

Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 5, 2025

Location: Waterbury State Office Complex, Waterbury (VT), & Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called to Order: 10:02 AM by Drew Hazelton

Rollcall – Committee Members

Representative	Attendance	Representative	Attendance
District 1		District 2	
Kathy Jochim		Adam Heuslein	Present
		Samantha Atwood	
District 3		District 4	
Leslie Lindquist	Present	Scott Brinkman	
Becky Alemy		Jeff Johansen	Present
District 5		District 6	
		Joe Aldsworth	Present
		David Danforth	Present
District 7		District 8	
Charlene Phelps		Matt Parrish	Present
Kate Rothwell	Present	Charles Piso	Present
District 9		District 10	
Alan Beebe		Michael Tarbell	Present
District 11		District 12	
		Bill Camarda	
		Bobby Maynard	Present
District 13		VAA	
Eric Wilson	Present	Drew Hazelton	Present
IREMS		PFFV	
Pat Malone	Present	Mark Hachey	Present
Chris LaMonda		Billy Fritz	
VCFC		VSFA	
Aaron Collette			
Michael Randzio	Present		
VAHHS		VLCT	
		Lee Krohn	Present
VDH			
Will Moran	Present		
Chelsea Dubie	Present		

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Non-members in attendance: Courtney Newman, Dan Wolfson, Connor Dunn, Ray Walker, Olivia Coe, Donna Jacob, Barb Neal, Julia Sugg

Update – Public Safety Communications Task Force

Barb Neal, executive director of E911, and co-chair of the task force, presented. The task force was established under Act 78 (2023) to plan and implement a reliable, interoperable statewide public safety communications system. Seven members are divided into working groups: technology, policy/operations, governance, funding, facilities, regionalization, and cost-sharing.

Preliminary recommendations include statewide CAD (CAD-to-CAD) system integrated with 911 data; RFP to be developed for the statewide CAD system including: statistics/reporting tools, CAD-RMS integration, recorder standards, fire station alerting, GIS integration, and a cybersecurity framework. Additionally, Rapid SOS platform expansion (31 licenses available for non-PSAP dispatch centers), a governance model and preference for an independent board operating parallel to the 911 Board; includes state officials, municipal reps, and emergency services associations. \$11 million originally appropriated, \$1 million spent, \$570k currently authorized. Preliminary cost for proposed new governance board \approx \$570 k per year.

EMSAC Committee Discussion Highlights:

- Task Force legislative report expected January 2026.
- Clarification that only two full-time state employees (Neal and Deputy Commissioner Batsie) staff the task force.
- Questions on EMS data integration, interoperability with ImageTrend (EPCR), and statewide resource visibility within CAD.
- Concern about financial impacts and need for state support for CAD licensing.
- Recommendation to include EMS (SIREN) integration with CAD systems in future RFPs.
- Discussion on statewide electronic medical dispatch and transition from paper APCO guidelines.
- Neal committed to relaying EMSAC feedback to the Task Force.

Committee confirmed intent to coordinate its December 2026 EMS system report with the Task Force's work to ensure alignment on CAD integration, data sharing, and governance recommendations.

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

The minutes from October 15, 2025, were previously distributed to the committee.

- Motion to approve the October 15th and meeting minutes by Marc Hachey, and seconded by Joe Aldsworth.
- No discussion; motion carried unanimously.

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Interfacility Transfer (IFT) Coordination & Blueprint for Health (AHS)

Continued discussions led by the Blueprint for Health team addressing hospital-to-hospital transfers. Main issues are: limited bed availability, long transport times, inadequate communication between hospitals and EMS, uncompensated non-medical necessity transfers. Identified need for a statewide hospital bed-availability dashboard and stronger coordination to keep patients closer to home. Blueprint meetings held at Gifford and NVRH; future sessions planned for Brattleboro and Bennington. Plan to invite Blueprint team to present findings at a December or January EMSAC meeting.

Draft EMS System Report

Follows legislative format with an executive summary, system overview, data findings, and preliminary recommendations.

- Major sections include:
 1. Definition and scope of EMS in Vermont
 2. Governance and structure
 3. Data sources and limitations
 4. Statewide service metrics and financial assessment
 5. Interfacility transfers
 6. Dispatch and data infrastructure
 7. Workforce and training challenges
 8. Clinical benchmarks (hypoglycemia, stroke assessment, GCS documentation, lights and sirens use)
 9. System strengths, weaknesses, and future challenges
 10. Recommendations (for legislative consideration) — in progress.

Members can submit input via an online form; submissions route directly to Julia for incorporation. The draft will be distributed to all members, and everyone is encouraged to review past minutes, consulting reports, and 2023 EMS study before submitting comments. Deadline for feedback: November 19, 2025 (next meeting); the final draft vote planned for December 2025 meeting.

Data Validation and Reporting Discussion

Concern about non-mandatory fields in SIREN (e.g., lights and sirens use) affecting data accuracy. Discussion of making key fields mandatory and forming a data validation subgroup. Chelsea Dubie (VDH) explained the balance between required fields and reporting burden; changes require careful implementation. Connor Dunn noted technical complexities with state and national validation standards. Consensus that better education and communication about “why data matters” are essential before mandating new fields. Agreement on establishing an EMS data technical advisory group (TAG).

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Committee Schedule

- November 19 – Williston Fire Department, 645 Talcott Road, Williston, VT 05495
 - 1 PM to 3 PM
- December 3 – Alumni Hall, Washington Room, 20 Auditorium Hill, Barre, VT 05641
 - 10 to 3 PM
- December 10 – Details to follow

The next EMS Conference is scheduled for March 6-8th. Pat Malone has been in communication with the event planner to host an EMSAC meeting on Friday March 7th. Additionally, there was discussion and agreement to hold a panel discussion for conference attendees on the work of the committee. Pat Malone will coordinate with the event planner; details to follow.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM