

Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 1, 2026

Time: 1402 hrs – 1530 hrs

Location: Waterbury Ambulance Service, Waterbury, VT

Chair Drew Hazleton called the meeting to order at **1402 hrs**.

Roll Call

Member	Status	Member	Status
District 1	Present	District 12	Present
District 2	Present	District 13	Present
District 3	Present	VAA	Present
District 4	Absent	IREMS	Present
District 5	Absent	PFFV	Present
District 6	Present	VCFC	Present
District 7	Present	VSFA	Present
District 8	Present	VAS	Absent
District 9	Absent	VLCT	Absent
District 10	Present	VDH	Present
District 11	Absent		

Also Present: Various members of the public.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Committee considered the June 17, 2026 EMSAC meeting minutes.

Motion: David Danforth

Second: Richard Bowman

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Project Manager/ Leadership Report

Drew Hazelton reminded members that all workgroups must complete and present their remaining consent items no later than the August 19, 2026 EMSAC meeting in order to be included in the Committee's final report. Members discussed the remaining work required within each workgroup and the importance of scheduling additional meetings where necessary to complete recommendations within the established timeline.

Mr. Boucher also reviewed planning for the July 28 EMSAC Cross-Workgroup Data Workshop. Workgroups were asked to identify representatives and submit data requests in advance so that a detailed agenda could be developed. Discussion focused on ensuring future statewide data systems are capable of supporting operational planning, workforce analysis, asset tracking, geographic coverage, and other recommendations under development by the Committee. Members also discussed opportunities to improve future data collection through EMS licensing, equipment inventories, and agency reporting processes.

OEMS Report

Representatives from the Office of EMS reported there were no major program updates requiring Committee action. Discussion included the ongoing agency licensing renewal process, future opportunities for collecting additional workforce and equipment data, expected implementation of the Siren reporting platform, anticipated Schematron updates for third-party vendors, and processes for communicating with EMS Office staff regarding operational questions.

Workgroup Reports

Governance

The Governance Workgroup reported continued development of recommendations addressing regional EMS consortiums, municipal financial responsibilities associated with Vermont's Essential Emergency Medical Services legislation, and statewide response coverage expectations. Members continue to refine recommendations regarding agency performance standards and regional collaboration models for presentation at future EMSAC meetings.

Operations

The Operations Workgroup reported no significant updates since the previous EMSAC meeting.

Healthcare Integration

The Healthcare Integration Workgroup reported that a scheduled meeting was cancelled due to insufficient attendance and therefore had no new recommendations to present.

Education & Workforce Development

The Education & Workforce Development Workgroup reported completion of several recommendations that were scheduled for Committee consideration during the meeting.

Medical Direction

The Medical Direction Workgroup reported no additional meetings had been held since the previous EMSAC meeting.

Finance

The Finance Workgroup reported no additional updates since the previous EMSAC meeting and noted that fiscal analysis of consent items will continue as additional recommendations are approved by EMSAC.

Consent Agenda

CI-EWD-010 Workforce Funding

The Committee reviewed a recommendation to formally recognize Emergency Medical Services as a distinct component of Vermont's healthcare workforce and ensure EMS is explicitly included in statewide workforce planning, policy development, and funding initiatives. Discussion focused on the importance of recognizing EMS independently within healthcare workforce programs to improve access to recruitment, retention, education, and professional development resources. Members agreed that the recommendation established a strategic policy direction while not creating new appropriations or mandating specific funding levels. Following discussion, the Committee approved the recommendation.

Motion: Pat Malone

Second: David Danforth

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

CI-EWD-011 Paramedic Education Degree Requirement

The Committee reviewed a recommendation establishing an associate degree as the minimum educational requirement for newly licensed paramedics as part of the continued professionalization of Vermont's EMS workforce. Discussion centered on balancing long-term advancement of the profession with the immediate workforce challenges facing EMS agencies throughout Vermont.

Members supporting the recommendation emphasized that most healthcare professions require a post-secondary degree and argued that establishing an educational standard would improve professional recognition, create future advancement opportunities, and better position EMS within the broader healthcare system. Discussion also noted the lengthy implementation timeline, flexibility in educational pathways, and the recommendation's intent to apply only to newly licensed paramedics while protecting currently licensed providers.

Several members expressed concern that the proposal could further restrict an already limited paramedic workforce, particularly in rural communities. Questions were raised regarding educational accessibility, employer costs, reciprocity for out-of-state paramedics, the proposed temporary waiver authority, potential legal considerations, and whether additional workforce impact analysis should precede implementation. Members also discussed examples from other states, opportunities for financial assistance through degree-granting institutions, and whether additional legislative funding should accompany any future educational requirement. Following discussion, the Committee voted not to approve the recommendation.

Motion: Pat Malone

Second: Bill Camarda

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Yes	District 12	Yes
District 2	No	District 13	Abstain
District 3	No	VAA	Yes
District 4	Absent	IREMS	Yes
District 5	Absent	PFFV	No
District 6	Abstain	VCFC	No
District 7	No	VSFA	No
District 8	Yes	VAS	Absent
District 9	Absent	VLCT	Absent
District 10	No	VDH	Abstain

District 11

Absent**Yes: 5 No: 7 Abstentions: 3 Absent: 6. Motion failed.****CI-EWD-012 Paramedic Practitioner**

The Committee reviewed a recommendation directing development of a legislative framework for creation of a future paramedic practitioner licensure pathway as an advanced practice healthcare profession within Vermont. Discussion focused on the long-term evolution of EMS, expanding access to healthcare services in rural communities, and supporting future mobile integrated healthcare initiatives through an advanced paramedic role modeled after other advanced practice providers.

Members discussed the proposed educational pathway, legislative timeline, reimbursement considerations, and the relationship between enabling legislation, academic program development, and future regulatory processes. Discussion noted that comparable professions, including nurse practitioners and physician assistants, were established through enabling legislation before educational programs were developed. Members also discussed the need for future collaboration with educational institutions, healthcare transformation initiatives, state regulators, and payers to evaluate reimbursement mechanisms and implementation strategies.

Several members expressed support for the recommendation as an important long-term vision for advancing the EMS profession while recognizing that substantial legislative, financial, educational, and regulatory work would still be required before such a profession could become operational. Other members emphasized the importance of further financial analysis and stakeholder engagement before implementation. The Committee generally agreed that the recommendation established a strategic framework for future exploration rather than immediately creating a new healthcare profession. Following discussion, the Committee approved the recommendation.

Motion: Bill Camarda**Second: Matt Parrish**

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Yes	District 12	Yes
District 2	Yes	District 13	Yes

District 3	No	VAA	Yes
District 4	Absent	IREMS	Absent
District 5	Absent	PFFV	No
District 6	Yes	VCFC	No
District 7	Absent	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAS	Absent
District 9	Absent	VLCT	Absent
District 10	Yes	VDH	Abstain
District 11	Absent		

Yes: 9 No: 3 Abstentions: 1 Absent: 8. Motion carried.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Announcements

The Committee reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule. Medical Direction and Finance Workgroups will meet the following week. Healthcare Integration and Education & Workforce Development Workgroups will meet on July 15 prior to the next EMSAC meeting. Members were reminded that workgroups must submit all data requests for the July 28 Cross-Workgroup Data Workshop no later than the following week to allow development of a detailed meeting agenda. Members were also reminded that standing meeting invitations and project documents remain available through the EMSAC shared resources.

Adjournment

Motion: David Danforth

Second: Matt Parrish

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at **1530 hours**.