



## PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

*Your Voice In EMS*

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

### Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 17, 2025

#### Board Members Present:

|                     |                                               |                           |                                               |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Greg Porter         | Allegheny County EMS Council                  | Dr. Richard Wadas         | National Assoc of EMS Physicians - PA Chapter |
| Keith Morse         | Allegheny County EMS Council                  | Keith McMinn              | Penns State Milton S Hershey Medical Center   |
| Tiffany Wyant       | Allegheny General Hospital                    | Dr. Bryan Wexler          | Pennsylvania ACEP                             |
| Kent Knable         | Centre Lifelink EMS                           | Dr. Stephanie Costa       | Pennsylvania ACEP                             |
| Michael LaPearl     | Cetronia Ambulance Corps                      | Bob Hotchkiss             | Southern Chester County EMS                   |
| Robert Mateff       | Cetronia Ambulance Corps.                     | Matthew Collins           | Southern Chester County EMS                   |
| Nathan Harig        | Cumberland Goodwill EMS                       | Mervin Wertz              | Tower Health                                  |
| Matthew Welch       | Elverson Honey Brook Area EMS                 | Dr. Christian Martin-Gill | UPMC EMS Physicians                           |
| Gene Lesneski       | Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern PA | Myron Rickens             | UPMC Presbyterian                             |
| Chris Chamberlain   | Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA     | Keith Johnson             | Uwchlan Ambulance Corps                       |
| Dr. Jeff Kuklinski  | Lehigh Valley Health Network                  | Rick Gurba                | VFIS                                          |
| Tony Deaven         | Lower Allen Twp EMS                           | Dr. Avram Flamm           | Wellspan York Hospital                        |
| Norman Prycl        | McCandles-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority   | Gary Vinnacombe           | West Grove Fire Company                       |
| David Brown         | Montgomery County Regional EMS Office         | Mark Trueman              | Susquehanna Regional EMS                      |
| Dr. Brian Kuklinski | Montgomery County Regional EMS Office         | Tony Bixby                | Susquehanna Regional EMS                      |
| Dr. Alvin Wang      | National Assoc of EMS Physicians - PA Chapter |                           |                                               |

#### Council Members' Present:

|                     |                                                |                      |                                        |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Larry Smythe        | Chester Co Dept of Emergency Services          | Francis Feld         | Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society |
| Harry Moore         | Chester Co Dept of Emergency Services          | Amy Kempinski        | Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation |
| Mehmet Barzev       | City of Allentown EMS                          | Ed Lendvay           | Philadelphia Regional EMS Council      |
| John Kloss          | Eastern PA EMS Council                         | Joe Festa            | Plum EMS                               |
| Jason Smith         | Eastern PA EMS Council                         | Eric Valentine       | Plum EMS                               |
| Dr. Duane Siberski  | Eastern Regional EMS Council                   | Harold Mast          | Seven Mountains EMS Council            |
| Dr. Michael Reihart | Emergency Health Services Federation, Inc.     | Gage Lyons-McCracken | Seven Mountains EMS Council            |
| William Miller      | LTS EMS Council                                | Jordan Anthony       | Southern Alleghenies EMS Council       |
| Wade Amick          | Municipal EMS Authority of Lancaster Co        | Jim Slotterback      | UPMC Slotterback                       |
| Dave Kirchner       | Myerstown First Aid Unit                       | Anthony Tucci        | Western Berks Ambulance Association    |
| Steve Bailey        | Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County | Dr. Jeff Myers       | Susquehanna Regional EMS               |

**DOH Staff Present:**

Anthony Martin      Director, PA Bureau of EMS

**PEHSC Staff Present:**

|                 |                            |                  |                        |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Janette Swade   | Executive Director         | Duane Spencer    | EMSC Program Manager   |
| Donald Potter   | Sr. EMS Systems Specialist | Alexander Snyder | Administrative Officer |
| Andrew Snavelly | EMS System Specialist      |                  |                        |

**Guests/Liaisons Present:**

|                |                                       |            |                |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Alexander Kuhn | American Heart Association            | Dave Jones | Past President |
| Krista Brands  | American Trauma Society - PA Division |            |                |

| Agenda Item                        | Discussion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Action or Resolution                                                                                                                                             |
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| Call to Order                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Alvin Wang at 1000 hrs.                                                                                         |
| Approval of Meeting Minutes        | The meeting minutes from October 8, 2025, were reviewed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>MOTION: Matthew Welch</b><br><b>SECOND: Gary Vinnacombe</b><br><b>RESULT: Motion carried.</b><br><br><b>To accept the October 2025 minutes as drafted.</b>    |
| President's Report                 | Dr. Alvin Wang reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to Alex Snyder – our Administrative Officer</li> <li>• PEHSC Response to the Auditor General's EMSOF Audit</li> <li>• Act Rewrite Planning – Update and Discussion with PA ACEP</li> <li>• Relationship Discussion Planned with BEMS to improve operational effectiveness</li> <li>• Nominating Committee will be selected for the upcoming March Board election</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Treasurers Report and Audit Report | Dr. Bryan Wexler gave the account balances as of 15/15/25. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>MOTION : Gary Vinnacombe</b><br><b>SECOND : Matthew Welch</b><br><b>RESULT: Motion carried.</b><br><br><b>To acknowledge and file the Treasurer's report.</b> |

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| Executive Director's Report | <p>Janette Swade reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Financial Situation post Budget Impasse</li> <li>• Current Contract Status – EMSC and PEHSC</li> <li>• Payroll Breach and Fully Recovered Funds</li> <li>• Legislation: TNT, Authorities, Disciplinary Board</li> <li>• Board of Directors - Conflict of Interest Statements</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| FY 25-26 Audit Overview     | <p>Mr. Michael Furjanic, our CPA, is present today to provide additional comments and/or answer and/or any questions.</p> <p>The audit was reviewed and approved by the executive committee and submitted to the Department to meet contract requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEHSC Annual Audit – with Mike Furjanic, CPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Program-Specific Audit for FY 2025</li> <li>○ Contracts Reviewed: SAP# 4000025931 (State) and SAP# 4100097659 (Federal EMSC)</li> <li>○ Auditor identified one Significant Deficiency</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>No questioned costs, no fraud, no noncompliance findings</p> <p><b>Audit Finding #</b><br/><b>2025-01:</b></p> <p>Finding relates only to Federal Contract via purchase orders to SAP# 4100097659</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$13,504 invoiced DOH prior to final vendor billing</li> <li>• Costs supported by approved purchase orders</li> <li>• Expenditures incurred shortly after period end</li> <li>• Classified as a timing issue, not a misuse of funds</li> </ul> <p><b>Finding 2025-01 Context and Contributing Factors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal and State contract delays during early 2025</li> <li>• No executed federal contract for subsequent period</li> </ul> |  |

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|               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEHSC required to maintain program continuity</li> <li>• Purchase orders reflected valid, obligated work underway</li> <li>• Funds would otherwise have rolled into subsequent period</li> </ul> <p><b>Finding 2025-01 PEHSC Response and Conclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOH reviewed, accepted, and reimbursed invoice</li> <li>• Grant agreement gives DOH sole discretion on documentation</li> <li>• All costs later fully billed by vendors</li> <li>• No financial harm to State or Federal programs</li> <li>• PEHSC will follow any future DOH procedural guidance</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |
| PA DOH Report | <p>BEMS Director Anthony Martin reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auditor General Audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nearly all findings, if not all have been resolved.</li> <li>○ No missing money</li> </ul> </li> <li>• News release from the governor's office about an additional \$6 million of EMSOF funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The first step is to develop suggestions that we send to the Governor's Budget Office.</li> <li>○ Suggestions for what should be the priority for EMSOF dollars, please engage your regional council and express your interest. Funds will be disbursed regionally.</li> <li>○ It's not revenue supporting funds</li> <li>○ PEHSC will have opportunities to review recommendations and included for input of recommendations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Response to PEHSC's request for Agency-Specific Protocols for CC Ground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Partially Approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DOH Focused on PHRN</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |

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|                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CCT Ground is not included as it would overall require a change in regulations.</li> <li>• Response to Tactical EMS Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Intent to work with the Tactical EMS Task Force and Bureau to move forward with project</li> <li>○ Create licensure process and protocol development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Response to Shared Staffing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waiting on Legal and Leadership for final response</li> <li>○ Should have answer by end of the year</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Response to PHRN Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waiting on legal and leadership based on Nursing Compact</li> <li>○ Answer should be provided by end of year</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Response to Disciplinary Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Response by middle of January</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Still accepting applications for Recruitment, Retention, and Support from agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Outstanding reimbursements should be resolved soon (Mid-January) with the budget passed</li> <li>○ 69 Agencies have applied out of the 1,200</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
| Medical Advisory Committee Report | <p>Drs. Mike Reihart and Alvin Wang reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MAC met virtually on November 12, 2025</li> <li>• The committee chairs, along with Dr. Bledsoe, met with a group of stroke center coordinators from across the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussed the possible transition to BEFAST as a primary screening tool to align with the current national media campaign. Some enhancement to the EPCR data set may be needed to capture BEFAST. Director</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |  |

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|  | <p>Martin said he would speak with the EPCR vendors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discussed the assessment tools for detecting LVOs – currently PA is using mRACE but also discussed VAN and other tools. No recommended change currently</li> <li>● Several pilot projects were presented and the MAC voted, in each case, to recommend DOH approval. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitoring and transport of precedex infusions – Temple University Transport Team.</li> <li>○ Prehospital ultrasound in OHCA – Wellspan Health</li> <li>○ Prehospital administration of antibiotics in sepsis – Warwick Community Ambulance</li> <li>○ Utilization of prehospital physician response vehicles – Penn State Health EMS</li> </ul> </li> <li>● There is proposed legislation in the State House to permit the sampling of blood by EMS providers for the purpose of blood alcohol content analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Just an FYI for the Board PA EMS has already addressed this issue through a special optional ALS protocol in 2023.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The MAC is presenting VTR# 1225-01 for the Board's consideration. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Originally received from the EHSF, it recommends that CPAP become required equipment for all BLS ambulances and squad vehicles</li> <li>○ Currently an option for BLS agencies, but a large % are already voluntarily compliant.</li> <li>○ With the advent of disposable CPAP devices, cost is minimized. Agencies using non-disposable devices would not be required to switch platforms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>MOTION: Matthew Welch</b><br/> <b>SECOND: Mervin Wertz</b><br/> <b>RESULT: Motion carried.</b></p> <p><b>To recommend to the Department accept VTR 1225-01 amending the list of required equipment for BLS Ambulances and Squads to include (1) Continuous Positive Airway Pressure device, including a face mask.</b></p> |
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|                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Siberski proposed a wilderness EMT program to provide extended care capabilities in remote settings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Feedback on the proposal was provided for the Special Operation Task Force's consideration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| 2025 Protocol Update Report              | <p>Dr. Alvin Wang reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steady work continues the 2025 combined protocols</li> <li>• Only 5-6 draft protocols are involved in Level 1 review process.</li> <li>• Following Level 2 review, draft protocols will go to the Medical Advisory Committee for final review</li> <li>• The BEMS reports work in progress on Section 100 and 200 protocols and guidelines.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |
| Critical Care Transport Taskforce Report | <p>Butch Potter reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Tony Bixby, taskforce co-chair, has agreed to facilitate the workgroup reviewing CCT protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The existing protocols have been converted to an editable format</li> <li>○ The template used for the EMS protocols was modified for CCT</li> <li>○ Group is reviewing protocol resources from other states, i.e. e.g., West Virginia, et al.</li> <li>○ Group is scheduled to meet again in early 2026 to continue the development process</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Status of 2024 VTR recommending ground CCT to develop agency level, BEMS approved protocols?</li> </ul> |  |
| EMS Operations Committee Report:         | <p>Tony Deaven reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of VTR 0625-01 – “Shared staffing operations between agencies”</li> <li>• At the request of MAC, they provided input on financial and operational considerations of the proposed addition of CPAP to the required equipment list for BLS ambulances.</li> <li>• Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2026</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |

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| Special Operations Taskforce Report | <p>Dr. Duane Siberski reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wilderness EMS Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 28 Pa Code § 1027.41. Special Operations EMS Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Allows for the licensing of a Wilderness EMS Service</li> <li>▪ Providers of said service may practice under and expanded scope if they have followed a process approved by the Dept.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• VTR 1225-02 addresses recommendations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education standards to include competency and reciprocity</li> <li>○ Scope of practice and formulary</li> <li>○ Operational considerations</li> <li>○ Medical director best practices</li> <li>○ Tactical EMS Agency Recommendations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Requesting guidance from BEMS on additional steps needed to operate</li> </ul> | <p><b>MOTION: Matthew Welch</b><br/> <b>SECOND: Mark Trueman</b><br/> <b>RESULT: Motion carried</b></p> <p><b>To recommend the Department accept VTR# 1225-02 related to EMS Wilderness operations</b></p> |
| EMS Education Task Force Report     | <p>Merv Wertz reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMS IB 2025-11 - Traffic Incident Management System (TIMS) for Initial EMS Certification Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The TIMS was discussed by the Task Force</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Education Institute Accreditation Document Checklist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Feedback was solicited and provided to the Dept prior to publication</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continued discussion regarding PHRN implications under the interstate nursing compact</li> <li>• Next meeting scheduled for January 20, 2026</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| EMS for Children Project Report     | Duane Spencer, EMSC Project Manager, reported the following:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EMSC Advisory Committee met virtually on November 25, 2025.</li> </ul> <p>Issues discussed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grant Program Activity update</li> <li>○ Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program for Emergency Departments</li> <li>○ Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program for EMS</li> <li>○ Additional topics for off-line discussion and development</li> <li>○ Resource Utilization for maternity and field births</li> <li>○ Support Team Volunteers - Survey</li> <li>○ FAN program</li> <li>○ Education Subcommittee</li> <li>○ Guidelines for Schools</li> <li>○ Application review and site visits</li> <li>○ Pediatric Reference Cards</li> <li>○ 2026 NPRP</li> </ul> | <p><b>MOTION: Tony Deaven</b><br/> <b>SECOND: Greg Porter</b><br/> <b>RESULT: Motion carried.</b></p> <p><b>To recommend the Department accept VTR# 1225-03 regarding the updated prepared to pediatrics – Emergency Department.</b></p> |
| EMS Conference Report | <p>Andy Snavelly, Conference Coordinator, reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Attendance – 3103 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registered 3474 (89% participation)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2024 Attendance – 2802</li> <li>• 10.75%</li> <li>• 21 Sessions</li> <li>• 25 hours of CE</li> <li>• 50,006 total views</li> <li>• Avg. 2000 views per session</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Other Business        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statewide Awards 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Info will be released early 2026</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Informational Items in posted meeting materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ National Fire Academy - Course Offerings</li> <li>○ Board Lists– review and provide any updates</li> <li>○ Glick – death of Amy Sweitzer</li> <li>○ Legislation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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| Organizational Reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PA Trauma Systems Foundation</li> <li>PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute</li> <li>American Heart Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of new awards</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                             |
| Adjournment            | 2026 Board Meeting Dates to be Announced.                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>MOTION: Tony Deaven</b><br><b>SECOND: Mervin Wertz</b><br><b>RESULT Motion carried</b><br><br><b>To adjourn the Dec 2025 board of directors meeting.</b> |
|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             |

| ACCOUNT                                             | ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION                                                   | 7/31/2025  | 8/31/2025  | 9/30/2025  | 10/31/2025 | 11/30/2025 | as of 12/15/25 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Contract Fund                                       | <b>2025-2026 Contract Amount</b><br><b>\$353,940.00/ EMSC pending</b> | 157,996.03 | 121,018.37 | 163,162.39 | 116,542.36 | 53,734.50  | 28,220.18      |
| Payroll Account                                     | Transfer Account                                                      | 29,546.61  | 25,091.94  | 28,666.49  | 24,211.82  | 5,879.33   | 55,879.33      |
| Investment Income Fund                              | Income from Previous Investments<br>HRA                               | 4,803.31   | 4,803.35   | 4,803.39   | 5,303.43   | 5,303.47   | 5,303.47       |
| Secondary Income                                    | Conference & Secondary Income                                         | 29,702.99  | 40,503.31  | 61,814.49  | 61,259.84  | 61,004.34  | 61,004.34      |
| Investment Funds<br>transferred to PAEMSA<br>8/2015 | Monthly Dividends into Balance                                        | 393,006.94 | 403,608.38 | 411,486.85 | 414,676.62 | 418,511.81 | 418,511.81     |
| ACCOUNT                                             | ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION                                                   | 1/31/2026  | 2/29/2026  | 3/31/2026  | 4/30/2026  | 5/31/2026  | 6/30/2026      |