

**Vermont Emergency Medical Services  
Education Council & Advisory Committee**

**EMS Advisory Committee**

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**Location:** Middlebury Regional EMS, Middlebury (VT), & Microsoft Teams

**Meeting Called to Order:** 1:03 PM by Drew Hazelton

**Rollcall**

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

**Non-members in attendance:** Dan Wolfson, Courtney Newman, Donna Jacob, Ray Walker, Connor Dunn, Chelsea Dubie

# **Vermont Emergency Medical Services Education Council & Advisory Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes Review & Approval**

The minutes from February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting were previously distributed to the committee:

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; however a procedural question was raised regarding eligibility to make the motion based on attendance at the prior meeting. Following clarification, the motion proceeded.
- Motion to approve the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes by Charles Piso and seconded by Will Elwell
- No discussion
- Motion carried unanimously

## **Working Group Survey**

The Chair provided an update on the formation of work groups. Members were informed that a survey had been distributed to identify interests and preferences, with responses still being collected. Work groups will be limited to seven members each to balance workload and participation. Both primary members and alternates may serve on work groups unless otherwise determined.

It was clarified that work groups will be composed of committee members, though non-committee subject matter experts may be consulted at the discretion of each group. Members were encouraged to complete the survey by the end of the day to allow assignments to be finalized and distributed promptly.

## **Working Group Scheduling**

The Chair reported that staff recommend maintaining a consistent Wednesday meeting schedule for work groups, either alternating with or adjacent to full committee meetings. This consistency is intended to support project management, coordination with anticipated technical support staff, and timely completion of deliverables. While recognizing that some work may require additional meetings, consistency was emphasized as a guiding principle.

## **EMS System Governance – Background and Discussion**

The Committee began substantive discussion on EMS system governance, identified as the initial priority work group topic due to its foundational impact on all other components of the statewide EMS plan.

Staff reported on background research into statewide EMS plans, noting that 19 states currently maintain such plans. Plans from Maine and California were highlighted as strong reference models. The Committee's approach will focus on developing a standardized plan template, which will then be populated through committee and work group deliberations.

## **Overview of Current Governance Structure**

A historical overview of Vermont's EMS governance structure was presented. The presentation reviewed the original intent of EMS governance nationally and in Vermont as a partnership between state government and regional districts. Districts were described as quasi-governmental entities with statutory authority to administer EMS functions regionally, while the state EMS office serves as the primary regulatory authority.

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It was noted that although districts possess statutory authority to collect funds, employ staff, and conduct business, this authority has rarely been exercised, resulting in uneven capacity and effectiveness statewide. Areas of clarity, such as district authority over district medical advisors, were contrasted with areas of ambiguity, including service licensing, enforcement, and accountability.

### **Review of Prior Governance Work**

Members reviewed governance work conducted during the previous year, including facilitated exercises identifying which EMS functions should occur at local, regional, or state levels. It was acknowledged that prior efforts stalled due to the complexity and sensitivity of governance issues, as well as competing assessment timelines.

Members of the prior governance subgroup summarized their work, which included development of a detailed draft governance model emphasizing equity, regional balance, and shared authority between regional entities and the state EMS Office. The model proposed consolidating districts into a smaller number of regions to improve administrative capacity, representation, and consistency, while preserving appropriate escalation pathways for licensure and enforcement.

The Committee discussed unresolved governance challenges, including:

- Lack of minimum EMS system standards in statute
- Absence of clear performance metrics for response reliability and service availability
- Limited enforcement tools available to the state EMS Office
- Risks associated with suspending or revoking licenses without contingency service plans
- Challenges faced by small, rural, and volunteer-based services
- Need for improved transparency and early notification when services are unavailable

Members emphasized the need to balance public safety, equity, feasibility, and sustainability in any future governance model.

### **Medical Direction**

The Committee identified hospital-based medical direction as a relative strength of the current system. Members expressed general agreement that governance reforms should preserve and strengthen clinical medical oversight, while considering separation of administrative and operational governance from clinical medical direction.

The Committee agreed that EMS system governance will remain the cornerstone issue for the statewide EMS plan. Work group assignments will be finalized following survey completion, and governance discussions will continue within the work group framework, informed by full committee input and stakeholder engagement.

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## **Committee Schedule**

- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Vermont EMS Conference, University of Vermont, Dudley H. Davis Center, Burlington, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - 1:30 to 2 PM Education Council
  - 2 to 4 PM Advisory Committee
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Waterbury State Office Complex, Ash Conference Room, Waterbury, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - 1:00 to 3:00 PM
- April 1<sup>st</sup> – Waterbury State Office Complex, Waterbury, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - Time TBD
- April 15<sup>th</sup> - Morriston Ambulance Service, Morristown, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - Time TBD
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Waterbury State Office Complex, Waterbury, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - Time TBD
- May 20<sup>th</sup> – Bennington Rescue Squad, Bennington, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - Time TBD
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Waterbury State Office Complex, Waterbury, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - Time TBD
- June 17<sup>th</sup> – Newport Ambulance Service, Newport VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - Time TBD
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – Waterbury State Office Complex, Waterbury, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - Time TBD
- July 15<sup>th</sup> – Fairfax Rescue, Fairfax, VT
  - Virtual Option (Yes)
  - Time TBD

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM