



OLD DOMINION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ALLIANCE

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EMS Patient Destination Committee

February 13, 2026
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Chair: Tim McKay, Chesterfield Fire & EMS

Vice Chair: Casey Shinault, Bon Secours

Members and Guests Present: Tim McKay

Virtual Attendees: Dusty Anderson, Lisa Baber, David Berry, David Calkins, Brie Coates, Chip Decker, Heather Deadmon, Monty Dixon, Jeffrey Ferguson, Blake Frostick, Mike Harmon, Wayne Harbour, Robert Hawkins, Stephen Hoke, Wayne Hoover, Buddy Hyde, Hiram Jacob, Travis Jenkins, Michael Kumpula, Bert Martin, Ryan Martinette, Greg Neiman, Sally Pyle, Courtney Rodriguez, Gary Samuels, Casey Shinault, Steve Gillam, Mike Watkins, Allen Yee

ODEMSA Staff: Shannon Daniel, Heidi Hooker, Ryan Scarbrough

Minutes Scribed by: Ryan Scarbrough

Materials Provided: Previous meeting minutes and agenda

Topic / Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action / Follow-up; Responsible Person
Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:00 AM.• Meeting Minutes from the previous meeting and agenda were approved.• Noted that the meeting should have occurred in January but was moved in February.• Acknowledged the presence of several new members and the importance of reviewing representation and ensuring quorum.• Stated that it had been several months since the committee last met.• Noted prior meetings were held without quorum and one meeting was postponed.• Commented that the committee had been in flux for approximately two years and that the disequilibrium had subsided.• Roll call was performed and a quorum was confirmed.• Thanked Heidi Hooker and Shannon Daniel for their efforts in reorganizing and reconstituting the committee.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expressed appreciation to members for attending and re-engaging in the committee's work. 	
Previous Minutes and Agenda Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair stated that the committee likely did not have previous minutes due to the length of time since the last formal meeting. Reviewed the agenda and determined that discussion of the bylaws working group would be moved to New Business. 	
Hospital Reports		
Bon Secours	<p>Casey Shinault</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported that St. Mary's tower remains under construction and will continue for the next couple of years. Reported that the Ashland Freestanding Emergency Department opened in December and is a department of Memorial Regional. Reported expected patient volumes at Ashland Freestanding Emergency Department, averaging 25 to 30 patients per day. 	
HCA	<p>Hiram Jacob</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported that the Chesterfield Freestanding Emergency Room is scheduled to open in June. Reported that Scott's Walk is also scheduled to open in June. Stated that focus remains on operational readiness for both openings. Noted ongoing focus during the winter season on throughput and operational efficiency. Expressed appreciation for regional partnership and welcomed feedback or concerns. 	
VCU Health	<p>Greg Neiman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported no specific updates from VCU. 	
Other Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richmond Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Centra, and Sentara were not represented. 	
EMS Stakeholder Reports		
Richmond Ambulance Authority	<p>Wayne Harbour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported nothing to report. 	

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Goochland Fire EMS	Mike Watkins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported nothing to report. 	
New Kent Fire-Rescue	Lisa Baber & Travis Jenkins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported nothing to report. 	
Powhatan Fire & Rescue	David Berry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member had to leave prior to providing a report. 	
Henrico County Division of Fire	Monty Dixon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported nothing to report. 	
Hanover Fire EMS	Blake Frostick <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported nothing to report. 	
Colonial Heights	Stephen Hoke and Steve Gillam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stated this was their first meeting. Reported nothing from previous committee work. Requested to be kept informed on future committee matters. 	
Petersburg Fire	Wayne Hoover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported this was his first meeting. Reported Petersburg Fire will be expanding EMS capabilities and transport services. Stated additional updates will be provided in the future. 	
Dinwiddie Fire & EMS	Heather Deadmon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported this was her first meeting. Reported nothing to report at this time. 	
Chesterfield Fire & EMS	Tim McKay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported increased volumes during the winter due to influenza, COVID, and seasonal illness. Stated that normal wait times and wall times occur occasionally. Reported no system-wide problems or challenges. Noted battalion chiefs occasionally contact nursing supervisors as needed. Reported overall operations are stable. 	
Medical Direction	Dr. Allen Yee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported no updates pertaining to patient destination. 	

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Central Virginia Healthcare Coalition / VHHA	<p>David Calkins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that VHASS platform security enhancements are in progress, including implementation of multi factor authentication. • Reported that accounts are being audited to ensure up to date and accurate contact information for participating organizations. • Invited additional input from other VHHA representatives if needed. 	
Old Dominion EMS Alliance Report		
ODEMSA	<p>Heidi Hooker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked members for attending and reiterated appreciation for engagement in rebuilding the committee structure. • Stated that over the past two years, both the Virginia Office of EMS and the regional EMS Councils have been in a period of restructuring. During this period of uncertainty, ODEMSA experienced staff losses. • Noted that the remaining staff were unable to maintain the full committee workload and that multiple committees require rebuilding. • Emphasized that important regional work remains ahead. • Reported that the number of regional EMS Councils in the Commonwealth has been reduced from eleven to seven. • Stated that the ODEMSA region boundaries and participating agencies remain unchanged. • Informed members that the region will now be referred to as Region 6. • Noted that references on documents, policies, and plans will reflect OEMS or VDH OEMS Region 6. • Expressed appreciation to Shannon Daniel for her work supporting committee reorganization efforts. <p>Ryan Scarbrough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that the RSAF grant cycle opened February 1 and will close March 16. 	
Old Business		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No old business was scheduled. 	
New Business		
Review of By-Laws	Tim McKay	Establish a By-Laws Work Group to review

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated that it has been several years since the committee bylaws were reviewed. • Noted prior discussion approximately one to one and a half years ago regarding the need for bylaw revisions. • Stated that review was delayed due to plan revisions and committee restructuring. • Reported that revisions may include meeting structure, committee composition, stakeholder representation, and voting membership. • Recommended forming a small work group of four to six members representing both hospital and pre-hospital stakeholders. • Stated that recommended changes would be presented at a future meeting for discussion and vote. • Noted that ODEMSA Board approval is required for bylaw changes. • <i>Volunteers to participate in work group included:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Casey Shinault ○ Hiram Jacob ○ Mike Watkins ○ Allen Yee • Tim McKay stated additional members may email interest to him. 	<p>and recommend revisions.</p> <p>Responsible Persons: Tim McKay and Shannon Daniel to coordinate group formation and scheduling.</p>
<p>VHASS Language and Status Standardization</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim McKay introduced discussion regarding inconsistency in hospital status language within VHASS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted variation in use of terms such as open, near capacity, at capacity, and special advisory. • Casey Shinault reported that current plan language restricts use of special advisory for capacity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stated that current terminology may not be meaningful to EMS agencies. ○ Proposed developing more useful and standardized language for EMS partners. ○ Suggested potential consideration of wall time metrics. • Matthew Allen reported prior VHASS metric revision based on review of regional plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stated that VHASS currently uses open, special advisory, and closed with predefined indicators. 	<p>Establish a VHASS Work Group to evaluate status terminology, EMS usefulness, and platform capabilities, including coordination with VHHA.</p> <p>Responsible Person: Tim McKay and Shannon Daniel to coordinate group formation and scheduling.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requested inclusion of VHHA representatives in any work group. ● Mike Harmon supported clarification of transition from open to special advisory and suggested threshold guidance tied to wall times. ● Greg Neiman noted wall times are dynamic and may be difficult to maintain in real time within VHASS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suggested hospital systems first develop consistent internal language. ● Matthew Allen expanded on prior comments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stated that establishing a formal change committee process is important due to differences across regions and regional plans. ○ Noted the importance of including all stakeholders in discussions regarding potential metric changes. ○ Emphasized that if specific metrics are adopted, hospitals must agree on consistent updating practices. ○ Stated that updates must be accurate and should not result in delays in care or unnecessary rerouting. ○ Noted that in addition to emergency department status fields, VHASS includes an indicators tab. ○ Suggested the indicators tab could be reviewed or potentially revised to align with discussion regarding borders and wait times. ○ Indicated proposed revisions could be taken to the overall advisory committee for review. ○ Stated VHHA would coordinate review to ensure changes meet broader regional needs prior to implementation. ● Jeffrey Ferguson suggested development of a regional tracking board using shared data. ● <i>Volunteers to participate in work group included:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Casey Shinault</i> ○ <i>Hiram Jacob</i> ○ <i>Greg Neiman</i> ○ <i>Mike Watkins</i> ○ <i>Allen Yee</i> ○ <i>Jeffrey Ferguson</i> 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Robert Hawkins</i> ○ <i>Matthew Allen</i> ○ <i>Scott Cormier (potential participation)</i> ● Travis Jenkins provided additional input for consideration by the work group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noted that VHASS includes an indicators status board. Stated that the indicators board does not appear to be routinely updated in VHASS. ○ Observed that listed indicators include number of patients in the emergency department, number of patients in the waiting room, and average wait times. ○ Suggested the work group explore whether information could flow through an API from hospital electronic systems directly into VHASS to provide real-time data. ○ Stated that emergency department wait times are publicly displayed at facilities and may not be manually updated. ○ Suggested APIs could potentially capture real-time data regarding patient wait times. ● Mike Watkins raised the need for clearer expectations regarding ambulance pullback from hospitals when wait times are excessive. ● Tim McKay stated EMS and hospital representatives should collaborate jointly rather than separately. 	
Business from the floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No additional new business was raised after a final call. 	
Adjourn		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next Meeting April 24, 2026, at 11:00 AM ● The meeting adjourned at 12:44 AM. 	