



VIRGINIA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes August 5, 2015 Courtside Marriott, Glen Allen, VA

Chairperson: Gary A. Dalton

Recording Secretary: Karen D. Wagner

Attendance: Randy Breton, Steve Higgins, Kevin Dillard, Danny Wildman, Daniel Green, Ed Rhodes,

Guests: Todd Mason, Field Operations Manager LogistiCare, Cindy Franklin, General Manager LogistiCare

Discussion:	Action:
<i>Meeting called to order by President Dalton</i>	
<p>Approval of May 8, 2015 Minutes</p> <p>Minutes approved as written.</p> <p><u>Guest Todd Mason, LogistiCare</u></p> <p>Discussion was started by Mr. Mason with a desire to address an issue that affects both LogistiCare and agencies with a request to help improve the communications and relationship between LogistiCare and the agencies that provide transport services. Discharge planning is a major focus for LogistiCare. When discharge planning contacts an agency for discharge, the clock starts ticking for LogistiCare to meet their contract performance matrix measures. Their contract requires the patient to be picked up within three hours, with the time starting when facility is contacted for the transport and ending when patient is actually picked up by a transport agency. If the transport does not begin within that time frame, LogistiCare is being hit with liquidated damages by DMAS.</p>	Approved unanimously.

LogistiCare is aware that often facilities call for a transport way before the patient is actually ready to be discharged.

- There are also times that agencies may need to delay a pick up because they have a more emergent transport. Almost all transport agencies contact the facility to see if the patient is ready before sending a crew, thus LogistiCare is asking for the transport agency to help them by updating LogistiCare if the patient is being delayed for any reason.
- They are planning on providing a dedicated toll-free number answered by medically trained staff for the transport agency to contact. This will help them to meet their performance measures and provide the transport agencies with an individual on the line that can understand medical terms and practices which will improve agency communications.
- He noted that a new code called Advanced Discharge Notice is being developed to help address the issue in the future.
- He and Ms. Franklin are visiting facilities across the state to help educate them on the importance of having patients ready at the time of the request and if they have a delay or change in pick up status how they are to contact the call center and communicate that information.

Discussion was held on electronic services available to agencies for accepting, changing, and billing trips.

- Mr. Mason stated that currently agencies cannot change times electronically, however, they are beta testing new processes that will allow an agency to upgrade, or change patient needs on the front end prior to billing.
- It is possible that this system will work with eDischarge and Curaspan which could help to curb the call in process for changes all together.
- No date for implementation has been announced.

Discussion was held on the transport of GAP patients

- There is no additional information or changes on the handling psych patients covered by the GAP program in regards to transport needs and billing.
- VAA Lobbyist Ed Rhodes will look into legislative contacts that may be able to help to address this ongoing issue.

Discussion was held on the transport of dialysis patients

- Beginning Jan 1, 2016, ambulance transport agency will be penalized if they transport a dialysis patient at an inappropriate level or need. Example; if patient is not bed bound, and they are transported by stretcher, based on the facility request and the language used in the call report for billing, the agency will not be paid for the transport.
- If when the crew arrives for the transport and the patients needs are other than that requested, you must contact LogistiCare immediately
- LogistiCare is completing a mandatory training for all of their call taking personnel in an effort to help eliminate agencies from not being paid for transports

Discussion was held on transports completed by stretcher vans

- No current regulatory agency overseeing the operation of stretcher vans, however, they are required to be inspected by LogistiCare if they transport for or have a LogistiCare contract.
- The VAA as a group has a concern that patients with true medical needs are being transported by stretcher vans with no medical attendance.
- LogistiCare asked that agencies report any observed incorrect level of care to them and/or to the office of EMS immediately. Please provide any registration information, company name displayed, vehicle tags or personal names if visible along with date, location, and time of observation.

Discussion was held on insurance information provided on trip sheets

- If "DM" followed by a number is in the upper right hand corner of the manifest then the patient has a secondary insurance and will require a preauthorization for payment.
- Contact LogistiCare so you can receive the preauthorization which will allow you to still get paid when you get a denial

Discussion was held on additional ways in which information can be passed on to transport agencies

- President Dalton will secure a meeting place and forward invitations to all VAA members and prospective members inviting them to attend an informational meeting at the Nov 11, 2015 meeting to be held in conjunction with the VAOEMS Symposium in Norfolk.
- President Dalton will invite DMAS rep to attend as well.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Dalton reported that Danny Wildman was reappointed to represent the VAA on the Governor's EMS Advisory Board.

He asked those in attendance to send any input for the membership recruitment letter to him by August 15. Treasurer Steve Higgins will complete updates on the current brochure and website. These will be mailed to all prospective members along with an invitation to attend the membership meeting in November 2015.

VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT

Vice President Randy Breton reported on the VAA presentation to the Medical Direction Committee in regards to advanced medical treatment being utilized by transport paramedics that are outside of the scope of practice but approved by agency's OMD.

- The Committee is concerned that medics are handling procedures that should be performed by nurses trained specifically for the use of special equipment or care procedures.
- They have asked that VAA to provide a list of procedures that are being handled and transported.
- VP Breton asked that all agencies that complete transports with special needs attend the October 8th Medical Director Committee meeting to express their needs and concerns.
- Discussion continued with the way in which ground medics are considered at a lower knowledge level than air medics when they are actually equal in training.

SECRETARY REPORT

All minutes have been recorded and will be posted on the website upon approval at each meeting.

President Dalton will mail recruitment letters on September 1, 2015

President Dalton will contact new member to correct dues payment.

VP Breton will attend Oct 8, 2015 Medical Direction meeting to continue discussion.

<p><u>TREASURERS REPORT</u></p> <p>Steve reported that we are currently up to date with all billing. All fees have been paid for the associations filings.</p> <p>He noted that membership dues are billed on the anniversary date of membership application annually. This allows for a flow of funds throughout the year and allows members to join at any time and receive a full year of benefits.</p> <p>Kevin Dillard reported on the SCC and the association's 501C3 status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All paperwork has been updated and filed for the associations SCC license • Filing was completed for the 501C3 status. Kevin Dillard will be listed as the registered agent for the association. • The Bylaws are being reviewed and updated to reflect filings and updated practices of the organization. 	<p>Steve will investigate the organizations tax filing requirements and prepare filings as needed at the end of the year.</p> <p>Kevin and Gary will update the Bylaws to reflect current practices by the Nov 2015 meeting.</p>
<p><u>GAB REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Danny Wildman reported that one action item is expected at the GAB meeting and asked for guidance from the members. <i>Motion was made and seconded to vote in favor of the Replica Bill Resolution.</i></p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously and Danny will vote in favor of the Replica at the GAB meeting</p>
<p><u>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Discussion was held of requirements for new cot restraint systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members expressed concern on the expense of the new systems and the lack of funding available to commercial agencies. It appears that the regulations for the RSAF grant do not meet current practice with many volunteer agencies that now bill for service they are actually in the same business practice as commercial agencies. • There were concerns if new system will or can be used in Type 2 units due to weight restrictions. <p>Discussion was held on toll roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Rhodes will draft bill language that will allow commercial agencies transporting patients to be exempt from paying tolls – to match the current bill language for 911 agencies. • Ed Rhodes has completed language for update to allow use of “EV” Tags for all licensed transport ambulances. Registration fees will still have to be paid. He is looking for a patron to take the bill to the 2015/16 session. 	<p>President Dalton will address to Regulation and Policy and Transportation Committee of the GAB</p> <p>Bill language will be sent to President Dalton and is attached to these minutes</p>
<p><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><u>Next Meeting:</u></p> <p>Wednesday, November 11, 2015- Norfolk Marriott- Time and room location to be announced</p>	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted, Karen D Wagner, Secretary
 Approved for membership distribution by President Dalton 8/10/15