

TIDEWATER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.

**Board of Directors**

**MINUTES, September 14, 2023**

Directors Present

Lewis H. Siegel, VaCEP, President  
Jim Redick, At-Large, Vice-President  
Amy Ward, Portsmouth, Treasurer  
David Long, Executive Director, Secretary  
John W. McNulty, III, Chesapeake  
James Reynolds, Chesapeake  
Greg Parsons, Isle of Wight  
John DiBacco, Norfolk  
Robert G. Burton, Norfolk  
Greg DeYoung, Northampton  
Keith Johnson, Suffolk  
Daniel A. Norville, Virginia Beach  
Jim Wood, Virginia Beach  
Stewart W. Martin, MD, Virginia Beach  
Jason Stroud, Virginia Beach

Joe Lang, MD, EVMS  
Megan Jagers, Tidewater ENA  
Michael Carter, Special Operations  
Sonia Cooper, VHHA

Directors Virtual

Vernie Francis, Franklin  
Chris Vernovai, Office of EMS

Directors Absent

Charles Ray Pruitt, Accomack Co  
Darren Padilla, Chesapeake  
Michael T. Brooks, Norfolk  
Clayton Gaskins, Southampton Co  
Christopher I. Jacobs, JD, Virginia Beach  
Traci Richards, Behavior/Mental Health

1. Opening – Dr. Siegel called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Directors and guests introduced themselves. A **motion** was made (Jim Wood), seconded (John McNulty) the motion passed to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes of 06-08-2023.
2. Treasurer's Report – Ms. Ward and Mr. Long provided an overview of financial statements and
  - A. Audit and Finance Committee report (Financial Reports posted with online agenda) – due to OEMS budgetary issues, Ms. Ward provided deferred review financial statements and investment accounts. TEMS investments continue to be impacted by a volatile economy.
  - B. Mr. Long reported that the FY23 audit was wrapping up and that no significant findings have been reported. The Audit and Finance Committee will review the FY23 audit findings prior to the December Board meeting and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. The FY23 audit will be presented by Zukerman & Associates during the December Board meeting followed by a vote and approval to accept.
3. Other Committee Reports
  - A. Governor's Advisory Board (*August 4-5, 2023*) - Mr. Reynolds reported that ambulance off-load times at hospitals are being reviewed in the state. Along with the discussion on off-load times, 25% of agencies in the state request mutual aid on a daily basis. On September 19th, staff from the Virginia Office of EMS will be touring Tidewater; specifically, members of the Financial Aid Review Committee (FARC) will be up on the Eastern Shore to conduct site visits in Northampton County, Accomack County, and Chincoteague. Virginia Office of EMS is working on increasing Four-For-Life funds; there has not been an increase in nearly 20 years. And finally, OEMS Regulatory and Compliance Division is working on revising Chapter 31 regulations; Chapter 32 has been presented and no goes through the process of public comment and VDH reviews before approval. It is anticipated approval will be around the June 2024 timeframe.
  - B. Executive Committee – TEMS Fiscal Management – Investments (*proposal*): Dr. Siegel reported that the Executive Committee is recommending to move the investments in T. Rowe Price to Raymond James to allow a broker to manage TEMS funds in accordance with TEMS Fiscal Management Policy. As a committee recommendation, this item does not need a motion and second. There was discussion regarding the impacts of consolidating TEMS investments to include concerns regarding cash flow and liquidity especially in light of OEMS budgetary issues. The Board president called for a vote and the recommendation to consolidate investment was **approved**.

4. Consent Agenda – Dr. Siegel asked if any director would like to remove any item from the consent agenda for separate discussion and vote. There were no requests, and a **motion** was made (Jim Wood), seconded (Jim Redick) and passed to approve the items on the consent agenda as presented below:
  - A. Approve OEMS Disclosure Roster, TEMS Organizational Structure 09-2023 and TEMS Staff Assignments and Reporting 09-2023
  - B. Acknowledge approval of EMS/Trauma PI Plan and agency template (no change from March 2021)
  - C. Approve CISM policies rev 2015-09-10 (no change)
  - D. Approve the TEMS Staff Handbook (no change from June 2022)
5. Other Unfinished and New Business
  - A. HRMMRS SHSP and UASI Grants Project Proposals - \$133,250; \$744,625 – Total \$877,875: Mr. Long reported that HRMMRS have submitted two State Homeland Security Project grants and three Urban Area Securities Initiatives grants. The SHSP grants have been reviewed by VDEM and as a competitive grant, will be ranked according to cost/benefit. The UASI grants were approved by the Hampton Roads All-Hazards Advisory Committee (AHAC) and have been submitted to VDEM/FEMA for review. Given economic impact, grant dollars are not stretching as far and the competition for grant dollars is increasing. Grant funds are not a source of sustaining operations.
  - B. FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Grant Total Reimbursement - \$180,252.18 (\$2,764.33): Mr. Long reported that associated grant paperwork provided by VDEM has been signed and returned. TEMS/HRMMRS has been reimbursed **\$180,252.18** for COVID related expenses through May 2023; TEMS should be eligible for another \$2,764.33 (*since the Board meeting, TEMS/HRMMRS has received this money*).
  - C. OEMS update – Budget shortfall impacts; Mr. Long reported that while attending the Regional Directors meeting on August 2 and subsequently the Governor’s Advisory Board meetings on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, it was revealed that there was a budget discrepancy within OEMS and that the discrepancy was now being investigated by VDH’s Office of Internal Audit. To date, TEMS has not been paid for FY23 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, FY23 budget modification for TEMS Expo, and FY23 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Additionally, TEMS has learned that most localities have not received their “Return to Localities” money and similarly, RSAF grant recipients from the Spring FY23 grant period have not received their matching funds. Mr. Long also reported that the annual VA EMS Symposium has been canceled as a result of the budget deficit. Moving forward, Gary Brown, Director of OEMS, assured the regional council directors that no one would lose their job and that money “owed” will be paid. Further, he advised that FY24 contract will be flat meaning that there will be no contract modifications and previous assurances to reimburse accounting and auditing costs is no longer possible. That represents a \$40K budgeted shortfall. There was discussion regarding the loss of training provided by the VA EMS Symposium and what opportunities there are to ensure training needs are met to support recertification. While not every regional EMS council offers CEU training, every council does have affiliations with hospitals and community colleges that help to provide CEU training. TEMS provides the Quarterly Training Education Experience (QTEE) and the annual Tidewater Healthcare Expo.
  - D. TEMS update – Whole Blood Update: Mr. Long provided an update on the TEMS Whole Blood Initiative; specifically, that 43 units of blood have been transfused, 29 of 43 patients (67%) have survived to discharge, that majority of cases are penetrating trauma (GSW) to male patients. Ms. Ward confirmed that Portsmouth Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services,

has secured grant funding to place whole blood in the City Portsmouth. And finally, beginning October 1, 2023, the whole blood initiative will expand to include pediatric patients (aged 5-13) and medical etiology patients.

E. Other

6. Governance – Mr. Reynolds

A. Board of Directors – City of Virginia Beach appointed Jason Stroud, Virginia Beach Department of EMS, to the TEMS Board of Directors for remainder of current term. A **motion** was made (Stewart Martin), seconded (Joe Lang) and the motion passed to approve Jason Stroud’s appointment.

B. Board vacancy – Allied Health representative: Mr. Reynolds commented that the Governance committee will be working with the Eastern Virginia Healthcare Coalition to fill the vacancy.

C. Board of Directors Orientation: Mr. Reynolds reported that previous discussions regarding a Board retreat in light of budgetary issues at OEMS would not be fiscally responsible. He recommended that we consider conducting Board orientation for all board members by breaking down the orientation into “sessions” that can be delivered over a series of board meetings.

7. Announcements – other dates, news and training on [www.tidewaterems.org](http://www.tidewaterems.org)

8. Adjournment – With no additional business, Dr. Siegel adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 14, 2023.

- Sign up for email Response news [www.tidewaterems.org/listserv](http://www.tidewaterems.org/listserv)

Minutes prepared by David Long