



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

Air/Medical Committee

September 17, 2026

10:00 am – 11:00 pm

Chair: Greg Jones – Med-Flight I

Vice Chair: Jay Lovelady – HCA Air Care Eagle

Members and Guests Present: Greg Jones

Virtual Attendees: Cody Main, Jim Courtney, Eddie Ferguson, Cary Strosnider, Chris Craft

ODEMSA Staff: Ryan Scarbrough, Chris Vernovai, Heather Nelson

Minutes Scribed by: Heather Nelson

Materials Provided: Previous meeting minutes and agenda

Topic / Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action / Follow-up; Responsible Person
Meeting Called to Order	- Greg Jones called the meeting to order at 10:06 am - Moment of silence for fallen comrades - After introductions, it was determined that a quorum was present - Meeting minutes/agenda were approved	
Old Dominion EMS Alliance Report		
ODEMSA	Heather Nelson - ODEMSA is moving the EC Institute in-house, with the first session serving as a pilot. - The regional Whole Blood Program has begun with six participating agencies and additional agencies anticipated. - ODEMSA continues efforts to rebuild and increase participation in regional committees. - The RSAF grant cycle recently closed. - An EMT class is scheduled to begin December 7 at the ODEMSA office. - VCU will be conducting a full-scale MCI exercise. A moulage class will be held in conjunction with the exercise, allowing participants to apply skills during the drill.	

	• Regional EMS Award nominations are open through October 15. • Upcoming training opportunities include: ○ Struggle Well two-day course – Dinwiddie, October 13–14. ○ Struggle Well two-day course – Amelia, date TBD. ○ Struggle Well five-day – November at ODEMSA. • Autism Response Training. • Integrated Dementia Response for First Responders. • EC Development Workshop with Mike Garnett – anticipated January/February 2027. • Please contact ODEMSA regarding additional training needs, particularly opportunities specific to the air medical community. Chris Vernovai • The upcoming EC Institute will be the first following OEMS's rewrite of the program. • ODEMSA is partnering with instructors and other regions to provide Train-the-Trainer support. • OEMS will conduct an in-person EC update at the ODEMSA office. ○ The update is intended for ECs, ALS Coordinators, Emergency Operations Instructors, and other applicable training personnel. ○ No virtual option will be available.	
Agency Reports		
Lunenburg County	Chris Craft • An EMT class is currently underway, with another class anticipated to begin the following month. • Reported ongoing discussions regarding issues affecting the local EMS system.	
Goochland County	Eddie Ferguson • Flight is an important resource • Discussed challenges with flight medical resource availability and accurate ETAs in Buckingham County, highlighting issues with dispatch center information and aircraft assignment processes ○ ongoing conversations with Cody Main from Life Evac about integrating the rapid SOS system with PSAPs to improve accuracy and efficiency	

	- Discussed challenges with flight dispatching and aircraft selection - issues with integrity and transparency in current processes	
Crater Sub-Council	Cary Strosnider - Crater-area agencies are partnering with VCU to provide paramedic education opportunities. - Landing zone training is also being offered/planned in the area.	
LifeEvac	Cody Main - LifeEvac will celebrate its 25th anniversary on October 13. - A grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for LifeEvac 5 will be held at VCU Health Community Memorial Hospital at 4:30 PM. - Discussed the importance of utilizing the closest appropriate aircraft and continuing regional collaboration regarding appropriate air medical resource utilization. - Identified a need for additional education regarding the No Surprises Act and air medical billing practices. - LifeEvac has posted three positions: two flight nurses and one flight paramedic.	
Hospital Reports		
HCA	Jim Courtney - Introduced himself and reviewed his responsibilities with HCA facilities, including Henrico Doctors' Hospital–Forest. - Chronic issues with the HEAR radio at Forest appear to have been corrected following a software update. - Any air medical programs can be directed to Jim if communication issues continue. - Trauma volume at Forest remains elevated. - Emergency department expansion and other construction projects are underway.	
Old Business		
State MedEvac Report	Greg Jones - The State MedEvac Committee has been disbanded. - Air-medical-related topics have been moved under the state Medical Control/Medical Direction structure; however, no specific structure for air medical issues within that committee was identified.	

	Discussed the continued importance of maintaining the ODEMSA Air Medical Committee as a regional forum for air medical programs, EMS agencies, hospitals, and other stakeholders to discuss medevac-specific concerns.	
New Business		
Regional Air Medical Evacuation Guidelines	Greg Jones - Committee with need to continue review of the Regional Air Medical Evacuation Guidelines, resource matrix, and associated map. - HCA is adding an air medical resource in the Danville area. - Although outside the ODEMSA region, the resource may provide an additional option for communities along the southern/southwestern portion of the region. - Discussed incorporating the new resource into the matrix before finalizing the revisions. - Updated materials will be brought back to the committee for review and approval.	Dempsey Whitt: Update the air medical resource matrix to include the new Danville resource. Greg Jones: Coordinate with Chesterfield GIS to update the regional air medical map. Heather Nelson: Review and update guideline language, addresses, telephone numbers, and other applicable information.
Business from the Floor		
State EMS Equipment Requirements	Cary Strosnider - Raised concerns regarding outdated air medical equipment requirements and questioned how regional air medical programs could provide input into anticipated statewide revisions. Greg Jones - Discussed the dissolution of the State Medevac Committee and the lack of an identified process for air medical representation within the state Medical Control/Medical Direction Committee. Chris Vernovai - Provided background on previous OEMS discussions regarding the possibility of moving equipment lists outside of EMS regulations to	

	allow for more efficient revisions. He suggested contacting Ron Passmore with OEMS Regulation and Compliance for additional information. Eddie Ferguson - Noted that the state Medical Direction Committee has discussed similar concerns regarding equipment requirements for both ground and air EMS vehicles. Further Discussion - Discussed the potential benefits of establishing equipment requirements based on individual air medical program mission profiles, particularly considering aircraft weight limitations and varying transport capabilities. Cary Strosnider - Offered to assist with future discussions and provide input regarding air medical equipment requirements.	
Patient Disposition Documentation	Ryan Scarbrough - Reminded agencies of proper documentation when care is transferred from a ground EMS unit to another transporting agency, including an air medical crew. - The non-transporting agency should document the patient disposition as treated and transferred rather than documenting transport to the receiving hospital. - Incorrectly documenting the receiving hospital as the destination creates duplicate transport records and affects regional and statewide PI data. - The issue has been discussed at the state PI level. Limitations within individual ePCR vendor platforms may require agencies to address software configuration directly with their vendors.	
Cartersville Volunteer Fire Department Helipad	Heather Nelson and Greg Jones - Cartersville Volunteer Fire Department held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new on-site helipad on September 12. - Funding for the project was made possible through a donation from a deceased life member.	

	• The helipad is an important safety and air medical access improvement for the rural community. • Cumberland County is exploring the possibility of developing additional helipads.	
Adjourn		
	• The next meeting was originally scheduled for October 8, 2026 at 11:00 AM, as reflected on the meeting agenda. • Due to the time needed to complete revisions to the Air Medical Evacuation Guidelines, resource matrix, and map, the committee discussed potentially moving the meeting to November. • With no additional business from the floor, a motion to adjourn was made and the meeting concluded.	Heather Nelson: distribute a poll to committee members to determine the next meeting date.