



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

CONCEPT FOR CONSIDERATION

Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Subject: Child Abuse/Neglect Background Checks

CFC#: 1213-01

Committee/Task Force: EMS for Children Committee

The PEHSC Board of Directors requests the Pennsylvania Department of Health to revisit VTR 1211-02 from their meeting of December 14, 2011, which recommended that "The Department of Health should expand its current criminal history monitoring efforts to include screening for convictions of criminal acts against children, via the PA Child Line, to be performed by the EMS agency as part of the required documentation for licensure and should also include the screening of students enrolled in an EMS certification program."

Committee Comments:

On December 4, 2013, the PA EMSC committee again discussed the importance of this measure in protecting the Commonwealth's children. Committee members were updated on the Department's response to the previous VTR, and noted that the time for consideration of Pennsylvania House Bill 2038 expired with the previous legislative session. While there are many bills that have recently been passed or are still being debated in regards to child abuse and neglect in the Pennsylvania legislature, the PA EMSC committee did not note any directed specifically towards EMS providers. As with previous discussions on this topic, the Committee considered the cost of clearances, estimated at \$10 per EMS provider, but overwhelmingly determined these costs to be nominal at best.

The EMSC Committee also indicated that, as with previous recommendations and in accordance with the current child abuse clearance requirements of the Pennsylvania EMSC Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program, each respective EMS agency should develop their own policies and procedures to respond to the results of these child abuse clearances, with advice from their legal counsel. Additionally, the frequency of administering these clearances should also be the responsibility of the respective EMS agency, again with advice from their legal counsel.

Board Meeting Comments/Concerns:

This CFC was presented at the December 11, 2013 PEHSC Board of Directors meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding the cost of the background checks, namely other means to pay for costs legislatively. It was noted that EMSOF funds could perhaps be used to assist in off-setting some costs. No further discussion was had on the matter and CFC 1213-01 passed unanimously.

Signed: David James
President JAS

Date: 1-9-14

Attachment: VTR 1211-02