



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

PEHSC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 14, 2022

Board Members Present

Don DeReamus	Ambulance Association of PA	Juliet Altenburg	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
Heather Sharar	Ambulance Association of PA	Anna Over	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
Tim Hinchcliff	Burholme Ambulance Corps	David Jones	Penn State University
Dr. Ron Roth	Center for Emergency Medicine	J.R. Henry	Southwest Ambulance Alliance
Kent Knable	Centre LifeLink	Dr. Jeff Myers	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Bob Mateff	Cetronia Ambulance Corps	Jim Slotterback	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Harry Moore	Chester County DES	Anthony Martin	Tower Health
Mehmet Barzev	City of Allentown EMS	Mervin Wertz	Tower Health
Matt Brett	City of Allentown EMS	J.R. Henry	Valley Ambulance Authority
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam EMS	Justin Eberly	VFIS Education
Jeffrey Wess	Forbes Health System	Dr. Steven Schirk	Wellspan York Hospital
Kim Holman	Good Fellowship Amb. Corps.	Dr. Tom Yeich	Wellspan York Hospital
Bob Wanovich	Highmark Inc.	Gary Vinnacombe	West Grove Ambulance
Chris Chamberlain	Hospital Assoc. of PA	Anthony Tucci	Western Berks Ambulance
Steve Bailey	Non-Profit Emerg. Svcs. Beaver Co.		

Council Members Present

Robert Twaddle	Allegheny Health Network	Greg Hellier	PA ACEP
Gwen McNamara	American Red Cross	Dr. Brian Wexler	PA ACEP
Krista Brands	American Trauma Society - PA	Robert Brooks	PA Professional Firefighters Assoc.
Dr. Everitt Binns	Binns & Associates	Keith McMinn	Penn State LifeLion Hershey
Gene Giraulo	Canonsburg Hospital	Eric Zaney	Penn State LifeLion Hershey
Ron Romano	City of Pittsburgh EMS	Ed Lendvay	Philadelphia EMS Council
Annie Phillips	Delaware County EMS Council	Terry Sloan	Portage Area Ambulance
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council	Dr. Jeffrey Kuklinski	St Lukes Health System
Jason Smith	Eastern PA EMS Council	Dr. Jean Bail	Thomas Jefferson University
Dr. Michael Reihart	EHSF	Myron Rickens	UPMC
Bob Stakem	Hbg. Area Community College	Dr. Alvin Wang	VMSC of Lower Merion/Narberth
Craig Wheeler	Lewistown Hospital		
William Miller	LTS EMS Council		
Carla Miller	LTS EMS Council		
Darrell Fisher	New Holland Ambulance Assoc.		

DOH Members Present

Dr. Aaron Rhone, Director BEMS

PEHSC Staff Present

Janette Swade, Director

Butch Potter, Sr. EMS System Specialist

Andy Snavelly, EMS Systems Specialist

Duane Spencer, Manager EMSC Project

Call to Order		The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by President Dave Jones
Approval of Meeting Minutes		Motion: Tony Tucci Second: Barry Albertson Accept the meeting minutes of September 28, 2022 as printed. Result: Motion carried
President's Report	President Dave Jones reported the following: Line of duty death in late November from Penn Hills Ambulance, Nicholas [redacted]. Craig Herman from the State Fire Commissioner's Office passed away. Congratulations to Dr. Ron Roth for being the recipient of the ACEP Outstanding Contributions to EMS Award. Dr. Jeff Kuklinski will be the PEHSC representative to the PA Trauma Systems Foundation Board. We also want to extend our thanks to Dr. Greg Frailey for his tenure on the PTSF Board. The council is forming a nominating committee for board elections in March 2023. There are 3 organizations that will be stepping off the board due to term limits. There are 7 organizations that are eligible for a second term on the board.	

	Leaving the Board: Center for Emergency Medicine Cumberland Goodwill EMS Non-Profits of Beaver County Eligible for a 2nd Term: Cetronia Ambulance Corp Forbes Hospital Highmark Inc Lower Allen EMS Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services Wellspan York Hospital West York Ambulance EMSOF appears to be making a steady recovery from COVID and due to the increased surcharge increase.	
Treasurer's Report	Dr. Ron Roth reported on the Council's current financial status. Janette Swade noted we are awaiting on approximately \$55,000 from the Department. We have made a temporary transfer to cover operations.	Motion: Tony Tucci Second: JR Henry Accept the treasurer's report. Result: Motion carried.
Executive Director's Report	Janette Swade reported the following: Rural grant proposal opportunity. Our structure does not allow for us to apply for the grant. EMS law committee is being formed; emails have been sent to perspective members. We have seen an increase in legislative inquires and work with AAP closely on legislative matters. Key legislative accomplishments: EMS Compact Medicaid Increase Reform to Fireworks Act Fire and EMS Grants Bylaws committee has been formed and are collecting input through a survey tool on potential bylaws amendments.	

	Financial concerns regarding EMSC contract timing from federal government and Department approval process. Annual audit is moving forward but has not been without difficulty in engaging an auditor. Many auditing firms are not interested in performing audits based on government requirements. Workforce development project process update. Introduced PEHSC Opportunities Based Work Plan Algorithm.	
Department of Health Report	Dr. Aaron Rhone reported the following: • Working on getting \$1 million education grant opportunity. • BEMS is now fully staffed and is also pursuing 3 CDC grant funded positions. • Transitioning to new data bridge. • Question from Tony Tucci about flag lowering order?? Honoring both EMS and fire equally??	
Special Presentation: Medicare and Medicaid JR Henry	• Medicare increases budgeted are affected by several factors so the 8.7% is actually less. Sequestration and renewal of the temporary increase may reduce the increase and could cause an overall reduction in reimbursement. Providers need to act by contacting their congressman in the next 17 days. • Medicaid increases, which were worked on by AAP. BLS rate from \$180 to \$324 and mileage increase from \$2 to \$4 dollars per loaded miles. • Refund from Aetna Medicare due to improper reductions for co-pays. If patients have paid those copays, the EMS company will have to refund the patient, plus any interest accrued.	

	This action must take this action within 60 days. This will be a complicated process and in most cases is not the windfall most people think it is.	
Medical Advisory Committee Report: Dr. Mike Reihart	The MAC met virtually on November 9, 2022 and offers the following report: • Dr. Thomas Stauffer, from Tower Health, presented a proposal to add an additional supraglottic airway device, the Air-Q 3, to the scope of practice list and applicable protocols. This will be considered further during the protocol review. • A presentation was made by Reamstown Fire Co EMS and the EHSF for a pilot program to permit EMTs to apply and monitor end tidal CO2 on respiratory patients and those undergoing positive pressure ventilation. The proposal was forwarded to the Department with the committee's endorsement. • Dr. Kupas lead the committee in a review of the recommendations gathered through the PEHSC survey related to 2023 protocol update. PEHSC received over 200 recommendations. • Additional meetings are being scheduled to continue the protocol update process.	
EMSC Report: Duane Spencer	The EMSC Committee met by webinar on Tuesday November 29, 2022. 1. The committee has expanded to include representation from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Family Health and The PEAL Center. This expansion represents part of the development of our Family Advisory Network. We are looking toward the beginning of 2023 to start a focused sub-group of representation to discuss issues and needs.	

	2. The EMSC program has selected Dr. Sylvia Owusu-Ansah as its new Physician Advisors. Dr. Owusu-Ansah will work with committee physicians and stakeholders to ensure strong oversight for pediatric readiness and clinical care. Additionally, she will represent EMSC on the Medical Advisory Committee. 3. New PECC'S and PVRP agencies. There are an additional 27 PECC's and 13 newly recognized PVRP agencies since July 1st with another three of each in process. The PECC and PVRP Summary reports along with full PVRP list in available in the documents section. 4. The 2023 EMSC Survey will be opened on January 4th and close by the end of March. We are currently awaiting an updated agency list from the Bureau so that we can update survey agency contact information in order to improve survey communications and response rates. The final 2022 EMSC State Summary Report is available in the documents section 5. The program submitted our next 4 year grant application on November 9th with an emphasis on four primary goals a. Develop and implement a facility recognition program and ED PECC's b. Continue to promote our pre-hospital recognition program and prehospital PECC's c. Expand EMS and ED disaster readiness to care for children d. Expand our FAN program. 6. The 2023 EMSC meeting date are posted in the documents section. Interest in attending please email Duane for invite, meetings are open to Board members.	
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Critical Care Task Force: Dr. Greg Frailey	The task force met on October 5, 2022 and offers the following report: • Dr. Frailey provided an update on the RSI project. The workgroup is making steady progress and expects a first draft of the recommendations in early 2023. • The task force heard a report on proposed additions/changes to the protocols. There were two recommendations: 1) adjust medication dosage in the ALS seizure protocol and 2) create a comprehensive CCT shock protocol. • The task force is also reviewing CCT related recommendations received through the PEHSC stakeholder survey.	
RSI Task Force: Dr. Greg Frailey	The task force met virtually on October 4, 2022 and offers the following report: • The group continues to make steady progress. • Dr. Stoy's workgroup is building the educational program. • Dr. Wang's workgroup is building the clinical protocol. • Dr. Guyette's workgroup is working on a data collection tool. • Dr. Siberski's workgroup has completed the EMS agency medical director expectations. • Work has begun on a first draft of the recommendations, to which the outstanding recommendations will be added. Our goal is to have a completed first draft ready for task force review in the first quarter of 2023	
EMS Education Task Force: Merv Wertz	Today, the task force would like to present a concept for the consideration related to	Motion: Tony Tucci Second: Bob Mattea

	the future of practical skills testing in all EMS certification programs. CFC# 1222-01 recommends: • The Department consider replacing the legacy practical skills testing procedure with a "skills portfolio." • The portfolio evaluates a student's skill proficiency over a period of time and includes evaluation by an EMS instructor. • This approach is consistent with that of the NREMT and CoAEMSP. • For each procedure there will be a skill sheet and a matrix denoting how many times the procedure must be observed. • Final sign-off from an EMS instructor will be required prior to the completion of the program or participation in a field internship. • The educational institute will have the flexibility to determine how to accomplish the portfolio requirements.	Forward CFC 1222-01 to the Department for consideration. Result: Motion carried.
EMS Operations Committee: Tony Deaven	CFC 0622-01 Update <i>"PEHSC asks that the PA Dept. of Health, Bureau of EMS, consider reviewing and clarifying the scenarios in which separate EMS agencies may combine personnel in order to satisfy minimum staffing requirements."</i> Director Rhone reported the concept has been forward to legal counsel for review.	
EMS Conference Report: Andy Snavelly	• The 2022 PA EMS Conference was completed on Nov. 30, 2022. • Attendance reached a new high of 2,336 • The event was considered a success on all levels, with an increased attendance and decreased attrition rate as	

	compared to previous years since adopting the virtual model. The 2023 PA EMS Conference is tentatively scheduled for Sep. 5-8, 2023	
EMS Awards: Duane Spencer	- Nominations open as of today through February 1, 2023 - Please share nomination widely - No changes to award categories - Award presentation during or around EMS Week	
Organizational Report: AAP Don Dereamus	- The House is in a state of flux right now and there will be a lot of confusion for the next several months. Democrats and Republicans are fighting for control of the chamber. - It's important for EMS to establish relationships with your state representative and senator. - Pursing elimination of the Medicaid 20 mile rule during this legislative session. - Medicare appointed an advisory committee on ambulance billing matters. The possibility of the ambulance data being collected playing a role in the coming discussions. - AAP will be doing outreach through the regional and state EMS conference on legislative issues. - EMS Provider Foundation grant application process will soon be opening.	
New Business	There was no new business	
2023 Board Meeting Dates	March 15 th June 21 st September 20 th December 6th	
Adjournment		Motion: Tony Tucci Second: Tony Deaven

		To adjourn the meeting at 1114 hours. Result: Motion carried.
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