



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

600 Wilson Lane Suite 101 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 • (717) 795-0740 • www.pehsc.org

**Board of Directors & Annual Council Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022**

Board Members Present:

Don DeReamus	Ambulance Association of PA
Doug Garretson	Ambulance Association of PA
Tim Hinchcliff	Burholme Ambulance Corps
Dr. Ronald Roth	Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA
Dr. Walt Stoy	Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA
Kent Knable	Centre LifeLink
Bob Mateff	Cetronia Ambulance Corps
Harry Moore	Chester Co Dept of Emergency Services
Mehmet Barzev	City of Allentown EMS
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam EMS
Nathan Harig	Cumberland Goodwill EMS
James Green	Harrisburg Area Community College
Bob Wanovich	Highmark Inc.
Chris Chamberlain	Hospital & Health Care Association of PA
Tony Deaven	Lower Allen Township EMS
Dr. Greg Hellier	PA College of Emergency Physicians
Dr. Bryan Wexler	PA College of Emergency Physicians
Jerry Ozog	PA Fire & Emergency Services Institute
Juliet Altenburg	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
David Jones	Penn State University
Keith Laws	Riddle Memorial Hospital
Ken Davidson	Second Alarmers Rescue Squad
JR Henry	Southwest Ambulance Alliance
Dr. Steve Schirk	Wellspan York Hospital
Dr. Tom Yeich	Wellspan York Hospital
Anthony Tucci	Western Berks EMS
Dr. Greg Frailey	Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Cooperative
Jim Slotterback	Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Cooperative

Council Members Present:

Mary Kovac	Allegheny Health Network
Robert Twaddle	Allegheny Health Network
Krista Brands	American Trauma Society - PA Division
Patrick O'Connell	Delaware Co EMS Council
Annie Phillips	Delaware Co EMS Council
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council
Dr. Michael Reihart	Emergency Health Services Federation
John Campos	EMS of Northeastern PA
Thomas McElree	EMS West EMS Council
David Kirchner	Myerstown Ambulance
Dr. David Scaff	PA Committee on Trauma - American College of Surgeons
Terry Sloan	Portage Area Ambulance Association
Bob Hotchkiss	Southern Chester Co EMS
Christopher Ritter	Temple Critical Care Transport
Dr. Jean Bail	Thomas Jefferson University
Anthony Martin	Tower Health
Mervin Wertz	Tower Health
Myron Rickens	UPMC Prehospital Care
Tammy Whiteman	Uwchlan Ambulance Corps
Dr. Alvin Wang	VMSC of Lower Merion & Narbreth

Department of Health Staff Present:

Dr. Aaron Rhone, Acting Director, Bureau of EMS

PEHSC Staff Present:

Janette Swade, Executive Director
Donald Potter, Sr. EMS Systems Specialist
Andrew Snavely, EMS Systems Specialist
Duane Spencer, EMS for Children Project Manager

Other Attendees:

Gene Giraulo	Allegheny Health Network
Heather Sharar	Ambulance Association of PA
Dr. Duane Siberski	Eastern PA EMS Council
Nate Silcox	Executive Director - PA Senate Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee
Craig Wheeler	Geisinger - Lewistown Hospital
Andrew Rennie	Penn Medicine - Lancaster General Health
Ed Lendvay	Philadelphia Fire Department

Discussion	Action	Conclusion
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by President David Jones	.
Approval of Minutes	The meeting minutes of December 8, 2021 were reviewed.	Motion by: Tucci Seconded by: Laws To approve the meeting minutes as drafted.
President's Report President David Jones provided the following report: - Staff changes at BEMS; Director Ferguson has left the Department and Dr. Aaron Rhone is the Acting Director. Dr. Wendy Braund is the Acting Deputy Secretary for Health Preparedness with the departure of Ray Barishansky. - There was recent testimony to House Vets/EP committee by PFESI and AAP, et al on workforce crisis. - Dr. Frailey was reconfirmed to the PTSF board for another one-year term. - Thanks to the outgoing board members for their service to the Council.		
Treasurer's Report: Dr. Ronald Roth provided a review of the current account balances as noted below.	<u>Motion by: Dr. Greg Frailey</u> <u>Seconded by: Tony Deaven</u> <u>To approve the Treasurer's report as presented.</u>	<u>Motion carried.</u>

Account	Account Description	As of 2/28/2022
Contract Fund	FY 2021-2022 Contract Amount \$280,000	\$63, 617.14
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	\$25,540.04
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	\$2484.12
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	\$95,268.54
Investment Funds PEMSA	Monthly Dividends into Balance	\$316,044.50

Executive Director's Report Executive Director Janette Swade provided the following report: 1. Contract for next year \$353,940.00. Will be behind about \$30,000 2. EMSC funds received only in part \$50,000 – has happened before. 3. Line of credit for \$130,000 reauthorized by the bank 4. Investment review for PAEMSA – slight modifications made. Rate of return is currently 6.9%. 5. Working with AAP on legislative strategies, including that EMS is an essential service per the EMS Act. AAP and PEHSC has offered to provide assistance with the distribution of Act 10 funds (\$25m). 6. Event to thank the legislature for Act 10 funds on March 28th at Soldiers Grove – please come in uniform. Staff note: date was changed to June 6 7. April 7th is NAEMT “Day on the Hill,” which is focused on federal legislative efforts		
Department of Health Report Dr. Aaron Rhone, Acting BEMS Director, provided the following report: 1. He will be meeting with all regional councils, PEHSC and AAP to hear about needs. 2. The BEMS plans to schedule statewide town hall meetings to hear from the regulated community on their needs. 3. Act 10 funds – there is a portal at OSFC website to apply (available later this week).		

Senate Resolution 6 Update Nathan Silcox, Executive Director, PA Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, provided the following update: 1. Fire and EMS grants were reauthorized. 2. Some form of property tax relief for fire and EMS providers is being discussed. 3. Act 93 – increase EMSOF fines and legislative audit of the fund by LB&FC (audit near completion). 4. SB698 – County Public Safety Authority legislation. PEHSC is supportive – another tool in the toolbox for some areas of the state. 5. Act 10 - \$25m grant for EMS, administered by the OSFC.. as previously discussed 6. SB851 – EMS Compact – is moving. 7. A legislative Fire and EMS Caucus has been reformed, please engage your legislators to join		
---	--	--

COMMITTEE & TASK FORCE REPORTS		
Medical Advisory Committee Report Dr. Michael Reihart, Chair, provided the following report: • Dr. Frailey provided an update from the RSI Task Force. PEHSC is in receipt of the Departments response to VTR 1221-01, the details of which will be discussed during the task force report. • Dr. Brendan Mulcahy, from Allegheny Health Network, presented a pilot proposal for the prehospital use of Keppra for patients experiencing status epilepticus. The MAC recommended the project to the Department.		

- The committee discussed the frequency of use of temporary BLS protocol 932 for the non-transport of stable patients with COVID-19 symptoms. Although the Department doesn't have any data on its use, the members speculated that based on anecdotal evidence, it is likely being used to varying degrees across the commonwealth.
- Dr. Wang provided an update on the activities of the iALS Workgroup. The group's work product will be divided between clinical and operational (dispatch) recommendations. The group recommended the following iALS/AEMT Statewide Protocol changes:

Protocol 1000i General Operations

Correct approved/required medication list to permit the administration of "crystalloid isotonic solutions."

Rationale: Corrects a typographical error on the medication list that is in conflict with the AEMT scope of practice and statewide protocols.

Protocol 2010i Indications for ALS

Use

"An iALS service provider should, [add: based on their assessment of the patient,] request ALS..."

Rationale: Clarifies that ALS dispatch should be based on the AEMT's assessment of the patient's condition in order to determine if ALS dispatch is warranted. This is particularly important when an ALS may have an extended response, e.g., mutual aid or limited local resources.

Protocol 3031iA General Cardiac

Arrest

Change the carrying and use of Epinephrine 0.1mg/ml from "permitted" to "required."

Rationale: Provides a uniform standard of ALS level care across the commonwealth when treating a patient in cardiac arrest.

Protocol 4011i Allergic Reaction

Change the carrying and use of Diphenhydramine from "permitted" to "required."

<i>Rationale: Provides a uniform standard of ALS level care across the commonwealth when treating a patient with suspected allergic reaction.</i> <u>Protocol 4022i</u> <u>Asthma/COPD/Bronchospasm</u> Remove reference to “BiPAP.” <i>Rationale: Corrects a typographical error in the protocol and makes it consistent with use of CPAP in the companion ALS protocol</i> The MAC requested Dr. Kupas to consider implementing these changes in advance of the 2023 statewide protocol update		
EMS for Children Advisory Committee Report Duane Spencer, program manager, provided the following report: The 2022 EMS for Children Survey is underway and closes March 30th. Current response rate is at 36%. The 2020 National Pediatric Readiness Survey, completed in the summer of 2021, is now beginning to provide some data that was collected. 85 hospitals surveyed were included in the Pennsylvania report. The EMSC Committee continues to discuss opportunities around the COVID-19 impact on children including pediatric mental health resources. Targeted Education specific to the Skills Assessments which is part of the EMS survey are being planned for upcoming Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators Learning Sessions. A new EMSC Newsletter called PEDIBYTES was published in January and will be published quarterly in the future. The newsletter was sent out electronically and is available on the PAEMSC.org website.		

The PAEMSC website is undergoing a major revision to refresh information and enhance user accessibility. The PA EMSC logo will be changed in the near future to reflect a national re-branding of the EMSC program. The EMSC program is discussing a Pediatric Conference targeted at supporting the PECC role and activities.		
RSI Task Force Report Dr. Gregory Frailey, task force chair, provided the following report: The council is in receipt of a letter from the Department accepting the Phase 1 recommendations and directing the task force to begin Phase 2 pilot program development. The Department also provided several comments and questions, which the task force will address going forward.		
EMS Operations Committee Report Anthony Deaven, committee chair, provided the following report: The EMS Operations Committee most recently met on February 22, 2022. The group is examining various areas of concern and looking for opportunities for system improvement. Current items for discussion hospital diversions, Minimum EMS staffing, shared agency staffing, and EMD issues related to IALS and Overutilization.	Information only	
Special Operations Workgroup Report Dr. Duane Siberski, workgroup chair, provided the following report: The group most recently met on February 28 and is currently working on the Tactical Paramedic Scope of Practice and associated items. Current areas of focus include the medication list,	Information only	

educational objectives, and medical direction. The group meets regularly and work is ongoing.		
OTHER BUSINESS		
EMS Conference Update 2021-2022 Andrew Snavely, conference coordinator, provided the following update: The 2022 PA EMS Conference will again be held “virtually”. The planned dates are Sept 6-9, 2022 and the sessions will be recorded and available for delayed viewing as in the past. We are currently negotiating with our software vendor. More details will be shared very soon via email and social media.	Information only	
PEHSC Workforce Project Update Janette Swade, PEHSC Executive Director, provided the following update: Staff, in consultation with the Executive committee continues to prepare a workforce paper for discussion, as time permits. The Board will be engaged as soon as we have a solid framework and sample.		
Adjournment	<u>Motion by: Anthony Deaven</u> <u>Seconded by: JR Henry</u> <u>To adjourn the March 2022 meeting of the PEHSC Board of Directors at 1100 hours.</u>	Motion carried.

**Annual Council Meeting
March 9, 2022**

Topic	Discussion	Action or Resolution
Convene Annual Council Meeting	The annual council meeting was called to order at 1108 hours by President David Jones	
Nominating Committee Report	<u>Motion by: Anthony Tucci</u>	<u>Motion carried.</u>

Anthony Deaven, Chair, provided the following slate of organizations for the council's consideration (Board Term 2023-25): 1. American College of Surgeons – Committee on Trauma 2. Chester County Department of Emergency Services * 3. City of Allentown * 4. Community LifeTeam EMS 5. Good Fellowship Ambulance and EMS Training Institute 6. Penn State University * 7. PA Trauma Systems Foundation * 8. Southwest Ambulance Alliance * 9. Tower Health 10. Western Berks Ambulance Association * Re-nominated for a 2nd term	<u>Seconded by: Keith Laws</u> <u>To close the nominations.</u> <u>Motion by: Keith Laws</u> <u>Seconded by: Anthony Tucci</u> <u>To accept the slate of candidates for the 2023-25 board term as presented by the nominating committee.</u>	<u>Motion carried.</u> President Jones thanked the committee for all their hard work.
For the Good of the Order 1. 2022 EMS Memorial Bike Ride will be held on May 21st – 27th. This years route will take the riders from Boston, MA to Baltimore, MD 2. EMS Week 2022 will be held May 15th – 21st. This year's theme is, "EMS: Rising to the Challenge."		
Organization Reports 1. PA Trauma Systems Foundation – Juliet Altenburg a. The hospital survey process for spring has begun, with a decision in the fall of the year. b. Announcements on accreditation are made thru the BEMS and PEHSC. c. Staff is growing – 5 positions are available. 2. PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute – Jerome Ozog a. Legislative tracking. b. Modernizing relief associations. c. Youth involvement in emergency services. d. Smoke detectors in rental properties.		

3. Ambulance Association of PA – Donald Dereamus a. Testimony on workforce crisis – support for current legislature. b. AAP Annual Reimbursement Conference May 3-4 in Gettysburg. c. Also visiting with regional councils regarding increased MA reimbursement thru increased state funding and federal match. d. EMS Memorial events on Sept 10th and annual dinner on September 11th.		
Adjournment	<u>Motion by: Anthony Tucci</u> <u>Seconded by: Juliet Altenburg</u> <u>To adjourn the 2022 annual council meeting.</u>	<u>Motion carried.</u>