



Valley Emergency Medical Services

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Board of Directors

President: Scott Andrews **Vice President:** Dr. Fred Browne

Treasurer: William Scollin **Secretary:** Robert Pettinella

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

March 19, 2026

Attended: Scott Andrews, Dr. Fred Browne, William Scollin, Robert Pettinella, Jared Heon, Joseph Burnett, Brendan Canty, Dawn Macharelli

Absent: Seth Poston, Mike Worhola, Tom Lenart, Bryan Ryan

Guests: Barbara Steinbrick, Laura Brennan

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance
 - a. Meeting began at 7:05 pm
2. Approval of Minutes from October 16th meeting

Motion to approve minutes:

Dr. Browne 1st, B. Scollin 2nd, All in Favor, Motion Passed

3. Public Comment
 - a. No public comment

Motion to add billing service to the agenda

Dr. Browne 1st, 2nd W. Scollin, All in Favor, Motion Passed.

b. Billing Service

- B. Steinbrick and Laura Brennan from First responder billing at meeting
- Dr. Browne discussing insurance issues for hospital and collections. Insurance companies being difficult to bill/ approve procedures. It's happening at the paramedic level as well. Medicare and Medicare advantage issues for seniors getting care. Prehospital not being paid as well. Billing company spending more time getting it directly from patients. (more time/ bad image for company).
- B. Steinbrick- paramedic intercept is a non-covered service for Medicare. Now VA, united HC and others joining Medicare bandwagon of denials. Changed language on billing statements. 117 patients on payment plans. Average 5 phone calls to VEMS patients for billing. Healthcare advocates contacted billing company and they are working with them to hopefully fight insurance companies.
- Discussion on billing, service, call volume and insurance companies
- S. Andrews asked what is a good time to revisit this topic. Discussion on dates. April 9th at 6pm- workshop

4. Executive Director Report

- a. D. Macharelli reports. Financially we are below this year vs last year at this time. Which is why Billing company was invited to come to meeting tonight. 67 % ALS on 618 calls on last two months. Meeting 97% of calls. Increase in passed calls due to construction. Mostly Seymour and Oxford due to Rt 8 construction. Staffing levels at same. Added PT supervisor (Alex Lenches) Vehicles- 1 transmission issue under warranty. Completing Policy and a separate Procedure manual.

5. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session and add item B Executive Director review and invite ED into Executive Session for item A

1st J. Heon, 2nd B. Scollin, All in Favor, Motion passed.

- a. Georgetown Contract

Motion to come out of executive session @ 8:25pm. No votes decisions or actions taken while in session

6. Old Business

- a. Shelton Letter – update
 - Nothing to report except our attorney has been trying to contact Shelton Attorney
- b. Bylaw review
 - Mark up copy of Bi Laws sent out with changes that may need to be accomplish. Set up a special workshop to discuss? Table for now and plan to meet for workshop on Thursday April 9, 6pm at VEMS.
- c. Status of Licensure-update
 - Application completed and submitted. Under review
- d. MIH-update
 - D. Macharelli went to a few classes on it. Created a proposal that has been presented to Griffin. Waiting on some Data to finish completing the application. MIH program consists with follow up for patients that are discharged.

7. New Business

- a. 2026 Meeting dates

Motion to accept the 2026 Meeting dates

1st R. Pettinella 2nd B. Scollin, All in Favor, Motion Passed

- b. conflict of interest
 - Please sign for 2026.

Motion to Add executive director review to new Business

1st J. Burnett, 2nd B. Canty, All in Favor, Motion Passed

Motion to proceed with Executive Director review as discussed in Executive Session

1st J. Heon, 2nd B Canty, All in Favor, Motion Passed

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

1st R. Pettinella, 2nd J. Heon