



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

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**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2022**

Board Members in Attendance

Don DeReamus	Ambulance Association of PA
Heather Sharar	Ambulance Association of PA
Tim Hinchcliff	Burholme Ambulance Corps.
Jim Houser	Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA
Dr. Ronald Roth	Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA
Kent Knable	Centre LifeLink EMS
Eddie Boyle	Cetronia Ambulance Corps
Bob Mateff	Cetronia Ambulance Corps
Harry Moore	Chester Co. Dept. of Emergency Services
Matt Brett	City of Allentown EMS
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam EMS
Nathan Harig	Cumberland Goodwill EMS
Kim Holman	Good Fellowship Ambulance
Bob Wanovich	Highmark Inc.
Chris Chamberlain	Hospital and Health System Association of PA
Tony Deaven	Lower Allen EMS
Dr. Dave Scaff	PA Committee on Trauma - American College of Surgeons
Juliet Altenburg	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
Anna Over	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
David Jones	Penn State University
Keith Laws	Riddle Hospital
Anthony Martin	Tower Health
Mervin Wertz	Tower Health
JR Henry	Valley Ambulance Authority
Justin Eberly	VFIS Education
Dr. Steven Schirk	Wellspan York Hospital
Dr. Thomas Yeich	Wellspan York Hospital
Gary Vinnacombe	West Grove Fire Co.
Wayne March	West York Ambulance
Anthony Tucci	Western Berks Ambulance

Council Members in Attendance

Dr. Greg Hellier	American College of Emergency Physicians - PA Chapter
Dr. Bryan Wexler	American College of Emergency Physicians - PA Chapter
Gwen McNamara	American Red Cross
Aaron Workman	American Red Cross
Krista Brands	American Trauma Society - PA Division
Dr. Gregory Frailey	Best Practice of Pennsylvania
Patrick O'Connell	Delaware County EMS Council
Annie Phillips	Delaware County EMS Council
Bill McClincy	EMMCO West Regional EMS Council
James Green	Harrisburg Area Community College
Bob Stakem	Harrisburg Area Community College
Dr. Jean Bail	Jefferson University
Craig Wheeler	Lewistown Hospital
Keith McMinn	LifeLion - Hershey Medical Center
Eric Zaney	LifeLion - Hershey Medical Center
Carla Miller	LTS Regional EMS Council
Maryann Longo	Montgomery County EMS Council
Rich Kelley	Mt. Nittany Medical Center EMS
David Kirchner	Myerstown Ambulance
Steve Bailey	Non-Profit Ambulance Services of Beaver Co.
Scott Kingsboro	Northwest EMS
Jerome Ozog	PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute
Robert Brooks	PA Professional Firefighters Association
Dr. Jack Jallo	Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Society
Ed Lendvay	Philadelphia Regional EMS Council
Terry Sloan	Portage Area Ambulance Association
Jeff Yanocho	St. Lukes University Health Network
Tony Bixby	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Jim Slotterback	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Myron Rickens	UPMC

Bureau of EMS Staff in Attendance

Dr. Aaron Rhone	Director
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PEHSC Staff in Attendance

Janette Swade	Director
Butch Potter	Senior EMS Systems Specialist
Andy Snavely	EMS Systems Specialist
Duane Spencer	EMSC Program Manager

Item	Discussion	Action/Resolution
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by President Dave Jones	
Approve of Meeting Minutes	The minutes from the June 15, 2022 meeting were reviewed	Motion: Tony Deaven Second: Tony Tucci To approve the minutes as drafted. Result: Motion carried.
President's Report	President Dave Jones reported the following: LODD Fred Manno LODD Ed Hayes Death of Dr. John Karduck Dr. Jeff Kuklinski, LVHN, for PTSF board representative. SR6 Update: Still meeting to identify priorities. Several pieces of legislation introduced but nothing is moving at this point. Establishing a bylaws committee; so far only one person expressed interest. Will be reaching out to board members. Establishing an EMS law committee for board members. If interested, please contact Janette Swade.	
Treasurer's Report	The current financials were presented by Dr. Ron Roth.	Motion: Gary Vinnecombe Second: Kent Knable To approve the treasurer's report as presented. Result: Motion carried.

**Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council
Account Balances FY 2021-2022**

		CASH BALANCE AS OF:						
ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	7/31/2021	8/31/2021	9/30/2021	10/31/2021	11/30/2021	12/31/2021	
Contract Fund	2021-2022 Contract Amount \$320,000	87,301.69	105,067.92	170,279.83	157,915.06	117,894.54	77,759.00	
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	17,951.23	18,933.42	19,915.63	20,952.38	21,334.40	22,849.91	
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	2,335.61	3,111.70	3,111.73	3,111.76	3,111.79	3,111.79	
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	112,910.04	63,328.22	127,694.76	102,621.55	105,075.66	105,029.80	
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	319,662.91	324,581.22	318,244.81	328,731.52	321,648.61	330,129.80	
		CASH BALANCE AS OF:						
ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	1/31/2022	2/28/2022	3/31/2022	4/30/2022	5/31/2022	6/30/2022	
Contract Fund	2021-2022 Contract Amount \$320,000	103,243.15	63,617.14	90,620.79	98,617.13	127,511.85	124,284.72	
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	15,127.15	28,540.04	32,534.13	36,521.69	40,509.33	44,496.00	
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	2,494.10	2,484.12	2,474.14	2,464.14	2,764.18	2,764.20	
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	104,983.94	95,268.54	68,765.27	67,764.08	69,634.67	71,583.21	
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	320,351.40	316,044.50	320,109.53	302,734.31	303,751.71	283,405.46	

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Janette Swade reported the following:
Finances: EMSOF fund is still low and slow to recover. We are going to be over budget for the last fiscal year, which we anticipated, more so when we pay for the cost of the annual audit. The PPP loan and grant money helped balance the budget in the last couple of years. It is possible that we will be over budget for the current fiscal year.

[Budget Chart Below]

Report from our investment company shows a 5% growth over the last 7 years – which is in range of expected. Met with our investment advisor to review our position. Trying not to use any of the investment funds for operations.

Fund raising opportunities: virtual conference has been highly successful for the provider community, however we have difficulty capturing some vendors due to the format. Other potential ideas? Golf tournament, etc. ?

	We are still seeking a CPA to perform the FY 21-22 audit. DOH has extended the deadline for the audit until December 31, 2022. Don DeReamus questioned if a review could be performed instead of a full audit? Unfortunately no, there is very specific language in our contract. PEHSC annual report has been completed and submitted to the DOH. The report is available on council website. Recap of the Susquehanna County meeting. Most concerns center around a lack of staffing. Specifically, they discussed concerns with NREMT exams and continuing education requirements. Also discussed financial challenges that are impacting all EMS agencies. Looking at a rural grant opportunity, however, the council may not be eligible to apply – we are still evaluating the criteria. [insert legislative review information] EMS as an essential service – a statement or law beyond that which is stated in the EMS Act. Working with AAP on this issue and will be an item for the EMS law committee. Discussion of HB 2579 – elimination of the NREMT exams. Which will create a conflict with the recent passage of REPLICA and its requirements. At present it's still on the House calendar for October 24, 2022. The bill shifts	
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	the examination responsibility to the EMS education institute – without DOH approval. With limited session days remaining, unknown if this legislation will come up for vote before the session expires. Jerry Ozog said that precedence for this has been set by changes to the teacher’s certification requirement. Dr. Frailey stated there is a lot of value to having an independent evaluation in any healthcare profession. Nathan Harig commented that younger folks completing EMT training are not interested in taking the exam. They cite lag from time class ends; time taken up by both a practical and written exam. Dave Krichten commented that the computer adaptive exam is a problem due to its psychological impact on the student. Students are not accustom to this type of exam. Bill McClincy noted that the questions for the NREMT exam are taken from the national education standards. Is this an exam issue or the overall education process? Dr. Hellier said that PACEP has discussed this issue and has not reached consensus. Justin Eberly asked about the availability of data regarding testing before and after initiating the NREMT exam?	
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	Dr. Roth echoed the previous comment regarding this being an education process issue – not a testing issue. Rural areas need and deserve highly competent providers, especially given their extended patient contact times. Tony Tucci commented that this impacts all EMS agencies, not just in rural communities. Dr. Rhone commented that he would like to see a strengthening of the EMT and less reliance on ALS. Institutes and instructors need to prepare the student to be successful – including passing the NREMT exam. Are we using the NREMT as a safety net against unprepared providers instead of putting in the work to prepare them? Dr. Wexler commented that whether it's a state or national exam, there are costs involved that need to be addressed. If there are concerns about the equality of the quality of education among education institutes, are they really the best people to create and administer a certification exam?	
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Budget by Year

FYE	Total Budget	EMSOF	EMSC
6/30/2011	567,621		
6/30/2012	581,949		
6/30/2013	506,707		
6/30/2014	620,171		
6/30/2015	632,515		
6/30/2016	538,224		
6/30/2017	538,224		
6/30/2018	538,224		
6/30/2019	549,683	421,539	128,144
6/30/2020	549,683	421,539	128,144
6/30/2021	508,144	360,800	128,144
6/30/2022	448,144	320,000	128,144
6/30/2023	482,084	353,940	128,144

DOH Report	Dr. Aaron Rhone reported the following: The concept of allowing ALS and BLS to combine to make a crew is in legal and policy review. With the new BLS staffing requirement [Act 72] in place, is the concept still needed. Tony Deaven would like to take this back to the Ops Committee for further discussion. Nathan Harig asked if there is any available data to determine how long ALS is sitting on scene waiting on scene? Dr. Rhone is unsure what data points are available. Working with the Compact to ensure PA data is able to be transmitted back and forth. EMSIB forth coming regarding foreign nationals coming into the US regarding Compact. EMSIB forthcoming regarding EMS being used for fitness for duty evaluations – beyond the scope of EMS.	Tony Deaven recommended the concept for consideration will be sent back to the committee for additional discussion on the impact of Act 72 is concerned.
Medical Advisory Committee	Dr. Wadas presented a concern of supply chain disruptions of dextrose containing solutions. The Department will issue a bulletin authorizing the substitution of 5% dextrose in water. Aaron said EMSIB is forthcoming on use of 5% Dextrose. Was stuck in the communications office due to confusion language. Drs. Wydro and Wadas presented a review of the current POLST legislation; there overall assessment is this effort with have a positive impact on	

	EMS and eliminate the confusion with different forms. Dr. Schirk discussed a concern with EMS being called to quick care facilities, physician offices, etc., for patients already examined by a provider, who subsequently refuse transport. He will propose clarifying language for the protocol update. HB 940 has been signed into law permitting EMS personnel, under certain circumstances, to provide emergency care and transport to police K-9's. The committee was briefed on the national registry's decision to sunset practical skills testing on April 2023. PA still has as requirement in regulation – the board will hear more about this today from the EMS education task force. Dr. Kupas reported the 2023 protocol update cycle will begin after Labor Day. Butch Potter reported the council received over 200 stakeholder recommendations from its bi-annual survey. The next MAC meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2022 at 1000 hours.	
Critical Care Task Force	The Critical Care Transport Task Force is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, October 5th at 1000 hours This meeting will be focused on recommendations to enhance the current statewide critical care protocols.	

Education Task Force	Lengthy discussion regarding draft VTR 0922-01 regarding the future of psychomotor testing for ALS and BLS certification programs. A follow up recommendation from VTR 1215-05 for BLS skills testing. Seeking to expand scope of recommendation to both ALS and BLS testing. Good foundational work on this recommendation thus far, but not yet ready for board consideration. Will develop a small workgroup of education institutes, regional councils, the BEMS and PEHSC to further explore the concept. All participants encouraged by the exchange of ideas during the meeting. Hoping to develop a final recommendation for the December board meeting.	
EMSC Committee	2022 EMS Survey – National and PA results. Skills assessments PECC Learning Session set of October 19th Virtual Pediatric Conference in January 2023. PREPaRE – Partners in Pediatric Readiness, Emergency Preparedness, and Response Education. Pediatric Equipment list review Updated PVRP decal EMSC State Partnership Grant	
RSI Task Force	The RSI Task Force is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, October 4th at 1000 hours.	

	At this meeting, the various workgroups will be reporting out their work product, which will form the foundation of the pilot program. The group's goal is to complete their work, if possible, by the end of 2022.	
State EMS Conference Update	• Sept. 6-9, 2022 • ONGOING thru Nov. 30 • 25 Sessions • 26.5 hours available CE • 15.0 Clinical • 11.5 Other • 2.0 EMSVO • Attendance: 1827 Thanks to our sponsors: ➤ Penn Medicine – Lancaster General Hospital ➤ Wellspan Health ➤ Penn State Health ➤ Glick EMS ➤ Montgomery County Ambulance Association ➤ Pivot On-Site Innovations	
EMS Awards	Rescheduled in lieu of virtual conferences to connect with EMS Week. Nominations opening late 2022 Current list of awards unchanged. Expanded partner engagement for nominations. Proposed in person ceremony.	

Organization Reports	AAP: Titan's Law enactment. Includes civil immunity for EMS providers. Recommend K-9 care for emergency providers course. \$ from the fireworks law - makes \$ for merging organizations permanent instead of 10 year window. Also includes \$ for volunteer recruitment effort. SB 225 [insurance legislation] was amended to include emergency transportation and care and could jeopardize treat-no-transport. Notification requirements to insurance provider within 2 days?? Still evaluating its impact. Can't be amended due to house rules – would need to suspend the house rules. AAP drafting a letter of opposition. EMS Provider Foundation held a very successful EMS Memorial and Bike Ride – able to raise \$42,000 in support. PTSF: Press release in materials announcing additional Level 4 trauma center – now total of 50 trauma centers in PA Annual conference will be held next week at the Hershey Lodge – still time to register. With her involvement in Rotary International, Juliet mentioned that local Rotary Clubs have financial resources to support local projects – including EMS. PFESI:	
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	SR6 update – good partnerships within this group. Discussed National Registry perception issues in the EMS Community. Likely not a problem with the test, but how a candidate is prepared during the course.	
Video on EMS as an essential service.	Honorable but Broken: EMS in Crisis. Found on EMS1 and YouTube	
Adjournment		Motion: Keith Laws Second: Tony Deaven To adjourn the meeting at 1201 hours. Result: Motion carried.