



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 21, 2023**

Board Members Present:

Heather Sharar	Ambulance Assoc. of PA
Don DeReamus	Ambulance Assoc. of PA
Tim Hinchcliff	Burholme Ambulance Corps
Kent Knable	Centre LifeLink EMS
Harry Moore	Chester Co Dept of Emergency Svcs
Mehmet Barzev	City of Allentown EMS
Matt Brett	City of Allentown EMS
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam
Chris Chamberlain	Hosp and Healthcare Assoc of PA
Tony Deaven	Lower Allen EMS
Juliet Altenburg	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
David Jones	Penn State University
Anthony Martin	Tower Health Direct
Dr. Ron Roth	UPMC Presbyterian
J.R. Henry	Valley Ambulance Authority
Dr. Steve Schirk	Wellspan York Hospital
Anthony Tucci	Western Berks Ambulance

Council Members Present:

Krista Brands	American Trauma Society - PA Division
Bill Wells	Brandywine Tech College High School
Larry Loose	Bucks Co EMS Council
Michele Rymdeika	Bucks Co EMS Council
Mark Giangiulio	Delaware Co EMS Council
Annie Phillips	Delaware Co EMS Council
Dr. Duane Siberski	Eastern PA EMS Council
Jason Smith	Eastern PA EMS Council
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council
Matthew Welch	Elverson Honeybrook EMS
KayElla Bleacher	Emergency Nurses Assoc
Thomas McElree	EMS West EMS Council
Brian Shaw	EMS West EMS Council
Joe Stevens	First Capital EMS
Bob Stakem	Hbg. Area Comm College
Mervin Wertz	Lower Alsace EMS
Dr. Jeff Myers	LTS EMS Council
William Miller	LTS EMS Council

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Chris Dell	McCandles-Franklin Park EMS
Dr. Alvin Wang	Montgomery Co EMS Office
Steve Bailey	Non Profit Emerg Svcs Beaver Co
Rich Kelley	Mt. Nittany Medical Center EMS
Dr. Bryan Wexler	PA College of Emergency Physicians
Jerome Ozog	PA Fire And Emerg Svcs Institute
Keith McMin	Penn State LifeLion Hershey
Bob Hotchkiss	Southern Chester Co EMS
Dr. Jeff Kuklinski	St Lukes Health Network
Tony Bixby	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Mark Trueman	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Jim Slotterback	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Jean Bail	Thomas Jefferson University
Myron Rickens	UPMC
Dr. Greg Hellier	PA College of Emergency Physicians
Dr. Greg Frailey	UPMC Williamsport

Bureau of EMS Staff Present:

Sunny Podolak, Acting Director
John Englert
Jay Taylor
Jenni Hoffman

PEHSC Staff Present:

Janette Swade
Butch Potter
Andy Snavely
Duane Spencer

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Call To Order		The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by President Dave Jones
Approval of Minutes	The minutes from the March 15, 2023, meeting was reviewed.	MOTION: TONY TUCCI SECOND: ANTHONY MARTIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS DRAFTED. RESULT: MOTION CARRIED
President's Report	President Dave Jones reported the following: • Passing of Paramedic Jay Miles from Upper Perkiomen EMS, LODD, March 13, 2023 • Bylaws changes from last meeting; there may be additional changes due to changes in state law. • Testimony to legislature on system issues during EMS week • System concerns: we have been in conversation with AAP and PFESI. Joint letter to Senator Michelle Brooks expressing key concerns impacting sustainability. • This is the last meeting of the current BOD and the first meeting of the next DOB. • Thanks to outgoing board members due to term limits (CEM, Cumberland Goodwill, Non-Profit EMS Org of Beaver County) • Welcome to the oncoming board members elected at the annual meeting.	
Treasurer's Report	Dr. Ron Roth presented the current treasurer's report (attached).	MOTION: TONY TUCCI SECOND: BARRY ALBERTSON APPROVE THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED. RESULT: MOTION CARRIED

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Executive Director's Report	Executive Director Janette Swade reported the following: • IRS Form 990 complete and included in today's meeting materials. Has been submitted to the DOH. • Audit was delayed due to the change in vendor but has been filed with the Dept and the auditor had no findings • Secondary income account is for the most part depleted due to cash flow issues. • We have received a new EMSOF contract extension from the DOH, but no funding increase. This continues to be a challenge and currently the office is down to 3 staff, which includes the Director, but not the EMSC Manager, who is dedicated to the EMSC project. • New EMSC contract received from federal government, now processing through the DOH. Contract funding was slightly increased. • FY 23-24 BOD will need to complete a Conflict-of-Interest Statement. Also pls update your organizational information as needed. • EMSOF budget increased from 14.4 to 14.7 in House • Community Paramedicine legislation is moving in the House again. Have asked the CP Task Force for comment. Also legislation on MA loaded mileage and naloxone related issues. The PEHSC Legislative Agenda is included in the materials for today • Opportunities Workgroup issues to be discussed within other committees and task forces. A copy of goals in provided in the materials for today • Issues pending with the BEMS on previous initiatives such as CFC's regarding staffing and alternatives to practical skills examinations. We will be following up with the Department.	
Department of Health Report	The Council welcomes Acting BEMS Director Sunny Podolak, who shared the following:	

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	Has 22 years with the DOH, including Community Health System. Has worked as an executive assistant with the Dep. Sec. responsible for BEMS.	
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Medical Advisory Committee Report	Dr. Alvin Wang, Co-Chair, reported the following: - The MAC continues to work with the Bureau of EMS on the 2023 statewide protocol update. With the change in clinical leadership at the BEMS, the timeline for completion has been extended to late summer. - The committee expressed grave concerns for the proposed statement in BLS Protocol 201 regarding patient abandonment. The members are unanimous in their opposition to this statement and feel it has no place in a clinical protocol and could cause increased liability exposure for providers and agencies. - An algorithm was added to Protocol 201 to provide a visual pathway for providers to determine an acceptable patient disposition with appropriate documentation. - Dr. Frank Guyette presented a DOD funded research project to study ketamine v. fentanyl for pain control in trauma patients with compensated shock. Recommended study to the BEMS. - Joe Ponko, on behalf of Dr. Rick Wadas, presented a proposed pilot program in the EMS West region for the use of nitrous oxide/oxygen mixture (N2O) by BLS for musculoskeletal pain control. N2O has been on the approved med list for ALS providers since the 1980's. The MAC voted to recommend the pilot to the BEMS. - Dr. Crawford Mechem requested the MAC's support for the community	MOTION: CHRIS CHAMBERLAND SECOND: TONY DEAVEN RECOMMEND TO THE DEPARTMENT TO REMOVE REFERENCES TO PATIENT ABANDONMENT IN BLS PROTOCOL #201. RESULT: MOTION CARRIED
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	distribution of test strips for substances of abuse by EMS. The committee voted to support this initiative and VTR# 0423-01 was approved by the executive committee. • Dr. Wang proposed a pilot program in which patients in cardiac arrest, primarily in Montgomery County, with a specific set of circumstances, would be transported to a hospital with EMCO capability instead of the closest facility. In a selected patient population, ECPR has shown an increase in survival to discharge from 7% using traditional ACLS to 34% with the addition of ECPR. The MAC voted to recommend the pilot to the BEMS. Chris Chamberland followed up on abandonment issue. Does the board have an opportunity to make a formal recommendation to remove any references to abandonment. Sunny Podolak commented that those references are being removed.	
Critical Care Task Force Report	Dr. Greg Frailey, Chair, reported the following: • This was a very productive meeting that focused on two areas: • Proposed changes or additions to the statewide CCT protocols and; • Improved utilization of existing CCT resources, particularly the critical care trained paramedic. • The workgroup felt that additional protocols, except one that had been previously submitted to the BEMS, were not needed at this point. Instead, they elected to focus on resource utilization. • Are there additional medications and/or monitoring of other therapies that can be shifted to the ALS level for the stable patient? Conceptually discussed chest tube monitoring, Cardene infusions and blood products etc.	

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	• Much of the meeting focused on a different way to determine the crew resources needed for transport. • Currently patients are stratified based on infusing medications and ongoing therapies, e.g., patient is on XYZ infusion, therefore every patient with this drug infusing needs a PHRN, irrespective of their overall acuity. • We are now exploring the concept of crew resources based on the patient's overall acuity, stratified into "stable" or "unstable" using a standard definition and physician assessment. • There will be common sense exceptions to the rule, e.g., balloon pumps, ECMO, neonates, etc. • Patients who are stable, would be monitored by a CCT trained paramedic, with an ALS paramedic support. Conversely, unstable patients would still get a multidisciplinary teams that includes a PHRN or higher. • In future work sessions, the group will apply this new principle to the current CCT scope of practice document and approved medication list to determine if is a workable alternative. • Whatever the final outcome, this workgroup, with its diverse composition, is committed to deliver recommendations that provide reasonable patient safety and improve the timeliness of patient transport to a higher level of care. • In providing reasonable patient safety, the group will explore risk v. benefit, while managing the always present "what if..." scenario that can prevent the system from evolving. • A question was asked, can a licensed CCT agency link up a CCT provider to a licensed ALS agency to make up a ground critical care transport ambulance? A	
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	similar question at the ALS/BLS level has been asked of the BEMS.	
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RSI Task Force Report	Dr. Greg Frailey, Chair, reported the following: After 2 years of work, involving hundreds of hours by a dedicated group of healthcare professionals, we are pleased to deliver our recommendations for a statewide pilot for Ground ALS Use of Drug Assisted Airway Management, a.k.a RSI. These recommendations and proposed pilot program have been reviewed and endorsed by both the PEHSC MAC and Critical Care Transport Task Force and are presented to the Board in the form of VTR# 0623-01. Questions regarding the use of Sux vs. Rocuronium as the first line neuromuscular blocking agent. Both agents are available in the protocol – Rocuronium is available first line via medical command order.	MOTION: JR HENRY SECOND: DR. JEFF MYERS TO ACCEPT VTR 0623-01, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATEWIDE RSI PILOT PROJECT RESULT: MOTION CARRIED
Special Operations Task Force Report	Dr. Duane Siberski, Chair, reported the following: • A tactical EMS course sponsor should be accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as an advanced life support education institution, licensed tactical EMS agency or a nationally recognized organization with expertise in tactical EMS to conduct a tactical paramedic course. • As part of its approval process the Department may require the course sponsor to submit course objectives, content outline, instructional guidelines or other information as may be needed in order for the Department, or its designee, to determine if the proposed course	MOTION: BARRY ALBERTSON SECOND: MERV WERTZ ACCEPT VTR 0623-02, RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING TACTICAL EMS RESULT: MOTION CARRIED

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	meets the educational standards outlined in this document. • ESOP: The tactical paramedic will only be permitted to use the approved expanded scope of practice when providing care for a licensed tactical EMS agency, or in other patient settings authorized by the Department of Health. • Reciprocity: Should providers possess training, including prior military experience, that is not currently approved, they may submit detailed documentation of such training to the Department for consideration. • Agency Medical Director: Current Agency Medical Director requirements – current law • Have successfully completed and maintain certification as a Pre-Hospital Physician as recognized by the Department. • Have completed an EMS agency medical director course, an EMS fellowship, or other EMS training program determined by the Department to be equivalent. • Be an active medical command physician and has successfully completed the medical command course as recognized by the Department and serves or served as an ALS agency medical director having completed an EMS agency medical director course as recognized by the Department. • Next Phase: Recommend this part of the project to the Department in accordance with 28 Pa Code § 1027.41(c) • Develop Tactical Paramedicine protocols • Develop Tactical EMS Agency Licensure requirements	
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EMS Education Task Force Report	Mervin Wertz, Chair, reported the following: • Position Paper for Consideration: Continued Use of the NREMT Cognitive Testing Process in Pennsylvania • PEHSC supports the continued use of the National Registry of EMTs computer-adaptive testing process • It is important for Pennsylvania to provide a national-level test for providers at all levels • Test questions are developed and validated based on the NHTSA education guidelines • NREMT testing is required as a condition of the EMS COMPACT, of which Pennsylvania is now a member • 48 other states continue to use the NREMT testing process Bill Wells commented on cost issues related to testing. Tony Deaven suggested using fireworks money to pay for the NREMT exam. Dr. Roth commented that he does not want to see education “dumbed down.” We need to strengthen instruction in order to be more successful.	MOTION: Dr. JEFF MYERS SECOND: TONY DEAVEN TO ACCEPT THE POSITION STATEMENT ON CONTINUED USE OF NREMT TESTING. RESULT: MOTION CARRIED
EMS for Children Project Report	Duane Spencer, Project Manager, reported the following: The committee met on June 20, 2023. The 2023-2027 EMSC Grant Award contract has been approved. The identified priorities going forward are: • Facility Readiness and Recognition Program • EMS Agency Recognition Program • Family Advocacy Network growth • The 2023-2024 EMSC EMS Survey is in progress	

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	New/Upgraded Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program (PVRP) in 2022-2023 (67). Total PVRP agencies (253) New Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECC) in 2022-2023 (97). Total PECCs (311)	
EMS Operations Committee Report	Tony Deaven, Chair, reported the following: The committee met on May 1, 2023. - Concept for Consideration 0622-01, "Shared Staffing Operations..." Still awaiting a response from the BEMS. - Since the establishment of the EMSVO provider certification by Act 37 of 2009, what if any impact has this initiative has on reducing EMS vehicle crashes? How many providers have had their EMSVO certification suspended or revoked by the BEMS since 2013? - Discussed the permanency of the relaxed BLS minimum staffing standards. - Discussed the prevalence of QRS usage and the impact of DOH licensure on QRS agencies, especially those associated with volunteer fire agencies.	
PA EMS Awards	Duane Spencer reported the following: Award winner list attached. Delivered during EMS Week – very well received by recipients. Poster presentation in Capitol rotunda during EMS Week.	
PA EMS Conference	Andy Snavelly reported the following: The conference will occur on Sept 5-8, 2023. - Registration is open and attendee #s are building. - There are 25 sessions this year and the cost to attend is entire conference is \$10.00. This small fee is necessary to ensure the event breaks even financially.	

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	Sponsors include: Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, Wellspan Health, Glick EMS, Penn State Health and TOWER Direct.	
Membership Committee	The committee vetted the affiliate membership application of Mr. James Walls.	MOTION: TONY DEAVEN SECOND: MERV WERTZ TO ACCEPT MR. JAMES WALLS FOR AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP. RESULT: MOTION CARRIED
Nominating Committee	The nominating committee presented the slate of candidates for the FY 23-24 Executive Committee. President – Dave Jones, Penn State University Vice President – Tony Deaven, Lower Allen EMS Secretary – Chris Chamberlin, Hosp. & Health System Assoc of PA Treasurer – Dr. Ronald Roth, UPMC Presbyterian Member At Large – Anthony Martin, TOWER Direct Member At Large – Kim Holman, Good Fellowship Ambulance and EMS Training The current EC members are eligible to serve and have indicated their desire to continue to service another year.	
Adjourn the FY 22-23 Board of Directors Meeting		MOTION: TONY DEAVEN SECOND: CHRIS CHAMBERLIN RESULT: MOTION CARRIED

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Convene the FY 23-24 Board of Directors Meeting		The meeting was called to order by President Dave Jones
FY 23-24 Executive Committee Elections	Slate of candidates for the executive committee was presented for the board's consideration. President – Dave Jones, Penn State University Vice President – Tony Deaven, Lower Allen EMS Secretary – Chris Chamberlin, Hosp. & Health System Assoc of PA Treasurer – Dr. Ronald Roth, UPMC Presbyterian Member At Large – Anthony Martin, TOWER Direct Member At Large – Kim Holman, Good Fellowship Ambulance and EMS Training Asked for nominations from the floor – none.	MOTION: TONY DEAVEN SECOND: DON DEREAMUS TO ACCEPT THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE FY 23-24 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AS REPORTED. RESULT: MOTION CARRIED
Organizational Reports	AAP: • HB 479, loaded MA mileage passed house. Similar bill in senate but after 5 miles. • HB 130, Community Paramedicine, AAP came out against the bill due to potential impact to existing programs. Wants to work with stakeholders to develop better language. • PTSD legislative development • HB 1500 passes House to increase \$15 minimum wage. There is concern for rural EMS ability to pay – need better reimbursement. • Testified before the Senate Health Committee on EMS system issues • On July 6th there will be a workforce meeting with various stakeholders. • PA EMS Bike Ride September 9-11 • Annual Stars of Life dinner on September 11th in Grantville.	

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	PFESI: • In step with other stakeholders on various EMS issues • EMS Management course completed. PTSF: • Upcoming board meetings. • Potential to add several trauma centers this year. PACEP: • Meeting with Active EMS Director Podolak on the role of the EMS agency medical director in the delivery of quality EMS care	
Adjourn the FY 23-24 Board of Directors Meeting		MOTION: TONY TUCCI SECOND: MATT BRETT RESULT: MOTION CARRIED.



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TREASURER'S REPORT

Account	Account Description	As of 5/31/23
Contract Fund	2022-2023 Contract Amount \$353,940/EMSC 128,144	\$103,510.42
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	\$24,672.33
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	\$2,647.42
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	\$35,128.72
Investment Funds PAEMSA	Monthly Dividends into Balance	\$296,355.35

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2023 PA EMS AWARD RECIPIENTS

ALS Practitioner of the Year	<i>John Brindle</i>	Penn State Life Lion, LLC, Harrisburg Area Community College	Dauphin County
BLS Practitioner of the Year	<i>Shannon Thomas</i>	Huntington Valley Volunteer Fire Company	Luzerne County
EMS Educator of the Year	<i>Brian Kosczat</i>	Mutual Aid Ambulance Service, Inc.	Westmoreland County
Amanda Wertz Memorial EMS for Children Award	<i>Robert Carpenter</i>	EMS of Northeastern PA	Luzerne County
EMS Communications Award	<i>John Roberts</i>	Valley Ambulance Authority	Allegheny County
David J. Lindstrom EMS Innovation Award	<i>Clifford J. Neal, DO</i>	Centre LifeLink EMS, Inc., Port Matilda, Penns Valley and Snow Shoe EMS agencies	Centre County
Dr. George Moerkirk Memorial Contribution to EMS Award	<i>Allen (Buddy) Kintzer</i>	Myerstown First Aid Unit, First Aid and Safety Patrol, Hershey Park EMS	Lebanon County
Rescue Service of the Year	<i>Peebles District Volunteer Fire Department</i>		Allegheny County
EMS Agency of the Year (Large Volume Division)	<i>Shaler Hampton EMS</i>		Allegheny County
EMS Agency of the Year (Small Volume Division)	<i>New Holland Ambulance Association</i>		Lancaster County

