



OLD DOMINION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ALLIANCE INC.

7818 E. Parham Road, Suite 911
 Richmond, VA 23294
 804-560-3300 • FAX: 804-560-0909
 www.odemsa.vaems.org

Old Dominion EMS Alliance
Board of Directors

December 11, 2024
 7 p.m.

Board Members Present: Heidi Hooker, Lisa Baber, Greg Neiman, Cary Strosnider, Joelle Cramer, Kathe Ware, Allen Yee, M.D., Pier Ferguson, Jimmy Lee Pair,
Board Members Absent: Bert Martin, Willoughby Hundley, M.D., Walt Bailey, John Vasquez, Robert Trimmer,
ODEMSA Staff: Ryan Scarbrough, David Calkins
Other: Catina Downey, CPA
Minutes Scribed by: Heidi Hooker **Reviewed by:** Greg Neiman

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
<p>Meeting Called to Order</p>	<p>The quarterly meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Board Vice-President Lisa Baber. The meeting format was virtual. Lisa welcomed members and guests to the meeting. A quorum was determined. The Agenda was approved. The September Quarterly Meeting Minutes were approved. (0:00-03:01)</p>	<p>Motion by: Pier Ferguson to approve Agenda. Seconded by: Greg Neiman Vote: Unanimously approved</p> <p>Motion by: Cary Strosnider to approve the September Quarterly Meeting Minutes Seconded by: Kathe Ware Vote: Unanimously approved</p>
<p>President Reports: A. Board President</p>	<p>Walt Bailey- Walt was unable to attend due to a conflicting meeting but he did submit the following report which was read aloud by Heidi.</p>	



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Concerning House Bill 2175, during the last meeting, it was reported that 150k had been allocated, by the General Assembly, to hire consultants to validate the data that was submitted by the 2175 workgroup and to determine if a fire and EMS crisis in Virginia does indeed exist. The VCU Governor Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs were brought on as the consultants.

VCU has concluded their study. They did validate the findings made by the 2175 working group. In addition they took it further going much deeper into studying fire and EMS in Virginia. They concluded that the Commonwealth is funding less than 1% of the cost of fire and EMS. This is a considerable amount less than most states provide for those services.

The study group said that after concluding their study, they are “now afraid to travel across the Commonwealth”. They recommended immediate funding increases from the general fund to support fire and EMS. Further, the Secretary of Public Safety added positive edits for us to the final report.

A little over a week ago, members from VACO met with the Governor. They met for a little over an hour. The Governor was told during this meeting that “Virginians are dying on your watch”. At the conclusion of that meeting the Governor indicated that he is on board with enhanced funding for fire and EMS from the state.

During the VACO Conference, it was discussed that Virginia will conclude the fiscal year with a \$1.475 Billion surplus. Prior to the conference, recommendations from VACO did not include fire and EMS changes. Following the conference and their discussions related to the crisis, a Delegate from Pittsylvania County is introducing legislation that will immediately allocate up to 5% of the states surplus to go back to localities for fire and EMS funding. A number of other delegates have now signed on to this legislation.

Moving forward, it will be imperative that members of ODEMSA be prepared to



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<p>B. PD-13 C. PD-14 D. PD-15 E. PD-19</p>	<p><i>Speak out when the time comes.</i> (03:02-06:29)</p> <p>Joelle Cramer- No report. (06:30-06:43) Walt Bailey- No report. (06:44-06:53) Lisa Baber- Lisa reported that the grants were graded during the meeting, otherwise it was uneventful. (06:54-07:56) Cary Strosnider- Cary said they graded grants. They set up a nomination committee to elect officers at their next meeting. (07:57-08:33)</p>	
<p>Advisory Board Report:</p>	<p>Pier Ferguson’s Governor’s EMS Advisory Board term expired. Pier was replaced by Lisa Baber who was appointed by Governor Youngkin to represent ODEMSA in October 2024. Lisa attended the Advisory Board Orientation in November and attended her first meeting on November 17, 2024. Lisa said there were several new Advisory Board members introduced during the meeting.</p> <p>She said it was announced that Karen Owens, OEMS Deputy Director of Planning and Operations, resigned from her position. Karen is now employed by the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS). It was also announced that Michael Berg, OEMS EMS Systems Funding, will not move forward with retirement and will stay on with OEMS. Further it was reported Scott Winston, OEMS Deputy Director Compliance and Education, announced his retirement.</p> <p>Lisa said Christopher Lindsay, VDH Chief Operating Officer, and Kevin Dillard, Chair EMS Advisory Board, developed six decision points for the Board to consider. The decision points will be worked on within sub-committees in an open and transparent format and are intended to shape the future of EMS in Virginia. She said the six points include (1) the role of the State EMS Medical Director, which will be assigned to the Medical Direction Committee. They are to determine if there is a need for a State Medical Director and if so what the role should include. (2) The role of OEMS in Virginia’s Trauma System. Some considerations for this group will be incorporating the American College of Surgeons criteria in accreditation processes. (3) The make up of the Governor’s EMS Advisory Board and the structure of committees moving forward. (4) The</p>	



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role of Education and Training at OEMS. Specifically, whether the role should be centralized at OEMS or regionalized at the EMS Council level. The state Training and Education Committee will be tasked with this. (5) The Regional EMS Council system and the role the Councils can and should play in Virginia's EMS system. This will include determining the number of Councils and their geographic make up. She said this task is assigned to the Councils Executive Directors, Board Presidents and Vice-President. (6) The physical placement of OEMS in Virginia's governmental structure as it relates to public health and public safety. This task is assigned to the Executive Committee of the EMS Advisory Board. She said it was announced if other members from the Advisory Board want to participate, they can let Kevin know. Lisa said, as ODEMSA's representative on the Advisory Board, she has been assigned to the physical placement of OEMS by Chair Kevin Dillard. She has also been assigned to the Rules and Regulations Standing Committee and the Trauma System Standing Committee.

During the meeting, Kevin thanked members of the EMS community for their input and support. He also thanked the OEMS staff for their hard work and dedication. Lisa said that VDH has narrowed their search for the new Director of OEMS to two candidates. It is hopeful a new Director will be on board by the next EMS Advisory Board meeting.

Pier added that Mike Berg is offering to conduct RSAF grant education. Vector Solution, a free CEU platform, will continue for another year. Further, during the meeting, the Advisory Board unanimously discredited the Fitch and Associates Consultant report. She said there were too many inaccuracies to ignore, and members believed the report appeared biased. She said members expressed concern that the report was shared with the two OEMS Director candidates as they view it as inaccurate information. She said Advisory Board Member Eddie Ferguson received full support of his motion to discredit the report. She said members of the Advisory Board expressed that they did not want the report on record as having any support from the State EMS Advisory Board. Lisa asked Heidi to comment on the paper, submitted by the Regional EMS Councils, that showed inaccuracies within the report. Heidi said the



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	<p>Director compiled a list of inaccuracies regarding the Councils. She said in some cases the errors were brought to the attention of Fitch and they still were not corrected. Heidi said the Directors were pleased with the action taken by the Advisory Board.</p> <p>Heidi added that Pier was recognized and received a plaque from the Chair of the Advisory Board for her service to the Board as a member for two terms. She also said the Council Chair, Tracey McLauren, was invited to the interview panel for the OEMS Director. She also said there has been some talk of the Councils partnering with OEMS to provide some of the services traditionally only offered by OEMS. Heidi said these are positive moves toward a stronger relationship between the Councils and OEMS that will, in the end, benefit the EMS community as a whole. (08:34-25:10)</p>	
<p>Executive Director Report:</p>	<p>Heidi did not have more to add. She said her report was interjected into other agenda items. (25:11-25:19)</p>	
<p>OEMS Report:</p>	<p>There were no members from OEMS present to give the report. Heidi said that OEMS has appointed Greg Woods, Council Regional Director with Southwest EMS Council, to be the interim Deputy Director of Planning and Operations. This is Karen Owens' position that she recently resigned. Heidi said that Greg wanted to join the ODEMSA meeting but had other prescheduled commitments. (25:20-26:03)</p>	
<p>CVHC Report: David Calkins</p>	<p>David said Jordon Rennie has been re-hired as the RHCC Manager. He praised Jordan and said he's already closing some of the gaps that were opened with them being shorthanded. He also said Jordan has already made significant updates to the CVHC website, and that he has launched a social media campaign for CVHC. He said they are working on bylaw updates. He said they are restructuring to include sub-groups to conduct business. Lisa thanked David for the email with meeting links. (39:47-41:56)</p>	
<p>Financial Discussion: A. Quarterly Financial Statement – Action</p>	<p>Catina distributed the Quarterly Financial Report prior to the meeting. The floor was open for anyone that had questions to ask. There were none. A</p>	<p>Motion by: Allen Yee to approve the Quarterly Financial Report</p>



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	<p>Dr. Yee asked Heidi about the ODEMSA Telework Policy. Heidi said staff are still teleworking two days a week and coming into the office three. Yee asked if it should be revisited. Lisa requested it to be placed on the next Agenda to allow Walt to weigh in. There was no other discussion.</p> <p>Lisa thanked everyone for all of the hard work they've accomplished within their sub-councils and committee meetings. Members wished each other Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. (41:57-44:56)</p>	<p>Heidi will place the ODEMSA Telework Policy on the next Agenda.</p>
Next Meeting	March 19, 2025 (Location – Virtual – Web-Conference)	
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm	