

Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 2, 2026

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

Meeting Called to Order: 1400hrs by Drew Hazelton

Roll Call

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

District 8	Present	VAHHS	Present
District 9	Present	VLCT	Present
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 from August 19, 2026.

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Lee Krohn
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

Project Manager Report

The Project Manager report was presented:

- All 48 workgroup consent items have been finalized by the Committee.
- Technical writer Julia Sugg is actively consolidating all approved elements into a unified draft of the final legislative report, targeted for full Committee review on or around October 1st.
- Today's session is dedicated to placing all approved recommendations onto a structured 5-year strategic timeline.

OEMS Report

Dr. Rick 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, with HR onboarding underway. Interviews for the State Training Assessor position have concluded, and an offer for the Field Resource Coordinator (FRC) position is expected shortly.
- **MIH Program:** Two contractors have been selected for MIH activities, with contract agreements currently in development. The Agency of Human Services (AHS) is actively reviewing Letters of Interest (LOIs) from EMS agencies submitting NOFO applications.

Finance Work Group Report

The Finance Work Group reported that general cost assumptions and financial impact models are nearing completion. A final report detailing cost estimates and budget recommendations will be presented for Committee review and vote at the next scheduled meeting.

5-Year Strategic Plan Timeline Implementation

(Note: The Committee noted for the record that timeline votes represent structural sequencing rather than re-endorsement of an item's underlying merits).

1. Locked Timeline Milestones Block

The Committee reviewed milestones with prescribed statutory dates or direct logical dependencies (including Year 1 Board of EMS creation, Year 1 District elimination, Year 1 two-tiered medical direction, Year 2 ALS accreditation, Year 2 Paramedic Practitioner statutory placeholder, and Year 3 IFT licensure).

- **Motion:** David Danforth
- **Second:** Lee Krohn

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Absent	District 12	Yes
District 2	Absent	District 13	Absent
District 3	Yes	VAA	Yes
District 4	Yes	IREMS	Yes
District 5	Absent	PFFV	Yes
District 6	Yes	VCFC	Yes

District 7	Yes	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAHHS	Abstain
District 9	Yes	VLCT	Yes
District 10	Yes	VDH	Abstain
District 11	Absent		

Yes: 14 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 2 | Absent: 5

Motion carried.

2. Year 1 Baseline Placements

The Committee considered baseline Year 1 items, including adoption of standardized definitions (education, healthcare integration, operations), requesting legislative recognition of EMS as a distinct workforce, and identifying statutory/rule adjustments to align state law with statewide protocols.

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

District 4	Yes	IREMS	Yes
District 5	Absent	PFFV	Yes
District 6	Yes	VCFC	Absent
District 7	Yes	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAHHS	Abstain
District 9	Yes	VLCT	Yes
District 10	Yes	VDH	Abstain
District 11	Absent		

Yes: 13 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 2 | Absent: 6

Motion carried.

3. Year 2 Baseline Placements (with Pulled Items)

The Committee reviewed suggested Year 2 baseline placements. *Continuing Education Endorsements* and the *Statewide EMS Operational Plan* were pulled for separate consideration.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Absent	District 12	Yes

District 2	Absent	District 13	Absent
District 3	Yes	VAA	Yes
District 4	Yes	IREMS	Yes
District 5	Absent	PFFV	Yes
District 6	Yes	VCFC	Absent
District 7	Yes	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAHHS	Yes
District 9	Yes	VLCT	Yes
District 10	Yes	VDH	Abstain
District 11	Yes		

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

Motion carried.

4. Year 3 Baseline Placements

The Committee reviewed Year 3 baseline items, including standardized initial education for Critical Care Transport, IFT tiered categorizations with ePCR metrics, trauma system registry/activities, and MCI task force structure.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Absent	District 12	Yes
District 2	Absent	District 13	Absent
District 3	Yes	VAA	Yes
District 4	Yes	IREMS	Yes
District 5	Absent	PFFV	Yes
District 6	Yes	VCFC	Absent
District 7	Absent	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAHHS	Absent
District 9	Yes	VLCT	Yes
District 10	Yes	VDH	Abstain
District 11	Yes		

Yes: 13 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 1 | Absent: 7

Motion carried.**5. Year 4 Baseline Placements**

The Committee reviewed Year 4 baseline items, including Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) adoption mandates, certified EMD dispatcher requirements, resource-mapping call determinant guidelines, PSAP resource request obligations, and central MCI coordination via Williston/Westminster PSAPs.

Member	Vote	Member	Vote
District 1	Absent	District 12	Yes
District 2	Absent	District 13	Absent
District 3	Yes	VAA	Yes
District 4	Yes	IREMS	Absent
District 5	Absent	PFFV	Yes
District 6	Yes	VCFC	Absent
District 7	Absent	VSFA	Yes
District 8	Yes	VAHHS	Yes
District 9	Yes	VLCT	Yes

District 10	Yes	VDH	Abstain
District 11	Yes		

Yes: 13 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 1 | Absent: 7

Motion carried.

6. Year 5 Baseline Placements

The Committee reviewed Year 5 baseline items, consisting of real-time system status management integration with CAD and the communications task force.

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

District 8	Yes	VAHHS	Yes
District 9	Yes	VLCT	Yes
District 10	Yes	VDH	Abstain
District 11	Yes		

Yes: 14 | No: 0 | Abstentions: 1 | Absent: 6

Motion carried.

7. Sequence & Float Task Placements (Organized by Strategic Year)

(Note: Voting for all sequence-dependent items and strategic float tasks was conducted live via an electronic voting platform with results displayed live to participants during the meeting).

Year 1 Strategic Placements

- **EMS Resource Tracking:** Agency capability self-reporting and creation of a static equipment/resource cache list for VDH (voted together).
- **MIH Education & Evaluation Packages:** Development of MIH education recommendations and completion/submission of MIH education and evaluation packages (voted together).
- **Department of Labor Partnership:** Formal DOL workforce development partnership and appointment of a dedicated liaison to the Education Subcommittee.
- **Data Access & Portals:** Direct Board administrative access to de-identified CAD/ePCR data, creation of a public-facing VDH health dashboard, and launch of a centralized career/education portal.
- **Nonprofit EMS Agency State Program Access:** Opt-in eligibility for state health insurance and retirement programs, along with access to state group purchasing contracts for fleet, equipment, and services.
- **Treat No Transport (TNT) Reimbursement:** Authorization for service-level TNT billing and establishment of sustainable reimbursement pathways across all insurance carriers.
- **Interfacility Transfer (IFT) Agreements:** Mandatory written transfer agreements between EMS agencies and hospital systems.
- **Continuity of Operations Task Force:** Voluntary program establishment and submission of a \$150,000 annual legislative funding request (\$5,000/day per ambulance).

- **Provider Safety & Co-Response Initiatives:** Implementation of statutory provider liability protections for declining entry to unsafe scenes, compulsory law enforcement response upon request, dispatch partner integration, and co-response policy development (voted together).

Year 2 Strategic Placements

- **Volunteer Education Incentives:** Availability of tuition credit exchanges for Vermont College System courses and transferability of credit vouchers to dependents (assigned to Year 2 following sequence votes).
- **MIH Agency Endorsements:** Mandatory requirement for agencies and providers delivering MIH services to hold an official MIH endorsement.
- **State Office of EMS Elevation:** Statutory elevation of the Office of EMS to Division status with expanded authority, personnel, and funding.
- **Educational Technology Standards:** Elevated requirements for modern learning tools (LMS, hybrid models, simulation/VR) at endorsed education entities.
- **Agency Training Officers:** Mandatory designation of a qualified Agency Training Officer for all transporting and non-transporting agencies.
- **Special Activities Regulation:** Expansion of Division regulatory oversight to prehospital special activities (e.g., ski patrol, event medicine).

Year 3 Strategic Placements

- **Continuing Education Endorsements:** Issuance of continuing education endorsements for internal agency training programs (*pulled from Year 2 baseline*).
- **Statewide EMS Operational Plan:** Development and adoption of a comprehensive master operational plan for state deployment and disaster response (*pulled from Year 2 baseline*).
- **Paramedic Practitioner Model:** Development of educational pathways, clinical partnerships, and operational frameworks for paramedic practitioners.
- **Instructor Coordinator (IC) Model Sunset:** Formal sunset of the traditional IC model in favor of endorsed education entities.
- **Division Education Staffing Roles:** Addition of a dedicated Technical Education Specialist position and conversion of the existing EMS role into a permanent Compliance Officer.
- **Special Activities Licensure:** Mandatory EMS agency and provider licensure for special activity services.
- **Consortium & Regionalization Grants:** Implementation of the two-phase grant framework to support regional resource-sharing consortiums.

Year 4 & Year 5 Placements

(All action items designated for Years 4 and 5 were considered and approved within the Year 4 and Year 5 Baseline Placement blocks, including MPDS adoption/EMD certification and central MCI coordination in Year 4, and real-time System Status Management integration in Year 5).

Adjournment

The next Committee meeting is scheduled in two weeks in Woodstock, VT, to review and vote on the Finance Work Group report.

- **Motion:** *Voice vote*
- **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at **1555 hours**.

DRAFT