



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS

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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Board Members Present:

Mary Kovac	Allegheny General Hospital	Dr Rick Wadas	National Assoc of EMS Physicians
Don Dereamus	Ambulance Association of PA	Dr Greg Hellier	PA ACEP
Heather Harris	Ambulance Association of PA	Dr Bryan Wexler	PA ACEP
Bob Mateff	Cetronia Ambulance Corps	Amy Kempinski	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
Harry Moore	Chester Co Dept of Emerg Svcs.	Dr Jeffrey Kuklinski	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
Larry Smythe	Chester Co Dept of Emerg Svcs.	David Jones	Penn State University
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam EMS	Greg Porter	Southwest Ambulance Alliance
Matthew Welch	Elverson Honeybrook EMS	JR Henry	Southwest Ambulance Alliance
Robert Carpenter	EMS of Northeastern PA	Dr Jeff Myers	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Gene Lesneski	EMS of Northeastern PA	Mark Trueman	Susquehanna Regional EMS
John Brindle	Hbg. Area Community College	Myron Rickens	UPMC Presbyterian
Tony Deaven	Lower Allen EMS	Anthony Tucci	Western Berks Ambulance
Alvin Wang	National Assoc of EMS Physicians		

Council Members Present:

Krista Brands	American Trauma Society- PA Div.	Dave Kirchner	Myerstown First Aid Squad
Alex Kuhn	American Heart Assoc	Steve Bailey	Non-Profit Emerg Svcs of Beaver Co
Gwen McNamara	American Red Cross	Francis Feld	PA Athletic Trainers Assoc
Kent Knable	Centre LifeLink EMS	Keith McMinn	Penn State Hershey Med Ctr
Mark Giangiulio	Delaware Co EMS Council	Ed Lendvay	Philadelphia EMS Council
Patrick Oconnell	Delaware Co EMS Council	Joe Festa	Plum EMS
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council	Eric Valentine	Plum EMS
Jason Smith	Eastern PA EMS Council	Greg Porter	Ross Westview EMS
Dr Michael Reihart	EHSF Regional Council	Gage Lyons-McCracken	Seven Mountains EMS Council
Thomas McElree	EMS West EMS Council	Matthew Collins	Southern Chester Co EMS
Brian Shaw	EMS West EMS Council	Bob Hotchkiss	Southern Chester Co EMS
Joe Stevens	First Capital EMS	Jordan Anthony	Southern Alleghenies EMS Council
Chris Chamberlain	Hospital & Healthsystem Assoc of PA	Dr Christian Martin-Gill	STAT MedEvac - UPMC
Mervin Wertz	Lower Alsace EMS	Jim Slotterback	Susquehanna Regional EMS
William Miller	LTS EMS Council	Tony Bixby	UPMC Susquehanna
Norm Prycl	McCandless Franklin Park EMS	Gary Vinnacombe	West Grove Fire Co
Wade Amick	Municipal EMS Authority	Dwayne Wallace	Delaware Co EMS Council

DOH Staff:

Anthony Martin, Director, BEMS
Dr. Dan Beldsoe, Commonwealth EMS Medical Director

PEHSC Staff:

Janette Swade, Director
Butch Potter, Sr EMS System Specialist
Adny Snavley, EMS System Specialist
Duane Spencer, EMSC Project Manager

Item	Discussion	Resolution or Action
Call to Order		The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by President Dr. Alvin Wang.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	The minutes of the December 11, 2024, board meeting were reviewed	MOTION: Anthony Tucci SECOND: Matt Welch To accept the meeting minutes of December 11, 2024, as drafted RESULT: Motion carried.
President's Report	Dr. Alvin Wang reported the following: • AI Policy Change • Welcome to Scott Ryno – PFESI and Amy Kempinski – PTSF • Montgomery County Study – https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/4478/2023-EMS-Strategic-Plan • EMSC VTR response – received this am • Monthly Meetings with BEMS ongoing Dr Wang thanked the member organizations that are rotating off the board of directors due to term limits: • Chester County Department of Emergency Services • City of Allentown EMS • Community LifeTeam EMS • Penn State University • PA Trauma Systems Foundation • Southwest Ambulance Alliance • Western Berks EMS	

Treasurer's Report	Dr. Bryan Wexler presented the current treasurer's report, a copy of which is attached to these mutes.	MOTION: Matt Welch SECOND: Tony Deaven To accept and file the treasurer's report as presented. RESULT: Motion carried.
Department of Health Report	Director Anthony Martin reported the following: • Federal funding – a lot of confusion and lack of information from feds. Collecting information on all federal grants. Possibility of funding for high impact, low-cost grants being funded by PA, which includes EMSC program. No information on continued funding for grant-paid BEMS staff (4). • \$23M EMSOF surplus – DOH working on 3-year spend down plan to have running balance of around \$5M. Suggests for expenditures? • Tactical EMS, OPUS and behavioral health transport projects update • Revision of Statewide EMS plan – not revised since 2010. Possibly format to be consistent with Governor's office vision for policy approach. • Still looking at what a countywide plan should entail and best practices to strengthen local EMS support. PEHSC has an Executive Committee member participating in workgroup. • Hospital divert and bypass guidance still being developed by workgroup • Looking at potential issues related to the possible closure of Crozer-Chester Medical center.	
Executive Director's Report	Executive Director Janette Swade presented the following: • Finances / Budget • Continued EMSC project funding if federal funding is reduced or eliminated.	

	• Awaiting budget figures from the BEMS for FY 25-26 • EMSOF fund balance has increased • Informal Advice Provided to DOH • Equipment list and publishing format changes • Countywide or greater EMS plan concerns • CISM Team Updates • Incident in York County requiring CISM response • Changes in international CISM standards – need to look at current PA standards • Please review your team’s information on the PEHSC website to ensure it’s up to date • Info Materials • In shared folder – • New annual business report for PA businesses • Board Information – review lists • Legislation • Can PEHSC do outside fundraising to support operations? (Tucci) • Death of Lew Hope from Dushore Ambulance – EMS leader in North Central PA	
Membership Committee Report	An application received for regular council membership from Washington Fire Company #1, Coatesville, PA. The membership committee recommends this organization for regular membership.	MOTION: Anthony Tucci SECOND: Tony Deaven To accept Washington Fire Company #1, Coatesville, PA. for regular council membership. RESULT: Motion carried.
Medical Advisory Committee Report	Dr. Mike Reihart reported the following: • The MAC met virtually on January 15th. • Dr Wang provided an update on the 2025 Protocol Update Workgroup. There is steady progress with the group members submitting protocol drafts for review.	

	• Dr. Stephanie Costa, EMS Physician, Wellspan Health, presented a pilot project for EMS personnel to administer Buprenorphine to patients suspected of opioid abuse. The project is slightly different from those already in progress. The MAC voted to recommend the BEMS approve the pilot. • The committee reviewed and discussed the recommended changes to the required equipment and supply list. Commented that agencies utilizing video laryngoscope should continue to carry direct laryngoscope as a backup. • Dr. Reihart convened the first meeting of the TIP/TAD MAC subcommittee. The group discussed the opportunities and challenges with treating patients in-place and transport of 911 patients to alternate destinations for further care. • Dr. Reihart authored a draft consensus statement on Treatment in Place, which is currently under review by the subcommittee. After which it will be presented to the MAC at their April meeting and if approved, it will come to the Board for consideration at their June meeting.	
EMS for Children Project	Project Manager Duane Spencer reported the following: • Grant program status and funding • Prepared for Pediatrics - ED update ○ Pilot activity ○ Program development ○ End of 2025 target for approvals • Prepared for Pediatrics - EMS Implementation ○ Communications plan ○ Finalizing documents ○ Pilot group reviewing program materials	

Special Operations Workgroup Report	Dr. Duane Siberski reported the following: • Wilderness EMS Agency Recommendations ○ Final draft completed ○ To be presented to MAC at April 2025 meeting • Tactical EMS Agency Recommendations ○ Approval received from BEMS – looking at next steps for implementation.	
EMS Education Task Force Report	Merv Wertz reported the following: • Continuing work to support EMS Education Institutes ○ Developing the best practice guidance ○ Survey distributed in Summer 2024 with inconclusive results ○ Continuing to solicit feedback from regional partners and other stakeholders and sharing with BEMS ○ Awaiting copy of “Draft Guidance for Document Checklist for Educational Institutes” for committee review ○ The new BLS psychomotor exam format will go live July 1, 2025	
EMS Operations Committee Report	Tony Deaven reported the following: • Group revisiting CFC 0622-01 recommending ability for interagency crew resource sharing.	
PA EMS Conference Update	Andy Snavelly reported the following: • This year’s conference dates are September 2-5, 2025 • Will be utilizing a new technology platform this year • Website build underway • Anticipated website launch April 1st • 2024 Final report in meeting materials for your review	
PA EMS Awards Update	Duane Spencer reported the following: • Nominations closed March 15th • 109 nominations received	

	• Nomination packet sent to awards committee along with preliminary voting survey • Awards determination by PEHSC Executive Committee the week of March 25th • Planned awards ceremonies week of May 4th pending recipients and coordination of locations and awards team • Planned Capital Rotunda display as in past few years	
Adjourn Board of Directors Meeting	Adjourn the March 2025 meeting of the PEHSC Board of Directors.	MOTION: Tony Tucci SECOND: Tony Deaven RESULT: Motion carried.
Convene the 2025 Annual PEHSC Council Meeting		The annual meeting council meeting was called to order by President Dr. Alvin Wang
Nominating Committee Report	J. David Jones reported the following council organizations are recommended for election to the PEHSC board of directors for a 3-year term (2026-2028) 1. Allegheny County EMS Council 2. Ambulance Association of PA 3. Centre LifeLink EMS 4. Cranberry Township EMS 5. Cumberland Goodwill EMS 6. Hospital and Healthcare Association of PA 7. Southern Chester County EMS 8. Tower Health (*) 9. UPMC EMS Physicians 10. Warwick Community Ambulance Assn (*) nominated for second 3-year term)	MOTION: Tony Tucci SECOND: Tony Deaven To accept the slate of nominees, as reported by the committee, for election to the PEHSC board of directors for a 3-year term (2026-2028). RESULT: Motion carried.
Organizational Report	• PA Trauma Systems Foundation – nothing new to report per Amy Kempinski. • Ambulance Association of PA • EMS workforce development report – PEHSC participated in workgroup. • Need better reimbursement through statewide fee schedule • Local government support • No additional funding for EMS in Governor’s budget proposal	

	• Press conference on May 13, 2025, at 0800 hours • Reimbursement Conference in May • Issues related to non-payment from skilled nursing facilities. If this is impacting your agency, please contact AAP with data. • Meeting with Fire Commissioner's office on grant funding. Some EMS agencies are not applying for full \$15k grant to which they are entitled, leaving \$324k in unexpended funds in last grant cycle. • PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute – no report	
Good for the Order	None	
Adjournment	Adjourn the 2025 Annual PEHSC Council Meeting	MOTION: Tony Tucci SECOND: Tony Deaven RESULT: Motion carried



EMS WEEK

May 18-24, 2025

We Care. For Everyone.