

Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 19, 2026

Time: 1400 hrs – 1559 hrs

Location: Vermont EMS Academy (VEMSA), Newfane, VT & Microsoft Teams

Meeting Called to Order: Chair Drew Hazelton called the meeting to order at 1400 hrs.

Roll Call

Member	Status	Member	Status
District 1	Absent	District 12	Absent
District 2	Absent	District 13	Present
District 3	Present	VAA	Present
District 4	Present	IREMS	Present
District 5	Present	PFFV	Absent
District 6	Present	VCFC	Present
District 7	Present	VSFA	Present

District 8	Present	VAHHS	Present
District 9	Present	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 previous EMSAC meeting minutes.

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Richard Bowman
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Leadership/Project Manager Report

The Project Manager report was presented, noting that August 19th represents the final deadline for workgroup consent items. All workgroups except Finance conclude their primary work as of today's meeting. The Committee will take a week off from meetings before transitioning in September to consolidating recommendations, placing items on a 5-year strategic timeline, and prioritizing recommendations based on fiscal analysis prior to submission of the final report.

OEMS Report

Commissioner Hildebrant provided departmental updates on behalf of the Vermont Department of Health / Office of EMS:

- **Hiring:** A finalist for the State EMS Director position has been selected and is undergoing HR processing. Jack Foster has been hired as the MIH Quality Improvement Specialist. Interviews continue for additional open staff positions.
- **MIH Program:** Over a dozen bids were received for the MIH RFP and are undergoing review. Letters of Intent (LOIs) from EMS agencies seeking to implement MIH programs are actively being reviewed under tight timelines.
- **Operations & Licensing:** The new statewide run form went live on August 3rd. Ambulance inspections continue through the fall. Service license renewal submissions for district board review are due September 1st.

Workgroup Reports

Workgroup representatives noted that all have completed their consent item deliverables. The Finance Workgroup will continue meeting through August and early September to finalize cost assignments, funding sources, and budget categorizations for all approved recommendations.

Consent Items for Agenda

CI-OPS-010 – EMS Provider Safety and Liability Protection

The Committee reviewed a recommendation establishing comprehensive statutory liability protections for EMS personnel and agencies when delaying, declining, or terminating entry into potentially dangerous scenes, alongside statutorily mandated law enforcement dispatch response.

Discussion focused on scene safety risks (behavioral health crises, domestic violence, unknown conditions), inter-agency coordination, and statutory immunity alignments. Representatives from the Department of Health noted support for the core concept of provider safety while citing inter-agency policy considerations for their vote.

- **Motion:** **Transcript unable to capture member making motion*
- **Second:** **Transcript unable to capture member making second*

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Absent	District 12	Yes
District 2	Absent	District 13	Yes
District 3	Yes	VAA	Yes
District 4	Yes	IREMS	Yes

District 5	Yes	PFFV	Absent
District 6	Yes	VCFC	Yes
District 7	Yes	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAHHS	Yes
District 9	Yes	VLCT	Absent
District 10	Yes	VDH	No
District 11	Absent		

Yes: 15 | No: 1 | Abstentions: 0 | Absent: 5

Motion carried.

CI-GOV-011 – Creation of Service Coverage Standards

The Committee reviewed a recommendation directing the Vermont Board of EMS to formulate and submit enforceable service area coverage standards to the Division of EMS prior to the conclusion of Year 1 of the strategic plan, ensuring public transparency regarding licensed levels of care versus operational availability.

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Richard Bowman
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CI-GOV-012 – Definitions 2

The Committee considered standardized definitions for "physician-led" and "systems of care" to establish uniform system terminology across advisory committee work products and administrative rules.

Discussion addressed whether the definition of "physician-led" appropriately reflected state-level medical direction council structures versus service-level clinical direction.

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Michael Tarbell

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

District 11	Absent		
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Yes: 8 | No: 9 | Abstentions: 1 | Absent: 3

Motion failed.

CI-GOV-013 – Paramedic Degree Requirement Impact Study

The Committee reviewed a recommendation directing the Board of EMS Education & Workforce Development Subcommittee to conduct a comprehensive impact study evaluating the financial, operational, recruitment, and retention effects of potential academic degree requirements for paramedic licensure in Vermont.

Discussion centered on whether existing national academic literature sufficiently answered these questions or whether Vermont-specific workforce demographic data was necessary.

- **Motion:** Bill Camarda
- **Second:** David Danforth

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	No	District 12	Yes
District 2	No	District 13	Yes
District 3	No	VAA	Yes
District 4	No	IREMS	Yes
District 5	No	PFFV	No
District 6	Yes	VCFC	No

District 7	No	VSFA	Yes
District 8	No	VAHHS	Abstain
District 9	No	VLCT	Absent
District 10	No	VDH	Abstain
District 11	Absent		

Yes: 6 | No: 11 | Abstentions: 2 | Absent: 2

Motion failed.

CI-GOV-014 – Priority Dispatching and Response Resources

The Committee reviewed a recommendation establishing statewide Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) priority dispatching standards (e.g., MPDS determinants) integrated into the statewide interoperability CAD and communications task force to guide clinical resource allocation and response modes.

Discussion highlighted improved patient and responder safety resulting from structured priority dispatching protocols.

- **Motion:** Aaron Collette
- **Second:** David Danforth
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CI-EWD-015 – Public EMS Dashboard – Education & Workforce Metrics

The Committee reviewed a recommendation directing the Division of EMS to incorporate de-identified, aggregated workforce demographic, educational, experience tier, and retention metrics into the public-facing EMS health dashboard on the Department of Health website.

- **Motion:** Bill Camarda
- **Second:** David Danforth
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CI-EWD-016 – EMS Workforce Recruitment Strategy and Department of Labor Partnership

The Committee reviewed a recommendation establishing a formal inter-agency partnership between the Board of EMS and the Vermont Department of Labor, designating dedicated recruitment liaisons, developing agency toolkits, and creating a centralized EMS career portal on the Department of Health website.

- **Motion:** Michael Tarbell
- **Second:** Bill Camarda
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

CI-EWD-017 – Restructuring the Vermont Division of EMS Education Roles

The Committee reviewed a recommendation formally dividing state-level EMS education functions within the Division of EMS into two distinct permanent roles: a Technical Education Specialist (educational support/curriculum guidance) and an Administrative Compliance position (regulatory enforcement/auditing/licensure tracking).

Department of Health representatives noted operational concerns regarding master's degree qualification requirements and state budget constraints.

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Michael Tarbell

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Yes	District 12	Yes
District 2	Yes	District 13	Yes
District 3	Yes	VAA	Yes
District 4	Yes	IREMS	Yes
District 5	Yes	PFFV	Yes

District 6	Yes	VCFC	Yes
District 7	Yes	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAHHS	Yes
District 9	Yes	VLCT	Absent
District 10	Yes	VDH	No
District 11	Absent		

Yes: 18 | No: 1 | Abstentions: 0 | Absent: 2

Motion carried.

CI-MED-003 – Service Level Medical Direction (Rev. C)

The Committee reconsidered a recommendation requiring all licensed EMS agencies to maintain physician or Advanced Practice Provider (APP) service-level medical direction appropriate to agency size and license level, implemented no later than Year 2 of the strategic plan.

Discussion addressed APP oversight eligibility, critical care agency physician requirements, operational agreements for non-transporting agencies, and physician availability across rural regions.

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Michael Tarbell

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Yes	District 12	Yes
District 2	Yes	District 13	Yes
District 3	No	VAA	Yes
District 4	Yes	IREMS	Yes
District 5	No	PFFV	No
District 6	Yes	VCFC	No
District 7	Yes	VSFA	Yes
District 8	No	VAHHS	No
District 9	No	VLCT	Absent
District 10	Yes	VDH	No
District 11	Absent		

Yes: 11 | No: 8 | Abstentions: 0 | Absent: 2

Motion carried.

CI-MED-004 – Modernizing EMS Medical Direction and Control

The Committee reviewed a recommendation establishing a two-tiered medical direction framework (State Medical Direction and Service Level Medical Direction) to replace the statutory District Medical Advisor (DMA) structure by Year 3 of the strategic plan.

The recommendation establishes a seven-physician State Medical Direction Council representing key clinical specialties (EMS, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, Mental Health, Critical Care, Primary Care, Trauma) to oversee protocols, quality improvement, and clinical governance.

Discussion centered on health system integration, rotating council terms, decentralized medical control, and alignment with statutory district changes.

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Michael Tarbell

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Yes	District 12	Yes
District 2	Yes	District 13	Yes
District 3	No	VAA	Yes
District 4	Yes	IREMS	Yes
District 5	No	PFFV	No
District 6	Yes	VCFC	No

District 7	Yes	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAHHS	No
District 9	No	VLCT	Absent
District 10	Yes	VDH	No
District 11	Absent		

Yes: 12 | No: 7 | Abstentions: 0 | Absent: 2

Motion carried.

Approval of Project Management Expenditures

The Committee reviewed project management invoices submitted since the previous authorization, totaling \$17,919.96 across six invoices.

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Marc Hachey
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Open Discussion / Public Comment

Members expressed appreciation for the committee's extensive efforts over the preceding eight months in completing all consent items. Committee leadership reminded members that dissenting opinions regarding any consent items must be submitted within seven days for inclusion in the final technical report.

Adjournment

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Marc Hachey
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1559 hours.