

Region 7 Town Hall Forum

Virginia Office of EMS and OEMS Region 7



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Agenda

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks
2. OEMS Overview
3. Understanding OEMS Region 7
4. Transition & Regional Collaboration
5. Group Discussion & Open Forum
6. Where Do We Go From Here?
7. Closing Remarks



OEMS Overview

6:05pm-6:30pm

- Introduction of OEMS Staff
- Current Structure & Statewide EMS priorities
- Role of OEMS within Virginia EMS System
- Relationship between OEMS & the OEMS Regions
- Logo and Branding
- State EMS Plan & Needs Assessment
- Programs and Initiatives

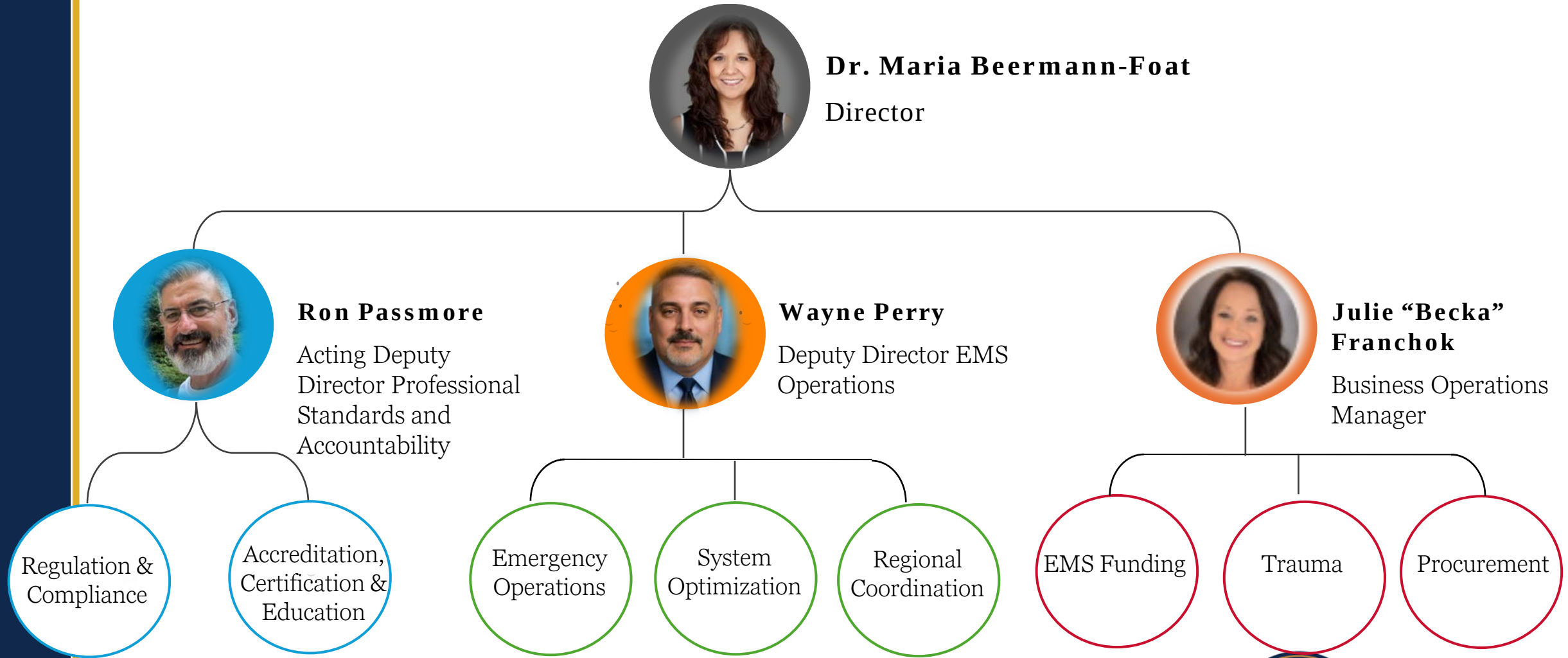


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OEMS Organization Chart-as of 1/2026



Code of Virginia

The *Code of Virginia* (§ 32.1-111.11) establishes regional EMS councils and defines their function and purpose to help develop a comprehensive, coordinated, statewide emergency medical services system.

“Each council is charged with the development and implementation of an efficient and effective regional emergency medical services delivery system.”



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Role of OEMS Regions

- Regional EMS Councils collaborate with the Virginia Office of EMS, local government officials, physicians, hospitals, EMS agencies, and other stakeholders to plan and coordinate regional EMS activities to promote quality of care and support the statewide EMS system.
- While services provided by regional EMS councils can vary, generally services can be broken into two distinct categories:
 - *Standard scope of services outlined under contract with the OEMS*
 - *Region-specific services*
- Standard Scope of Services & Region-specific services will be discussed later.



Regional EMS Offices

Region 1

Executive Director Bryan Kimberlin

bkimberlin@va-ems.org

Planning Districts: 1, 2, & 3

Region 2

Executive Director Debbie Akers

dakers@vaems.org

Planning Districts: 4, 5, 11, & 12

Region 3

Manager of Shenandoah Valley EMS Programs,
Laura Atwell

Laura.atwell@nvers.org

Planning Districts: 6 & 7

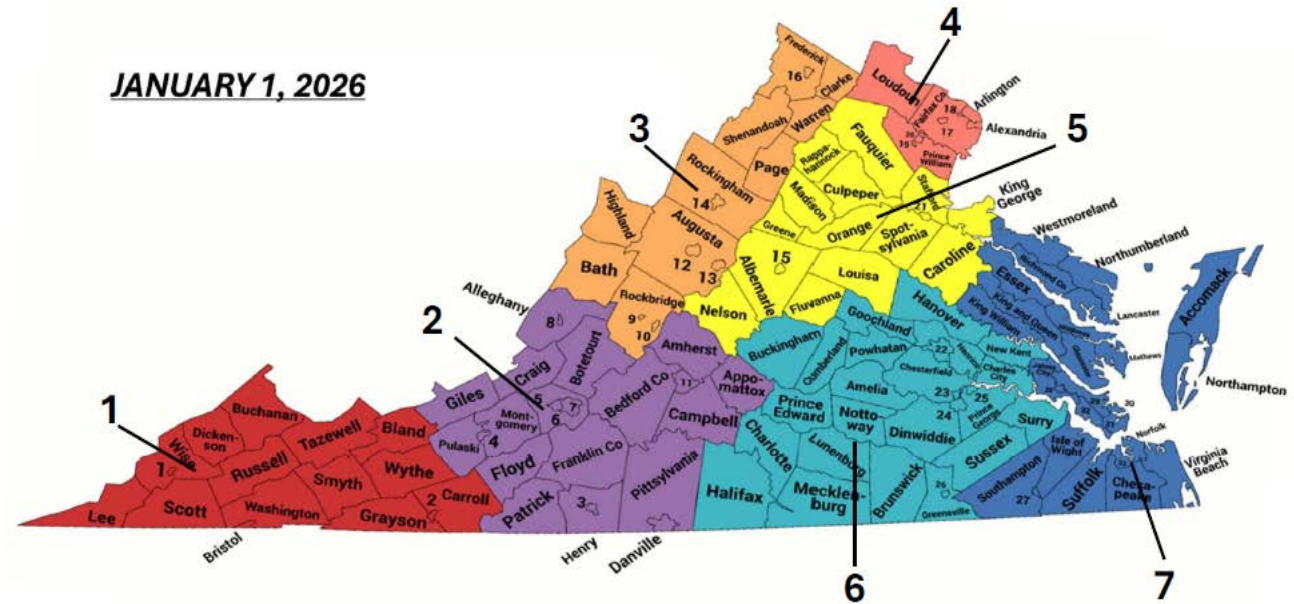
Region 4

Director of EMS Programs Karen Owens

karen.owens@nvers.org

Planning Districts: 8

JANUARY 1, 2026



Region 5

Manager of Rivanna-Rappahannock EMS Programs, Noah Hillstrom

noah.hillstrom@nvers.org

Planning Districts: 9, 10, & 16

Region 6

Executive Director Heidi Hooker

hhooker@vaems.org

Planning Districts: 13, 14, 15, & 19

Region 7

Executive Director David Long

dlong@vaems.org

Planning Districts: 17, 18, 22, & 23



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Outcome: A unified roadmap for a stronger, more connected Virginia EMS system.

Virginia Statewide EMS System Needs Assessment 2026

Purpose:

- Establish a data-driven baseline for EMS system planning
- Identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement
- Inform an inclusive, evidence-based statewide EMS strategy

Stakeholder Engagement:

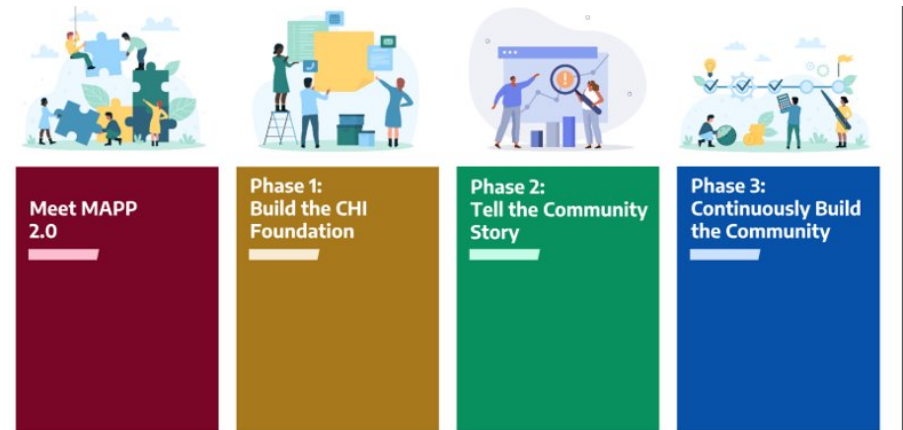
- Listening sessions, interviews, and statewide surveys
- Input from EMS agencies, hospitals, dispatch, educators, etc.

Your Role:

- Participate in interviews and surveys
- Share operational experience and local insights
- Help shape Virginia's EMS system priorities and future vision

Timeline:

- Q2 2026: Launch stakeholder engagement
- Q3–Q4 2026: Data collection and analysis
- Q1 2027: Final report and strategic planning kickoff



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OEMS New Ticketing Systems: Education Support Request & Data/System Optimization Request

- OEMS has implemented the Education Support Request Form and the Data/System Optimization Support Request Form. Both of these systems are to streamline requests for assistance and improve communication regarding OEMS support needs. Using the ticketing system will ensure requests are properly tracked and routed to the appropriate personnel for follow-up.
- Education Support Request Form- [OEMS Support Request](#)
- Data/System Optimization - [VAOEMS System Optimization Support Request](#)



VA EMS Repository Workshop Series

Workshop Topics

-  EMS Regulations & Data Requirements
-  Introduction to the VA EMS Repository
-  Data Quality Reporting
-  Utilizing Your State Repository Account, its tools & features
-  Communication & Support Pathways

Who Should Attend?

Anyone responsible for EMS documentation, data submission, or repository management to include: EMS agency leaders, EMS providers, data managers, quality improvement personnel, and educators.

Workshop Format

- Hosted by all 7 Regional EMS Councils
- Two sessions hosted per region
- All sessions offer In-person and virtual attendance options
- Interactive demonstrations and Q&A

Workshop Schedule

REGION 1

Session 1: August 4, 2026 at 2 pm
Session 2: August 8, 2026 at 2 pm

REGION 2

Session 3: July 14, 2026, at 6 PM
Session 4: July 15, 2026, at 11 AM

REGION 3

Session 5: August 12, 2026 at 6 pm
Session 6: August 19, 2026 at 2 pm

REGION 4

Session 7: August 25, 2026 at 10 am
Session 8: August 27, 2026 at 6 pm

REGION 5

Session 9: July 21, 2026 at 11 am
Session 10: July 21, 2026 at 7 pm

REGION 6

Session 11: June 30, 2026 at 1 pm
Session 12: June 30, 2026 at 7 pm

REGION 7

Session 13: August 13, 2026 at 9 am
Session 14: August 13, 2026 at 6 pm

VA EMS REPOSITORY WORKSHOP SERIES

Learn what the Virginia EMS Repository is, how it supports EMS data reporting, how to confidently use its tools to improve data quality, and meet reporting requirements.



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Measles & EMS: What Providers Need to Know

- Active Situation- Monitor VDH for Current Outbreak Information- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/measles/>
- Focus on preparing today, protecting your crew and community.

1 **STAGE 1**
PRODROME (DAYS 1–4)

- High fever, often exceeding 104°F
- Cough
- Coryza — runny nose and watery, red eyes
- Koplik's spots — small white spots inside the cheek; a pathognomonic early sign appearing when fever begin

KOPLIK'S SPOTS (EARLY SIGN)

Where to look: Inside the mouth on the buccal mucosa (usually opposite the molars).



Koplik's spots: tiny white or grayish-white pinpoint spots with a faint erythematous (red) halo.

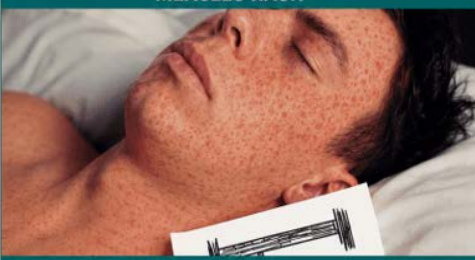
LOCATION: Look on the buccal mucosa (opposite the molars).

Appear 1–2 days before rash. May be present for 2–3 days.

2 **STAGE 2**
RASH (DAYS 3–5 ONWARD)

- Red, flat maculopapular rash beginning at the hairline and face
- Spreads downward — neck, trunk, arms, legs, feet
- Symptoms appear 6–21 days after exposure
- Contagious 4–5 days before rash through 6 days after

MEASLES RASH

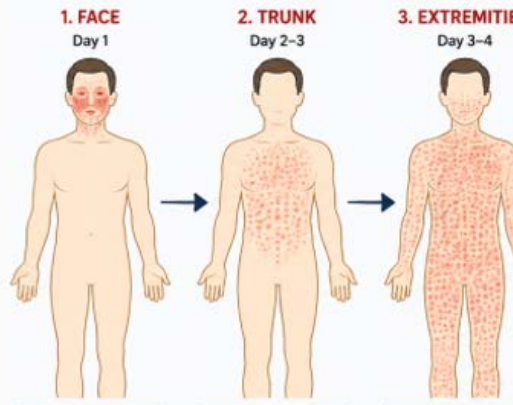


Red, flat maculopapular rash that begins at the hairline and face, then spreads downward.

RASH PROGRESSION IN MEASLES

The measles rash typically appears in stages and spreads from the head downward.

1. FACE Day 1
2. TRUNK Day 2–3
3. EXTREMITIES Day 3–4



Rash begins at the hairline and spreads to the face and neck.

Rash spreads to the trunk, abdomen, and back.

Rash spreads to the arms, hands, legs, and feet.

Rash is red, blotchy, and may become confluent. It usually fades in the same order it appeared.

CONTAGION TIMELINE IN MEASLES

Measles is highly contagious. Knowing when a person is contagious helps guide isolation and infection control.

INCUBATION 7–14 days (average 10–12 days)

CONTAGIOUS 4 days BEFORE to 4 days AFTER rash onset

NO LONGER CONTAGIOUS After 4 days after rash onset

DAY -14 DAY -4 DAY 0 RASH ONSET DAY +4 DAY +X

A person with measles can spread the virus to others from 4 days before the rash appears until 4 full days after the rash begins.

Key Points

- Airborne transmission occurs when an infected person breathes, coughs, or sneezes.
- The virus can stay in the air and on surfaces for up to 2 hours.
- Vaccination is the best protection.

Source: CDC – Measles (Rubeola) – Clinical Overview



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Rural Health Transformation Project

- Virginia's **Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)** is a 5-year(\$189 million) federal grant awarded to the state to address rural health challenges through targeted investments, partnerships, and innovation. The **Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)** is the **lead agency** for administering the grant, working closely with the **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)** and other state and local partners. **VDH** supports the program by providing public health expertise, data, and coordination with community stakeholders, including rural hospitals, clinics, and nonprofit leaders.
- OEMS will play a big part of the Community Paramedicine initiative of the grant (\$89 million over 5 years)
- [Rural Health Transformation | Virginia Medicaid](#)



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Region 7 EMS Council

6:30pm-7:00pm

- Introduction of Council Staff
- Who is Region 7 EMS Council
- Geographic Coverage
- Organizational Structure and Governance
- Contracted Services Provided Through OEMS
- Value-added Programs & Regional Initiatives



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Introduction of Council Staff

David C. Long, MA, NRP

Executive Director

dlong@vaems.org

David Coulling

Regional Field Coordinator

Agency support and field liaison

David Keeler

Regional Education Coordinator

Training, sanctioning and CE

Valerie Vagts

Regional PI Coordinator

Data, quality and patient outcomes

Tonya Cook

Office Manager

Membership, records and finance

Region 7 EMS Council

757-963-0632

www.TidewaterEMS.org

Full staff directory, committee contacts and meeting minutes are posted at TidewaterEMS.org.



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Who Is the Region 7 EMS Council?

Two names, one council, one mission across the Eastern Shore, Tidewater, Peninsula, Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck.

Tidewater EMS Council, Inc.

The nonprofit corporation — a Virginia 501(c)(3) that has served EMS in this region for nearly five decades.

Region 7 EMS Council

The state-designated regional EMS council under § 32.1-111.11, operating under MOA VDH-26-517-0194 with VDH-OEMS.

One region since January 2026

Formed by consolidating the former Tidewater (TEMS) and Peninsulas (PEMS) EMS Councils into a single regional system.

26

Jurisdictions served

1.8M+

Residents protected

4

Planning districts: 17, 18, 22 and 23



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Geographic Coverage

Region 7 spans four planning districts — from dense urban cities to rural shorelines and islands.

Planning District 17

Northern Neck

Planning District 18

Middle Peninsula

Planning District 22

Eastern Shore — Accomack and Northampton

Planning District 23

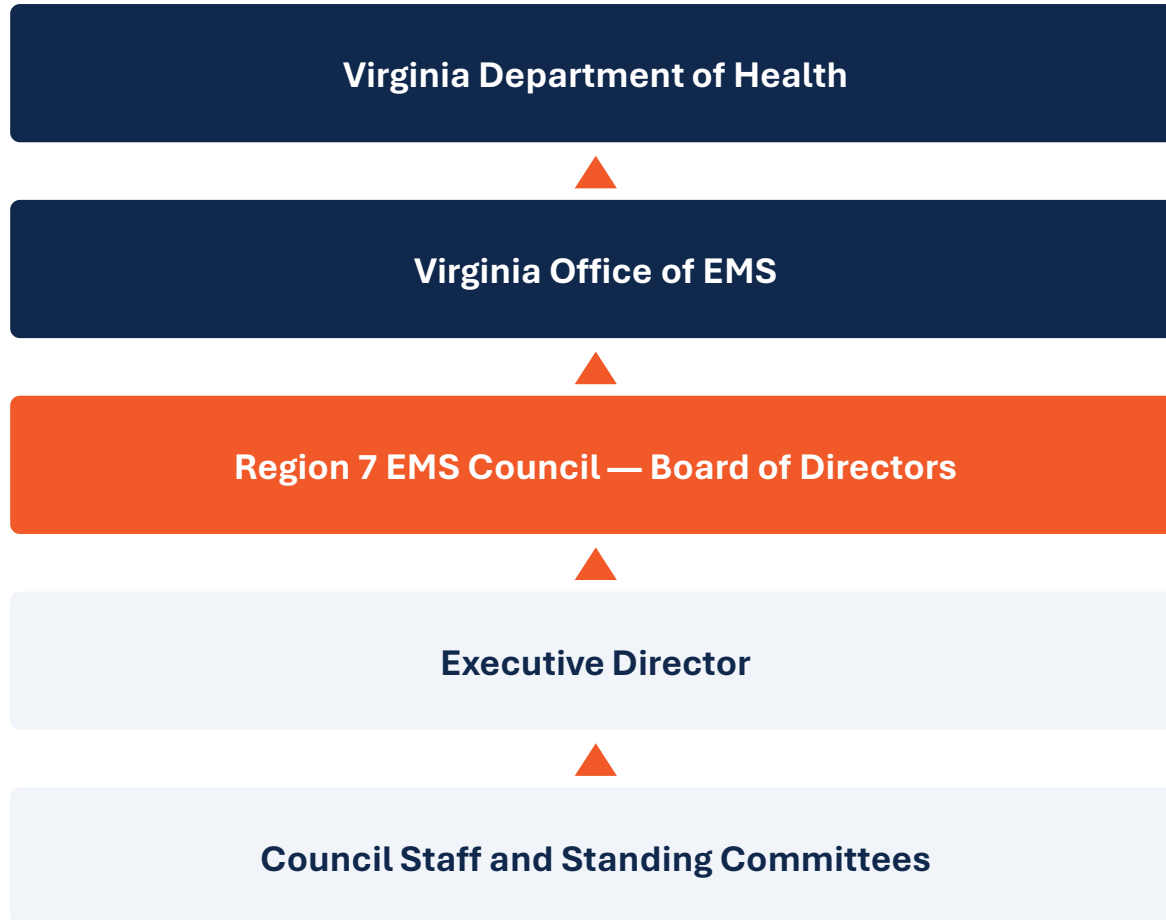
Hampton Roads — Southside and Peninsula



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26 jurisdictions • 1.8M+ residents • one standard of care, urban to rural.

Organizational Structure and Governance



Medical Direction

- Regional Operational Medical Director – Dr. Sudershan Gupta
- Regional Medical Director engaged with the State Medical Direction Committee (MDC)
- Regional Medical Director engaged with the Region 7 Council
- Operational Medical Directors through the OMD Committee

Governance Modernization

- Phase I restructuring underway following the January 2026 consolidation
- Board composition and regional representation being aligned across the expanded footprint
- Stakeholder interviews and surveys completed in 2026



Committee Structure

Region 7 EMS Council — Board of Directors

Clinical Quality and Performance

- EMS Performance Improvement Committee
- STEMI, Stroke and Trauma PI subcommittees
- Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (RTAC)
- OMD Committee
- EMS Operations Committee

Practice, Protocol and Pharmacy

- Education, Training and Protocol (ETP) Committee
- Northside and Southside Protocol Workgroups
- Pharmacy Committee
- ED Director / Nurse Manager Committee

Operations and Community

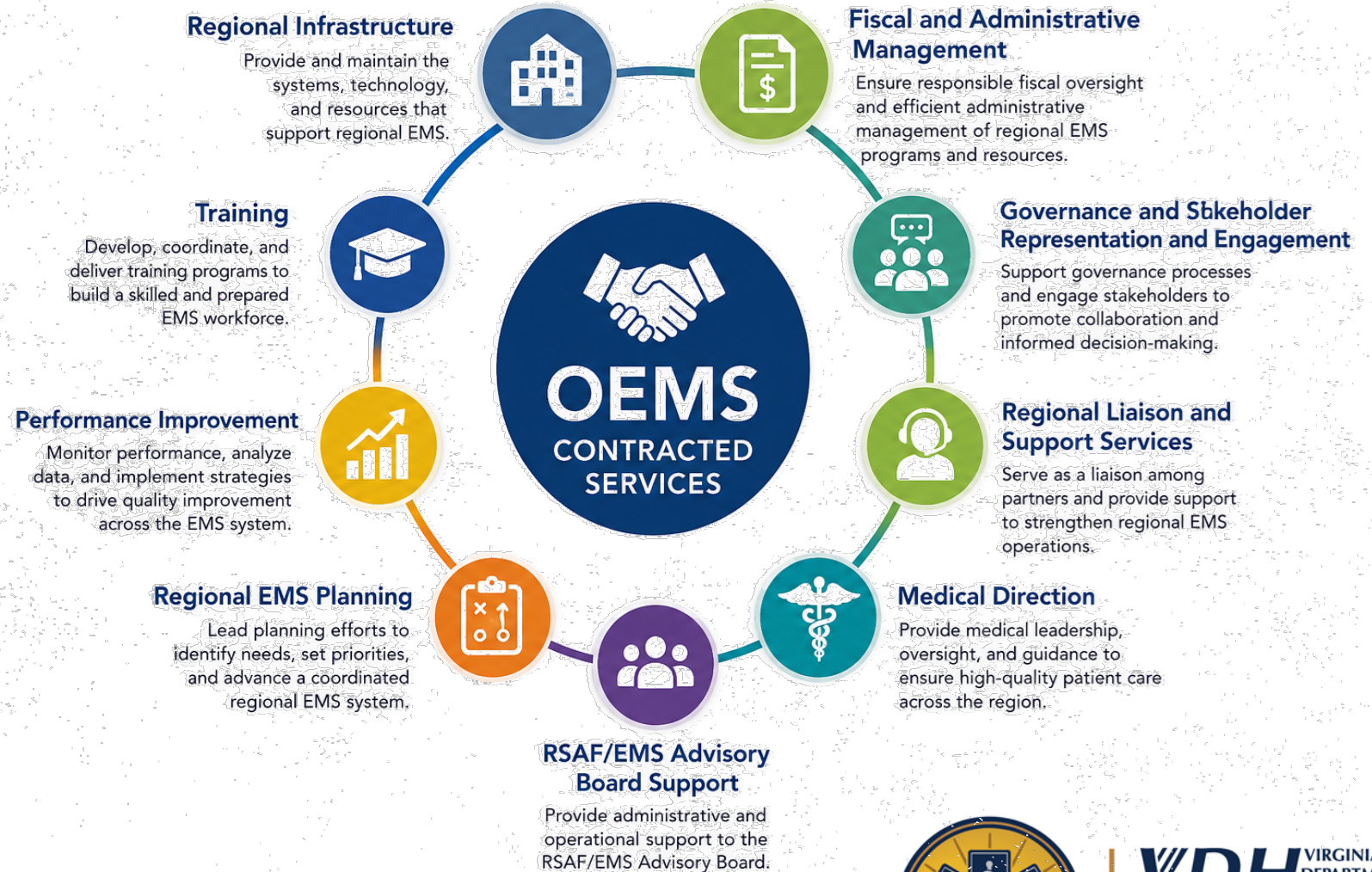
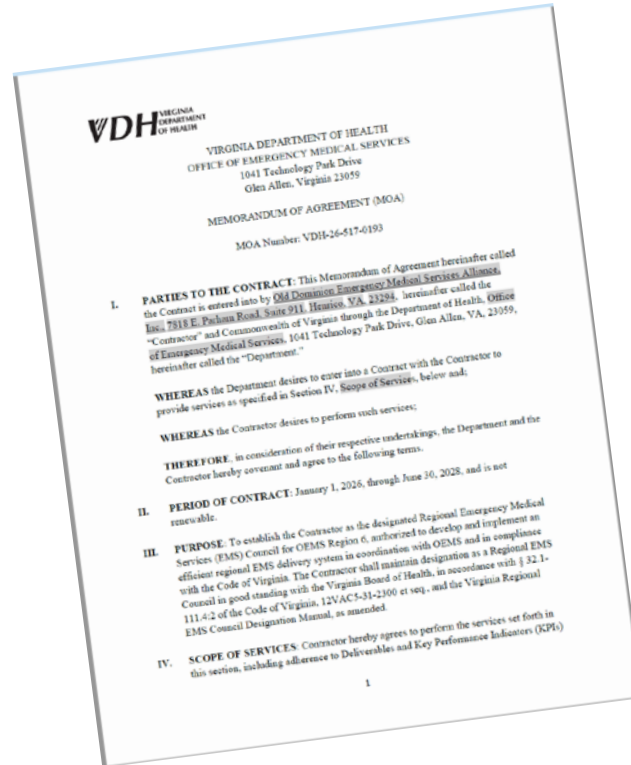
- Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Committee
- Regional Moulage Team
- Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Committee
- Peer and Crisis Support
- Commercial EMS Committee

Committees are open to Region 7 stakeholders — schedules, agendas and minutes are posted at TidewaterEMS.org.



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Contracted Services Provided by OEMS



Region-Specific Services

Value-added programs Region 7 delivers beyond the standard OEMS scope of services.

Whole Blood Program

Prehospital low-titer O-positive whole blood across six agencies

Point-of-Care Ultrasound

Credentialed field ultrasound with physician-led quality review

Pharmacy and Medications

Regional distributor pharmacy and DEA / FDA compliance support

Training and Education

Tidewater Healthcare EXPO, QTEE, ALS sanctioning and regional exams

Performance Improvement

CARES, hospital outcomes data and regional quality metrics

Preparedness and Response

HRMMRS, regional MCI plan, moulage team and HID transport planning

Peer and Crisis Support

Regional Peer and CISM network and provider wellness resources

Mobile Integrated Healthcare

Regional MIH committee and community paramedicine development

Grants and Technical Assistance

RSAF review, CLIA waivers and grant application support



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Regional Whole Blood Program

Virginia's first fully AABB-aligned regional prehospital whole blood network, operating since October 2022.

623

Transfusions to date

76.8%

Survival to discharge*

360

Credentialed providers

6

Participating agencies, Hampton
joining

How the program works

- Carried by Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach and York
- Central procurement, validated coolers and continuous temperature monitoring
- Every transfusion reviewed within 72 hours through regional performance improvement
- Built to AABB prehospital transfusion standards and PHBTC clinical guidelines

What comes next

- Expansion into the City of Hampton now underway
- Satellite storage policy and AABB accreditation in progress
- Regional blood drives with The Blood Connection, next drive in September
- Sustained by OEMS funding, the Commonwealth Transfusion Foundation and agency cost-share

**Survival to discharge among 2026 patients with outcome data available.*



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Point-of-Care Ultrasound Program

Credentialed prehospital ultrasound with physician-led image review and protocol integration.

84

Providers trained

13

Released Ultrasound Specialists

5

Ultrasound units deployed

Where the program stands

- Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach participating
- Field scans graded bi-weekly by physician reviewers
- Providers released through regional credentialing boards
- Protocol integration through the ETP and OMD Committees

What comes next

- Next provider class scheduled for September 2026
- Exploring expansion into the City of Franklin
- Imaging-review solution in development for quality assurance
- Continued equipment procurement and sustainment planning



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Training and Education

Tidewater Healthcare EXPO

The region's annual EMS and healthcare conference: multi-track continuing education, hands-on skills and regional exhibitors.

Coming May 13, 2027 — the first Virginia Blood Summit, hosted within the EXPO.

QTEE

Quarterly Training Education Experience

Quarterly regional education delivered close to home, built around current protocol, clinical and operational priorities.

ALS Sanctioning

Regional release panels for paramedic practice

Regional Exams

Paramedic and AEMT written and practical testing

AHA Course Delivery

ACLS and resuscitation training with CEU award

Educator Support

Council-wide educator workgroup and CE processing



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Preparedness, Grants and Special Projects

Hampton Roads MMRS

Regional mass casualty and CBRNE response capability

Regional MCI Plan

Planning, drills, exercises and the Regional Moulage Team

Special Pathogens and HID Transport

Draft regional transport plan in review with VDH and the Fire Chiefs

Major Event Support

Regional MCI planning for events such as Sail 250 in June 2026

RSAF and Grant Assistance

Application review and technical assistance for agencies

Security and Facilities Grants

Nonprofit security grant projects supporting regional assets

Virginia Stroke Systems Task Force

Region 7 leadership on statewide stroke system work

Healthcare Coalition Partnership

Coordination with the Healthcare Coalition



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Working With Region 7

Get Involved

- Join a regional committee or workgroup
- Serve on the Board of Directors
- Present or exhibit at the EXPO and QTEE
- Help shape regional priorities for FY27

Get Support

- Protocol and medical direction questions
- Pharmacy, DEA and Board of Pharmacy compliance
- Performance improvement data, CARES and outcomes
- Grant review and technical assistance
- Training, sanctioning and continuing education

Stay Connected

- TidewaterEMS.org for agendas, minutes and resources
- Regional updates and program announcements
- Direct contact with Council staff
- Tell us tonight what you need from Region 7

David C. Long, MA, NRP — Executive Director, Region 7 EMS Council

dlong@vaems.org • 757-963-0632 • www.TidewaterEMS.org



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Transition & Regional Collaboration

7:00pm-7:10pm

- Commitment to Regional Representation & Support
- Building Trust & Maintaining Service Continuity
- Opportunities for Engagement & Collaboration



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Where Do We Go From Here?

Group Discussion & Open Forum

7:10pm-8:00pm

- What is working well within EMS in the Region?
- Current challenges facing agencies & providers.
- Priorities for the Future of EMS in Region 7.
- Questions, Concerns, & Recommendations.
- Ways Region 7 can better Support Stakeholders.



Regional Coordination

- Regional councils are supported by regional coordinators who serve as a liaison to the Office of EMS, provide strategic guidance, and administer the service-based contracts.

Mary Kathryn Allen

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Regions 4, 5, 6, 7

Greg Woods

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Regions 1, 2, 3



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Closing Remarks

- OEMS Closing Remarks
- Region 7 Closing Remarks

