



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS

**PEHSC Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Virtual Meeting 10:00 a.m.**

Minutes

CONVENE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mr. Jones, President, called the meeting to order at 1000 hours

- Welcomed the attendees

* If you do not see your name on the roster, please contact Kelli Kishbaugh (kkishbaugh@pehsc.org)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ambulance Association of PA – Donald DeReamus/Douglas Garretson/Heather Sharar
Burholme EMS – Timothy Hinchcliff
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA – Walt Stoy, Ph.D./Ron Roth, M.D.
Centre LifeLink EMS – Kent Knable
Cetronia Ambulance Corps. – Robert Mateff
Chester County Department of Emergency Services – Harry Moore
Forbes Hospital – Jeffrey Wess
Harrisburg Area Community College – James Green
Highmark Inc. – Robert Wanovich
Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA – Chris Chamberlain, RN
Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County – Steve Bailey
Pennsylvania ACEP – Gregory Hellier, D.O.
Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute – Jerry Ozog
Pennsylvania State University – J. David Jones
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation – Juliet Altenburg, RN/Anna Over, RN
Riddle Hospital – Main Line Health System – Keith Laws
Second Alarmers Association & Rescue Squad of Montgomery County, Inc. – Ken Davidson
Southern Alleghenies EMS Council – Carl Moen
St. Luke's University Health Network – Jeffrey Yanochko
Valley Ambulance Authority – J.R. Henry
Wellspan York Hospital – Thomas Yeich, M.D./Steven Schirk, M.D.
West Grove Fire Company – Gary Vinnacombe
West York Ambulance – Wayne March
Western Berks Ambulance Association – Anthony Tucci
Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Coop. dba Susquehanna Regional EMS – Mark Trueman

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Allegheny General Hospital – Mary Kovac/Robert Twaddle
American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division – Krista Brands
Bucks County Emergency Health Services Council, Inc. – Michele Rymdeika
City of Pittsburgh-Bureau of Emergency Medical Services – Ronald Romano/Amera Gilchrist
County EHS Council – Patrick O'Connell

Eastern Lebanon County School District – Terry Golden
 Eastern PA EMS Council – Duane Siberski, D.O.
 Emergency Health Services Federation, Inc. – Michael Reihart, D.O.
 Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern PA – John Campos
 Emergency Nurses Association, PA – Kay Ella Bleacher, RN
 Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training Institute – Kimberly Holman, RN
 LTS EMS Council – Wendy Hastings
 Montgomery County Regional EMS Office – David Brown
 Myerstown First Aid Unit – David Kirchner
 Tomas Jefferson University – Jean Bail
 UPMC Presbyterian – Myron Rickens
 UPMC Susquehanna – Steven Bixby
 Uwchlan Ambulance Corps – Tammy Whiteman
 Volunteer Medical Service Corps of Lower Merion and Narberth – Alvin Wang M.D.

BUREAU OF EMS

Dylan Ferguson, Director

PEHSC STAFF

Janette Swade, Director
 Donald Potter, Jr., Sr. EMS System Specialist
 Andy Snavelly, EMS System Specialist
 Duane Spencer, EMSC Manager
 Kelli Kishbaugh, Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Provided by David Jones, President

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
The October 6, meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board of Directors.	It was motioned by Anthony Tucci and seconded by Doug Garretson to approve the October 6, 2021; meeting minutes as drafted.	Motion passed

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Provided by David Jones, President

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
VTR's	President Jones reminded the board members that VTRs presented today are for the board's review and action. It is not a board responsibility to attempt to rewrite a recommendation.	
SR6	- Met on Monday, December 6., 2021. - Reviewed the status of recommendations from 2018 that have not been acted on by legislature.	- Future discussions will be on direct payment and balance billing.

	- The fine for moving violations was doubled, but legislative restrictions on the bill decreased the amount of funds available for system administration. - Discussed the status of the legislative caucus for fire and emergency services.	
PEHSC Workforce Initiative	Executive Committee and PEHSC staff have been discussing workforce issues in Pennsylvania.	In 2022, the council's focus will be primarily on workforce initiatives and recommendations.
Nominating Committee	- Will review and vote on a slate of candidates during the March 2022 Board meeting. - Committee members are Kent Knable, Kimberly Holman, Steve Bailey, Bryan Kircher, and Anthony Deaven.	- Please contact the nominating committee and/or PEHSC if you would like to be nominated or nominate someone for the Board of Directors.
PEHSC Board of Director Terms	Harrisburg Area Community College, PA Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and Second Alarmers Association & Rescue Squad of Montgomery County, Inc.	- These organizations are required to come off the board for a least one year due to term limits. - Thank you for your service.
	Chester County Dept of Emergency Services, City of Allentown Emergency Medical Services, Community LifeTeam Emergency Medical Services, Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation, Southwest Ambulance Alliance, and Western Berks Ambulance Association	These organizations are eligible to be re-elected to a 2 nd 3-year term on the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Provided by Ron Roth, Treasurer

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
The Treasurer's report was reviewed by the Board of Directors	It was motioned by Kent Knable and seconded by Don Dereamus to accept the treasurer's report as presented.	Motion Passed

AUDIT REPORT

Provided by Michael Furjanic, CPA

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
2020 Audit Report was provided in today's meeting materials	- Audit went well with no problems.	- Department of Health accepted the audit report for 2019 and 2020.

	- There were no disagreements with management. - No legal issues or undisclosed transactions. - Notes in the back of the audit provide further explanations.	
The Audit report was reviewed by the Board of Directors	It was motioned by Keith Laws and seconded by Don DeReamus to accept the treasurer's report as presented.	Motion Passed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Provided by Janette Swade, Director

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
SR6	Priorities for legislative assistance are reimbursement, EMS Act/Regs, EMSOF, Medicaid rates, and financial losses associated with COVID.	
Workforce Initiatives	PEHSC and the Executive Committee will begin to engage the Board in the near future with some work products.	Please contact PEHSC staff with related concerns and comments.
EMS Survey	The Central for Rural PA survey had a response rate of 52.3%.	There is a meeting later this week with the Center for Rural PA to discuss the data analysis process.
Facebook	- There is an established Facebook page that will be dedicated to sharing best practices, ideas, and questions regarding workforce issues. -	- Council will receive an invite email in a few weeks to access this page.
Legislative	- SB 861 REPLICA is out of committee and the Senate will be looking at next week. - SB 698 J.R. Henry did provide testimony on the county commissioner's association county EMS authority bill. - HB 1005 reporting requirements for opioid overdoses, has not moved.	
Budget	- PEHSC is being very careful about expenditures. - Office rent remains reduced. - Meetings will continue to be via Zoom for at least the remaining of this fiscal year.	
Staff	Friday, December 17 will be Kelli Kishbaugh's last day with PEHSC.	We wish her well.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

Provided by Dylan Ferguson, Director

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
EMSOF	- \$5 million was added to EMSOF which will be split 75/25% - Most of the EMS portion will go towards the deficit caused by COVID.	
Audit	- Auditor General will be auditing EMSOF. - This is a routine audit and will include the last four fiscal years. - The last audit was done in 2018.	
SR6	DOH participated in the recent SR6 meeting.	
COVID-19	- COVID cases are escalating in PA. - Hospitalizations are on the rise and most hospital cases are from the unvaccinated. - There are a lot of questions related to the Omicron variant, but we don't have much information on that variant yet.	
Flu	- Flu season is upon us. - Influenza A appears to have the most cases. - The flu has been at a minimum though.	

TASK FORCE/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Medical Advisory Committee (MAC)**

Provided by Dr. Michael Reihart

Medical Advisory Committee met on November 10, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
RSI Workgroup	There was extensive discussion on the Phase 1 recommendations.	- Some members expressed concern, while others complimented the workgroup's work product and believe that if followed, RSI by ground ALS presents no more risk than in CCT use. - The MAC voted to support the recommendations and looks forward to Phase 2 pilot program development.

Research Study	STAT MedEvac presented a research study for use of whole blood during prehospital resuscitation.	- This is a DOD mutli-center study to determine if whole blood, compared to standard therapy, results in lower 30 mortality in hemorrhagic shock. - The MAC voted to recommend approval of the study by the Department.
iALS/AEMT Protocols and Drug List	- Aimed at improving iALS utilization in time-sensitive situations. - Other issues related to dispatch procedures also discussed.	MAC will form a workgroup to further examine these and other related issues.
CCT Protocols	Tower DIRECT, presented a group of CCT protocols for use by their PHRNs when working with an ALS ambulance to make a CCT-level transport team.	- Dr. Kupas noted that agency-level protocols are not permitted for ground CCT operations. - However, because they are being used only by a PHRN for Tower Health patients, the proposed protocols would fall outside of EMS Act and could be used under the authority of the Nurse Practice Act.
The Department requested a MAC review of a device for which they have received legislative inquiries. PEHSC and the Ambulance Assn of PA have also been contacted.	- The device, LifeVAC, is a hand operated negative pressure device for the relief of FBAO and has an FDA 510(k) exemption. - Mostly marketed as a consumer device, now being advertised for EMS. - Some other states have accepted the device - others have not.	MAC voted not to recommend the device for EMS use based on a lack of available peer-reviewed information.

EMS FOR CHILDREN PROJECT REPORT

Provided by Duane Spencer

EMSC Committee met on November 23, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
The EMSC program is preparing for the upcoming 2022 EMSC annual survey.	The EMSC program is preparing for the upcoming 2022 EMSC annual survey. A revised contact list has been submitted to our federal partners to update engagement information prior to the survey going out. The 2022 survey communications will be done internally, from within the PA EMSC program and our partners.	We will be reaching out to Council members as the survey opens up for support in obtaining the highest level of survey participation possible.

2020 National Pediatric Readiness Survey	The 2020 National Pediatric Readiness Survey for emergency departments wrapped up in August. Aside from a 54% response rate, specific survey results are still pending.	
Impact COVID-19 has had on children	The EMS for Children Advisory Committee continues to discuss the impact COVID-19 has had on children, specifically around three main issues; Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), Return to School, and Mental Health. Vaccine and mask mandate information was shared and discussed with an emphasis on school mask policies and impact on children. Specific mental health resources that are developing in response to the public health crisis and its effects on children were introduced and discussed.	The EMS program is requesting all EMS stakeholders to provide any and all pediatric mental health resources to the program for resource warehousing and re-distribution out to providers and agencies.
Development of a statewide hospital pediatric readiness program	The Steering Committee working on the development of a statewide hospital pediatric readiness program to meet federal EMSC performance measures is set to reconvene next week and plans are for regular meetings over the next year. The goal of this readiness program is to deliver a program that recognizes facilities across several levels and ensures their ability to provide pediatric care during an emergency to the best of their available resources.	Several facilities will be included in a pilot of the initial program to assess function, effort, expense, and sustainability.
Improve pre-hospital pediatric skills assessments	The committee has begun discussion on ways to improve pre-hospital skills assessments in parallel to a discussion which occurred during the Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Learning Session in October. These skills assessments are measured during the EMSC survey and reported as part of the EMSC Performance Measures set by the federal government. Pennsylvania is	

	behind targeted expectations which represents a shortfall in assuring our providers are not only prepared to care for children but are also competent in doing so.	
The PECC Workforce Development Collaborative	The PECC Workforce Development Collaborative continues its schedule of providing support to pre-hospital and ED PECC's through monthly focus areas which have included the PECC, Patient Safety and Family Centered Care, and Equipment, Supplies, and Medications.	
Evaluation of recommended pediatric equipment	The EMSC committee is continuing to evaluate recommendations from the updated national EMSC pediatric equipment list to make recommendations to the PVRP and statewide equipment lists.	
Emergency preparedness and response to children with complex health and social needs	EMSC is working with multiple stakeholders from across the state to address emergency preparedness and response to children with complex health and social needs as part of a grant project led by Boston University and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.	

CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT TASK FORCE

Provided by Butch Potter

CCT Task Force met on October 21, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
RSI Workgroup	- The draft of the Phase 1 recommendations has been completed. - The members reviewed the document and complimented the task force members on their work.	The task force voted to support the Phase 1 recommendations.
	The update of the PEHSC/PACEP critical care resource document has been completed and sent to the PACEP for their review and concurrence.	
	Dr. Martin-Gill reported that in carrying the document forward, it generated considerable	

	general discussion regarding the lack of CCT resources available to move patients to a higher level of care in a timely manner and what system changes can be implemented to address the problem.	
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RSI TASK FORCE

Provided by Dr. Alvin Wang

RSI Task Force met on September 10, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Task Force Composition	- 6 Regional EMS Medical Directors - 1 PTSF representative - 2 PEHSC CCT committee members - 3 Practicing paramedics - Commonwealth medical director - Other members as agreed-upon by PEHSC and PA DOH	
Recommendation development process	- Comprehensive Literature Review - VL vs DL - RSI vs SAI - RSI vs no medications - Potential harms associated with RSI - Stakeholder input via formal survey - EMS agencies - EMS practitioners at or above the ALS level - EMS agency medical directors -Key Recommendation areas - General - Financial - Practitioner Education and Training - Medical Direction and Best Practices - CQI / QA / Data collection - Protocol	
PEHSC RSI Task Force Executive Summary	• RSI is a low-frequency, high consequence event • RSI should only be available to the practitioners, agencies, and medical directors who are able to meet criteria for safe and effective performance of the skill amongst the right patient population • The safe and effective performance of RSI in Pennsylvania requires myriad engagements by the EMS practitioner, agency medical director, EMS region, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to ensure that. • Examples of such necessary rules of engagement include:	

	• Minimum of 2 ALS practitioners at the bedside, at least 1 of which is fully credentialed by the agency medical director • Formal training on proper patient selection to correctly identify patients who will likely benefit from RSI. • Formal training and regular re-verification of practitioner competency in the psychomotor skills associated with RSI. • Robust data collection mechanisms from both EMS agencies and hospitals to include outcomes data for to permit meaningful CQI / QA analysis • Centralized CQI / QA review committee	
VTR# 1221-01	Recommends the Department accept the Phase 1 recommendations of the task force to expand the OPTIONAL use of RSI to ground advanced life support units.	
On behalf of Task Force Chair, Dr. Greg Frailey, we would like to thank the task force members below for their dedication to this project.	RSI Task Force Committee Members Christopher Boyer, Ed.D ,EMT-P, Pennsylvania College of Technology Dr. Joshua Brown, UPMC, PA Trauma Systems Foundation Dr. Greg Frailey, Regional Medical Director-LTS EMS Council (Task Force Chair) Dr. Frank Guyette, STAT MedEvac/UPMC Nathan Harig, EMT-P, Cumberland Goodwill EMS Kim Holman, PHRN, Good Fellowship Ambulance Corp. David Jones, Manager, Penn State University EMS, President-PEHSC Dr. Douglas Kupas, Commonwealth EMS Medical Director, PA Department of Health Keith Micucci, PHRN, CRNP, Lehigh Health System MedEvac Dr. Matthew Poremba, AHN Lifeflight Dr. Brian Risavi, Regional Medical Director-EMMCO West EMS Council Dr. Duane Siberski, Associate Regional Medical Director-Eastern PA EMS Council Dr. Jonathan Trager, St. Lukes University Health Network Dr. Alvin Wang, Regional Medical Director-Montgomery County EMS Council Mervin Wertz, Tower Health System Gary Watters, EMT-P, AMED Ambulance Service Dr. Bryan Wilson, St. Lukes University Health Network Dr. Gerald Wydro, Regional Medical Director-Bucks County EMS Council Staff Support: Butch Potter, EMT-P, Sr. EMS Systems Specialist-PEHSC	

RSI Task Force Workgroups		
Workgroup	Facilitator	Participants
Education and Training	Dr. Jonathan Trager	Kimberly Holman, RN Keith Micucci Mervin Wertz Christopher Boyer, Ed.D. Dr. Bryan Wilson Dr. Greg Frailey Dr. Douglas Kupas
Medical Direction	Dr. Duane Siberski	Dr. Matthew Poremba Dr. Brian Risavi Gary Watters Dr. Alvin Wang Dr. Greg Frailey Dr. Douglas Kupas
Protocol Development	Dr. Alvin Wang	Dr. Matthew Poremba David Jones Gary Watters Dr. Gerald Wydro Dr. Greg Frailey Dr. Douglas Kupas
Quality Improvement and Data Collection	Dr. Frank Guyette	Nathan Harig Keith Micucci, RN, CRNP Christopher Boyer, Ed.D. Dr. Joshua Brown Dr. Alvin Wang Dr. Greg Frailey Dr. Douglas Kupas
The VRT 1221-01 was reviewed by the Board of Directors	It was motioned by Anthony Tucci and seconded by Mark Trueman to accept the VTR 1221-01 as presented.	Motion Passed

EMS EDUCATION TASK FORCE

Provided by Mervin Wertz

EMS ED Task Force met on November 30, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Director Ferguson provided an update on a planned roll-out of an optional education institute lead BLS psychomotor testing process.	- Will still be in collaboration with the regional EMS council. - There will be regional, shared and EMS institute responsibilities - Examiner qualifications, including prior instructional time with class and time spent teaching a particular skill – avoids conflict of interest. - There are also anticipated changes to the overall testing procedure, no matter who is taking the lead. - Reducing to one assessment station – trauma or medical chosen at random. - If a retest is required, only those stations failed require	Changes could be rolled out in the 1 st quarter of 2022.

	retested, no matter # of stations failed.	
	CoAEMSP and NREMT will cease requirement for ALS psychomotor exam on April 1, 2023.	
	Discussed the concept of a standardized, online preceptor education program. However, this alone may not satisfy CoAEMSP requirements.	
	Has there been a reduction in EMS certification program enrollment? The overall statistics don't reflect it, but we need to look at a trend over several years.	

OTHER REPORTS:

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Provided by Andy Snavely

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
The 2021 PA EMS Conference concluded on Sunday, November 28.	- 2,989 people registered - 2,172 attended - 27.3% attrition, which is lower than the industry standard of approximately 33% - 21,442 total session views - Representation from every county in PA, as well as 176 Out-of-State attendees	Planning for the 2022 conference is ongoing

EMS AWARDS

Provided by Duane Spencer

<u>Discussion</u>			
ALS Practitioner of the Year	Christian Martin-Gill MD	UPMC Prehospital Care / STAT MedEvac	Allegheny County
BLS Practitioner of the Year	Kelly Sweeney	Springfield Ambulance	Delaware County
EMS Educator of the Year	Michelle Eaton	Superior Ambulance	Mercer County
Amanda Wertz Memorial EMS for Children Award	Kimberly Roth, MD	UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh	Allegheny County
David J. Lindstrom EMS Innovation Award	Douglas Wolfberg, JD		Dauphin County

Dr. George Moerkirk Memorial Contribution to EMS Award	Nora Helfrich, RN, EMT- P	Tri-Community South EMS	Allegheny County
Rescue Service of the Year	Ross / West View EMS Rescue		Allegheny County
EMS Agency of the Year (Large Volume Division)	Philadelphia Fire Department		Philadelphia County
EMS Agency of the Year (Small Volume Division)	Springfield Ambulance		Delaware County

SPECIAL OPERATIONS WORKGROUP

Provided by Dr. Duane Siberski

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Tactical EMS Expanded Scope of Practice	- The Special Operations Workgroup is resuming work that was tabled in early 2020 due to COVID - A survey has been sent to the group to identify current gaps in previous work and to streamline the process of selecting focus topics	Planning for first group meeting mid-January 2022.

EMS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Provided by Andy Snively

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Introduction	The group has not yet met. The first meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2021 at 1:00 pm. We are still actively soliciting for participants. Interested	Update to be provided at next BOD meeting

	members should contact A. Snively.	
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ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Ambulance Association of PA

Provided by Donald DeReamus

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Sequestration	House passed bill that would prevent 2% reduction in Medicare reimbursement for 2022.	
EMS Agency Survey	Will collaborate with PEHSC.	

PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute

Provided by Jerry Ozog

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Perception of progress for SR6 initiatives	- Legislature vs. EMS agencies and providers. Legislators are more optimistic than EMS stakeholders. - Felt the recent meeting with the group was productive. - Recent legislative meeting regarding county-level EMS authorities revealed opposition by some groups within and outside emergency services. It demonstrates the fact that we have not reached a consensus on this issue.	

2022 TENTATIVE BOARD DATES

Wednesday, March 9 th
Wednesday, June 15 th
Wednesday, September 21 st
Wednesday, December 14 th

ADJOURN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
	It was motioned by Keith Laws and seconded by Carl Moen to adjourn the meeting.	Motion Passed

The next scheduled meeting of the PEHSC Board of Directors will be on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 10:00 am via Zoom