



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS

**PEHSC Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 6, 2021
Virtual Meeting 10:00 a.m.**

Minutes

CONVENE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mr. Jones, President, called the meeting to order at 1003 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
Chester County Department of Emergency Services – Harry Moore
City of Allentown EMS – Matthew Brett/Mehmet Barzev
Community Life Team – Barry Albertson
Forbes Hospital – Jeffrey Wess
Harrisburg Area Community College – Robert Stakem, Jr.
Highmark Inc. – Robert Wanovich
Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA – Chris Chamberlain, RN
Lower Allen Township EMS – Anthony Deaven
Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County – Steve Bailey
Pennsylvania ACEP – Gregory Hellier, D.O./Bryan Wexler, M.D.
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
VFIS/Education and Training Services – Justin Eberly
Valley Ambulance Authority – J.R. Henry
Wellspan York Hospital – Thomas Yeich, M.D./Steven Schirk, M.D.
West York Ambulance – Wayne March
Western Berks Ambulance Association – Anthony Tucci
Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Coop. dba Susquehanna Regional EMS – Gregory Frailey, D.O.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

American Medical Response Mid-Atlantic Inc. – Edward Powers
American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division – Krista Brands
Bucks County Emergency Health Services Council, Inc. – Michele Rymdeika
Eastern PA EMS Council – John Kloss/Jason Smith
Emergency Nurses Association, PA – Kay Ella Blecher, RN
Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital – Craig Wheeler

Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training Institute – Kimberly Holman, RN
 LTS EMS Council – William Miller/Wendy Hastings
 Montgomery County Regional EMS Office – David Brown
 Myerstown First Aid Unit – David Kirchner
 Northwest EMS Inc. – Scott Kingsboro
 Portage Area Ambulance Association – Terry Sloan
 Seven Mountains EMS Council – Timothy Nilson
 Southern Chester County EMS – Robert Hotchkiss
 Temple Health System Transport Team, Inc. – Christopher Ritter
 Tower Health – Mervin Wertz/Anthony Martin
 UPMC Presbyterian – Myron Rickens
 UPMC Susquehanna – Steven Bixby/James Slotterback
 Volunteer Medical Service Corps of Lower Merion and Narberth – Alvin Wang M.D.

OTHERS

Delaware County EHS Council – Patrick O’Connell

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

CONVENE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mr. Jones, President, called the meeting to order at 1003 hours.
 Welcomed the attendees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Provided by David Jones, President

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
The June 16, 2021, meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board of Directors. This is a new format that is action oriented.	It was motioned by Anthony Tucci and seconded by J.R. Henry to approve the June 16, 2021; meeting minutes as drafted.	Motion passed

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Provided by David Jones, President

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
2021-2022 Executive Committee	President – J. David Jones (Representing: Pennsylvania State University) Vice President – Anthony Deaven (Representing: Lower Allen Township EMS) Secretary – Douglas Garretson (Representing: Ambulance Association of PA) Treasurer – Ronald Roth, M.D. (Representing: Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania, Inc.) Member-at-Large – Christopher Chamberlain, RN (Representing: Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA) Member-at-Large – Bryan Wexler, M.D. (Representing: PA Chapter, American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP))	Welcome and thank you!
Legislative Budget Finance Committee	Ms. Swade and Mr. Jones met with the Legislative Budget Finance Committee about conducting an audit of the EMSOF funds to see how they are being collected and deposited into the fund. This stems from the SR6. Report	The committee is very limited in their scope of review. The final report will be limited by the language of the legislation.
EMS Operations Committee – NEW	This group will compliment other PEHSC committees and task forces by considering the operational aspects of pending recommendations. The committee will also bring forth current operational issues for discussion and/or possible recommendation.	Please reach out to Mr. Jones or Ms. Swade if you are interested in joining the committee or have suggestions of topics for discussion.
EMS Education Task Force	A task force meeting is being scheduled to discuss several education related topics.	Planning to have a meeting in November or December.
Nominating Committee	We will need a Nominating Committee for the upcoming March Board of Directors Meeting.	If you are interested in participating, please contact Ms. Swade or Mr. Jones. We hope to have the committee confirmed by the December Board Meeting.

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 Tony Tucci and seconded by J.R. Henry 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>
Annual Report	The annual report was completed and delivered to the Department of Health.	This report is included in the meeting materials.
Budget	\$280,000 is our current EMSOF budget for FY 21/22. We have received an additional \$40,000 from the Department though and \$67,000 for the PPP loan. The EMSC contract remains the same at \$128,000.	Staff are still working with reduced salaries, and we continue to receive a reduction in our rent, thanks to our building owner working with us.
PPP Loan	We asked for forgiveness for our \$67,000 PPP loan and that was approved.	
Telehealth Grant	We received the funding from the Telehealth Grant. For all practical purposes, the grant requirements have been completed.	Updates on additional work will be provided as needed.
Audit	Mike Furjanic is currently working on our audit. The audit is due to the Department of Health at the end of October.	Mr. Furjanic will discuss the audit during the December Board Meeting.
EMS Survey by Center for Rural PA	PEHSC has been working with the Center for Rural PA on a survey that is similar to one conducted with the fire service. There was a little bit of a delay from the Center, but this should be launched out around October 18, 2021. It is about 41 questions and will take 15-20 minutes to complete.	This survey will provide important information to legislators and other key stakeholders on the state of EMS in Pennsylvania.
CISM Teams	The current CISM Team list is included in today's meeting materials. The list includes teams that have sent us their information.	If you see a team that is not on the list and should be, please have them reach out to PEHSC so we can send them the form to complete.
Legislative Update	Direct Pay	We have sent letters to leadership to assist in moving

	SB 775 – PTS injury and Workers Comp Surprise Billing (regs)	this out of committee out emails for requested information. Legislation would permit this injury under WC. We are monitoring this bill. Federal Regulations on Surprise Billing – current interpretation seems to indicate that it does NOT apply to emergency services
County EMS Authority Legislation Hearing	This is Senate Bill 698. J.R. Henry and Ms. Swade will be attending this meeting and providing a brief testimony.	October 12 is the hearing date.
Opportunities – PA Office of Rural Health	We have been notified by the PA Office of Rural Health of a grant they have received to increase the availability of a grant to enhance the administration of vaccines; we will discuss this with them to determine if a role for EMS exists. Another grant may be available in the Spring	
Materials for Today's Meeting	Please look at all the materials that are being provided for today's meeting.	
Conference Plan for 2022	Based on the tremendous participation by EMS providers, we anticipate conducting the 2022 PA State EMS Conference using virtual technology.	More information will be sent out in the future.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

Provided by Dylan Ferguson, Director

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Protocols Published in PA Bulletin	- Providers to complete update on TRAIN before November 1. - TBI course is not currently available so the deadline to complete this part of the protocol update has been extended to December 1st.	Providers can use new protocols when update is completed, and they have been granted approval by their agency medical director.
Act 73	Regulatory suspensions continue under Act 73 until March 31, 2022.	If your agency is using out of state providers on a regular basis, start the process of getting

	This includes Level 1 staffing suspensions; use of out of state providers; use of out of state EMS agencies.	that provider PA certified through the endorsement process.
Act 17	This is the blanket staffing exception which will remain in place through at least midnight on June 30, 2022.	This fills the gap between March through July 1.
ED's	Reported diversions by ED's is about .32% to 1.5%.	Providers should report diversions in the PCS, specifically in the destination field. Also, document patient handoff and/or turnaround time in the PCR.
COVID-19	Cases across the state have been steady, but hopefully we are seeing the peak. There is concern about the upcoming flu season and the impact on our hospitals along with COVID-19.	DOH is encouraging flu vaccinations.
EMSOF Fund	June activity had a 45% increase over last year. Volume of traffic citations issues are still lagging. With fees doubled by Act 93, income has not reached expected levels yet.	Contract amendments for PEHSC of \$40,000 has cleared DOH review and now must be reviewed by other agencies to have the additional funds received. There is no timeframe on when this will be finalized.
Question asked from Jeffrey Wess	Will EMSIB 2021-02 allowing AEMTs to participate in mass COVID-19 vaccine clinics continue and does it include flu vaccine administration?	Director Ferguson answered yes about the COVID-19 vaccine. Applicability to the flu vaccine is currently unknown.
2020 Data Report		The Bureau of EMS plans to release the 2020 Data Report soon.

TASK FORCE/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Medical Advisory Committee (MAC)

Provided by Dr. Alvin Wang

Medical Advisory Committee met on August 11, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
2021 Statewide Protocol Rollout	The Bureau is completing their pre-publication review process and preparing an update to the scope of practice, medication and equipment lists for the PA Bulletin.	
RSI Task Force Activities	The group is making steady progress.	First draft will soon be completed.

City of Pittsburgh EMS	Presented a pilot program for the committee's consideration. The program is part of Pittsburgh's larger effort to address the opioid epidemic. The pilot will involve paramedics administering buprenorphine to select patients in order to prevent withdrawal symptoms until they receive follow-up care and counseling. The program has been successful in other urban settings.	The committee voted to recommend the Department to approve the project.
The next MAC meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2021, at 1000 hours		

EMS FOR CHILDREN PROJECT REPORT

Provided by Duane Spencer

EMSC Committee met on September 14, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
2021 EMS for Children Survey Results	- 35% already have a PECC - 26.5% interested in or planning to add a PECC. - Skills verification survey have identified a lower than prior year scoring of agencies using skill stations, simulated events, and/or encounters to evaluate provider competencies.	- This correlates to a potential addition of 95 PECC's. - Skills verification is the topic of the next PECC Learning Session which is to be held on October 20, 2021.
2020 National Pediatric Readiness Survey for Emergency Departments	- Postponed from 2020 to 2021 - The deadline was extended from July to August. - PA response rate finished with 53.8% of the state's emergency departments responding to the survey.	A final push of emails and phone calls raised the response rate by 15% during the last month.
COVID-19 Impact	EMSC Committee continues to discuss the impact COVID-19 has had on children. Three main issues are multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), return to school and mental health.	Committee members discussed the heightened admission rate of children presently and concern over bed status in pediatric facilities. Anecdotal information suggested the rise is not solely due to COVID related illnesses.
Hospital Pediatric Readiness	A Steering Committee is working on the development of a statewide readiness program to meet federal EMSC performance measures. Information specific to other states programs, federal and industry standards, and consideration of Pennsylvania specific capabilities will be	The goal is to engage all emergency departments at one of several levels of readiness and pediatric capability.

	evaluated and used to develop an initial level of recognition.	
Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program	- The program added or upgraded 14 new agencies in FY 20-21. EMMCO West has led this recent increase. - There have already been 8 agencies added or upgraded for FY 21-22. - 94 Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators were added in FY 20-21. - 3 new Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators have been added for FY 21-22.	- These numbers do not include potential new PECC's identified through the 2021 EMSC survey.
PECC Workforce Development Collaborative	- Began its 9-month initiative in early September with a kick-off meeting. - PWDC includes 34 participants from EMS agencies and hospitals across PA.	- Future sessions will target areas of interest during each bimonthly session. - A map was provided during the meeting today.
Next EMSC Committee Meeting	Will focus on the updated national EMSC recommended pediatric equipment list.	The committee will discuss and recommend any appropriate changes to the PVRP program and licensure equipment lists.

RSI TASK FORCE

Provided by Dr. Gregory Frailey

RSI Task Force met on September 10, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
ALS Agencies and Medical Director Surveys	- There were 74 respondents to each survey. - The majority of agencies and 55% of medical directors would consider adding RSI. - There were a few that supported the concept but didn't feel it was feasible in their organization. - over 90% of ALS agency medical directors are board certified in emergency medicine, emergency medical services or both and have active clinical practices. - The median number of intubations per agency, per year is 20; the average was 32; the maximum was 148 and the mode is 10.	
Draft Recommendations	- The task force is currently reviewing and providing feedback.	Final recommendations will be made at the December PEHSC board meeting.

	- The draft will go to both the CCT task force and MAC for their comments.	
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CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT TASK FORCE

Provided by Dr. Gregory Frailey

CCT Task Force met on July 7, 2021

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
RSI Task Force Activities	The members are making forward progress; the 4 workgroups have been meeting.	The first draft of the recommendation document is complete, which provides a framework for the groups work product.
PACEP/PEHSC	- The members reviewed the final edits to the PACEP/PEHSC critical care resource document. This is a revised version that contains additional resources for both adult and pediatric critical care transport. - The members reviewed the proposed updates to the statewide critical care protocols. - The feasibility of conducting future critical care transport gap analysis was discussed.	Following PEHSC board action today, the document will go to PACEP for concurrence prior to publications. It was motioned by Dr. Frailey and seconded by Ms. Blecher to accept the document as amended and forward it to PACEP for consideration. Motion passed.
The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-October.		

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Provided by Anthony Deaven

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
West End Ambulance Service submitted a Council Membership Application, which has been reviewed by the Membership Committee.	It was motioned by Anthony Deaven and seconded by Greg Frailey to accept West End Ambulance Service as a council member.	Motion Passed

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Provided by Andy Snively

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
44 th Annual EMS Conference	The conference was held virtually from August 31 – Sept 3, 2021. The conference is still running, with recorded sessions available until November 28. We offered a total of 22 sessions worth a total of 24.5 con-ed hours. Current registration is 2,734 with 1,728 actual attendees.	- Everything went very well during the live sessions and thanks to all our sponsors for their support to enable us to provide education free of charge again this year. - List of sponsors was shown during today's meeting.

EMS AWARDS

Provided by Duane Spencer

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
2021 Pennsylvania Statewide EMS Awards	- Awards ceremony will be virtual again this year and premiered on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 1900 hours. - Will be live on Facebook @PAEHSCouncil and the Councils' YouTube site.	- Thanks to our numerous sponsors in recognizing providers and agencies. - List of sponsors was shown during today's meeting. - More information to come in the next few weeks.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Ambulance Association of PA

Provided by Donald DeReamus and Heather Sharar

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Direct Pay Bill	There is still a push to get the Direct Pay bill out of the insurance committee.	Please continue to reach out to your Legislator to encourage movement of this bill out of committee. These bills are in the meeting materials for today.
Senate Bill 526	- Short-term fix would be to take money from the fire and emergency services grant and put into a medical assistance reimbursement. - Long-term fix has been called GEMT or Provider Assessment and this fix is a lot of work but is the long-term goal. Theoretically, there would be an assessment for each agency based on their call volume. These funds would be used by the state to obtain a federal match and then used to increase the MA fee schedule for EMS services.	- There is a meeting coming up soon on exploring the short-term fix. - With the long-term fix, there would be a lot of education across the State needed for EMS agencies. - Ms. Sharar has reached out to PEHSC and some other EMS councils to get some education on their conference lists.
EMS Provider Foundation	5 grants were provided at \$3,000 each for paramedic education.	- Grant application will be open from December 15, 2021, to February 11, 2022. There is a link on the AAP's website - Thank you to Highmark for the opportunity.

PTSF

Provided by Juliet Altenburg, RN, MSN

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
2022 ATSPA Conference	Will be held on April 5 and 6, 2022 at Kalahari Resort.	More information can be found at www.atspa.org
Trauma Centers Accredited	In 2021, there were 8 new trauma centers accredited.	This volume hasn't been seen since the 1980's.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Amazon donation hub has items available for distribution by EMS Agencies.

OTHER BUSINESS (BEST PRACTICES OPEN DISCUSSION):

<u>Discussion</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
EMS Provider Shortage	- EMS West has formed a committee to develop best practices and ideas. - Maybe develop a message board to share information among stakeholders? - Susquehanna Regional EMS and Penn College have an apprenticeship program. - HACC has several high school programs. They also started programs with some charter schools. - HACC modified paramedic program from 12 months to 8 months by using AEMT as a prerequisite.	- PEHSC will investigate the possibility of creating a message board to communicate on these issues.
Transfer of Care/Off Load Delays	- In Western States, some agencies are putting medic in the ED to transfer care until ED bed is available. Have extra ambulance litters to allow ambulance to get back in-service. - Putting EMS patients in waiting rooms at Reading Hospital to the extent possible. - No regional or statewide status of ED volumes and wait times.	
Mandated Vaccines for Providers	- Still a legal question if EMS is included in the federal mandate. Some believe it does, others are still researching. - Varies by health system in terms of EMS subcontractors' requirement. - Frequent testing in lieu of vaccine is not accepted by some anymore. Either get vaccinated	

	or in some cases, the provider could face termination of employment.	
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ADJOURN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

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

The next scheduled meeting of the PEHSC Board of Directors will be on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 10:00 am via Zoom