



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS

**Board of Directors Meeting
December 11, 2024**

Board Members Present:

Mary Kovac	Allegheny General Hospital	Dr Rick Wadas	NAEMSP - PA Chapter
Robert Twaddle	Allegheny General Hospital	Dr Alvin Wang	NAEMSP - PA Chapter
Bob Mateff	Cetronia Ambulance Corp	Dr Bryan Wexler	PA ACEP
Larry Smythe	Chester Co Dept of Emerg Svcs	Josh Fremberg	Penn State University
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam EMS	Juliet Altenburg	PTSF
Robert Carpenter	EMS of Northeastern PA	Keith Laws	Riddle Hospital EMS
Gene Lesneski	EMS of Northeastern PA	JR Henry	Southwest EMS Alliance
Matthew Welch	Honeybrook Elverson EMS	Myron Rickens	UPMC Presbyterian
Norman Prycl	McCandless-Franklin Park EMS	Bill Wells	Uwchlan Ambulance Corp
David Brown	Montgomery Co Dept of Emerg Svcs	Dr Avram Flamm	Wellspan York Hospital

Council Members Present:

Alex Kuhn	American Heart Assoc	Dave Jones (Past Pres).	Penn State University
Don DeReamus	Ambulance Association of PA	Steve Bailey	Non-Profit Emerg Svcs of Butler Co
Tim Hinchcliff	Burholme Ambulance Corp	Francis Feld	PA Athletic Trainers Assoc
Kent Knable	Centre LifeLink EMS	Brent Smith	PA Athletic Trainers Assoc
Mark Giangiulio	Delaware Co EMS Council	Kay Ella Bleacher	PA ENA
Dwayne Wallace	Delaware Co EMS Council	Jenn Yetter	PA ENA
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council	Ed Lendvay	Philadelphia EMS Council
Jason Smith	Eastern PA EMS Council	Joe Festa	Plum EMS
Michael Reihart	EHSF EMS Council	Greg Porter	Southwest EMS Alliance
Thomas McElree	EMS West EMS Council	Jordan Anthony	Southern Alleghenies EM S Council
Joe Stevens	First Capital EMS	Matthew Collins	Southern Chester Co EMS
Bryan Davis	JET Response EMS	Dr Jeff Myers	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Todd Vreeland	Levittown-Fairless Hills EMS	Mark Trueman	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Craig Wheeler	Lewistown Hospital	Christopher Ritter	Temple Health System
William Miller	LTS EMS Council	Tiffany Vargo	Tri-Community South EMS
Wade Amick	Municipal EMS Authority Lanc	Dr Christian Martin-Gill	UPMC STAT MedEvac
Dave Kirchner	Myerstown First Aid Squad	Jim Houser	UPMC STAT MedEvac

Guests;

Tony Bixby Susquehanna Regional EMS

Department of Health Staff:

Anthony Martin, Director

Dr Dan Bledsoe, Commonwealth EMS Medical Director

PEHSC Staff:

Janette Swade, Butch Potter, Andy Snavely, Duane Spencer

Item	Discussion	Action/Resolution
Call to Order		The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by Dr Alvin Wang, President.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes from October 16, 2024.	Motion: Matt Welch Second: Greg Porter To accept the meeting minutes as drafted. Result: Motion carried.
President's Report	Dr. Alvin Wang reported: • DOH response to Greater Valley ALS staffing pilot proposal denied. • CMS change for blood products – ALS can bill at ALS 2 level • PEHSC MAC issued a guidance memo on the IV shortage • PEHSC participating in the in the DOH's ED overcrowding task force. • Future council work products: • Provider discipline board • EMS Act revisions • Recommend Dr. Kuklinski reappointment to PTSF board. • Upcoming meeting with Director Martin • Tribute to Dr. Ron Stewart, who recently passed away.	
Treasurer's Report	Dr. Bryan Wexler reported: A copy of the treasurer's report is attached to these minutes.	Motion: Greg Report Second: Dr. Jeff Myers Accept the treasurer's report as presented. Result: Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report	ED Janette Swade reported: • EMS for Children Contact Revision received – funding through March of 2025 • Delayed Payments • PEHSC Audit (FYE 24) submitted and Approved by DOH- in meeting folder • 990 Filed • SAM (system for award management) registration completed • CISM updates for 2025 • BEMS County or Broader Level Plan work group – Greg Porter is our Representative • Legislation Review: HB 2469 - Provides for a mental health evaluation for post traumatic stress disorder at no cost to the 911 dispatcher. HB 2576 - Provides for staffing changes via a DOH waiver for ambulances with Regional agreements. Alters ALS ambulance to ALS paramedic or higher and an EMSVO. BLS ambulance to EMT and EMSVO. HB 2659 - Changes re-instatement for expired EMR and EMT providers. Key is 6 years or less to go through a re-instatement process as defined. Removes the EMSVO con-ed requirements. And when resources are limited provides for an ALS Ambulance staffing change to one provider at or above the Advanced EMT level and a EMSVO. Also removes the EMSVO requirement for ALS ambulance.	
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Department of Health Report	Director Anthony Martin reported: • Outstanding invoices are in process and should be paid within 2 weeks. • Compliance with the EMS compact with regard to interstate practice privileges. Will include FBI background check for newly certified providers. Also need to ID accelerated process for military personnel. • Countywide Plan Group. Many different understandings of what the requirement actually means. Possibly develop a tool kit to assist communities in developing a broader plan. • Updates to the equipment list.	
Medical Advisory Committee Report	Dr. Mike Reihart reported the following: • Director Martin requested the MAC's consultation on a draft letter regarding a proposed ALS staffing pilot in the Northeastern PA region. • The BEMS is working on new guidelines for conducting pilot programs or research. • Dr. Bledsoe, as the Community LifeTeam Medical Director, presented a pilot program for the direct transport of mental health patients to a walk-in mental health facility in the City of Harrisburg. The MAC recommended the BEMS approve this project. • Dr. Rick Wadas led a discussion on EMS transport of 911 patients to "micro hospitals" aka neighborhood hospitals base on their experience in the Pittsburgh area.	

	○ Overall a positive experience with no major problems. ○ Sponsoring health systems provided education to EMS agencies prior to opening facilities. ○ Some facilities can provide destination medical command. ○ The rate of re-triage and transfer to a tertiary care facility has not been overwhelming, however, if possible, facilities should ID EMS resources in advance to avoid using 911 system. ● 5. Dr. Myers asked the MAC to consider permitting EMTs to utilize the recently approved intra-nasal epinephrine spray. The MAC requested additional information to consider this request at their January 2025 meeting. ● Butch Potter updated the committee on the legislative lobbying efforts to expand the available opioid antagonists to include Nalmefene on the DOH blanket order. The national clinical toxicology groups currently do not support this initiative. ● A subgroup of MAC will be formed to discuss and potentially make recommendations on topics including, but not limited to: ○ Treatment in place (TIP) ○ Transport to alternate destinations (TAD) ○ ED “wall time” waiting ○ Medical command orders for placing patient in restraints at the request of law enforcement.	
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Protocol Workgroup Update	Dr. Alvin Wang reported: • The workgroup has begun the process of reviewing draft protocols as submitted by group members. • The BEMS reaffirmed their desire to draft Sections 1&2 as some protocols involve matters of regulation. • The group will push blocks for protocols forward to the MAC rather than the entire protocol book.	
Critical Care TF Report	• Butch Potter reported: • Awaiting a response from the BEMS on recommendations: • To update the CCT medication and scope of practice lists as submitted by the group. • To permit the development and use of agency-level protocols by ground CCT and special operations EMS agencies. • Reviewed the current required equipment list and made several recommendations, which will be combined with reviews by the EMSC and EMS Operations committees. ○ Continued to discuss the expansion of the statewide CCT protocols: ○ Consensus reached that the additional protocols should be created if a gap assessment reveals patient conditions for which there is not a CCT protocol or; ○ If the patient condition is not addressed in the current statewide ALS protocols. ○ Will be gathering source documents to assist in the creation of needed protocols.	

	○ The CCT protocols will not be included in the concurrent initiative to unify the other statewide protocols to keep both documents user-friendly.	
EMS Operations TF Report	Andy Snavelly reported: • Met Nov. 8, 2024 • CFC 0622-01 - Shared staffing operations between ALS and BLS agencies ○ Verbal response received from BEMS voicing support for the concept ○ Requesting additional recommendations on how to proceed ○ The group is drafting a VTR and a best practices document • Reviewing required ambulance equipment list for changes/updates	
EMSC Committee	Duane Spencer reported on the proposed updates to the program: • Virtual meeting November 26, 2024 • New AC members from ENA and Penn State Hershey Medical Center • Revised contract from DOH received • Emergency Department Recognition Program development • Pediatric Protocol review • The Spring Symposium still needs committee support before any planning can proceed • Prehospital Pediatric Recognition Program for EMS presentation and approval • Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program (PVRP) 10 years old	Motion: Bill Wells Second: Keith Laws Accept the updates to the Prepared for Pediatrics Program. Result: Motion carried

	• Addition of Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators in 2019 • HRSA Performance Measures - 2023 Implementation Manual for State Partnership Grantees • Establishing a standardized Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program for prehospital EMS. HRSA July 2024 program review with recommendations • Integration of EMS physician medical oversight • Inclusion of policies and protocols for the safe transport of children in emergency vehicles • Collaboration with Emergency Departments to provide pediatric readiness across the care continuum • Inclusion of family-centered care practices • Inclusion of pediatric considerations in disaster planning • Inclusion of pediatric considerations in guidelines and policies • Inclusion of practices to reduce pediatric medication errors • Incorporation of statewide data submission, per state statute to submit NEMSIS data • Incorporation of performance improvement practices • Prehospital clinicians physically demonstrate the correct use of pediatric-specific equipment.	
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EMS Conference Report	Andy Snavelly reported: • 2024 Attendance – 2082 (3218 Registrations, 88% Participation) • 24 Sessions providing 26 hours of continuing education. Clinical 14.5 hrs / Other 11.5/EMSVO 1.0 • Session Views 2373 (live) 1154 (recorded) • Usage 36% , 31% on-demand, 33% combination of both	
Organizational Reports	AA-PA (Heather Harris/Don DeReamus) • Gathering recommendations for revision of EMS act. • Gearing up for new legislative session. • VA payment rule from 2023 which would of caused reduction in reimbursement. Relief sought from the federal courts. • AAP submitted amicus brief. • Federal circuit ruled the VA does not have the authority to impose the proposed rule. PTSF (Juliet Altenberg) • Added another Level 4 center and several additional hospitals are in the accreditation process. • Costs waived for CAH who are pursuing accreditation • Juliet Altenberg is retiring as of January 1, 2025. Amy Kempinski will be the new PTSF CEO.	
Adjournment	2025 board meeting dates will be published soon.	Motion: Greg Porter Second: Keith Laws To adjourn the meeting. Result: Motion carried

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CASH BALANCE AS OF:						
		7/31/2024	8/31/2024	9/30/2024	10/31/2024	11/30/2024	12/31/2024	
Contract Fund	2024-20245 Contract Amount \$353,940.00/ EM SC 151,671.18	92,707.43	122,989.79	108,395.61	94,580.57	58,739.15		
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	13,273.43	13,557.75	12,897.44	12,858.14	12,796.86		
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	5,102.83	5,102.87	5,102.91	5,102.95	4,802.99		
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	71,319.53	76,832.51	76,191.44	92,967.70	92,826.81		
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	356,893.66	362,572.11	369,678.24	365,290.40	pending receipt		
ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	1/31/2025	2/29/2025	3/31/2025	4/30/2025	5/31/2025	6/30/2025	
Contract Fund	2024-2025 Contract Amount \$353,940.0/EM SC 151,671.18							
Payroll Account	Transfer Account							
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA							
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income							
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance							