



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 13, 2023

Board Members Present:

Mary Kovac	Allegheny Health Network	David Brown	Montgomery County EMS Office
Robert Twaddle	Allegheny Health Network	Dr Bryan Wexler	PACEP
Don DeReamus	Ambulance Association of PA	Dr Greg Hellier	PACEP
Heather Sharar	Ambulance Association of PA	David Jones	Pennsylvania State University
Tim Hinchcliff	Burholme EMS	Keith Laws	Riddle Hospital
Kent Knable	Centre LifeLink	Dr Ron Roth	UPMC Presbyterian
Bob Mateff	Cetronia Ambulance	Myron Rickens	UPMC Presbyterian
Harry Moore	Chester Co Dept of Emerg Svcs	JR Henry	Valley Ambulance Authority
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam	Justin Eberly	VFIS
Chaz Brogan	Good Fellowship Ambulance	Dr Steven Schirk	Wellspan York Hospital
John Brindle	Harrisburg Area Community College	Dr Tom Yeich	Wellspan York Hospital
Chris Chamberlain	Hosp & Health System Assoc of PA	Gary Vinnacombe	West Grove Fire Co
Tony Deaven	Lower Allen EMS	Anthony Tucci	Western Berks Ambulance Assoc

Council Members Present:

Krista Brands	American Trauma Society PA Div.	Jerome Ozog	Pa Fire & Emerg Svcs Institute
Chris Woods	Bucks County EMS Council	Bob Brooks	PA Professional Firefighters Assoc.
Michele Rymdeika	Bucks County EMS Council	Keith McMinn	Penn State Medical Ctr Hershey
Jim Houser	Center for Emergency Medicine	Ed Lendvay	Philadelphia EMS Council
Patrick O'Connell	Delaware Co EMS Council	Greg Porter	Ross Westview EMS
Matthew Welch	Elverson Honeybrook EMS	Bob Hotchkiss	Southern Chester County EMS
KayElla Bleacher	Emergency Nurses Association	Gary Watters	Southern Alleghenies EMS Council
Robert Carpenter	EMS of Northeastern PA	Jordan Anthony	Southern Alleghenies EMS Council
Thomas McElree	EMS West	Dr Jeffrey Kuklinski	St Lukes University Health System
Jeff Wess	Forbes Health System	Jeff Yanochko	St Lukes University Health System
Craig Wheeler	Geisinger Lewistown Hospital	Dr Christian Martin-Gill	STAT MedEvac
Mervin Wertz	Lower Alsace EMS	Mark Trueman	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Dr Jeff Myers	LTS EMS Council	Tony Bixby	Susquehanna Regional EMS
David Kirchner	Myerstown First Aid Unit	Bill Wells	Technical High School of Brandywine
Darrell Fisher	New Holland Ambulance Assoc	Dr Alvin Wang	VMSC of Lower Merion & Narbreth
Steve Bailey	Non-Profit Amb Svcs of Beaver Co		

Department of Health Staff Present:

Anthony Martin, Director

PEHSC Staff Present:

Janette Swade, Director

Andy Snively

Butch Potter

Duane Spencer

Topic	Discussion	Action/Resolution
Call to Order		The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by President Dave Jones
Approval of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes from September 20, 2023 were reviewed.	Motion by: Anthony Tucci Second by: JR Henry To approve the meeting minutes as drafted. Result: Motion carried.
President's Report	President Dave Jones reported the following: 1. Members of the executive committee recently met with DOH leadership, including recently appointed BEMS director Anthony Martin. The meeting was productive and PEHSC pledged its support of the new director. 2. Retirements – Dr. Ron Roth and Dr. Jean Bail recently announced their respective retirements. The council wishes them well and encourages their continued participation. 3. With the upcoming board elections in March 2024, there are a number of board organizations that will not be eligible for re-election due to term limitations. The council thanks these organizations for their service and looks forward to their continued involvement. 4. With the appointment of Anthony Martin as the new BEMS Director, a replacement is needed for the executive committee. President Jones nominated Keith Laws, from Riddle Hospital to fill the position.	Motion by: Anthony Tucci Seconded by: Barry Albertson To approve the President's appointment of Keith Laws from Riddle Hospital to the executive committee. Result: Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report	Dr. Ron Roth provided the current treasurer's report (attached).	Motion by: Anthony Tucci Seconded by: Tony Deaven Approve the treasurer's report as presented. Result: Motion carried.
Executive Director's Report	Executive Director Janette Swade reported the following: 1. Financial - payments from the DOH are once again being received. There are still outstanding payments for both PEHSC and EMSC. We are waiting for a new invoicing workbook from the DOH to submit invoices in the current fiscal years. There are new reporting requirements from DOH, the BEMS has been helpful with navigating the new process. 2. The annual audit report for FY 2022-2023 has been received and forwarded to the DOH. There were no findings contained in the report. 3. There is pending legislation for POLST in both chambers. There is legislation in the Senate in support of the optional county authority model for EMS. 4. There are several recommendations for which the DOH response is still pending. Director Martin commented that BEMS will respond with the next 2 weeks. 5. Staff is working to develop recommended workplan priorities for FY 23-24, which will then be forwarded to the executive committee for review.	Motion by: Anthony Tucci Seconded by: Gary Vinnecomb To accept the FY2022-2023 audit report. Result: Motion carried.
DOH Report	Director Anthony Martin reported the following: He has been on the job for a week and two days; thank you for all the congratulatory notes and well wishes. 1. The Director provided an overview of his plans for the next few months; he will be doing a lot of listening and getting to know his staff and the DOH structure. 2. He views EMS as an integral part of the healthcare continuum. 3. Moving towards collaboration with all the system partners and other state agencies	

	4. Timeline for protocol release – draft completed this week and hopefully will share with MAC on Monday – comments by Dec 18th. 5. Protocols 112 and 201 will revert back to 2021 edition until additional review be completed. He hopes to start a workgroup with key stakeholders to address the questions. 6. Thanks to Dr. Bledsoe for all his hard work on the protocol update. 7. Fireworks money - \$1M for this year and next. Money is designated for tuition for provider certification. Will be meeting with the regional directors to develop a plan to distribute these funds. Any unspent monies will be returned to the general fund. 8. Will work on the reporting process to make it reasonable for the regions and PEHSC	
Medical Advisory Committee Report	Dr. Alvin Wang reported the following: The MAC met on November 8th and in special session on December 11th. 1. Both meetings were dedicated to the continued review of the 2023 Statewide Protocol Update. a. The MAC had previously identified several areas of concern within the working draft, which caused the committee to call upon the BEMS to rescind the publication(s). b. The committee worked closely with the DOH and Commonwealth Medical Director to identify and address the areas of concern. c. At the December 11th meeting, the protocols were reviewed with the Commonwealth Medical Director page by page. d. A few corrections were noted, most of which involved formatting, typos and consistency across the protocol document(s). e. PEHSC has requested the BEMS distribute a final draft to the MAC and provide a brief window for final review prior to publication.	
Critical Care Transport TF Report	Butch Potter reported the following: The task force met on October 25th.	

	1. Discussed additions to and enhancement of the current CCT protocols. 1. Recommendations will be presented to MAC in January 2. Reviewed and obtained consensus on updates to the CCT approved medication list and scope of practice. a. Will provide greater flexibility and resource utilization for CCT ambulance crews when not staffed with a PHRN. The critical care paramedic/paramedic team is currently being underutilized. b. The task force recognizes the important role the PHRN plays in CCT transports, particularly those involving high acuity patients, but also recognizes prehospital nursing resources are in limited supply in many parts of the state. c. The overarching goal is to match resources with patient acuity and grow ground CCT transport resources in underserved areas.	
EMS for Children Committee Report	Duane Spencer reported the following: 1. Status on the development of a hospital pediatrics readiness program. Reference was made to an article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal, which suggested that many hospital emergency departments are ill-equipped to care for seriously ill children. 2. The pilot phase of the hospital readiness program is scheduled for January 2024. 3. The pilot focus areas are PECC; Patient Safety and Family Centered Care; Equipment and Supplies; Policies and Procedures; Team Competencies; Communications and Collaboration; and Quality Improvement Programs. 4. A representative team is reviewing the Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program (PVRP) to make necessary updates. 5. The Family Advisory Network (FAN) is being moved to a task force model in support of pediatrics readiness and improved family engagement.	

Education TF Report	Merv Wertz reported the following: The BLS Education Institute Best Practices Workgroup met on October 18th. 1. Discussed the concept of developing a “best practices” resource guide to support new education institutes and assist existing programs to improve performance and customer satisfaction. a. Recognizes the state’s diversity b. Would cover a wide range of subjects: i. Faculty Selection/Professional Development ii. Medical Director Involvement iii. Student Selection iv. Curriculum Development v. Policy/Procedure vi. Student Evaluations vii. NREMT Testing Preparation viii. A survey is being developed for the current BLS education institutes to provide feedback on the proposed subject areas and their perceived importance to institutional improvement.	
EMS Conference Report	Andy Snavelly reported the following: 2023 PA State EMS Conference: 1. Attendance – 2459 (2795 registrants or 88%) a. Increased attendance and lower attrition than last year b. No negative impact seen from the \$10 registration fee 2. Education Sessions – 25 3. Con Ed Credit – 14.0 CPC, 11.5 Other, 1.0 EVOC 4. Dates for 2024 Conference – September 3rd – 6th	
Membership Committee Report	JR Henry reported on the following applications for council membership: 1. Warwick Community Ambulance 2. Wakefield EMS 3. Plum EMS 4. Minquas Fire Co #2 5. National Association of EMS Physicians – PA Chapter	Motion by: Tony Tucci Seconded by: Dr Greg Myers To accept these organizations for council membership. Result: Motion carried.
Organizational Reports	AAP: Don DeReamus and Heather Sharar reported the following:	

	• Legislative landscape is a little unusual. The House will not be in session until March. • POLST legislation, HB 1212, has been reintroduced from last session. • Fiscal Code bill is being voted on today – there are differences in the Medicaid mileage increase between previous legislation and Fiscal Code bill. • House is losing a democratic member, so the balance will now be 101 to 101, which creates functionality issues due having no majority party. • Questions continue to surface as to how urban, rural and super rural areas of the commonwealth are established. • Act 84 from 2015, regarding balance billing, is being questioned by Cigna Insurance. • AAP is monitoring the no-surprise billing issue at the federal level • The next AAP board meeting is on Thursday, December 14th. PTSF: No report PFESI: No report	
Adjournment		Motion by: Tony Deaven Seconded by: Keith Laws To adjourn the meeting Result: Motion carried.

December 2023 Treasurer's Report Detail:

CASH BALANCE AS OF:

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	7/31/2023	8/31/2023	9/30/2023	10/31/2023	11/30/2023
Contract Fund	2023-2024 Contract Amount \$353,940.00/ EMSC 186,254.00	82,409.74	95,160.43	106,962.33	69,179.21	121,305.42
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	31,023.35	28,702.14	30,045.42	31,388.71	32,732.04
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	2,647.46	5,217.39	5,217.43	5,217.47	5,217.51
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	47,751.84	57,426.56	64,619.70	79,082.27	82,566.23
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	316,755.86	311,628.47	302,641.00	295,658.00	314,007.03