

*Southwest Virginia EMS Council*



# **2010 Annual Report**

July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010

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## **Organizational Mission and Purpose:**

### **SCOPE OF REPORT**

This annual report provides operational and financial information concerning the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., for the time period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Information regarding staffing, committee, and Board membership is provided based on current membership on June 30, 2010. Board appointments are typically made in January of the fiscal year. After June 30, 2010, the Council relocated from our previous location at 1000 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA. The cover page lists our current address to insure accurate contact information is available for any questions or inquiries regarding this report. Financial data is taken from the annual audit conducted by Keen & Proffitt Company, P.C.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION**

To reduce death and disability resulting from sudden or serious injury and illness in the Southwest region through planning and development of a comprehensive, coordinated EMS system and provision of other technical assistance and support to enable the EMS community to provide the highest quality emergency medical care possible to those in need.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL VISION**

To become known as a foremost source of knowledge and a comprehensive resource for assistance related to all aspects of the EMS system development and operation by providing administrative support, educational opportunities, EMS planning, and assistance with resource acquisition and retention to insure that all individuals facing medical or traumatic emergencies in our region receive the highest possible standard of prehospital care.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of this organization is to form a mechanism to bring together the providers of emergency medical services, the public agencies involved with health and safety, and community leaders and citizens to plan and to implement a comprehensive emergency medical services system in our service area. A secondary purpose is to insure the availability of training and resources to insure that users of the regional emergency medical services system receive the best possible prehospital patient care during emergent situations.

The major objectives of this organization shall be, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- 1) To plan for and to implement a system that provides for the arrangement and organization of personnel, facilities, and equipment for the effective and coordinated delivery of health care services in the area to be served under emergency conditions.
- 2) To coordinate and improve the delivery of emergency medical services in the region and thereby have the highest possible quality of emergency medical services.

- 3) To provide assistance in coordinating the Emergency Medical Services system with other public services, institutions, and agencies in the area of service.
- 4) To develop goals and to facilitate region-wide comprehensive emergency medical services plans and priorities to stimulate action, coordinate and otherwise ensure maximum use of existing and future emergency medical facilities, services, and manpower compatible with health delivery systems within the area served.
- 5) To serve as an advisory board to governments and non-governmental agencies within the area served on matters concerning emergency medical services.
- 6) To conduct and stimulate programs of education and training designed to upgrade the knowledge and skills of all health manpower involved in emergency medical services.

## **CODE OF VIRGINIA AND ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

### **CODE OF VIRGINIA § 32.1-111.11** *Regional emergency medical services councils*

The Board [of Health] shall designate regional emergency medical services councils which shall be authorized to receive and disburse public funds. Each council shall be charged with the development and implementation of an efficient and effective regional emergency medical services delivery system.

The Board shall review those agencies that were the designated regional emergency medical services councils. The Board shall, in accordance with the standards established in its regulations, review and may renew or deny applications for such designations every three years. In its discretion, the Board may establish conditions for renewal of such designations or may solicit applications for designation as a regional emergency medical services council.

Each council shall include, if available, representatives of the participating local governments, fire protection agencies, law-enforcement agencies, emergency medical services agencies, hospitals, licensed practicing physicians, emergency care nurses, mental health professionals, emergency medical technicians and other appropriate allied health professionals.

Each council shall adopt and revise as necessary a regional emergency medical services plan in cooperation with the Board.

The designated councils shall be required to match state funds with local funds obtained from private or public sources in the proportion specified in the regulations of the Board. Moneys received directly or indirectly from the Commonwealth shall not be used as matching funds. A local governing body may choose to appropriate funds for the purpose of providing matching grant funds for any council. However, this section shall not be construed to place any obligation on any local governing body to appropriate funds to any council.

The Board shall promulgate, in cooperation with the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, regulations to implement this section, which shall include, but not be limited to, requirements to ensure accountability for public funds, criteria for matching funds, and performance standards.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND**

The Southwest Virginia EMS Council, Inc., is a 501 (c) 3 organization established in 1979 serving the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton. The Council is a leading provider of Advanced Life Support continuing education programs and coordinates all of the region's emergency medical services test sites. The Council provides an EMS lending library for EMS agencies, instructors, and hospitals free of charge to promote continual professional development of EMS and other healthcare providers. The Council coordinates the regional Critical Incident Stress Management Team to insure 24/7 assistance during traumatic events and coordinates the development of regional prehospital patient care protocols, disaster and patient transfer plans, and a regional performance improvement program.

## Board of Directors:

Bland County .....	Lonny Gay
Buchanan County .....	Junior Keene
Carroll County.....	Joe Roma
City of Bristol.....	J.C. Bolling
City Of Galax .....	Ron Passmore
City of Norton .....	Todd Lagow
Council Executive Director .....	Gregory Woods
Cumberland Plateau Planning District .....	Steve Wallace
Dickenson County .....	Ron Kendrick
Lee County .....	Freda Ayers
Lenowisco Planning District Commission .....	Delilah Long
Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.....	Dr. French Moore, Jr.
PD-1 At Large .....	Jerry Bledsoe
PD-2 At Large .....	David Brash
PD-3 At Large .....	Bryan Saunders
Regional Hospital Administrator .....	Anne Fleming
Regional OMD .....	Dr. Norman Rexrode
Russell County .....	Maxie Skeen
Scott County.....	Roger Burke
Smyth County.....	Doug Testerman
Southwest VA CISM Team.....	Charlie Smith
Tazewell County .....	Rudy Keith
VAVRS District 7 .....	Dreama Chandler
VAVRS District 9 .....	Earl Carter
Virginia Emergency Nurses Association .....	James "Rusty" Osborne
Washington County.....	Carol Barr
Wise County.....	Dr. Gary Williams
Wythe County .....	William "Dub" Ford

## Executive Committee:

Lonny Gay.....	President
J.C. Bolling.....	Vice-President
Maxie Skeen.....	Secretary
Delilah Long.....	Treasurer
Roger Burke .....	Member
Rudy Keith .....	Member
Doug Testerman .....	Member
Norman Rexrode .....	SWVAEMS Council Regional OMD
Paul Phillips .....	SWVAEMS Council Regional OMD
Gregory Woods .....	SWVAEMS Council Executive Director

## Council Staff:

Gregory Woods.....	Executive Director
Bryan Kimberlin.....	Field Coordinator
Theresa Kingsley.....	Lead Field Coordinator
Vacant .....	Administrative Assistant
Gary Whiteaker .....	Field Coordinator

## Summary of Accomplishments:

### ***Regional Infrastructure***

- Obtained 3-year designation as a regional emergency medical services council serving the cities of Bristol, Galax and Norton and the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe.
- Maintained one office in Abingdon, Virginia, that was staffed from 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).
- Provided a consistent point of contact for EMS providers, agencies, hospitals, physicians, and local governments.
- Maintained a full-time staff of 5 employees (including three full-time field coordinators) and a pool of independent training and testing contractors.
- Provided representation on a number of local, regional, and statewide committees and boards including:
  - Virginia EMS Advisory Board
    - Representative Pokey Harris served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair of that group
  - Regulation and Policy Committee
    - Executive Director Greg Woods serves as rural EMS representative
  - Regional EMS Directors Group
    - Executive Director Greg Woods served as vice-chairman of that group
  - Far Southwest Preparedness Alliance
    - Staff Member Gary Whiteaker attends and participates in regional meetings of that group
- Maintained an interactive website to promote EMS news and events, training opportunities, job announcements, plan and protocol revisions, and related EMS links. Completed redesign of the organizational website as part of statewide standardization.
- Made organizational documents, policies, and reports available for download on the Council website.
- Established numerous listservs to facilitate communications with various stakeholder groups.

### ***Regional Medical Direction***

- Obtained a Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant to implement a regional King Airway project that involved placing King Airways on all transport vehicles operated by volunteer and governmental EMS agencies.
- Maintained contracts with Dr. Norman Rexrode and Dr. Paul A. Phillips to serve as the regional operational medical director.
- Maintained regional prehospital patient care protocols and revised as necessary.
- The Medical Direction Committee continued to work on a standard supplies and medications list and protocol revisions.
- Endorsed a set of suggested criteria for determining whether to waive testing requirements for providers recertifying.
- Held quarterly meeting of regional medical directors.
- Maintained a regional CLIA waiver to exempt regional EMS agencies from individual laboratory registration for testing of blood with portable glucometry equipment as required by federal regulation.

### ***Regional Planning***

- Reviewed and revised regional Strategic EMS Plan. A SWOT analysis was conducted by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors as part of the revision process. Input was sought from all EMS stakeholders.

- Revised the Trauma Triage Plan through the participation of an ad-hoc committee. The Weapons of Mass Destruction/Mass Casualty Incident Plan was reviewed and revised by the regional Emergency Planning and Preparedness Committee consisting of representatives from the Department of Health, VDEM, American Red Cross, Medical Reserve Corp, and other agencies.
- Council staff participated in mock disaster events held throughout the region on request as evaluators and moulage technicians.
- The Hospital Diversion Plan was distributed to EMS agencies and hospitals for review and input.
- Staff members participated in surge capacity planning meetings.

#### ***Regional Coordination***

- Revised the regional EMS Performance Improvement plan and established quarterly indicators for regional performance improvement projects. A schedule of quarterly topics was distributed to all regional EMS agencies for participation in the regional PI program.
- Revised the regional Trauma Performance Improvement plan and established quarterly indicators for regional performance improvement projects. A schedule of quarterly topics was distributed to all regional EMS agencies for participation in the regional TPI program.
- Maintained regional PI/TPI programs and coordinated regional committees to review received data and make recommendations to address deficiencies. Reports of PI/TPI findings are posted on the Council website. Participation in regional PI/TPI programs insures compliance with state regulations.
- Revised a Performance Improvement template that can be used by EMS agencies to establish performance improvement programs to comply with state regulations.
- Promoted the state EMS grant program and provided assistance to EMS agencies (upon request) in completing and submitting state Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) grant applications.
- Conducted two regional RSAF application review meetings and assigned grades using a standardized grading system. Submitted regional grades, priority rankings, and comments to the Office of Emergency Medical Services in support of regional grant applications.
- Attended state meetings of the Financial Audit Review Committee to support regional RSAF grant nominations. More than \$ TO BE INSERTED in RSAF funding was received regionally.
- Coordinated a regional Critical Incident Stress Management Team and maintained team accreditation through the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services.
- Provided and promoted a 24/7 point of contact number for activation of the team in response to requests from public safety agencies. Responded to 7 requests for CISM team interventions throughout the region assisting 27 public safety providers.
- Coordinated a regional EMS Awards program. Recognized eleven regional award winners and one regional scholarship award winner at an awards banquet held May.
- Nominated regional EMS awards winners for the consideration for the Governor's EMS Awards which were presented in November 2010.
- Conducted two regional instructor network meetings.

#### ***Regional EMS Testing***

- The Council coordinated the testing of regional EMS providers for initial certification and for advanced life support certification. The Council developed and distributed a yearly testing schedule, registered all test candidates, and coordinated all technical aspects of testing events including facility procurement, resource provision, and staffing.
- The BLS testing program involved 11 consolidated test sites that provided testing for approximately 458 candidates.
- The ALS testing program involved 2 ALS test sites that provided testing for approximately 38 candidates and 1 National Registry test that provided testing for approximately 27 candidates.
- The Council conducted 1 EMT-Evaluator courses to support regional EMS testing efforts.



- Maintained adequate equipment and supplies required to administer and stock all regional tests.

### ***Regional EMS Education***

- Offered more than 400 hours of continuing education opportunities throughout the region including:
  - Nine Advanced Life Support Ancillary Courses:
    - 4 Trauma Courses (2 PHTLS, 1 ITLS, and 1 Pediatric BTLS), 4 Pediatric Courses ( 1 PALS, 1 PEARS, 2 Neonatal Resuscitation), 2 Advanced ALS Courses (1 ACLS and 1 Difficult Airway Course)
  - Seven Category-One Refresher Courses
    - 4 ALS refresher programs (48-hour)
    - 3 BLS refresher programs (24-hour)
  - 3 CTS Evaluator courses and 3 Instructor Network Meetings
- Administered funds for the Southwest Virginia Paramedic Program and assisted in management of a regional tuition assistance program.
- Processed CE credit for individuals completing auxiliary courses at other training sites.
- Promoted Cat-1 CE programs being held throughout the region via print and online media.

### ***Other Activities***

- Provided a point of contact for information and referral for EMS providers, agencies, local governments, and the general public on matters related to emergency medical services.
- Distributed informational documents (pamphlets, posters, etc.) from regional and state EMS offices and other stakeholder groups upon request.
- Maintained a lending library of EMS training equipment and videos available to EMS agencies, instructors, and providers, to facilitate high quality education and hands-on skills practice.
- Published and distributed quarterly activity and financial reports.
- Provided representation on various state committees including:
  - State EMS Advisory
  - Regional EMS Directors Group
  - Regulation and Policy Committee
- Worked with the Bristol Regional Medical Center Stroke Center to facilitate provision of EMS continuing education for attendance at their annual Stroke Symposium.
- Promoted Stroke Training events held throughout the region.
- Worked with committees and agencies interested in developing accredited EMT-Intermediate training sites.
- Made photo ID badges for agencies and individuals within the region upon request.
- Field Coordinator served as route coordinator for the National Memorial Bike Ride. He coordinated rest stops throughout the region and travelled to Roanoke to attend the National EMS Memorial Service.

## **Major Sources of Funding:**

Bland County  
 Buchanan County  
 Carroll County  
 City of Bristol  
 City of Galax  
 City of Norton  
 Commonwealth of Virginia  
 Dickenson County

Employee Community Action Council  
*(of the employees of General Dynamics Armament Systems)*  
 Grayson County  
 Lee County  
 Mountain States Health Alliance  
 Russell County  
 Scott County

Smyth County  
Tazewell County  
Town of Abingdon, VA  
United Way of Wythe County  
United Way of Roanoke

Washington County  
Wellmont Health System  
Wise County  
Wythe County