack Sullivan a committee member representing the safety industry, shared the www.reportstruckby.com website and outreach material with the committee.
- Having issues trying to figure out trends in injuries. For data only when agencies are filing out a workman's comp for an ambulance driver or for a firefighter injury if they could also go and fill out [EMS Event Notification Tool – E.V.E.N.T.](#) This would be used to report line of duty exposures, deaths, and injuries. It is on the OEMS website.
- OEMS is creating a registry for Provider Health and Safety.

Training and Certification Committee

Michelle Ludeman provided the following report:

- This committee last met on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.
- Chad reported NEMSES Rollouts were done in Mid-December 2022 and the last NEMSES roll-out was in Lynchburg.
- As part of this process, they created a scenario tool kit, which was printed incorrectly. OEMS is in the process now working to get these corrected.
- A mass EMS Educator e-mail was distributed at the end of the year regarding all the changes, updates, and other documents. Until textbooks can be published and updated appropriately, educators will need to conduct additional research and provide additional information to their students to ensure compliance with the new education standards. Pharmacology is a specific example that is lacking and will need additional education for all providers by their educators in addition to their textbook material.
- Looking towards continuing education, a packet was created to assist educators in transitioning existing providers up to the new standards without necessitating the creation of a bridge program.
- Debbie reported Psychomotor Testing that OEMS is working with the Regional Councils to serve as the catalyst or clearing house for educators that can and will complete the psychomotor examinations for challenge, legal recognition, and re-entry providers. Currently, providers should continue to contact OEMS until the Councils take on this process.
- Program Site Visits will be done for every EMT and EMR program during their terminal competency examinations.
- They will be posting positions for QA/QI Evaluator positions in the next week or two to assist in evaluating programs to ensure compliance with the TR-999 and medical direction involvement.
- They have 33 accredited programs that need to be visited in 2023. This will be very time intensive.
- NREMT changed its policy regarding the issuance of CE for college courses. They are allowing 10 hours of CE for each 1 hour of college credit in the sciences; however, it can only be permitted to be awarded in Category 2 (LCCR/ICCR). Providers will no longer be required to provide “Official” or “Sealed” transcripts; an unofficial transcript will suffice for this award of credit as it can only apply to Category 2.
- Karen Owens was there representing the Emergency Management Committee. The EMS Emergency Management MCI Workgroup was tasked with evaluating Mass Casualty training and triage actions within Virginia (START versus SALT).
 - The workgroup was tasked with developing recommendations regarding the following:
 - Should Virginia teach SALT or START or both as its standard triage method?
 - Should Virginia provide a standardized triage tag or just require a minimum data set?
 - How should the current MCI awareness level training be modified to address the recommendations resulting from questions 1 and 2?
 - The following recommendations were put before and supported by the EMS Emergency Management Committee:
 - SALT (Sort, Assess, Life-Saving Intervention, and Treatment/Transport) should become the only recognized triage method in Virginia.

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- Virginia should still utilize a standardized triage tag. The current tag should be redesigned to allow for functionality with SALT.
- The current MCIM I and II program should be modified to teach only SALT triage.
- SALT is the only MUCC (Model Uniform Core Criteria) consistent triage program.
- Motion made and seconded that TCC takes no position on the adoption of the triage method at this time. Approved unanimously.
 - Debbie Akers reported Instructor Cards for auxiliary courses. Must not expire before the end of their announced course. Upon issuance of a new card, the dates can be extended by OEMS.
 - NAEMT Instructor Cards do not expire – the course must be announced on NAEMT to verify the currency of the instructor card or provide a screenshot of the NAEMT website showing active instructor status.
 - Call for presentations for Symposium 2023 opened on Friday, 6 January 2023.

Patient Tracking Workgroup

Ray Whatley provided the following update:

- They recently met with NVERS about the patient tracking committee
- The project was sent to move forward with funding and they have recommended moving forward with Pulsara
- The MCIM is still in the process of being updated, and was recently in review with the senior operations chiefs and will go back to the MCIM committee
 - Beth Adams stated that at the recent NoVA operation meeting Chiefs Cooper from Loudoun and Orndoff from Fairfax City indicated the operations chiefs are not happy with the idea of the hospital task force. Dr. Dave Slattery in Las Vegas discussed how that evolved organically in the event of the Las Vegas concert shooting, they had a unit from Henderson that returned to service and was ready to triage and move on, but the ED staff inclined to triage and treat but they are still not all on board locally
 - Ray also stated that at the fire chiefs' meeting, they feel there is a need to set parameters and it's not just for an overwhelmed ED, but for specific and significant incidents

OLD BUSINESS

None

JURISDICTIONAL REPORTS

City of Alexandria Fire Department

Erin Mustian provided the following:

- They are starting RQI soon and hoping to go live on June 1st
 - They are incorporating KSAs throughout the year to capture certain rhythms or megacodes
- They have a recruit school starting next Tuesday with approximately 23

Arlington County Fire Department

Dr. Reed Smith provided the following update:

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- They are excited about the regional paramedic academy with GW and specifically looking forward to taking paramedics from 2.5-year programs to a 9-month program
- They are extending their telehealth to Fairfax City FD
 - Dr. Smith is happy to discuss with others who want to tag on to that and what the MOU looks like for that service

City of Fairfax Fire Department

No representation

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue

PJ Durham provided the following update:

- They are looking at EMD models and changes to be made
- They are struggling with ALS provider numbers and may downgrade 4 more first-line units
 - They have 12 of their 43 units that are now BLS and may transition to 18-20
- They are exploring whole blood on supervisor units now
 - They met with Arlington yesterday and are hoping to get started soon with that program
- They have recruit schools starting soon as well
 - They may join the other agencies in the region to offer a \$15,000 sign-on bonus for paramedics

Fairfax County Police Helicopter Division

Dr. Kari Scantlebury provided the following updates:

- They are close to the completion date for the renovation and hopefully, next month can move back into the heliport
- They now have 2 full-time tactical medics on the ground that are carrying whole blood.
 - They are available to be used 24/7 on-call as needed

Fauquier County DFREM

No Representation

Loudoun County Fire and Rescue

Michelle Beatty provided the following updates:

- They have a recruit school that started earlier this month
 - This is their first accelerated recruit school with EMS and fire certifications coming in
- They are finishing their second AEMT program of the Fiscal Year and are testing next month
 - They will start their third AEMT program in April
- They will start an AEMT to paramedic class in August
- Kathleen Harasek added the following
 - They recently had an iteration of the EMS Officer class in Loudoun after waiting a long time
 - Have another scheduled in March
 - Doug Rambo passed away this week
 - He was a long-time member at Sterling Rescue and was the Chair of the Fire & Rescue Commission before Loudoun County became a combined system
 - No arrangements have been set yet
 - Byron Andrews is the family contact

City of Manassas Fire and Rescue

No Representation

City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue

No Representation

MWAA

Gary Hubble advised there is nothing to report

Prince William County Fire and Rescue

Nate Strong provided the following report:

- They are finishing up a recruit school now and another one will start in March
- They have started an initiative with ECOs being handled via telemedicine for ECOs now but it's still in the early stages

LifeCare Medical Transport

No representation

Northern Virginia Community College

Kathy Deal advised of the following update:

- The EMS Program Director is Wanda Gardner
 - She is a paramedic and registered nurse
 - She has been full-time teaching faculty since August of 2021 and before that, she was part of the NOVA EMS program in the 1990s
- Gary Sargent is now the Dean of Nursing for NVCC
- With the transition of program directors, they need to update their Advisory Board
 - Invitations were sent out for representatives from the various agencies were sent via email last week. It's integral to have input from a variety of sources for this and similar programs and they hope you'll consider being part of it
 - Any questions about this should be directed to Kathy Deal or Dr. Franke
- They have implemented the COAEMSP competencies into their program and in 2024 they will start in-house psychomotor testing

OEMS Program Representative

Chris Vernovai provided the following update:

- Symposium call for presentation now, closing March 15th – visit the website
 - Looking for more recruitment and retention, operations, EMS for Children
- OEMS is holding EMS Officer courses this year
 - They are already scheduled for 12 and could do 14-15 this year which is an increase from other years

PHI Aircare

Rick Cohen advised there was nothing to report

Physicians Transport Service

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Kate Passow advised of the following:

- Nothing to report

Inova Health System

Craig French advised of the following update:

- Nothing to report

Reston Hospital Center

Keith Morrison gave the following update:

- Construction is in various stages in the hospital on various projects
- The current Peds ED is shut down and will be reallocated as Quick EDs
 - That will be down for 4 months taking bed count from 46 to 32
- Construction for the ED will be about 9 months in total
- In the next month or two they will be moving the pharmacy closer to the loading dock to add 4 new ORs in that area.
 - The pharmacy will be further down the hallway, but they'll make it a smooth transition
- They still have shortages with EPI 1:10,000 so you may get a bag that is different until they get them back in stock

Stafford County Fire and Rescue Department

No representation

StoneSprings Hospital

No Representation

Northern Virginia Emergency Response System

Paul DeHaven provided an update on the High Threat Response Committee

- The latest update of the Joint Action Guide for Active Shooter Events is nearing the completion of approval from the fire & police chiefs, so it should be completed soon
 - It addresses interoperability for those incidents
 - TECC training videos originally produced in 2013 for the original rollout of TECC being updated and shooting of videos is nearly complete
 - Revamped slide decks should be available in near future as well
 - The police chiefs meet monthly as do the fire chiefs and one thing they're working on is the development of having signed on to make it a strategic initiative for their committees for their responses to active violence responses for schools
 - They are hoping to get a regional approach, and coordination with the school systems, whether it's medical kits, numbering doors, etc. The hope is that through these both committees, they can make strong headway on active shooter events for schools

Emergility

Tony Barone provided the following update:

- Uptick in requests from private partners to integrate protective medicine into their line of business
- Many requests for training and education, added ultrasound and other advanced capabilities
- Looking to add non-medical personnel training that may be vital to have life-saving skills like stroke smart, CPR, ADD

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- A second vehicle in the fleet is getting outfitted now
- They have extended MIH services to the Hricik family
 - With this, they have recognized the opportunity for paramedics and EMTs who are off-duty and want to take care of their fellow workers but can't do so outside of their agency. They recognized the opportunity to affiliate members with their agency to expand that capability to them and responders taking care of responders
 - They also created a non-profit charity to allow for funding for transports, etc., for non-emergency needs
 - They have had 9 cases that they have shown to prevent unnecessary transports for responders dealing with medical issues and they can escalate to 911 if needed. They have advanced practice providers to treat and release from the home and/or telehealth
 - The program is maturing quickly and he has a call today with a not-for-profit that helps establish the formation of these companies
 - They have tremendous support, having providers helping providers showing this model does work
 - Likely what will happen is they'll create another agency that will exclusively do that and will soon launch in northern Virginia

UVA Prince William/Haymarket Hospitals

No Representation

NEW BUSINESS

The NVEMSC Trauma Triage Plans and Strategic Plans were sent out via email for review before this meeting. These plans must be reviewed and approved by the Board annually.

- Beth Adams made a motion to approve both plans as written with no change
 - This motion was seconded by Kate Passow
 - This motion was **unanimously** approved

OTHER BUSINESS

The Council is tentatively planning to hold the June 15th Board of Directors meeting in person at the City of Fairfax Fire Station 403 in conjunction with the Regional EMS Awards luncheon

- The Council staff will be sending out information on Regional EMS Awards to everyone soon and often in the coming months++

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There was a motion to adjourn at 11:32 am

Board meetings for 2023 are as follows.

April 20, 2023

June 15, 2023 – In-person at FS403

September 21, 2023

October 19, 2023

December 7, 2023 (due to holidays)

CERTIFICATION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Northern Virginia EMS Council
7250 Heritage Village Plaza, Ste. 102
Gainesville, VA 20155

I, Laura Vandegrift, Administrative Coordinator 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 16, 2023, 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 20, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia EMS Council.

Laura Vandegrift

4/20/2023

Laura Vandegrift
Northern Virginia EMS Council

Date