



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

Patient Destination Committee

July 24, 2026

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Chair: Tim McKay, Chesterfield Fire Dept.

Vice Chair: Casey Shinault, Bon Secours

Members and Guests Present:	Amit Patel, Michael Ferris, Dan Hamilton, Ryan Sensen, Scott Cormier, Ryan Martinette, Jeff Ferguson, Allen Yee, Mike Watkins,
Virtual Attendees:	Casey Shinault, Mary Morton, Umaman Choudry, Stephen Farrar, Tim McKay, Monty Dixon, Bonita Meyers, Dusty Anderson, Mike Harmon, Stephen Hoke, Buddy Hyde, Travis Jenkins, Greg Neiman, Gary Samuels, Jeff Wallace, Amy Howard, Jim Courtney
ODEMSA Staff:	Heather Nelson, Chris Vernovai, Ryan Scarbrough
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	Tim McKay - Called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. - After a roll call, it was determined that there was a quorum. - The April meeting minutes were approved.	Motion to approve minutes: Motion by Greg Neiman , seconded by Dusty Anderson . Approved.
Hospital Reports		
VCU	Greg Neiman - Implemented an internal waiting-room nurse for part of the day and is looking at adding medics for medic-to-medic handover. - Wall times have been reduced and continue to be a focus; VCU is collecting and distributing wall-time data to administration for awareness. Some challenges remain, but progress continues.	
Bon Secours	Casey Shinault	



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	• Signage for the Ashland freestanding ED has been installed per vendor recommendation; additional signage is still needed to help the public find the facility (agencies were asked to flag any difficulty). • The St. Mary's tower and St. Francis freestanding construction projects are both on track; the St. Mary's project is not currently impacting EMS.	
HCA	Ryan Jensen (Henrico Doctors) • The Scott's Walk freestanding ED opened this past Wednesday and is available to the community and EMS.	
McGuire VA Medical Center	Dr. Umaran Choudry • In the very early stages of pursuing a dedicated ambulance for patient transport; an update will follow as this develops. Otherwise business as usual.	
Centra	Mary Morton (Emergency Manager) • The ED is in the middle of an expansion, which may cause some delays. • Centra's helipad has moved to a new location; notification was shared, though it was unclear how widely it reached agencies.	
Medical Control		
Medical Control	Dr. Allen Yee • MDC is working on updating patient care guidelines; interested members should attend MDC.	
Old Dominion EMS Alliance Report		
ODEMSA	Heather Nelson • The town hall held June 25 is available on the ODEMSA website, with good Q&A between agencies and the Office of EMS. • The Whole Blood Program is up and running: approved by the Board of Directors, contract signed with INOVA Blood Services, MOUs	



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	between agencies and Region 6 approved by ODEMSA's attorney with agencies signing on, and the SS4A grant submitted in partnership with Regions 1 and 2. • Committee rebuilding remains ongoing. • The data repository workshop training remains available on the ODEMSA website, as does measles information, including a recording of the regional webinar.	
Central Region Healthcare Coalition / VHHA Update	Scott Cormier (VP of Emergency Preparedness) • VHHA now manages the Central, Southwestern, and Eastern healthcare coalitions as one merged organization effective July 1; administrative functions (supply ordering, training management) have been consolidated centrally. Each region retains a hospital outreach contact (Jen Kammerman for Central) and is hiring a post-acute/ambulatory care outreach role that will shift to in-person facility visits. • VHHA owns VHASS and has managed it for about 10 years; historically, change requests were handled informally. A new VHASS Advisory Committee, with hospital and post-acute/ambulatory representation from all four coalition regions, held its first meeting this month and will formalize the change-request process. Consultants are being engaged to evaluate whether to replace VHASS with an off-the-shelf product or improve the existing system. • Additional VHASS training is planned, as many users are unaware of capabilities the system has had for years.	
EMS Agency Reports		
Powhatan Fire Rescue	Jeff Wallace • Now running 3 ambulances during daytime hours, improving response times; doing well overall.	
New Kent	Travis Jenkins (Chief of EMS) • Nothing significant to report.	



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Colonial Heights	Stephen Hoke • No real issues; wall times are good south of the river. • The locality opted out of the Whole Blood Program due to lack of local support, but may still call on neighboring agencies for major incidents.	
Crater District / Waverly Rescue Squad	Bonita Meyers • Nothing to report; providers suggested that inter-facility transport companies at Petersburg avoid using the emergency entrance, or move their units promptly, to help wall times.	
Nottoway County	Buddy Hyde • Continued extended wait times at Centra Southside and Farmville are frequently redirecting patients to Swift Creek (and some to South Hill), creating operational strain from the added drive/rotation time; looking forward to Centra's ED expansion being completed. • Announced a new EMS provider for the county: Summit Point Group (West Virginia) begins a contract with the State Department's FASC training facility on October 13, with no subcontractors; the current provider will no longer serve FASC. Summit Point will run 4 ambulances (3 relocated from West Virginia, 1 purchased from the outgoing provider). Dr. Zelensky, who already serves as OMD for several Southside Virginia counties, will be OMD for the new contract.	
Chesterfield County	Tim McKay • Business as usual; normal operations roughly 95–98% of the time, with occasional delays becoming increasingly rare.	
Richmond Ambulance Authority	Ryan Martinette • RAA decommissioned "RICVUE," a resource many used for a global view of hospital status, after a CAD upgrade removed support for the SQL queries it relied on. A replacement has not yet been determined; RAA is exploring workflow-based alternatives.	



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	• RAA currently cross-references VHASS and tracks bypass/diversion status directly in its CAD Facilities tab. • RAA has already transported its first patient to the new Scott's Walk freestanding ED.	
Hospital 2 Home	Dr. Michael Ferris • No report at this time	
Richmond Volunteer Rescue Squad	Dr. Michael Ferris • No report at this time	
Goochland County	Mike Watkins • Tracking wall times carefully; end-user challenge • Posed the question why ambulances are sometimes held on the wall with behavioral health patients, since most such patients are ambulatory. Casey Shinault (in response to Goochland) • Noted a rise in dementia patients (a medical, not behavioral health, diagnosis) who end up under TDO/ECO holds because placement facilities can't manage them; EDs have seen these patients stay for extended periods (in one case, two weeks at Memorial), straining space. True behavioral health patients should not be held on the wall. the added holds are more likely tied to this medical/placement overlap	
Henrico Fire	Dr. Jeff Ferguson • No report at this time	
Old Business		
Bylaws Revision Workgroup	Tim McKay • The committee's bylaws date back to 2019; the workgroup will review committee representation given changes among healthcare systems and new entities. The intent is an update to reflect current practice, not a full rewrite.	



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	Any recommended changes will need Board of Directors approval, likely taking more than one meeting cycle. The workgroup meets next on July 30.	
VHASS Language & Status Standardization Workgroup	Casey Shinault - The workgroup has struggled to get started; Heather Nelson is helping coordinate scheduling over the next couple of weeks. - Goal is standardized, EMS-friendly hospital status language in VHASS (e.g., over capacity, behavioral health holds) so EMS partners understand what they're facing at a given facility. Scott Cormier (VHHA) - Offered to fold this effort into VHHA's existing statewide VHASS Advisory Committee rather than run a separate subcommittee, and asked interested members to send their names to be added to the July 30 meeting.	Interested members to send names to Scott Cormier (VHHA) to join the July 30 VHASS Advisory Committee meeting.
New Business		
Business from the Floor	None at this time	
Adjourn		
	Tim McKay - Next Meeting: October 23, 2026, at 12:00 pm - The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.	Motion to adjourn by Travis Jenkins ; seconded by Greg Neiman . Approved.