



OLD DOMINION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ALLIANCE

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Phone: (804) 560-3300 • (804) 560-0909 • www.odemsa.net

Training and Education Committee

August 13, 2026
10:00 am – 11:00 am

Chair: Marquita Whisonant, VCU CTCCE

Vice Chair: Damien Coy, Brightpoint

Members and Guests N/A- Virtual Meeting

Present:

Virtual Attendees: Chris Craft, Stephen Farrar, Kevin Eustace, Shawn Harmon, Mike Watkins, Greg Neiman, Adam Alford, Lauren Dumas, Nakia James, Marquita Whisonant, Bobby Lester, Kenneth Williams, Scott Zielinski, John Jacobson, Megan Middleton, Heather Deadmon, Andrew Swann, Travis Jenkins, Andy Inge

ODEMSA Staff: Ryan Scarbrough, Chris Vernovai, Heather Nelson

Minutes Scribed by: Chris Vernovai

Materials Provided: Previous meeting minutes, August 13, 2026 agenda, committee roster, and TEC Vision/Philosophy document

Topic / Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action / Follow-up; Responsible Person
Meeting Called to Order	The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by Chair Marquita Whisonant. A quorum was present. Chair Whisonant requested approval of the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes and the August 13, 2026 agenda.	Motion to approve the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes and August 13, 2026 agenda. Motion by: Mike Watkins Seconded by: John Jacobson Motion Passed.
Welcome and Introductions	No guests were identified at the start of the meeting. Several members participating for the first time introduced themselves during agency and program reports.	None.

Topic / Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action / Follow-up; Responsible Person
EMS Agency Reports	New Kent – Travis Jenkins reported no significant updates. Chesterfield – John Jacobson reported a recruit school with 21 enrolled, including 10 expected to take the EMT examination at the end of August. Paramedic Cohort 4 has 19 students and is expected to graduate in September. Another paramedic cohort and EMT class are planned for January. Forest View – Gail Weatherford reported no significant updates and was welcomed to the committee. Goochland – Mike Watkins reported an EMT class beginning at the end of August, including new hires. Firefighter Buddy Thompson will serve as lead instructor for his first EMT class. A paramedic program in partnership with VCU CTCCE is scheduled to begin October 15 with six career members and one volunteer enrolled; additional seats may be available. Prince Edward Rescue – Shawn Harmon reported an EMT class beginning in early September with approximately half of the available seats filled. Victoria Fire & Rescue – Chris Craft reported an EMT class scheduled to begin September 2. Richmond Fire – Megan Middleton reported the department is in recruit school. The EMT portion is expected to test for NREMT around September 10. The class has 18 recruits, 15 of whom need NREMT testing, followed by 11 weeks of fire school. Amelia Emergency Squad – Kevin Eustace reported no significant updates for Amelia Emergency Squad or Burkeville Volunteer Fire Department. AMR – Scott Zielinski reported monthly new-hire classes and VIN clearance training for new paramedics. Dinwiddie Fire & EMS – Heather Deadmon reported a fire/EMS recruit school planned for mid-September and a VCU CTCCE partnership program beginning in late August, with AEMT programming followed by a paramedic component. Petersburg Fire – Andrew Swann reported no significant updates. Lakeside Volunteer Rescue Squad – Andy Inge reported a recruit academy for 14 new members, an EKG CE program planned for September, and ongoing transition of medical direction to Dr. Ferguson to improve interoperability with Henrico Fire and Tuckahoe. Training is underway for whole blood and Cyanokit-related initiatives. ODEMSA EMT Course – Andy Inge reported the ODEMSA EMT class concluded July 25 with nine students; all passed psychomotor testing. Two had passed the cognitive examination at the time of the meeting, with remaining students scheduled to test. Another ODEMSA EMT class is tentatively planned for approximately December.	Agencies/programs to share open course seats and training opportunities with regional partners as appropriate. ODEMSA to continue planning for a future EMT course.
Hospital Reports	VCU Health – Greg Neiman reported continued focus on EMS wall times. VCU has added a peak-time internal waiting room nurse to assist with patient offload, with an initial goal of keeping EMS offload times at or below 15 minutes. A VILT session is scheduled for August 27 featuring Dr. Stephanie Luca on anti-amyloid therapies for Alzheimer's disease and potential implications for prehospital care. The Evans-Haynes Burn Center is expanding outreach and offering burn education for EMT, AEMT, and paramedic programs. Programs interested in arranging a presentation may contact Liz Bowers or Greg Neiman.	EMS educators interested in burn-center outreach should contact Greg Neiman or Liz Bowers. VCU Health to continue EMS offload improvement efforts.

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Accredited EMS Programs	VCU CTCCE – Kenneth Williams reported continued statewide program expansion, including development of a 12th satellite program in the ODEMSA region. CTCCE is seeking part-time skills instructors and continues to partner with other accredited programs. The paramedic program is now hospital-sponsored, while CTCCE continues to encourage graduates to pursue degree completion through community colleges. Grant funding is available to help offset training costs, particularly for rural departments. Kenneth Williams advised that his retirement is now anticipated around March-April 2027. Adam Alford reported CTCCE is concluding a four-year rural EMS training grant and has applied for an additional two years of funding. CTCCE also received Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority funding that is expected to support tuition assistance. Brightpoint Community College – Lauren Dumas reported completion of the summer semester. Due to recent enforcement/interpretation of OEMS course-completion requirements, the EMT cohort was divided: 15 students completed and became eligible for National Registry testing, with nine additional students expected to become eligible at the end of September. Fall programming includes two full EMT cohorts, an AEMT cohort, and a paramedic cohort entering capstone. A paramedic pinning is anticipated in December. Brightpoint's campus MCI event is scheduled for November 23. Southside Virginia Community College – Bobby Lester reported a high-school dual-enrollment class beginning in approximately two weeks, along with EMT, AEMT, and paramedic advanced-standing programming. SVCC is working with Southside Rescue Squad to offer ACLS, PALS, and PHTLS refresher courses and with the Department of State on TCCC and TECC courses.	Accredited programs to continue sharing course and partnership opportunities. VCU CTCCE to communicate grant/tuition assistance opportunities as details become available.
ODEMSA Report	ODEMSA reported that the June 25 Town Hall recording is available on the website. The regional whole blood program went live July 1 with six agencies participating at the time of the meeting. Repository workshop training remains available, including opportunities in other regions. Regional committee participation continues to improve, with recent meetings achieving quorum. Regional EMS award nominations will be opening. Committee members were specifically encouraged to nominate deserving EMS educators, noting that the educator category historically receives few nominations. Upcoming ODEMSA education includes a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator course on September 1; Mental Health Resiliency Officer course on September 2; moulage training September 29 in conjunction with an MCI exercise September 30; and planned Struggle Well programs in Dinwiddie and Amelia followed by a five-day train-the-trainer program at ODEMSA in November.	Committee members encouraged to submit regional EMS award nominations, particularly for EMS Educator. ODEMSA to publish registration information for upcoming courses as details are finalized.
PTAP Report	The Preceptor Training for Accredited Programs (PTAP) is again available through the ODEMSA website. Training content is now hosted through ODEMSA's website infrastructure, with certificate processing continuing through JotForm. The committee discussed the age of the PTAP content. ODEMSA noted that the material has been updated since its original implementation, but the committee may wish to evaluate whether additional content updates are needed.	Consider establishing a workgroup to review PTAP content and recommend updates. Accredited programs should ensure preceptors complete PTAP before supervising students.

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Stop the Bleed Coalition	Greg Neiman reported increased Stop the Bleed activity as schools prepare for the fall. Additional instructors may be needed to support larger events. Instructors who are not receiving communications from the regional coalition or the newer state coalition through the American College of Surgeons were encouraged to contact Greg to be added to the appropriate distribution lists.	Stop the Bleed instructors interested in supporting regional events should contact Greg Neiman. Greg Neiman to continue coalition communications and instructor coordination.
Old Business – Provider Safety and Wellness Initiative	ODEMSA reported that Provider Safety and Wellness initiatives remain under development. Current efforts include the Mental Health Resiliency Officer courses and Struggle Well programming. Longer-term planning includes development of a Wellness Committee and coordination among the Wellness Committee, peer support resources, and the Training and Education Committee. A task-force/workgroup approach may be used to coordinate initiatives across these groups.	ODEMSA to continue development of MHRO and Struggle Well programming. Future wellness initiatives to be coordinated with the developing Wellness Committee, peer support resources, and TEC.
Old Business – PI / Education Metrics	The committee discussed continuing regional performance-improvement needs. ODEMSA reported that current concerns increasingly center on structured ePCR documentation rather than absence of care. Examples include documentation of oxygen and aspirin administration, stroke/STEMI pre-alerts, and use of structured data fields rather than narrative-only documentation. Stroke data also identified concern with scene times, with regional cases appearing in the 16–20 minute and 30-plus-minute ranges rather than the desired 15 minutes or less. Mike Watkins emphasized moving the PI process from review toward actionable improvement: PI identifies an issue, the Medical Direction Committee validates/addresses the clinical issue, and the Training and Education Committee develops education for regional distribution. Examples discussed included treatment/documentation of status epilepticus and pediatric dexamethasone use. ODEMSA described use of the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) model to guide this process.	TEC to assist ODEMSA in developing provider education addressing identified PI priorities. ODEMSA/PI to provide actionable findings to MDC and TEC for clinical review and educational response. Potential education topics include structured ePCR documentation, stroke/STEMI alerts, scene-time reduction, medication documentation, and treatment-specific gaps.

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Old Business – Regional Clinical Scheduling Platform	The committee revisited Platinum Planner versus EMCE/other options for regional clinical scheduling. ODEMSA recommended forming a workgroup rather than continuing informal discussion. Members also discussed testing-platform security. Fisdap examination questions have been publicly available online for an extended period. Platinum was noted to have stronger controls, including secure testing software. Bobby Lester noted that in portions of Southside Virginia, hospitals and agencies prefer direct scheduling by phone or local master schedule rather than another electronic scheduling platform. Platinum is primarily used there for student check-in/check-out documentation.	Establish a workgroup to evaluate regional clinical scheduling needs and available platforms. Evaluation should account for accredited-program needs, hospital/agency workflow, platform security, and regional differences. ODEMSA/TEC to identify interested workgroup participants.
New Business – OEMS Updates	ODEMSA provided updates from the July EC Institute/Update in Lynchburg. Comparable CE: ODEMSA reported that OEMS no longer wants educators to backdate Open CE to the original course dates when awarding comparable CE. The current direction is to date CE within the applicable processing/scanning window. Regional training representatives are requesting dedicated NCCR/LCCR/ICCR “Comparable” categories to improve auditability and reduce duplicate awards. Course Completion / 180-Day Interpretation: ODEMSA reported a new OEMS interpretation that real-patient clinical requirements must be completed by the scheduled course end date. Non-clinical requirements may potentially be completed afterward, and course extensions may be requested; however, extending a course may delay students who have already completed requirements. Significant discussion followed. Mike Watkins and Kenneth Williams questioned the interpretation and noted that the current TPAM language has historically been understood to allow up to 180 days for completion of course requirements, including clinical components. Kenneth Williams reported that the matter has been referred for legal review and that the interpretation may create accreditation concerns. Members noted the lack of formal written guidance accompanying the change. ODEMSA reported that OEMS/VDH guidance documents are currently subject to an approval process that can substantially delay publication. The committee recognized this as an unresolved issue requiring continued monitoring and clarification.	ODEMSA to continue seeking written clarification from OEMS regarding comparable CE and course-completion requirements. Committee members/programs should monitor OEMS guidance and applicable TPAM/regulatory requirements. The 180-day/course-end-date issue remains unresolved and should return for discussion as additional formal guidance becomes available.
New Business – EC Institute and Update	ODEMSA announced that the next regional EC Institute will be held at the ODEMSA office during the week of September 22-24, followed by the EC Update on Friday, September 25 at 10:00 AM. Electronic registration is expected, with final regional/state administrative details still being clarified. Members were strongly encouraged to attend EC Updates more frequently than the minimum required within a certification cycle because of the volume and pace of current OEMS changes.	ODEMSA to publish registration information when available. Education Coordinators encouraged to attend EC Updates regularly to remain current on OEMS changes.

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New Business – Committee Structure and Makeup	ODEMSA and Chair Whisonant discussed the future direction of the Training and Education Committee. The goal is to strengthen the committee as a unified regional voice for EMS educators and as a forum for rapid sharing of OEMS clarification, regulatory/policy changes, educational needs, and regional resources. ODEMSA will continue recruiting representation from EMS agencies and accredited programs consistent with the committee bylaws. A draft committee vision developed by Chair Whisonant and Chris Vernovai will be shared with the committee. The committee is expected to make greater use of focused workgroups to address specific projects such as clinical scheduling platforms, PTAP review, PI-driven education, and other regional educational priorities.	ODEMSA to distribute the draft TEC vision for member review. Continue recruitment to broaden agency and accredited-program representation. Use focused workgroups for specific committee projects and recommendations.
Business from the Floor	Lauren Dumas raised concern regarding the OEMS EMT Student Minimum Competency Matrix submission page, which had not been functioning reliably. ODEMSA explained that the prior web submission had been routed to a former staff member and had been difficult to reconfigure. Members recommended submitting a help-desk ticket with the matrix attached to preserve documentation of submission. Andy Inge reported that he had recently tested the online upload with OEMS staff and the submission successfully processed, suggesting the issue may have been corrected.	Programs should attempt the online competency-matrix submission. If the form does not function, submit an OEMS help-desk ticket with the matrix attached to document timely submission.
Future Meeting Duration	Because of increased committee participation and the amount of substantive discussion, ODEMSA proposed extending future TEC meetings by 30 minutes. Chair Whisonant supported the change, noting that meetings may still end early when business is completed. Members expressed support for scheduling additional time.	Future TEC meetings will be scheduled for 90 minutes, 10:00 AM–11:30 AM, with the option to adjourn earlier when business is completed. Next meeting: November 12, 2026, 10:00 AM–11:30 AM.
Adjourn	With no additional significant business from the floor, Chair Whisonant requested a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 AM.	Motion to adjourn. Motion by: Lauren Dumas Seconded by: Mike Watkins Motion Passed. Next meeting: November 12, 2026 at 10:00 AM–11:30 AM.



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Training and Education Committee

August 13, 2026

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Chair: Marquita Whisonant, VCU CTCCE

Vice Chair: Damien Coy, Brightpoint

Purpose:	• In collaboration with pertinent ODEMSA committees, develop training for agencies that will positively impact and improve patient care within the region
Desired Outcomes:	• Any appropriate follow-up/action as a result of reports and/or updates • Discussions/plans for development of next training event, along with an estimated date of completion
Deliverables	• Discussions/plan for Provider Safety and Wellness initiatives to meet contractual obligations

AGENDA

Welcome	• Introductions, Guests • Roll Call - Determine Quorum • Approve Previous Meeting Minutes • Approve Agenda
Reports	• EMS Agencies • Hospitals • Accredited Programs • ODEMSA • PTAP • Stop the Bleed Coalition
Old Business	• Provider Safety and Wellness Quarter Initiative • Update on NEMSQA metrics on Respiratory Assessment Education • Update on Platinum Planner vs. EMCE as a regional clinical scheduling platform
New Business	• OEMS Updates • EC Institute and Update – September • Committee Structure and Makeup • Business from the Floor
Next Meeting	• November 12, 2026 at 10:00 AM
Adjournment	

ODEMSA Training & Education Committee

Vision, Philosophy & Guiding Principles

Draft – July 2026

Introduction

The ODEMSA Training & Education Committee serves as a collaborative forum dedicated to advancing EMS education throughout the region. By bringing together EMS agencies, hospitals, educators, training officers, medical directors, and other stakeholders, the committee works collaboratively to identify educational needs, foster partnerships, coordinate regional resources, and support educational initiatives that strengthen EMS providers and improve patient care.

This document reflects the committee's shared vision, philosophy, and guiding principles while supporting the responsibilities established within the Training & Education Committee Bylaws.

Vision

To serve as the collaborative voice for EMS education within the ODEMSA region by identifying educational needs, coordinating regional resources, fostering partnerships, and advancing high-quality, evidence-informed training that strengthens EMS providers, agencies, and patient care.

Purpose

The Training & Education Committee serves as ODEMSA's collaborative forum for bringing together EMS agencies, hospitals, educators, training officers, medical directors, and other stakeholders to identify regional educational needs, coordinate educational resources, foster partnerships, and provide recommendations that strengthen EMS education throughout the region.

Our Philosophy

The ODEMSA Training & Education Committee believes that meaningful EMS education begins with collaboration. ODEMSA's role is not to determine the educational needs of the region in isolation. Rather, those priorities should be identified through meaningful collaboration with the agencies, educators, training officers, hospitals, medical directors, and EMS leaders who serve our communities every day.

The committee serves as a bridge between regional educational needs, objective performance improvement data, evidence-based practice, and coordinated educational opportunities that strengthen the EMS workforce and improve patient care. Our responsibility is to listen, identify common needs, coordinate regional resources, foster partnerships, and support educational opportunities that address identified needs, reinforce best practices, and promote continuous improvement throughout the region.

Our Guiding Principles

Listen - Identify regional educational needs through collaboration with EMS agencies, hospitals, educators, medical directors, and other stakeholders.

Collaborate - Bring together regional partners to exchange ideas, share expertise, and strengthen EMS education throughout the ODEMSA region.

Coordinate - Connect educational resources, instructors, subject matter experts, and training opportunities to support regional educational priorities whenever practical.

Advance - Advance evidence-informed education, professional development, and educational initiatives that strengthen provider performance and improve patient care.

Advise - Provide informed recommendations to ODEMSA regarding regional educational priorities, emerging trends, and opportunities for collaboration.

Working Together

The Training & Education Committee recognizes that meaningful EMS education is strengthened through collaboration across the EMS system. By working closely with EMS agencies, hospitals, educators, medical directors, regional performance improvement initiatives, and other ODEMSA committees, the committee seeks to identify educational opportunities that address regional needs, support continuous improvement, and ultimately enhance the quality of patient care throughout the ODEMSA region.