



OLD DOMINION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ALLIANCE

7818 East Parham Road • Suite 911 • Henrico, VA 23294-4302
Phone: (804) 560-3300 • (804) 560-0909 • www.odemsa.net

Training and Education Committee

May 14, 2026

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Chair: Marquita Whisonant, VCU CTCCE

Vice Chair: Damien Coy, Brightpoint

Members and Guests Present:

Virtual Attendees: Lauren Dumas, Kelcey Hudson, Ricky Lyles, Megan Middleton, Greg Neiman, Greg Taflinger, Marquita Whisonant

ODEMSA Staff: Ryan Scarbrough, Chris Vernovai

Minutes Scribed by: Ryan Scarbrough

Materials Provided: Previous meeting minutes and agenda

Topic / Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action / Follow-up; Responsible Person
Meeting Called to Order	<p>The meeting was called to order at 10:16 AM by Chair Marquita Whisonant. Due to the absence of a quorum at the start of the meeting, the session proceeded as a working meeting. A quorum was established at 10:27 AM upon the arrival of Greg Neiman (VCU Health).</p> <p>Following the establishment of quorum, a motion was made to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes and the May 14, 2026 meeting agenda.</p>	<p>Motion to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes and the May 14, 2026, and provided agenda. Motion by: Ricky Lyles Seconded by: Lauren Dumas Motion Passed.</p>
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Chris Vernovai — New ODEMSA Training Director Chair Whisonant welcomed Chris Vernovai to his first Training and Education Committee meeting in his new role as ODEMSA Training Director. Chris provided an introduction for the group.</p> <p>Chris shared that he came to ODEMSA after approximately seven and a half years with the Virginia Office of EMS, most recently in the ACE (Accreditation, Certification, and Education) Division. He is a paramedic with experience in both administrative and provider roles, and backgrounds in urban and rural EMS settings.</p>	<p>None.</p>

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	<p>He noted that Heather Nelson joined ODEMSA in late February as Field Coordinator. Chris and Heather attended a peer support class together at Henrico County hosted by the IAFF. Chris previously supported accreditation for peer support and CISM programs and has extensive background in health, safety, and leadership education. Chris expressed interest in assessing the region's educational needs — including programs for rural areas — and exploring new course offerings such as merit badge programs, while supporting existing college programs.</p>	
EMS Agency Reports		
<p>Richmond Fire Department</p>	<p>Megan Middleton A new recruit class is scheduled to begin June 16, 2026, running through approximately the first week of September for the EMS component, with approximately 11 additional weeks following for fire. The class is expected to fill current vacancies, though attrition during training is anticipated. The department is exploring the acquisition of additional training equipment and is evaluating the potential to host VILT (Virtual Instructor-Led Training) courses.</p>	<p>Megan Middleton to report back on outcomes of the recruit class.</p>
<p>Prince George County / Crater Regional Fire and EMS</p>	<p>Greg Taflinger The Crater Regional Academy recently graduated 22 students approximately one and a half months ago through a zero-to-hero EMT-through-fire program. Graduates are currently in the field precepting. Crater Academy Class 5 is scheduled to begin September 15, 2026, with approximately 27 students anticipated based on regional needs. A new AEMT (EMT to AEMT) and AEMT-to-Paramedic program is being launched in partnership with VCO and Crater, beginning in August 2026 and running through approximately December 2027. Approximately 25 students are slotted for the AEMT program and 9 to 11 for the paramedic program. Greg oversees the Crater Regional EC serving six jurisdictions — Prince George, Hopewell, Dinwiddie, Colonial Heights, Petersburg, and the surrounding area — conducting all in-house EMS and fire academies as well as state fire courses on a regional basis.</p>	<p>None.</p>
Hospital Reports		
<p>VCU Health</p>	<p>Greg Neiman The visitor parking deck closed on May 4, 2026. Visitors have been redirected to the DDEC at no charge, while approximately 1,000 employees previously using the DDEC have been redistributed across other decks. The visitor deck is slated to be demolished and replaced with a new tower, though that is a longer-term project.</p>	<p>EMS crews to use the back hallway when transporting patients triaged to the VCU ED waiting room during the construction period.</p>

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	<p>Construction on the main emergency department waiting room began Monday, May 11. Walk-in patients are currently directed to the old Children's Hospital entrance, where screening and security have been relocated. Patients check in at the former pediatric waiting room and are escorted to the regular waiting room. EMS crews transporting patients triaged to the waiting room should use the back hallway, as the front hallway is fully blocked by construction. Visitor elevators on the ground floor are also affected.</p> <p>EMS Week is the following week. VCU has scheduled lunch and dinner events beginning Monday through the following Monday (Memorial Day), consistent with prior years. Events are also planned at Tappahannock, CMH, and the Center at New Kent. EMS t-shirts will be distributed, featuring a new color for 2026.</p>	
Accredited EMS Programs		
Brightpoint Community College	<p>Lauren Dumas Brightpoint is running an advanced placement AEMT-to-Paramedic program with 8 students. All 8 students who began the program remain enrolled. The cohort is entering the second of three semesters. Two EMT classes (daytime and evening) have concluded, and students are preparing for testing. Two students have already tested successfully. AEMT was not offered this semester due to program changes, but is planned for the fall with strong interest. The prior AEMT cohort achieved a 100% first-attempt pass rate. Current pass rates: 100% for Paramedic, 100% for AEMT, and 88% for EMT. The program has seen consistent improvement in outcomes. Plans for fall include two EMT sections, one AEMT cohort, and completion of the current paramedic program.</p>	None.
Southside Virginia Community College	<p>Ricky Lyles The AEMT advanced placement program recently concluded. Students are in the testing phase; one student has tested successfully to date. An AEMT advanced placement program for summer is in preparation. The paramedic cohort is completing its capstone phase over the next 10 weeks. Upon completion, a new paramedic cohort will begin in August, along with new AEMT and EMT programs.</p>	None.
Reynolds Community College	<p>Marquita Whisonant Reynolds recently completed three EMT programs and two paramedic programs. One additional paramedic program may still be in progress. A graduation ceremony was held the previous Tuesday.</p>	

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	Additional paramedic programs are planned to begin in the fall, along with other program offerings currently being developed by Nakia.	
Old Dominion EMS Alliance Report		
ODEMSA	<p>Ryan Scarbrough ODEMSA has hired Chris Vernovai as Training Director and Heather Nelson as Field Coordinator. The organization is now fully staffed at four full-time positions. Ryan noted that ODEMSA has shifted from a previous staffing model of five full-time and two part-time employees, and acknowledged the contributions of Megan Middleton in her prior role. ODEMSA is continuing to rebuild committee participation. The committee's support will be needed within the next 6 to 8 months to develop education for the regional whole blood program. ODEMSA is working with Dr. Allen Yee and other regional councils to secure SS4A (Safe Streets and Roads for All) grant funding through NHTSA. Approximately \$5 billion in funding is currently available nationally for programs aimed at reducing traffic-related injuries and deaths.</p> <p>VDH Office of EMS Updates The ACE Division (Accreditation, Certification, and Education) has launched a new online ticketing system for inquiries previously directed to staff by phone. Inquiries are typically addressed within 48 hours. Cam Critton is currently out on medical leave. Ron Passmore is filling in and also covering the regulations side of the state office. The position previously held by Debbie Akers has been reposted. Chris Vernovai's former position at the Office of EMS has also been posted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members with representatives who did not attend to reach out and ensure Ryan Scarbrough and Chris Vernovai are added to their email contacts to prevent future invite bounce-backs. • Agencies with ACE Division inquiries to use the new ticketing system on the VDH OEMS website.
Stop the Bleed Report		
Stop the Bleed Coalition	<p>Greg Neiman The regional Stop the Bleed Coalition continues to offer classes and support coalition partners in instruction. Activity at the state coalition level has slowed, as Dr. Rossi has been focused on the transition to ATLS Version 11. Despite reduced state-level coordination, regional partners continue to collaborate and support each other in delivering Stop the Bleed training. The coalition recently provided instruction to approximately 50 students at the School for the Arts in the City of Richmond, with strong coalition participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the Bleed instructors not currently receiving coalition communications should reach out to be added to the appropriate distribution lists. Responsible Person: Greg

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		<p>Neiman / Interested Instructors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coalition to continue monitoring state-level coordination and re-sume broader engagement once ATLS Version 11 transition activities allow.
PTAP Report		
<p>Preceptor Training for Accredited Programs (PTAP) — Platform Status</p>	<p>Chris Vernovai The free version of the PTAP platform is currently unavailable due to security concerns identified by the platform provider. The certifications and related data are housed in a separate JotForm instance and remain secure and unaffected. As a potential alternative, ODEMSA has access to Moodle LMS through a regional agreement with Region 2. Chris is an administrator of the Moodle instance, which is already used to deliver the EC Institute, EC Update, EMS Officer, and related courses. Rebuilding the PTAP within Moodle would require significant time and effort. The committee discussed the urgency of finding an alternative. Brightpoint CC noted that paramedic students will not enter Capstone until late August at the earliest, indicating no immediate need. Reynolds CC confirmed a similar timeline. Chris will continue to monitor the situation and explore backup options proactively, drawing on lessons from past platform disruptions (e.g., Blackboard's discontinuation of free course hosting).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Vernovai to continue monitoring PTAP platform status and communicate updates to committee. If the platform remains unavailable approaching the fall semester, Chris Vernovai to initiate migration to Moodle LMS or identify an alternative platform. Accredited programs to notify Chris Vernovai of their specific PTAP needs and timelines for the fall semester.
Old Business		
<p>Provider Safety and Wellness Initiative</p>	<p>Ryan Scarbrough / Megan Middleton / Chris Vernovai</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Vernovai to review the contract deliverable language

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	<p>Ryan Scarbrough provided background on the initiative, noting it was placed on hold in May of 2025 due to contract changes. The initiative remains a contract deliverable and must move forward.</p> <p>Megan Middleton recalled the original concept: the committee, led by Megan and Marquita with input from Heidi Hooker, planned to highlight one of the eight elements of wellness on a quarterly basis. The first quarter's focus was intended to be provider recognition, including a simple submission process for recognizing providers. A webpage was built to support the initiative (https://odemsa.net/welcome-to-the-provider-safety-wellness-hub/).</p> <p>Ryan confirmed that the initiative is still reflected in the current contract and that ODEMSA plans to eventually create a dedicated Provider Safety and Wellness Committee.</p> <p>Chris discussed related work from his time at the Office of EMS, including the development of an EMS Safety Officer framework. The NFPA released standards for an EMS Safety Officer role in October of the prior year. ODEMSA intends to cross-reference those standards with the EMS Officer program to help structure safety-related credentialing options for agencies. Chris noted opportunities to leverage peer support, CISM, infection control, and other disciplines within this framework.</p>	<p>and define specific requirements for the Provider Safety and Wellness Initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Vernovai and Marquita Whisonant to discuss the initiative structure and next steps at their upcoming meeting. • Committee to select the next quarterly wellness element to highlight and determine the format for distribution (social media, direct provider engagement, or other). • ODEMSA to explore the formation of a dedicated provider safety and wellness committee or workgroup as a longer-term goal.
<p>Respiratory Assessment Education — Metrics Update</p>	<p>Ryan Scarbrough Ryan presented NEMSQA respiratory assessment data for the past calendar year for the region. Performance is consistently at 95 to 96 percent across all populations and months. Pediatric respiratory assessment documentation is sitting at approximately 88 percent. Chair Whisonant noted that pediatric performance was the primary area of concern when this initiative began, citing hesitation among providers around medication administration for pediatric patients. The current numbers suggest improvement from prior periods.</p> <p>Agency-Level Drug Box Transition — Medication Administration Trends</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Scarbrough to continue monitoring quarterly respiratory assessment metrics and report trends to the committee. • Chris Vernovai to explore whether regional medication administration data can be examined before and after the drug

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	<p>Chris Vernovai shared observations from discussions at the Tidewater Expo. Agencies in the Newport News and Hampton area have seen a 250% increase in medication administrations since transitioning to agency-managed drug boxes. The committee discussed whether this reflects prior under-medication or a new trend toward over-medication, with consensus leaning toward the former — suggesting improved access to medication exchange is enabling more appropriate administration.</p> <p>Greg Neiman agreed, noting that the likely driver is the ease of internal exchange, compared to the previous model that required hospital pharmacy involvement, which was often inconvenient. Both noted the financial implications for agencies that have assumed drug costs.</p> <p>Pain Score Documentation Deficiencies</p> <p>Ryan noted that the region continues to see providers administering pain medications without documenting a pre- and post-administration pain score in structured fields. Additionally, the medication response dropdown field (indicating whether pain improved, worsened, or was unchanged) is frequently left blank. Data captured only in narratives cannot be extracted for quality improvement reporting.</p>	<p>box transition to quantify the change and assess clinical appropriateness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider education to reinforce documentation of pre- and post-pain scores and use of the medication response dropdown field in all ePCR platforms. Responsible Person: Ryan Scarbrough / ODEMSA.
<p>Clinical Scheduling Platform — Platinum Planner vs. MC (EMCE)</p>	<p>Ryan Scarbrough / Marquita Whisonant</p> <p>The evaluation of transitioning from Platinum Planner to MC (EMCE) as the regional clinical scheduling platform for accredited programs has stalled. Ryan noted he has not had the bandwidth to reconvene the workgroup. Megan Middleton was originally identified as a participant in the workgroup.</p> <p>Marquita Whisonant and Chris Vernovai indicated they have an upcoming meeting scheduled and will incorporate discussion of this topic into that conversation. Chris will assume responsibility for restarting the workgroup effort.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Vernovai and Marquita Whisonant to discuss Platinum Planner vs. EMCE workgroup at their upcoming meeting and identify next steps. • Chris Vernovai to re-engage identified stakeholders and restart the clinical scheduling platform evaluation workgroup. • Workgroup to obtain access to an EMCE sandbox environment for evaluation prior to

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		making a transition recommendation.
New Business / Business from the Floor		
ePCR Documentation Training Program	<p>Ryan highlighted a documentation training program developed by Amanda Loreti and a colleague (Valerie) at the Virginia Office of EMS. Despite its current name, the program focuses less on general documentation and more on helping providers effectively navigate and use their ePCR systems.</p> <p>Ryan noted a systemic issue in which new providers are handed a device and instructed to fill out as many fields as possible and save the record once all fields show green — a practice that leads to poor data quality at the agency, regional, and state levels.</p> <p>Ryan is working to adapt the program for regional use and will collaborate with the state office to refine and deploy it. This effort is tied to broader data quality concerns discussed throughout the meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Scarbrough to work with Amanda Loreti and the state office to adapt and deploy the ePCR documentation training program for regional providers. • Program title to be updated to better reflect its focus on effective ePCR use.
Upcoming Regional Training Initiatives	<p>Ryan outlined several training initiatives on the horizon that will require committee involvement:</p> <p>Whole Blood Program: Training for the regional whole blood program will be needed within approximately 6 to 8 months as the program prepares to go live.</p> <p>SS4A Grant Training: If secured, the SS4A grant will include a training component spanning multiple provider levels — ATLAS training for EMS physicians (per Dr. Yee), paramedic-level content (as a red dot skill), BLS integration, and protocol education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee to anticipate requests for curriculum development and instructor support for both the whole blood program and SS4A-related training. • Ryan Scarbrough to provide updates as timelines for both initiatives become clearer.

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Meeting Invite Distribution — Bounce Issue	<p>Ryan Scarbrough / Chris Vernovai Ryan requested that committee members reach out to representatives from their agencies or organizations who were not present to ensure Ryan Scarbrough and Chris Vernovai are added to their email contacts. This will help ensure that future meeting invitations are received. Chris Vernovai noted that of 34 invitations sent for this meeting, 31 bounced back undelivered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All committee members to contact absent representatives from their organizations and request they add rscarbrough@vaems.org and cvernovai@vaems.org to their email contacts. • Chris Vernovai to review and update the distribution list prior to the August meeting.
Adjourn	<p>Chair Whisonant announced the next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 AM.</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn. Motion by: Greg Neiman Seconded by: Lauren Dumas Motion Passed. Next meeting: August 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM.</p>