



OLD DOMINION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ALLIANCE INC.

7818 E. Parham Road, Suite 911
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804-560-3300 • FAX: 804-560-0909
www.odemsa.vaems.org

Old Dominion EMS Alliance
Board of Directors

June 26, 2024
7 p.m.

Board Members Present: Heidi Hooker, Lisa Baber, Greg Neiman, Cary Strosnider, Walt Bailey, John Vasquez, Robert Trimmer, Pier Ferguson, Jimmy Lee Pair, Joelle Cramer, Bert Martin, Willoughby Hundley, M.D., Kathe Ware, John Fallen

Board Members Absent: Allen Yee, M.D.,

ODEMSA Staff: Ryan Scarbrough, David Calkins

Other: Catina Downey, CPA, Tim Perkins

Minutes Scribed by: Heidi Hooker **Reviewed by:** Greg Neiman

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Meeting Called to Order	The quarterly meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Board President Walt Bailey. The meeting format was virtual. A quorum was determined. The Agenda was approved. The March Quarterly Meeting and April Special Called Meeting Minutes were approved. (0:00-13:52)	<p>Motion by: Kathe Ware to approve Agenda. Seconded by: Pier Ferguson Vote: Unanimously approved</p> <p>Motion by: Cary Strosnider to approve the March 20 Quarterly Meeting and April 14 Special Called Meeting Minutes Seconded by: Greg Neiman Vote: Unanimously approved</p>



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President Reports:

A. Board President

Walt Bailey- Walt gave an update on House Bill HB2175. He said recommendations were made very late last session and there was not a lot of time to work with the General Assembly. He said the Secretary of Public Safety originally had negative comments regarding the bill. Walt said he believes the Secretary has since changed his mind, and that he is meeting with departments throughout the state to make himself familiar with issues departments face. In connection to HB2175, the General Assembly passed a subsequent Bill and put in \$150k for a consultant to be hired to further evaluate the recommendations within HB2175. In addition, there's also a caveat for the consultant to make recommendations as to where EMS ends up, be it VDH or Public Safety. Walt is a member of the workgroup that will address that question and hiring the consultant. He said the RFP has already been prepared. The goal is to present the information to the General Assembly by October.

Walt said he believed many in the first responder community were blindsided by the new OSHA 1910.156 rule which changed from the Fire Brigade Standard to Emergency Response Standard. The change incorporates all of fire and EMS under OSHA requirements. Walt said he represents Virginia in a group that is providing feedback. He said the problem is not with the recommendations which clearly provide a safer platform, but it is the fact that the mandates are unfunded. Walt said it will cost Charlotte County 7 million to be in compliance with OSHA. This could be the same for departments across the nation. This will effect stand-alone EMS agencies as well. He said there should be more information in the near future.

Walt said HB6003 the Virginia Military Survivors and First Responder Education Program was passed. He said many people did not realize the negative impact it was having on the survivors after a line of duty death. He said it requires survivors to apply for financial aid whereas before it was not required. Further, it is difficult for applicants to qualify because of the lump sum payments after the death payouts. Walt credited deceased Hanover firefighter Brad Clark's wife with bringing attention to the matter. During a special session the General Assembly many testified, including Walt, that it needs to be undone. No action was taken



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<p>B. PD-13</p>	<p>at that time, but it is expected to be revisited on July 1, 2024. Walt reported that the drug box issues are continuing to cause disruption in that it is also an unfunded mandate being forced upon agencies in a time when the cost of doing business is already through the roof. (20:56-26:42) Joelle Cramer- Joelle reported they did not have a quorum at their last meeting. She said there is a sense that rural agencies are feeling like they are being left by larger agencies. She said this comes at a time when they are faced with the OSHA mandates, the drug box program end, declining staffing, and declining pass scores by new EMT's. She said Bert Martin attended a meeting where the members discussed whether or not ODEMSA was needed. She said that was a concern because it was recognized that ODEMSA does provide services for agencies that do not have the staff to provide for themselves. (26:43-28:41)</p>	
<p>C. PD-14</p>	<p>Walt Bailey- Walt said the agencies in his sub-council are experiencing the same challenges that Joelle spoke of. He said morale seems to be at an all-time low, providers are overworked and it's hard to find staff. He said as soon as they hire and train a provider they accept positions with larger agencies that pay more and have better hours and benefits. He said he understands, but that we need to reinforce ODEMSA is looking out for the smaller agencies and that ODEMSA is a huge advocate for them. Walt said he would be glad to meet with any of those organizations at any time to convey what ODEMSA is doing for their behalf and where we would be without an ODEMSA. (28:42-29:37)</p>	
<p>D. PD-15</p>	<p>Robert Trimmer- Said he had no report from the Metro-Richmond Council but he did have some information to report regarding the drug box situation. He said Chesterfield County is exploring multiple options to include partnering with an independent pharmacy that will buy the medications, stock the boxes and handle expired meds. He said if that does not pan out Chesterfield has obtained their CSR and DEA license. He said BoundTree has recently lowered the cost on several in box medications reducing the cost to fully stock a box from \$1006 to \$938. He said Chesterfield Fire did a study looking at 12 months' worth of medications used and the cost in the 12 month period came to \$50k. He said that number did not include expired medications. He said they</p>	



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<p>E. PD-19</p>	<p>might be in a better position than most because they did have some money set aside but that it is going to be expensive. He recommended agencies partner with their local jurisdictions otherwise the DEA license will cost them \$888 for three years. (29:38-33:35)</p> <p>Cary Strosnider- Cary said the Crater Sub-Council met in April and that a majority of their meeting was spent discussing the drug box issues. Cary said he encouraged agencies to determine if there are medications they have not used in a 12 month period and to evaluate if those are medications that are really needed. He said agencies can determine what medications work best for them and that those discussions should be had with the agencies OMD's. (33:36-34:54)</p>	
<p>Advisory Board Report:</p>	<p>Pier Ferguson reported the Advisory Board last met on May 3. She said the Board of Pharmacy met the day before and approved emergency regulations regarding EMS medication boxes. She said she was surprised to hear OEMS did not find anyone for the Director position because at the Ems Advisory Board meeting in May they announced they had several promising candidates. She said Fitch and Associates gave an update. Fitch discussed the new organization chart and span of control. They said they would be meeting with agencies as they continued to develop their report. She said it was announced that the RSAF grant cycle will open August 1 until September 16. Pier said her 2nd term on the Advisory Board is supposed to end June 30 but members have been asked to stay on until the Fitch report is finalized and VDH determines a path forward. It is possible changes will be made in reference to the Advisory Board membership once everything is said and done. Pier said Kevin Dillard, Chair of the Advisory Board was hopeful we will have a report by the August 2 meeting. (34:55-39:05)</p>	
<p>Executive Director Report:</p>	<p>Heidi reported that the drug box issues have been overwhelming and frustrating in not knowing the best way to proceed. She said ODEMSA is not alone and that she and her counterparts have stayed in close contact and are sharing information. She said at this time not one Council knows exactly how they are going to move forward. She explained that there are several entities to</p>	



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	<p>include Hospital Pharmacies, the Board of Pharmacy, hospital Administrators and a state committee that are all trying to work things out. She said just when she thinks we can move forward with a plan, we get put on hold again while we wait for another group to determine if we can go in another or better direction. Heidi said at this point it is confirmed the hospitals are pulling out of drug box support. Legally, they feel this is the best course of action. Agencies have been informed that they must develop an agency based program. She said ODEMSA has been telling agencies for months that they must obtain a CSR and DEA license. She said she has another meeting scheduled with the CEO's of the ODEMSA hospitals on July 10 and that she will know more after that meeting. Ryan informed members that ESO has made it easier for agencies to determine how many and what medications they have used in an effort to help agencies determine their medication needs. Heidi said the ODEMSA website has a page dedicated to the medication box transition. She said it has tools developed by the state committee and much more.</p> <p>Heidi said we are continuing our move from ADP to Dominion Payroll. She said the move has taken a considerable amount of time especially for Catina. Heidi said the entire staff attended training a few weeks ago and the she and Ryan have attended several training sessions to learn how to manage accounts. With that said, Heidi noted that Catina has absorbed most of the impact. Heidi said that in the past payrolls were staggered, depending on whether you were full time or part time with CVHC, going forward all employees will be paid every other Friday.</p> <p>Heidi said that Governor Youngkin invited the Governor's Award Winners to the Governor's mansion for an award ceremony. Heidi said she and other Council Directors attended as well as some OEMS staff. She said ODEMSA had four Governor's EMS Award winners, Bev Harris, Dr. Ben Nicholson, Matt Jensen and Jennifer Farmer. She said information about each winner is posted on the ODEMSA website and Facebook page. Heidi said Ryan is working on the current award program now. (39:06-44:38)</p>	
<p>OEMS Report: Tim Perkins</p>	<p>Tim Perkins said the Karen Owens was on annual leave and was therefore unable to attend. He then addressed recent news/media articles which</p>	



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	<p>reported Adam Harrell, the former Associate Director with OEMS, as being charged in federal court with criminal charges by reading a prepared statement from VDH. Perkin read,</p> <p>“On Tuesday the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) learned that criminal charges had been filed in Federal Court against a former employee who worked for the Office of EMS (OEMS). Last summer VDH detected financial irregularities and the State Health Commissioner immediately notified the Office of the State Inspector General, the Virginia State Police and the Auditor of Public Accounts. Since that time, the Virginia Department of Health has been cooperating fully with the investigation. VDH will respect the legal process and declines to comment further on the pending legal proceedings”.</p> <p>Tim advised that if anyone had questions they should contact Marian Hunter. He asked Heidi to share the statement with the other Council Directors.</p> <p>Walt asked Tim if he was still the point of contact for the EMS agency crisis group/DFP study group in which Walt is a member. Tim said that he would be and that he would be assisting with an upcoming Patrick County study.</p> <p>Tim then gave an update on the recruitment process for a new Director of OEMS. He said over seventy people applied for the position. He said they narrowed the candidates to a handful of qualified candidates. He said they were given a task as a pre-interview exercise. At the end of that process none of the applicants were chosen. VDH will re-open the position. (13:53-20:55)</p>	
<p>CVHC Report: David Calkins</p>	<p>David said CVHC is in the process of closing out their fiscal year. He thanked Catina and Heidi for assisting in the process. He said they are currently in the process of reviewing their Bylaws. He said to let him know if CVHC can be of any assistance to EMS agencies. (44:45-45:44)</p>	
<p>Financial Discussion: A. Quarterly Financial Statement – Action Item</p>	<p>Catina distributed the Quarterly Financial Report prior to the meeting. There were no questions regarding the report. A motion was made to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. The motion passed with unanimous vote. (45:45-47:17)</p>	<p>Motion by: Cary Strosnider to approve the Quarterly Financial Report Seconded by: Greg Neiman Vote: Unanimously approved</p>
<p>Current Business: A. Drug Box Program</p>	<p>The Drug Box Program had been discussed under the PD-15 Metro-</p>	



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	<p>Richmond Sub-Council report and the Executive Director report. No further discussion was needed. (47:18-47:30)</p>	
<p>New Business: A. Regional Protocols – Action Item</p> <p>B. Restocking and Medication Box Policies - Action Item</p> <p>C. EMS Transport Destination Plan – Action Item</p> <p>D. Legal Matter – Action Item- (Executive Session)</p> <p>E. FY25 Operating Budget – Action Item- (Executive</p>	<p>Heidi said the Medical Direction Committee had recently approved a few protocols. She said after a discussion with Dr. Yee it was decided it would be best to release all of the protocols at the same time. Megan Middleton has been working on a complete update to the Regional Protocols. It is expected they will be ready for approval at the next meeting. Heidi requested members approve the current protocols until the new ones arrive. A motion was made to approve the current protocols. The motion passed with unanimous vote.</p> <p>Heidi said the Restocking and Medication Box Policies have not changed. She told members to expect major changes to this document in upcoming meetings due to the end of the Regional Medication Box Program. The document will most likely just be a restocking policy in the near future. Heidi asked members to approve the current unchanged policy. A motion was made to approve the Restocking and Medication Box Policies. The motion passed with unanimous vote. (47:31-)</p> <p>There were no changes to the EMS Transport Destination Plan since the Board last approved the Plan. A motion was made to approve the EMS Transport Destination Plan. The motion passed with unanimous vote. (47:31-50:00)</p> <p>A motion was made to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter and the FY25 Operating Budget. (50:01-1:14:56)</p> <p>The Operating Budget was discussed in Executive Session. A motion was made to approve the FY25 Operating Budget. The motion passed with unanimous vote.</p>	<p>Motion by: Lisa Baber to approve the Regional Protocols, the Restocking and Medication Box Policies and the EMS Transport Destination Plan Seconded by: Pier Ferguson Vote: Unanimously approved</p> <p>Motion by: Greg Neiman to enter into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter and the FY25 Operating Budget Seconded by: Pier Ferguson Vote: Unanimously approved</p> <p>Motion by: Bert Martin to approve the FY25 Operating</p>



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Session)		Budget Seconded by: Cary Strosnider Vote: Unanimously approved
Business from Floor	No business from the floor (1:14:57-1:18:40)	
Next Meeting	September 18, 2024 (Location – Virtual – Web-Conference)	
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm	