

**Board of Directors
Teams
1.8.25
1900**

Members Present:	Members Absent:	TJEMS Staff:	Others:
John Lye, President, LMRS	Michael Thomas, CFD	Peppy Winchel, Executive Director	Greg Woods, OEMS
Hal Schaffer, Vice President, LRS	Macon Walz, Roseland Rescue		
Pete Davidson, Treasure, CARS	Troy Dillard, LARS		
Noah Hillstrom, Secretary, MCEMS	Melanie Welcher, WARS		
Mike Riddle, Wintergreen	Sandy Hurley, UVA		
Billy Hamm, LCF&R	Dustin Dawson, Madison County		
Meade Whitaker, ACFR	Tony Reid, Rockfish VFD		
Lily Bramble, Holly Grove, Proxy	Will McLaughlin, Louisa County		
Melissa Meador, GCEMS, Proxy			
Courtney Lambert, SMJH			
John Adkins, Nelson County			
Dr Sean Brooks, DRT/SMJH Physicians			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
I. Welcome and Introductions	Proxy's were given Hal Schaffer for Lilly Bramble Mike Riddle for Melissa Meador	

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II. Review and Approval of prior DATE meeting minutes	No objections to the November meeting min. Motion to accept by Noah Hillstrom and seconded by Mike Riddle. All were in favor.	
III. OEMS Update – (OEMS Staff)	Greg Woods had a few updates to share. The biggest news is that Dr. Maria Biermann has been hired as the new director of OEMS, effective January 25th. Meanwhile, I have been promoted to Acting Deputy Director of Operations, and Sam Burnett is now Acting Director of Emergency Operations. Scott Winston, a long-time employee and current Deputy Director of OEMS, is retiring effective January 31st. OEMS is also tracking drug kit transitions, with Mike Berg as the point of contact, and reviewing Regional Council redesignation applications submitted by December 31, 2024. Additionally, the EMS Advisory Board has formed workgroups to explore the future structure of EMS in Virginia, with meetings open to public input and announced via the town hall. The weather continues to affect the entire Commonwealth, so please let Peppy know if there is anything we can do to assist, and he will share it with me. Rachel Stradling, still serving as acting director, is highly committed to supporting our EMS providers and agencies and will be looped in as needed. Additionally, as an informational note, the second quarter of the fiscal year has concluded, and second-quarter deliverables are due by the end of the month. There were no updates from the budget meeting the previous Friday.	
IV. Directors report	<p>Training: The EMS Expo is scheduled for March 13-15, with registration opening soon after course approvals are finalized with OEMS. Funding of \$6,000 from Bama Works has been secured for the Expo, along with \$5,000 from Dominion Energy to support CPR training in its service areas. A proposal is also being prepared for Rappahannock Electric Cooperative to fund similar initiatives in its utility regions. On January 27, there will be a medical ventilations-focused CPR training session. Additionally, efforts are underway to explore opportunities for providing coaching services, including life and financial coaching, to EMS providers. These services aim to support providers without requiring formal state credentials, focusing instead on informal mentorship in areas such as mental health, finances, and family support, ensuring compliance with necessary standards</p> <p>PI: The Councils are working to enhance performance improvement efforts by focusing on training for performance improvement staff to ensure consistent assessments of PCRs (Patient Care Reports) at both regional and state levels. This includes aligning the variables assessed with those prioritized by the MDC and state epidemiologists. Efforts are also directed toward clear communication of QA/QI standards to individual agencies, ensuring data is accurately reported to the state repository. Current initiatives include reviewing five years of PCR data to refine first impressions, which are often too broad (e.g., "abdominal pain"), and developing case studies to improve diagnostic accuracy. The process involves collaboration with medical directors and the state epidemiology division to refine variables and ensure alignment with state requirements, preparing for the next fiscal year.</p>	

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	<p>Mental Health/Community Outreach: Jamie Mullins and Ingris Coronado are exploring existing peer programs to integrate into the overall wellness initiative. The focus is on ensuring peers effectively address needs and, when necessary, involve external support to assist agencies. Moving forward, the team plans to collaborate with established peer programs, including Virginia LEAP, Region 10 CSB, and Virginia Fire Rescue support services, to streamline activation processes at local and regional levels. Additionally, the MIH-CP initiative, supported by the Sentara Cares grant, has achieved significant progress in connecting with transportation services, local organizations, and aiding in financial, workforce, and geriatric care areas. The upcoming phase aims to engage civic and faith-based organizations, along with local station houses, to expand mobile integrated health opportunities and strengthen community paramedic programs. As we move forward, the initiative involves coordinating complex efforts to provide community organizations with training in CPR, bleeding control, stroke identification, and other first aid opportunities. This rollout will help assess organizational needs and provide valuable information, enabling better coordination with facilities and outreach programs. As larger needs and broader populations are identified, the initiative will progress to phase three, which focuses on integrating clinicians and exploring ways to include physicians virtually during mobile integrated health events, enhancing on-site medical support.</p> <p>Pharmacy: The pharmacy transition in our region is progressing smoothly overall, with several agencies already operating independently. Agencies currently have ownership of their drug boxes and vehicle supplies, but should they choose not to retain them, it's important to notify us so we can reallocate the boxes appropriately. Once agencies are ready to transition, they can participate in a one-to-one drug box exchange at facilities. The deadline for this transition has been extended to April 15th, aligning with anticipated DEA guidelines for EMS. While most agencies are moving forward, some are experiencing delays due to paperwork or inspections, which we understand and will address case by case. Hospitals and hospital pharmacies are being notified as they begin scaling down full drug box kit exchanges ahead of the transition to no drug boxes. Further updates on the website and app are pending as we remain in a holding pattern for those resources.</p> <p>Discussion about CISM and who would be trained: focused on evaluating the training model and determining whether to maintain the CIT or SYSM approach, or possibly both. A key consideration is the high cost associated with the trademarked SYSM program, prompting a search for alternative funding sources, such as the Virginia League. The goal is to incorporate multiple public safety personnel, including dispatch, law enforcement, fire, and EMS, into the training. While there is hope for progress, the primary challenges lie in securing funding and identifying the providers for the training.</p>	

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	<p>Work Groups: There are multiple workgroups addressing various charges, including three or four focusing on training and the structure of Virginia EMS, such as whether to adopt a centralized or decentralized training model. Other groups are examining expectations for councils, the Advisory Board, the medical director, and the trauma system. A broader discussion involves determining EMS's alignment within state departments, such as Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, or another agency. These efforts complement the routine work of the Advisory Board committees, which include the Training and Certification Committee, the Medical Direction Committee, and others set to convene in February. If anyone is will to either sit in or become part of those groups please contact Peppy or the office.</p>	
<p>V. Treasures Report</p>	<p>Our fiscal situation is currently stable and solid. However, due to ongoing OEMS reconfigurations and upcoming extraordinary expenses, Pete stated that he will remain vigilant in monitoring our financial status. Any necessary adjustments will be made promptly to address emerging needs and maintain stability.</p>	
<p>VI. Change in Bylaws proposed.</p>	<p>Discussion about the possibility of changes to the bylaws The proposal seeks to revise the nonprofit's bylaws to create a business-oriented and sustainable Board of Directors while maintaining the updated categories introduced last November, allowing Advisory Boards from individual agencies to contribute. The board will consist of 5 to 15 members, ensuring diverse perspectives by including individuals with EMS and non-EMS backgrounds. The restructuring to a smaller board is intended to enhance flexibility and adaptability, ensuring the Council's long-term sustainability beyond reliance on OEMs funding. Given the uncertainty regarding the future structure of regional offices under OEMs, the focus remains on strong business operations. A dynamic document on Teams will be used to ensure access to the most current information. The revised bylaws will shift the structure from a board of directors to an Advisory Board while defining officer positions, ensuring operational continuity regardless of OEMs' reconfiguration. Additionally, if the Executive Director assumes the role of President without selection through the nominating committee, they will serve as a non-voting member, maintaining an odd number of voting members. This structural change aims to secure the future of the Thomas Jefferson EMS Council and its continued effective operation.</p>	<p>Email out to board of current By Laws vs New proposed ones. Also add it to teams.</p>

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VII. a. Fluvanna County	<p>County/Fluvanna EMS: Lake Monticello: Monticello has secured a contract with the EMS One Training Academy, providing an alternative online training option for those unable to attend the TJEMS VILTs. The administration is enthusiastic about this new opportunity, they are optimistic about its potential benefits.</p>	
b. Nelson County	<p>County: No updates Wintergreen: The Peaks of Preparedness: Wintergreen EMS Summit is set for November 13-16, aiming to become a major annual event similar to the EMS Symposium, offering valuable training and drawing attendees to the resort. Promotion is ongoing, with excitement building for its launch. In staffing news, the department expects to be fully staffed by next week, a significant milestone. Since January 1st, operating 24/7/2 has improved staffing and recruitment. The community paramedicine program continues to grow, with efforts focused on retention and securing funding. Additionally, the drug program has been fully functional since mid-November, though a delay in drug bag orders temporarily required alternative storage solutions. The correct bags are expected next week, finalizing the transition to self-managed medication supplies. RVFD Gladstone Rosedale</p>	
c. Louisa County	<p>County: Louisa County Fire and EMS: In Louisa, they are thawing out after the recent weather, and it's been manageable overall. They weathered the storm well, with no major issues and fewer trees down compared to the 2022 storm. Since December 20th or 23rd, new people have joined the street, and the supervisors are online, which is going smoothly. We're also running a fire academy for some of our community members, currently in the high school program, and continuing to push forward as we get back to school. Louisa County Rescue:</p>	
d. Madison	<p>County: Madison County EMS: Is now fully staffed, and Tiffany is doing an amazing job with Community Paramedicine. The biggest news is that the station renovation will be completed by the end of the month, finally giving them a proper home. Overall, things are going great. At this time everything is moving forward smoothly.</p>	
e. Albemarle County	<p>Albemarle County Fire & Rescue: Albemarle Paramedic School is experiencing steady growth, with a new recruit school starting next week, bringing in 34 new recruits. This will help the department reach full staffing, and over the next six to nine months, new paramedics will hit the field at various levels. Additionally, the department has switched from PL Custom to Horton for their medic trucks due to long delivery times from PO Po. New trucks will be arriving soon, though there's a request to hold off on putting them in service until after the winter weather clears to avoid damage. The department is excited about trying a new manufacturer for its vehicles.</p>	

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f. City of Charlottesville	<p>Charlottesville/Albemarle Rescue Squad : Things are progressing steadily at CARS regarding call volume, load, and staffing. In the pharmacy transition, both Charlottesville Fire and Albemarle Fire and Rescue have declined to include CARS in their pharmacy setups, prompting CARS to establish its own Board of Pharmacy. They are in the process of ordering a Pyxis machine and will independently manage the drug box process. Additionally, the current chief is transitioning to a full-time role with ACFR in a mental health response program. As a result, the CARS Board of Directors has decided to hire a paid chief, with the search process expected to begin soon.</p> <p>Charlottesville Fire:</p>	
g. Sentara MJH	<p>ED: Construction continues at the main ED at Martha Jefferson, with temporary walls in place, but completion of this phase—including a new medication room, Charge Nurse desk redesign, and improved workflow—is expected within four weeks. The next phase will focus on updates to the nurses' station, work areas, and ER corridors. Additionally, linen deliveries may be impacted due to Richmond area water issues, so conservation efforts are advised. Leaders from UVA ED, and Martha Jefferson ED, along with hospital administration, recently met to address EMS diversion challenges, aiming for better communication and collaboration to minimize its impact. Follow-up meetings are planned, with a focus on improving communication with EMS providers. Lastly, discussions are ongoing regarding Polsera and state-funded initiatives to enhance EMS-hospital communication, with further coordination planned with UVA representatives before making any changes.</p> <p>DRT/SMJH Physicians: Reported that DRT drug boxes are being handled out of Lynchburg/Farmville and everything is going well.</p>	
XI. Next Meeting	The next meeting will be on March 12, 2025 1900 on Teams	
XII. Adjourn	A motion was made by Billy Hamm and seconded by Pete Davidson to adjourn the meeting. John Lye adjourned the meeting at 2000	