Vermont Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 26, 2026
Time: 1802 hrs - 1947 hrs
Location: Vermont State University (VSU) Lyndon, VT & Google Meet

Meeting Opening:

Drew Hazelton called the meeting to order at 1802 hrs. Meeting facilitator John opened the public informational session.

Attendance & Roll Call

A roll call was conducted; however, a quorum of voting members was not present. Consequently, the session proceeded strictly as an informational town hall, with no formal committee business, motions, or official actions taken.

- **Presentation Team & Panel:** Drew Hazelton, Pat Malone, Billy Fritz, Charles Piso, and Project Manager Tyler Boucher.
- **Public Attendance:** Members of the public, regional EMS providers, mountain patrol directors, and health system representatives.

Presentation Overview: Approved Consent Items & 5-Year Timeline

The presentation team delivered a structured overview of specific consent items previously approved by the Committee, reviewing their policy intent and sequencing across the 5-year strategic plan:

- **Governance & System Design:** Dissolving the 13 EMS districts in favor of a single unified statewide EMS system; transitioning EMSAC into a Board of EMS; and elevating the Office of EMS to a full Division within VDH.
- **Medical Direction & Dispatch:** Establishing flexible service-level medical direction; authorizing Advanced Practice Providers (NPs/PAs) where appropriate; creating a State Medical Direction Council; codifying clinical protocol development; and requiring EMD

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certification and patient-acuity triage guidelines at PSAPs.

- **Education, Workforce & Safety:** Transitioning to institutional accreditation and agency endorsements for initial certification courses; establishing mandatory Agency Training Officers; requiring clinical/field internship hours; implementing volunteer tuition credit vouchers; offering state retirement and health benefit access for nonprofit EMS personnel; and creating a Paramedic Practitioner license.

- **Healthcare Integration & Operations:** Endorsing Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) as an official EMS domain; creating a statewide trauma system and registry; mandating state licenses and written hospital transfer agreements for IFT providers; creating a static statewide resource inventory; establishing an MCI task force; and supporting statewide CAD implementation.

- **Finance:** Outlining the documented $45M statewide system funding gap; mandating insurance reimbursement for Treat-No-Transport (TNT) calls; and establishing multi-phase regionalization grants.

Public Comment & Stakeholder Discussion

The panel addressed questions and comments from the public regarding the presented consent items:

- **Ski Patrol & Specialized Prehospital Care:** Discussed the scope of prehospital emergency care and the proposed threshold for operating under licensed EMS agencies. The panel clarified that the recommendation focuses on organized corporate response entities delivering care beyond basic first aid/CPR rather than independent wilderness guides, with implementation discussions projected for Year 2 and Year 3.

- **Clinical Placements & Education Capacity:** Addressed regional placement availability for EMS students. The presentation team explained that accredited educational entities and licensed agencies would have greater organizational capacity to secure placements and integrate high-fidelity simulation tools.

- **Medical Direction & Stakeholder Positions:** VDH representative Julie Arel noted that the Department of Health is conducting legal and technical reviews and holds concerns regarding governance and medical direction proposals. Dr. Kevin Argentieri inquired about formal letters from emergency medicine associations. The panel clarified that the draft legislative report itself remains an unfinished internal working document not under review at this session, but confirmed that all formal stakeholder correspondence and voting records will be published in the report's final appendices.

Meeting Conclusion

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The informational session concluded at 1947 hrs. The panel reminded attendees of upcoming town hall dates at UVM, VSU Randolph, and Okemo, as well as the online feedback portal.

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