

Western Virginia EMS Council
Report from the Governor's EMS Advisory Board

The most recent meeting was held May 13, 2011 in Glen Allen, Virginia.

The **2010 Appropriations Act** established the Line of Duty Fund (LODF) with the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) as the investment manager. Localities, via item 258 of the Enrolled 2011-2012 Budget, now have an additional year to choose to 'opt out' of the LODF. Localities now have until June 30, 2012 to 'opt out' of the VRS fund and begin self funding their locality's claims. Each locality should have received their proposed payment rates from the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) to assist them in making this important decision. **NO ONE CAN "OPT OUT" OF THE LINE OF DUTY ACT (LODA).** All claims will still be processed through the Department of Accounts with the final decision made by the Comptroller.

Funding the Benefit

1. Option One: Participate in the LODF invested by VRS. This requires no action on the part of the locality since each locality is automatically covered.
2. Option Two: Opt out of the LODF. This requires the governing body to pass an opt-out resolution. The locality may choose to:
 - Pay-as-you-go, where the locality pays the benefits as they occur; or
 - Pre-fund the benefit, where the locality sets aside money or invests money to fund any future claims.

The deadline for an irrevocable election to opt out of the LODF: June 30, 2012. If localities do not take action, they will be enrolled automatically in the Fund.

If you have questions regarding the change to the state's LODA program, you can contact Connie Jones at the Department of Accounts – (804) 786.1856 or Trish Bishop with the Virginia Retirement System - 1-888-827-3847 or visit **www.valoda.org**.

OEMS Division of Educational Development is proposing the use of the National Registry of EMT's certification examinations for all initial EMS certification levels recognized in Virginia. This includes EMR, EMT, AEMT, Intermediate, and Paramedic. There are pros and cons to this change. The following are topic points that will dictate some of the discussion as this topic moves forward: 1) *written test sites* – the current number of test sites are limited. 2) *Costs of Exam* – It currently costs \$70 to take the exam, but OEMS is proposing to pay this fee if logistics can be worked out with National Registry. 3) *Automation of Reciprocity for Virginia Programs* – currently this is not automated and someone taking National Registry has to apply to OEMS for reciprocity.

The Durable Do Not Resuscitate (DDNR) Regulations is still awaiting review and approval by the Governor's Office.

The final draft of the Virginia Emergency Medical Service Regulations 12VAC5-31 resides with the Secretary of Health and Humans Services awaiting review and approval. If that is ever done, they will still have to go to the Governor for approval.

Future RSAF grants for recruitment and retention will require the recipient to provide statistical data of the efforts to Office of EMS.

A new website has been created to assists healthcare providers meet the needs of Virginia's changing demographics. It focus is to help providers with delivery of culturally and linguistically appropriate health care services. The site is: www.ClasActVirginia.org

Thank you for your confidence in me to represent the Council on the Advisory Board. Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Wagoner