



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 Emergency Medical Services Alliance (ODEMSA)
Board of Directors**

June 17, 2026
7:00 p.m.

President: Walter (Walt) Bailey

Meeting Minutes

Director's Present: Heidi Hooker, Walt Bailey, Kathe Ware, Greg Neiman, Allen Yee, M.D., Jessica Goodman, Lisa Baber, Jimmy Lee Pair, Ashley Farrar, Bert Martin, Willoughby Hundley, M.D.,

Director's Absent: Joelle Cramer, John Vasquez, Cary Strosnider, Pier Ferguson,

ODEMSA Staff: Catina Downey, CPA,

Guests:

Minutes Scribed by: Heidi M. Hooker, Executive Director **Minutes Reviewed by:** Greg Neiman, Board Secretary

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Meeting Called to Order		
Agenda Approval Meeting Minutes Approval Members/Guests Welcome	The quarterly meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Board President Walt Bailey. The meeting format was virtual. Walt welcomed members and guests to the meeting. A quorum was determined. The agenda was approved. The March quarterly meeting minutes were approved. (0:00-01:26) Walt welcomed new Board members Ashley Farrar and Shawn Harmon, representing Planning District 14. Ashley Farrar introduced herself as Assistant Manager of the Emergency Department at Sentara Southside	Motion by: Kathe Ware to approve Agenda. Seconded by: Lisa Baber Vote: Unanimously approved Motion by: Jessica Goodman to approve the December Quarterly Meeting Minutes Seconded by: Pier



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	Community Hospital in Farmville and a former paramedic with Prince George Fire and EMS; she is representing the South Central Sub-Council as their Healthcare Representative to the Board of Directors. Shawn Harmon was not in attendance. He is the Chief of Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad and represents the South Central Sub-Council as their EMS Representative to the Board. (01:26-02:54)	Ferguson Vote: Unanimously approved
President Reports		
Board President	Walt Bailey- Walt said he would discuss topics later in the agenda. (02:55-03:28)	
PD-13	Bert Martin- Bert said the Southside Sub-Council has not had a forum for an official meeting over the last two meetings. He said there has been an increase in attendance, but not yet enough to reach a quorum. (03:28-04:02)	
PD-14	Walt Bailey- Walt reported he was unable to attend the South Central Sub-Council meeting due to a scheduling conflict. He said members are re-engaged and the membership attendance is high. He noted the two new Board members. Heidi reviewed that Walt appointed Cody Davis as Sub-Council Vice President, that Walt remains President, that Kim Smith was appointed Secretary, and that Ashley Farrar and Sean Harmon were appointed as the Sub-Council's representatives to the Board. (04:03-05:43)	
PD-15	Greg Neiman- Greg had no updates (05:44-06:00)	
PD-19	Cary Strosnider- No report (06:01-06:26)	



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State EMS Advisory Board Report		
EMS Advisory Board Representative: Lisa Baber	Lisa said many members were unable to attend the and that Dr. Beermann-Foat was also absent but left a 20–30-minute recorded update to be transparent about how funding, including RSAF and Aid to Localities, and training dollars are being used. (06:27-07:44)	
Executive Director Report		
Executive Director: Heidi Hooker	Heidi said the office has been busy since the last meeting. She said Chris Vernovai has been hired as Training Director, as previously discussed, bringing ODEMSA to four full-time staff. She said the additional staff who had remained on in a PRN capacity to help during the transition were taken off payroll. She said a significant number of staff hours have been spent in orientation, and that Chris and Heather have been recruiting/rebuilding the standing committees and sub-council memberships. This is being done via triage, with those in the worst shape getting attention first. Heidi provided an update on the measles outbreak in Buckingham County, an issue the region has been monitoring and discussing at the sub-councils since February. She said Dr. Joanne Lapetina developed a tip sheet early on that was updated once the outbreak was confirmed, and that ODEMSA held an all-agency meeting to update agency leaders on June 4th. She said Dr. Yee has helped develop treat-in-place protocols and operational plans that are ready if needed. Heidi said she has been meeting weekly with VDH and OEMS on Wednesdays regarding the outbreak, and that there was no change from the previous week as of that day's meeting. She said there is concern of a potential	



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	spike following recent fundraising events held in the Amish community. She said OEMS Region 5 and Region 2 have been brought in to participate and have been given access to materials ODEMSA has already developed. She said the region is as prepared as it can be, with the primary concern being spread south into Charlotte County, Halifax County, and possibly Amelia County. Dr. Yee added that there are currently only a handful of cases with no impact to EMS or hospitals, but that the larger concern is spread beyond the Amish community into the Mennonite community. He said two of the confirmed cases had been vaccinated, meaning vaccinated individuals remain at some risk, and that the region needs to stay on guard should the situation worsen. Heidi said the Office of EMS has developed a regional assessment survey that was sent to all agencies on Monday, with responses requested by Friday of this week, with a goal of 100% agency participation. Heidi said a Region 6 Town Hall meeting will be held the following Thursday at 7pm. She said Board members are welcome to attend in person at the ODEMSA office, where Office of EMS staff will also be present, or to attend virtually. She said registration is being requested to gauge attendance, and that questions may be submitted in advance. She said approximately 56 people had registered so far and that she expects the number to double before the event. (07:45-13:54)	
Virginia Office of EMS Report		
OEMS Representatives: Mary Katherine Allen and Dr. Gregory Woods	No representative from the Office of EMS was present; Mary Katherine Allen and Dr. Greg Woods were hosting a Town Hall in Southwest Virginia. Heidi mentioned the OEMS ticketing system for inquiries regarding training, education, certification, or testing questions to OEMS. (13:55-14:03)	



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Financial Reports		
A. Quarterly Financial Statement – Action Item	The Quarterly Financial Report, prepared by Catina Downey, was distributed to members prior to the meeting. Catina said there was nothing significant to report on the Quarterly Financial Report. She reminded members that the report format was changed last quarter to mirror the format ODEMSA submits to the Office of EMS. The floor was open for anyone that had questions to ask. There were no questions. A motion was made to approve the Quarterly Financial Report. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. (14:04-15:46)	Motion by: Kathe Ware to approve the Quarterly Financial Report Seconded by: Lisa Baber Vote: Unanimously approved
B. FY27 Operating Budget – Action Item	Heidi and Catina reported there were no changes made for the FY27 budget since the one-year budget that was approved and in use for six months. The floor was open for discussion. There were no questions. A motion was made to approve the FY27 Operating Budget. The motion passed with unanimous vote. (15:47-17:00)	Motion by: Kathe Ware to approve the FY27 Operating Budget Seconded by: Greg Neiman Vote: Unanimously approved
Current Business		
A. Regional Whole Blood Program	Dr. Yee provided an update on the Regional Whole Blood Program, noting it is a combination of two initiatives. He said under the OEMS contract, ODEMSA was awarded funding for a blood product program, with funds available beginning July 1. He said a template plan has been created and that Greg Cass is finalizing the MOUs between ODEMSA and participating agencies, with the program and agency onboarding going live July 1. He said the second initiative is the NHTSA SS4A grant, a partnership between Regions 1, 2, and 6 that would allow agencies to enter the blood program at 100% funding as a reimbursement grant. He said agencies will need to decide whether to proceed	



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	early under the 50-50 match or wait for a decision on the SS4A grant, which totaled approximately \$1.6 million across the three councils. He said NHTSA accepted the grant after clarifying council eligibility, with an announcement anticipated in December. Dr. Yee said Chesterfield has increased its current blood supply and that Chesterfield, MedFlight, and Goochland are currently sharing the blood bank, with Dinwiddie, Buckingham, and Hanover expected to come online around July 1. Walt thanked Dr. Yee for his continued work on the program. (17:01-19:43)	
New Business		
A. Measles Outbreak - Update B. Regional Protocols – Action Item C. EMS Plan – Action Item	The measles update was covered under the Executive Director report. There was nothing more to add. (19:44-19:53) Heidi said Chris Vernovai has met with Megan Middleton to review where the Regional Protocols were left off, and that some progress was made but much work still needs to be done. She said ODEMSA is exploring OneDose, a free app used by several other regional councils, as a possible new platform for the protocols, with a plan to update the protocols one section at a time. She said there are no changes at this time, with more updates expected at a future meeting. A motion was made to approve the Regional Protocols as currently written, pending future updates. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. (19:44-21:38) Heidi said there were no changes to the EMS Transportation Destination Plan. A motion was made to approve the EMS Transportation Destination Plan. The motion passed with a unanimous vote. (21:39-22:11)	Motion by: Greg Neiman to approve the Regional Protocols without changes. Seconded by: Kathe Ware Vote: Unanimously approved Motion by: Kathe Ware to approve the EMS Patient Destination Plan Seconded by: Jimmy Lee Pair Vote: Unanimously approved

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Business From the Floor		
Fire/EMS Funding – Walt Bailey	Walt gave an update on state budget advocacy, noting that as of earlier that day, \$20 million remained in the state budget for fire and EMS following VACO's meetings with key Senate members. He said the House and Senate are still working to resolve budget differences. He said the funding is expected to be administered as a grant through the Fire Programs Fund, available to both fire and EMS agencies, through a simple one-page application with a peer review group already in place. He noted that, unlike last year's \$5 million allocation, which was designated for firefighter turnout gear and did not benefit EMS, this funding is intended to be open to both fire and EMS. He said political subdivisions, such as counties, would apply for the funding rather than individual agencies. In response to a question from Heidi, Walt confirmed the funds are not designated for RSAF. (22:12-24:58)	
Special Project Funding- Mental Health/Peer Support - Update - Heidi Hooker	Heidi noted that ODEMSA also received \$10,000 per fiscal year for peer support training as part of the VDH contract. She said ODEMSA has been approved to bring in a presenter for the Struggle Well program and intends to hold classes between now and December. She also shared information about Dan Sun, a mental health counselor and internationally recognized public safety artist, who ODEMSA is in discussions with to bring in during FY27. She said she has been in contact with Amy Howard about coordinating his visit with the Central Virginia EMS Expo. Heidi said the program is expected to cost approximately \$7,500 of the \$10,000 in funding, with the remainder used to purchase books for participants, and that if the visit is coordinated with the Expo, Amy Howard has offered to provide meals for the two-day course and purchase any additional books needed. (24:59-27:17)	



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Next Meeting		
Next Meeting	September 16, 2026 (Location – Virtual)	
Adjourn		
Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm	