



**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**

**October 8, 2025**

**Board Members Present:**

Greg Porter	Allegheny EMS Council	Dr Stephanie Costa	PA ACEP
Robert Twaddle	Allegheny General Hospital	Keith McMinn	Penn State Health Hershey
Donald DeReamus	Ambulance Assoc. of PA	Keith Laws	Riddle Hospital - Mainline Health
Heather Harris	Ambulance Assoc. of PA	Matthew Collins	S. Chester County EMS
Kent Knable	Centre LifeLink EMS	Robert Hotchkiss	S. Chester County EMS
Bob Mateff	Cetronia Amb Corps	Dr Jeff Myers	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Nathan Harig	Cumberland Goodwill EMS	Mark Trueman	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Matthew Welch	Elverson Honeybrook EMS	Dr Christian Martin-Gill	UPMC EMS Physicians
Bob Carpenter	EMS of Northeast PA	Rick Gurba	VFIS Education
Tony Deaven	Lower Allentown EMS	Dr Avram Flamm	Wellspan York Hospital
David Brown	Montgomery Co Office of EMS	Gary Vinnacombe	West Grove Fire Co
Dr Alvin Wang	NAEMSP - PA		Williamsport Area Ambulance Services
Dr Rick Wadas	NAEMSP - PA		Cooperative dba Susquehanna Regional
Dr Bryan Wexler	PA ACEP	Tony Bixby	EMS

**Council Members Present:**

Alexander Kuhn	American Heart Assoc	Dave Kirchner	Myerstown First Aid Squad
Krista Brands	American Trauma Society PA	Steve Bailey	Non Profit Amb Servs of
Karla Hurlbert	Bucks Co EMS Council	Francis Feld	Beaver Co
Harry Moore	Chester Co Dept of Emerg Serv		PA Athletic Trainers Society
Larry Smythe	Chester Co Dept of Emerg Serv	Amy Kempinski	PA Trauma Systems
Leo Scaccia	Chester Co EMS Council	Dave Jones	Foundation
Mehmet Barzev	City of Allentown EMS	Josh Fremberg	Penn State University EMS
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam EMS	Ed Lendvay	Penn State University EMS
Pat OConnell	Delaware Co. EHS Council	Joe Festa	Phila Regional EMS Office
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council	Jordan Anthony	Plum EMS
Dr Michael Reihart	EHSF	Gage Lyons-McCracken	S. Alleghenies EMS Council
Tylor Glenn	Forbes Hospital	Jeff Yanocho	Seven Mts EMS Council
Andrew Steward	Minquas Fire Co #2	Myron Rickens	St Lukes University Health
	Montgomery County	Anthony Tucci	UPMC Presbyterian
Tim Hinchcliff	Ambulance Association		Western Berks EMS
Wade Amick	Municipal EMS Authority Lanc.		

**Department of Health Staff Present:**

Anthony Martin, Director, BEMS

**PEHSC Staff Present:**

Janette Swade, Executive Director

Butch Potter

Andy Snavely

Duane Spencer

**Guests/Liaisons Present:**

Jim Slotterback

Susquehanna Regional EMS

PEHSC

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Resolution
Call to Order/Welcome		<p>The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Alvin Wang at 1000 hours.</p> <p>Dr Wang asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of the NYCRPD officers killed in the line of duty.</p>
Approval of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes from June 25, 2025, were reviewed.	<p><b>MOTION: Matt Welch</b>  <b>SECOND: Dr. Avram Flamm</b></p> <p><b>To accept the meeting minutes as drafted.</b></p> <p><b>RESULT: Motion carried</b></p>
President’s Report	<p>Dr. Alvin Wang reported on the following items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A concept for consideration by the board to recommend the BEMS establish a Peer Driven Disciplinary Board. Presented by Greg Porter of the Executive Committee.</li> <li>2. EMS Act Rewrite Plan</li> <li>3. Municipal Education Materials</li> </ol>	<p><b>MOTION: Gary Vinnacombe</b>  <b>SECOND: Dr. Jeff Myers</b></p> <p><b>To recommend the BEMS consider and accept the concept of a peer driven disciplinary board.</b></p> <p><b>RESULT: Motion carried.</b></p>
Special Election	<p>To fill a vacancy on the executive committee due to a recent resignation. The President, using his powers provided in the bylaws appointed Mr. Chris Chamberlain from the Hospital and Healthcare Association of PA.</p> <p>It is now the board’s responsibility to vote to allow Mr. Chamberlain to remain this this seat for the remaining FY 25-26 term.</p>	<p><b>MOTION: Anthony Deaven</b>  <b>SECOND: Keith Laws</b></p> <p><b>To permit Mr. Chris Chamberlain, from the Hospital and Healthcare Association of PA, to fill the remainder of the vacancy on the FY 25-26 term of the Executive Committee</b></p> <p><b>RESULT: Motion carried</b></p>
Treasurer’s Report	<p>Dr. Bryan Wexler provided an overview of the council’s balances.</p> <p>A copy of the report is attached to the minutes for review.</p>	<p><b>MOTION: Matt Welch</b>  <b>SECONDED: Greg Porter</b></p> <p><b>To acknowledge and file the treasurer’s report as presented.</b></p> <p><b>RESULT: Motion carried</b></p>
Executive Director’s Report	<p>Janette Swade reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State Budget / Funding stream concerns</li> <li>2. A very difficult time for cash flow with no state budget.</li> <li>3. We have a line of credit and can borrow from PEMSA.</li> </ol>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Difficulty with EMSC due to no contract from the DOH. Will be able to back bill once the contract is received.</li> <li>5. Administrative Officer position <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Down to 1 or 2 final candidates</li> <li>b. Need to hold on the position until the state budget passes to ensure the expended funds are allocated.</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. Our annual audit is underway. Will be finished next week – no problems encountered</li> <li>7. Annual Report has been completed and filed with the DOH. Also available on our website</li> <li>8. Legislation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Narcan leave behind legislation</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. Conflict of Interest for Board of Directors - submissions due</li> </ol>	
DOH Report	<p>Director Martin reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Budget impasse causing program operations. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. DOH to look at region and PEHSC priorities</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Shared staffing VTR response forthcoming.</li> <li>3. PHRN for nurses with Compact license.</li> <li>4. Working on the EMSC contract. Funds impacted by federal/state budget.</li> <li>5. 2024 data report is close to being complete.</li> <li>6. Working on “Shall respond” requirements in regs with small workgroup. Need to get resources to the patient without financial threat to EMS agencies.</li> <li>7. Federal rural health grant will include EMS equipment needs, recruitment and treat and release.</li> </ol>	
Medical Advisory Committee Report	<p>Dr. Mike Reihart reported the following:</p> <p>The MAC held an in-person meeting on August 13, 2025, at the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The</p>	

	<p>incoming class of EMS fellows from around the Commonwealth attended this meeting to gain a better understanding of the EMS system and advisory role of PEHSC.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Results of the western PA pilot program regarding EMT administration of 50:50 nitrous oxide/oxygen as an inhaled analgesic were presented. The pilot program yielded positive results - high provider satisfaction and no untoward results. Committee voted to recommend this form of inhaled analgesia be added to the 2025 statewide protocols for EMTs along with any needed amendments to the statewide approved medication and scope of practice lists.</li><li>2. The critical care transport task force sought the MAC's input regarding the transport of Precedex by non-CCT ALS provider. The MAC expressed concern, not so much with the medication itself, but with acuity of a patient receiving this medication. The item will be referred back to the CCT task force for further discussion.</li><li>3. The BEMS that the prehospital blood administration programs across the state are going well.</li><li>4. Dr. Wilson presented a proposed Procedural Sedation protocol for comments. This prompted a lengthy discussion with the consensus of the group being supportive of the concept but highly skeptical of the implementation, monitoring, and safety of use as it is currently written. Motion made and seconded that this item be tabled for further development.</li><li>5. Dr. Reihart raised the discussion about the possible need to review and/or change the current LVO screening tool (mRACE) in protocol.</li></ol>	
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	<p>Dr. Wadas stated that there are numerous prehospital scales in use and that most see similar efficacy. The bigger questions are a) is there an easier option than mRACE?, and b) will a new tool be recognized and accepted by facilities and stroke teams? MAC leadership will initiate discussions with stroke programs</p>	
<p>Protocol Development Workgroup</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Wang presented a brief update on the overall status, and timeline of the project.</li> <li>2. The workgroup has spent countless hours drafting various protocols and has made great progress. The clinical related protocols will be ready of the next level of review within the 30-45 days.</li> <li>3. As an example, the current working draft of the proposed cardiac arrest protocol is shown. At MAC, this led to a very lengthy discussion about formatting, the pros/cons of adding a flow chart, and numerous clinical items such as Epinephrine dosing/frequency, airway management language, eCPR considerations, and termination of resuscitation guidance.</li> <li>4. A suggestion was made that once protocols were drafted by the committee that they be sent to MAC and other stakeholders via a survey tool for comments prior to being presented for vote at a MAC meeting.</li> </ol>	
<p>Critical Care Transport Task Force</p>	<p>The task force met on September 16<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and discussed the following topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The task force was approached by representatives from UPENN PennStar regarding the possibility of triaging a specific subset of patients</li> </ol>	

	<p>receiving Precedex infusions to an appropriately trained non-CCT ALS ambulance crew for monitoring during transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. This subset of patients are detoxing from alcohol and opioid toxicity whose plan of care requires sedation.</li> <li>b. They are generally found to be cardio-respiratory stable and remain so during transport.</li> <li>c. There has been an uptick in these types of transports, which is putting a strain on CCT resources, resulting in transport delays for other higher acuity patients.</li> <li>d. The issue was presented to MAC in August, to obtain general feedback on the concept. A potential safety concern was expressed, more so about overall patient acuity than the medication itself.</li> <li>e. Dr. Scott Goldstein from the Temple University Transport Team announced that his team has designed a pilot project to explore the operational feasibility and safety of non-CCT providers monitoring these patients during transport. The draft has been distributed for review</li> </ul> <p>2. There will be a workgroup, facilitated by Tony Bixby from UPMC/Susquehanna Regional EMS, to update and add to the stateside critical care protocols.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The CCT protocols are intended to enhance, not replace the standing EMS protocols for patient care situations not or</li> </ul>	
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	<p>inadequately addressed by the statewide EMS protocols.</p> <p>b. A request for participants was sent out a well received by the members.</p> <p>c. The first meeting of this group will occur in the near future.</p> <p>3. The task force also discussed the impact of the new national nursing compact on nurses who wish to become PHRNs.</p> <p>a. To obtain PHRN certification, the individual must first obtain a PA nursing license. A nurse with a compact license can apply to the state board for licensure by endorsement to obtain their PA license.</p>	
<p>EMS Education Task Force</p>	<p>Merv Wertz reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome to our new co-chair, Mark Trueman from Susquehanna Regional EMS!</li> <li>2. The group last met on July 15</li> <li>3. At the request of BEMS, the group reviewed and provided comments on a draft document checklist to be used for EMS Education Institute accreditation/reaccreditation. Group feedback was collected and supplied to the Dept. as requested.</li> <li>4. The group also addressed questions regarding PHRN eligibility for out-of-state nurses who are granted privilege to practice in PA as part of the Nurse Licensure Compact. It is the opinion of our membership that nurses that are granted privilege to practice in PA should be eligible to pursue PHRN status in the Commonwealth. This was drafted into a formal letter that has been sent to the Dept. (attached)</li> <li>5. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21</li> </ol>	

<p>EMS for Children Committee</p>	<p>Duane Spencer, EMS Project Manager, reported:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. EMSC met in person and virtually on September 9, 2025</li> <li>2. The following was discussed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Grant program and DOH contract activity</li> <li>b. Budget priorities</li> <li>c. Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program for ED's (PRRP-ED) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Timeline</li> <li>ii. Focus Areas</li> <li>iii. Tiers and Levels of Recognition</li> <li>iv. Process, approval, communication</li> </ol> </li> <li>d. Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program for EMS (PRRP-EMS) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Process, approval, communication</li> </ol> </li> <li>e. Supplemental activities: Protocol input, school guidelines, FAN expansion, pediatric play bags, grief kits for ED's, baby banding, pediatric reference cards, 2026 EMSC surveys</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
<p>Membership Committee Report</p>	<p>Dr. Bryan Wexler reported Somerset Ambulance has applied for affiliate membership</p>	<p><b>MOTION: Matt Welch</b>  <b>SECOND: Gary Vinnacombe</b></p> <p><b>To accept for affiliate membership.</b></p> <p><b>RESULT: Motion carried.</b></p>
<p>48<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS PA EMS Conference Update</p>	<p>Andy Snavelly reported the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Live event held September 2-5.</li> <li>2. On-demand viewing is available until November 30.</li> <li>3. Registration is still open at <a href="http://www.paemsconference.org">www.paemsconference.org</a>.</li> <li>4. 21 Sessions / 25 CEU credits available.</li> </ol>	

	<p>5. Provider registration thus far – <b>2,962.</b></p> <p>6. Provider attendance <b>2,311 (78%).</b></p> <p>7. Average session attendance <b>1,215</b></p>	
For the Good of the Order: PA EMS Agency wins NAEMT Award	PEHSC council member Susquehanna Regional EMS in Williamsport, Lycoming County received the 2025 “NAEMT’s Dick Ferneau Career EMS Service of the Year Award.”	CONGRATULATIONS TO SREMS ON THIS HONOR!!
For the Good of the Order: Organizational Reports	<p>PA Trauma Systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representation on the group for rural funds distribution.</li> <li>- Strategic planning session conducted</li> <li>- Annual PTSF conference, combined with American Trauma Society – PA</li> </ul> <p>American Heart Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2026 Mission Lifeline Program</li> <li>- PA has 55 gold level agencies</li> <li>- 12 lead within 10 minutes of contact for suspected STEMI</li> <li>- Optional data reporting for OHCA</li> <li>- Rolling review of data submitted to AHA and award approval</li> <li>- New award for State EMS Office for submitting data to AHA</li> </ul> <p>Ambulance Association of PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- HB to increase EMS tax to 5 mills.</li> <li>- Nothing new on budget – appears that EMSOF is intact</li> <li>- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual leadership academy is in full swing (sold out at again!)</li> <li>- Town meetings</li> <li>- Rural health transformation grant – upcoming meeting in Williamsport.</li> </ul> <p>PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Moving their meetings around the state.</li> <li>- No legislative initiatives due to the budget impasse.</li> </ul> <p>Matt Collins announced an informal coalition among agencies providing prehospital blood</p>	

	administration. Forum to share information and best practices.	
Adjournment	<p>Thanks to those members and guests who attended today’s meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting of the PEHSC Board of Directors is scheduled for December 17, 2025 via Zoom</p>	<p><b>MOTION: Keith Laws</b>  <b>SECOND: Matt Welch</b></p> <p><b>To adjourn the October 2025 PEHSC Board of Directors meeting.</b></p> <p><b>RESULT: Motion carried</b></p>

Table 1. Oct 2025 Treasurer’s Report

Contract Fund	<b>2024-2025 Contract Amount \$354,00.00/ EM SC 151,671.18</b>	92,707.43	122,989.79	108,395.61	94,580.57	58,739.15	227,537.93	
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	13,273.43	13,557.75	12,897.44	12,858.14	12,796.86	9,149.46	
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	5,102.83	5,102.87	5,102.91	5,102.95	4,802.99	4,803.03	
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	71,319.53	76,832.51	76,191.44	92,967.70	92,826.81	44,500.27	
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	356,893.66	362,572.11	369,678.24	365,290.40	379,799.00	368,517.00	
<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>1/31/2025</b>	<b>2/29/2025</b>	<b>3/31/2025</b>	<b>4/30/2025</b>	<b>5/31/2025</b>	<b>6/30/2025</b>	
Contract Fund	<b>2024-2025 Contract Amount \$354,000.00/EM SC 151,671.18</b>	187,357.24	129,132.39	173,287.70	214,725.46	171,394.70		
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	8,346.07	27,732.28	27,292.21	26,852.15	26,412.09		
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	4,803.07	4,803.11	4,803.15	4,803.19	4,803.23		
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	45,072.47	31,593.55	29,863.60	29,717.09	29,670.59		
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	379,148.00	377,226.00	366,647.00	363,622.00	376,672.00		