Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council

Your Voice In EMS

Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Annual Report
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Mission, Vision, & Values

Mission

The core mission of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council is to serve as an independent advisory body to The Department of Health and all other appropriate agencies on matters pertaining to Emergency Medical Services. As an advocate for its diverse member organizations, PEHSC’s ultimate purpose is to foster improvements in the quality and delivery of emergency health services throughout the Commonwealth.

Vision

Pennsylvania will be a national leader in developing a unified system of high quality emergency medical services and other health services. In partnership with other organizations statewide that are involved with emergency services, PEHSC's role includes a heightened emphasis on advocacy and legislative liaison, outcomes research, system finances and development, public education, and resources to enhance organizational management.

Core Values

- Service
  - PEHSC will advocate for and work to advance Pennsylvania’s statewide EMS system.

- Diversity
  - PEHSC will be comprised of EMS agencies from across Pennsylvania, and will include other organizations and stakeholders from within the emergency services and medical communities.

- Objectivity
  - PEHSC will generate unbiased, in-depth products that accurately reflect the needs of Pennsylvania and its EMS professionals.

- Responsiveness
  - PEHSC will be responsible, first and foremost, to the Council membership, and will strive to be at the forefront of new innovations.

- Synergy
  - PEHSC will bring together components of Pennsylvania’s EMS system to explore problems and produce comprehensive solutions.
History, Funding, & Function

History

PEHSC was formed and incorporated in 1974. The Council’s Board of Directors was recognized as the official EMS advisory body to the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Emergency Medical Services Act of 1985 and was reauthorized in Act 37 of 2009.

Funding

The Council is partially funded through a contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. PEHSC does not charge any fees or dues to its member organizations.

Function

The Council’s cornerstone is the grassroots provider network, which meet to discuss statewide issues. These grassroots providers generate recommendations for consideration by the PEHSC’s Board of Directors. These recommendations ultimately lead to the delivery of formal recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The volunteer, grassroots participation of pre-hospital providers throughout the Commonwealth gives EMS a voice in decision making at the state level. The volunteer involvement of providers in the PEHSC process has saved the Commonwealth thousands of dollars in personnel costs, as the PEHSC members often prepare statewide documents and/or educational programs to support recommendations. Interested providers may apply for membership to PEHSC Task Forces by completing an application. Task Forces are established either on a long term or short term basis and are either focused on a specific issue or general topic area.
Council Membership

The Council is an organization-based, non-profit corporation consisting of over 100 organizations representing every facet of EMS in Pennsylvania. Each organization appoints a representative and one alternate representative to serve on the Council. Our member organizations include representatives of ambulance services, hospitals, health care providers, and firefighters, among others.

Albert Einstein Med Center - EMS Division
Allegheny County EMS Council
Allegheny General Hospital
Ambulance Association of PA
American Heart Assn. – Great Rivers Affiliate
American Medical Response Mid-Atlantic, Inc.
American Red Cross
American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division
Best Practices of Pennsylvania
Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Company
Binns and Associates, LLC
Brockway Area Ambulance Service, Inc.
Bucks County Emergency Health Services Council
Bucks County Squad Chiefs Association
Burholme EMS
Butler County Community College
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA
Cetronia Ambulance Corps
Chal-Brit Regional EMS / Chalfont EMS
Chester Co Dept of Emergency Services
Chester County EMS Council
City Of Allentown EMS
City Of Pittsburgh - Bureau of EMS
Columbia Quick Response Service
County Of Schuylkill - Office of Public Safety
Cumberland Goodwill EMS
Danville Ambulance Service
Delaware County EHS Council
Eastern Lebanon County School District (ELCO)
Eastern PA EMS Council
Emergency Health Services Federation, Inc.
Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern PA
Emergency Nurses Association, PA Chapter
EMMCO East
EMMCO West
EMSI - Emergency Medical Service Institute
First Aid & Safety Patrol of Lebanon

Fraternal Association of Professional Paramedics
Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital
Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training Inst.
Harrisburg Area Community College
Highmark
Horsham Fire Company No 1
The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA
J R Henry Consulting
Jeffstat
Lancaster County EMS Council
Lancaster General Hospital
Lawn Fire Co. Ambulance
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Levittown-Fairless Hills Rescue Squad
LTS EMS Council
Main Line Health
Montgomery County Regional EMS Office
Murrysville Medic One
Myerstown First Aid Unit
National Collegiate EMS Foundation
National Ski Patrol
Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County
Northeast PA Volunteer Ambulance Association
Northwest EMS Inc.
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Pennsylvania ACEP
Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society
Pennsylvania Committee on Trauma - ACS
Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute
Pennsylvania Firemen’s Legislative Federation
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Pennsylvania Neurosurgical Society
Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association
Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association
Pennsylvania Psychological Association
Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council
Council Membership, continued

Pennsylvania Society of Internal Medicine
Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants
Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
The Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation
Philadelphia Fire Fighters Union Local 22
Philadelphia Paramedic Association
Philadelphia Regional EMS Council
Philadelphia University
Providence Township Ambulance
Public Safety Training Associates
Reading Health System
Rehabilitation & Community Providers Assn.
Second Alarmers Assn. & Rescue Squad of MontCo
Seneca Area Emergency Services
Seven Mountains EMS Council
Southern Alleghenies EMS Council
Southern Chester County EMS
Southwest Ambulance Alliance
Special Events EMS

St Luke's University Health Network
Star Career Academy
State Firemen's Association of PA
Suburban EMS
Susquehanna Health System
Susquehanna Regional EMS
Temple Health System Transport Team
Tioga County EMS Council
Topton A L Community Ambulance Service
UPMC Presbyterian
Uwchlan Ambulance Corps
Valley Ambulance Authority
VFIS/Education and Training Services
VMSC of Lower Merion and Narberth
Washington County EMS Council
Wellspan York Hospital
West Grove Fire Company
Westmoreland County EMS Council
YTI Career Institute
Affiliate Council Membership

This group is comprised of over 140 organizations or individuals who are considered to be members of the Council without voting privileges.

| 7th Ward Civic Association Ambulance Service | Event Medical Staffing Solutions  |
| Acute Care Medical Transports Inc. | Factoryville Fire Co. Ambulance |
| American Health Medical Transport | Fame Emergency Medical Services |
| American Life Ambulance | Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department |
| American Patient Transport Systems | Fellows Club Volunteer Ambulance Service |
| Am Serv Ltd Dusan Community Ambulance | Forest Hills Area Ambulance Association |
| Auburn Fire Company Ambulance Service | Gilbertsville Area Community Ambulance Service |
| Blakely Borough Community Ambulance Assn. | Girardville Ambulance Service |
| Brighton Township VFD | Goshen Fire Company |
| Buffalo Township Emergency Medical Services | Greater Valley EMS |
| Canonsburg General Hospital EMS | Guardian Angel Ambulance Service |
| Centre County Ambulance Association | Hamburg Emergency Medical Services |
| Centre LifeLink EMS | Hamlin Fire & Rescue Co. |
| Christiana Community Ambulance Association | Harford Volunteer Fire Company EMS |
| Citizens Volunteer Fire Company EMS Division | Harmony EMS |
| Clairton Volunteer Fire Department | Heart to Heart Ambulance Service |
| Clarion Hospital EMS | Haverford Township Paramedic Department |
| Community Ambulance Association Ambler | Health Ride Plus |
| Community Ambulance Service | Health Trans Ambulance |
| Community College of Beaver County | Honey Brook Ambulance Association |
| Community Life Team | Hose Co #6 Kittanning Ambulance Service |
| Conemaugh Township EMS | Irvona Volunteer Ambulance Service |
| Corry Ambulance Service | Jacobus Lions Ambulance Club |
| Cranberry Township EMS | Jefferson Hills Area Ambulance Association |
| Cresson Area Amb. dba Cambria Alliance EMS | Jessup Hose Co No 2 Ambulance Association |
| Delaware County Community College | Karthaus Ambulance Service |
| Delaware County Memorial Hospital EMS | Kecksburg VFD Rescue Squad |
| Dover Area Ambulance Club | Kutztown Area Transport Service, Inc. |
| Duncannon EMS | Lack Tuscarora EMS |
| East Brandywine Fire Company QRS | Lackawanna/Wayne Ambulance |
| Eastern Area Prehospital Service | Lancaster EMSA |
| Easton Emergency Squad | Lehigh Carbon Community College |
| Ebensburg Area Ambulance Association | Lehighton Ambulance Association, Inc. |
| Elizabeth Township Area EMS | Liverpool Emergency Medical Services |
| Elysburg Fire Department EMS | Longwood Fire Company |
| EmergyCare | Lower Kiski Ambulance Service |
| Em-Star Ambulance Service | Loyalsock VFC #1 EMS Division |
Affiliate Council Membership, continued

Macungie Ambulance Corps
Manheim Township Ambulance Assn.
Mastersonville Fire Company QRS
McCandless Franklin Park Ambulance Authority
McConnellsburg Fire Department
Meadville Area Ambulance Service LLC
Med-Van Transport
Memorial Hospital EMS
Meshoppen Fire Company
Midway Volunteer Fire Company
Mildred Ambulance Association
Milmont Fire Co. EMS
Mount Nittany Medical Center - EMS
Mountain Top Fire Company
Muncy Township VFC Ambulance
Nazareth Ambulance Corps.
New Holland Ambulance Association
Newberry Township Fire & EMS
Northampton Community College
Northampton Regional EMS
Northwestern Ambulance Corps.
Norwood Fire Co #1 EMS
NovaCare Ambulance
Orwigsburg Ambulance
Penn State Hershey Life Lion EMS
Penn Township Ambulance Assn. Rescue 6
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pike County Advanced Life Support
Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department
Pointe 2 Pointe Services Inc.
Portage Area Ambulance Association
Pottsville Area Emergency Medical Services
Quick Response Medical Transport
Regional EMS & Critical Care
Rices Landing Volunteer Fire Department
Robinson Emergency Medical Service
Ross/West View EMS Authority
Rostraver/West Newton Emergency Services
Russell Volunteer Fire Department
Scott Township Emergency Medical Services
Shawnee Valley Ambulance Service
Shippensburg Area EMS
Smiths Medical ASD Inc.
Snow Shoe EMS
Somerset Area Ambulance
South Central Emergency Medical Services
Southern Berks Regional EMS
Springfield Ambulance Association
Springfield Hospital EMS
St. Mary EMS
Stat Medical Transport, LLC
Superior Ambulance Service
Susquehanna Township EMS
Trans-Med Ambulance, Inc.
Trappe Fire Company No. 1 Ambulance
Tri-Community South EMS
United Hook & Ladder Co #33
UPMC Passavant
Valley Community Ambulance
Veterans Memorial Ambulance
Weirton Area Ambulance & Rescue Squad
Western Alliance Emergency Services
Western Berks Ambulance Association
Westmoreland County Community College
White Mills Fire Department Ambulance
White Oak EMS
White Rose Ambulance
York Regional Emergency Medical Services
Board of Directors

Each year, the Council elects a Board of Directors comprised of at least 30 of the organizations represented by the Council. The Board of Directors serves as the official advisory body to the Pennsylvania Department of Health on EMS issues.

Allegheny County EMS Council
Allegheny General Hospital
Ambulance Association of PA
American Heart Assn. – Great Rivers Affiliate
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA
Cetronia Ambulance Corps
City Of Allentown EMS
Columbia Quick Response Service
Danville Ambulance Service
EMSI - Emergency Medical Services Institute
First Aid & Safety Patrol of Lebanon
Harrisburg Area Community College
Highmark
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County
Northwest EMS Inc.
Pennsylvania Committee on Trauma - ACS
Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute
The Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation
Philadelphia University
Seven Mountains EMS Council
Susquehanna Health System
Tioga County EMS Council
UPMC Presbyterian
Valley Ambulance Authority
VFIS/Education and Training Services
VMSC of Lower Merion and Narberth
Wellspan York Hospital
Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Co-op

Douglas Garretson
John Cole
Donald DeReamus
Alexander Kuhn
Ronald Roth, MD
Chris Peischl
Matthew Brett
Frank Splain, Jr.
Edward Engdahl
Thomas McElree, Esq.
Anthony Deaven
Rob Bernini
Robert McCaughan
Joel Calarco
Robert Lordo
Scott Kingsboro
Susan Baro, DO
Don Kunkle
J. David Jones
Juliet Geiger, RN
Jean Bail, RN, Ed.D
Timothy Nilson
Charles Stutzman
John Getty
Myron Rickens
J.R. Henry
David Bradley
Patrick Doyle
Steven Schirk, MD
Gregory Frailey, DO

Category key:

Red: County EMS Councils
Blue: Hospitals/Healthcare Systems
Orange: Educational Institutions
Purple: Statewide Organizations
Green: EMS Agencies
Navy: Regional EMS Councils
Executive Leadership & Council Staff

Executive Committee

The Board is responsible to elect the Council officers, which include President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The officers, two At-Large Board Members, and the Immediate Past President comprise the Council’s Executive Committee.

J. David Jones  
Robert Bernini  
Ronald Roth, MD  
Anthony Deaven  
Douglas Garretson  
Chris Peischl  
J.R. Henry  
President  
Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Member-at-Large  
Member-at-Large  
Immediate Past President

Council Staff

The Council employs a staff of six, which includes a full time Executive Director. The professional staff members have extensive experience as prehospital providers, administrators and educators. The staff is responsible for coordinating and administering the activities of the Council and its committees/task forces, as well as providing technical expertise to Pennsylvania’s EMS community.

Janette Swade  
Donald “Butch” Potter  
Travis Woodyard  
Thomas Winkler  
Patricia Morrison  
Jean Gochenauer  
Executive Director  
EMS Systems Specialist  
EMS Systems Specialist  
EMSC Program Director  
Office Manager  
Administrative Assistant

Executive Offices

PEHSC’s executive office is located at:  
600 Wilson Lane  
Suite 101  
Mechanicsburg, PA  17055

The Council maintains a toll-free telephone number in Pennsylvania, 1-800-243-2EMS, to respond to hundreds of inquiries each year for information.
Financial Information

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*Fiscal Year 2014-2015 amounts listed are pending year-end audit. Complete financial audits are available upon request to the Council.

Department of Health Mini-Grant

Through a mini-grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health, the EMSC Program produced a video related to emergency response to concussions. Working with Michael Horan of the Comprehensive Concussion Education Team of Bucks County, this five minute video’s intended audience is parents/guardians and other caregivers who don’t have any medical training. The video received wide praise at both the state and federal level, and was distributed to the PEHSC membership. The video is available on our YouTube website: [https://youtu.be/CrLvgq9d1wlU](https://youtu.be/CrLvgq9d1wlU). Special thanks go to PEHSC Council member Northwest EMS for their assistance with producing this video.
Recommendations to the Department of Health

The following recommendations were approved by the PEHSC and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Department’s responses are included as well.

December 10, 2014 Board Meeting

VTR 1214-01 AHA BLS for Prehospital Provider Program

Recommendation: The Pennsylvania Department of Health should add the American Heart Association’s “BLS for Prehospital Provider” to the list of approved courses for EMS providers.

Department of Health Response: The Department accepts this recommendation and will add the “BLS for Prehospital Provider” course to the approved list within 60 days of the date of this letter.

VTR 1214-02 Updates to Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program

Recommendation: The Department of Health should accept the attached revisions to the current Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program.

Department of Health Response: The Department accepts this recommendation to the voluntary recognition program in order to maintain the program at the forefront of protecting the health and safety of children within the Commonwealth.

VTR 1214-03 EMS Educational System Recommendations Package

Recommendation: The Department of Health should further develop the recommendations contained in the attached document as a means to expand upon the strengths of the EMS Educational System to better meet the changing needs of the providers and the EMS system.

Department of Health Response: The Department has reviewed the package of recommendations provided by PEHSC. The Department will continue to review these recommendations against current standards, practices, and technologies available. At this time the Department will table the recommendations until the Department has the opportunity to discuss and clarify the recommendations with the Committee.
Recommendations to the Department, continued

March 11, 2015 Board Meeting

RFC 0315-01 Recommendations Related to Available Funding

Resolution: The PEHSC resolves to recommend all future clinical and operational enhancements and/or modifications regardless of the system’s ability to fund these initiatives. However, we further resolve that efforts will be made to recognize these financial constraints by linking each recommendation’s implementation to coincide with resources if and when they become available (including the redistribution of funds). **Simply stated, we will recommend that the implementation of some recommendations will be held until an appropriate funding stream is identified; others would be identified for implementation as per our current practice.**

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this RFC as of the publication of this report.]

VTR 0315-01 PCR Software Procedure and Medication Validation

Recommendation: The Department of Health should require PCR vendors to validate that their PCR software permits all certification levels to document, in the applicable NEMSIS fields, all procedures and medications consistent with the scope of practice for each level. This includes patient assisted medications.

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this VTR as of the publication of this report.]

March 27, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting

VTR 0315-02 Extension of effective date for [portions of] the Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Services Providers

Recommendation: The Department of Health should extend the effective date for items 49-50 in the Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Services Providers published January 17, 2015 (45 Pa.B 3771) **from July 1, 2015 until July 1, 2016.**

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this VTR as of the publication of this report.]
Recommendations to the Department, continued

May 06, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting

VTR 0515-01 Final Recommendations for Critical Care Paramedic Project

Recommendation: The Pennsylvania Department of Health should accept PEHSC’s final recommendations to implement the expanded scope of practice for paramedics practicing on licensed air and critical care transport ambulance in Pennsylvania.

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this VTR as of the publication of this report.]

VTR 0515-02 Proposed Changes to EMS Provider Scope of Practice

Recommendation: The Pennsylvania Department of Health should revise the Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Services Providers related to mechanical ventilation.

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this VTR as of the publication of this report.]

June 10, 2015 Board Meeting

CFC 0615-01 Continuing Education Course Approval Process

Recommendation: The Pennsylvania Department of Health should consider reengineering the continuing education course approval process to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the continuing education process.

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this CFC as of the publication of this report.]

VTR 0615-01 Printed PCR Elements

Recommendation: The Department of Health should require that all Pennsylvania authorized electronic PCR software programs include the applicable elements from the attached list on the printed version of a PCR.

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this VTR as of the publication of this report.]
Recommendations to the Department, continued

VTR 0615-02 Pennsylvania NEMSIS Elements

Recommendation: The Department of Health should revise the set of Pennsylvania NEMSIS elements collected, utilizing the attached list, to add the 20 elements identified for addition, and remove the 33 elements identified for removal.

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this VTR as of the publication of this report.]

VTR 0615-03 PHRN and PHPE ALS Skills Verification

Recommendation: ALS psychomotor skills verification should be integrated into the PHRN and PHPE certification testing process.

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this VTR as of the publication of this report.]

VTR 0615-04 BLS Psychomotor Examination Deficiency Assessment Feedback Form

Recommendation: The Department should adopt the use of a BLS psychomotor examination deficiency assessment feedback form.

Department of Health Response: [The Department has not responded to this VTR as of the publication of this report.]
Council Activities

Emergency Medical Services for Children

Through the contract with the Department of Health, the Council employs a full-time EMS for Children (EMSC) Program Director to manage the EMS for Children grant, which is awarded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Activities of the EMSC program are guided by federal performance measures, which evaluate a state’s ability to provide emergency medical care to children in the following areas:

- Availability of online and offline pediatric-specific medical direction,
- Presence of essential pediatric equipment and supplies on all EMS units
- Existence of a standardized system to recognize hospitals capable of treating pediatrics
- Existence of interfacility transfer guidelines and agreements to ensure appropriate transfer of pediatric patients between facilities
- Requirements for pediatric education for certification renewal of EMS providers
- Establishment of EMSC permanence within the state through the existence of an EMSC Advisory Committee, a full-time EMSC Program Director, and EMSC priorities in regulation

This fiscal year, the EMSC Advisory Committee met quarterly to conduct projects with a goal of achieving federal performance measures and improving care provided to pediatrics in emergency situations across the Commonwealth. In addition, Pennsylvania remained represented on several national EMSC groups, including the Pediatric Emergency Care Council of the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO). This year, the Program Director was elected to be the East Region representative for NASEMSO PEC Council. In addition to working toward successful completion of the federal performance measures outlined above, the EMSC Program Director remains active in various committees and councils to ensure that EMSC priorities are considered in policy development by numerous organizations.

Throughout the year, the EMSC Program coordinated multiple events and projects. Highlights from some of these programs include the following:

- The Emergency Guidelines for Schools handbook second edition was updated to include revisions to the sections on active shooter and unauthorized intruder. A supply of 350 hard copies was produced using the EMSC carryover funds and is being distributed upon request to schools across Pennsylvania to help them better prepare for emergencies.
Council Activities, continued

Emergency Medical Services for Children, continued

- To meet the NEDARC workshop requirement for FY 2014-15, the program director attended a workshop from June 02-04, 2015, entitled “Infographics: Storytelling with Data.” At this workshop, an infographic was developed to promote the safe transport of children in Pennsylvania ambulances and is available on the EMSC website.

- The EMSC Voluntary Recognition Program continued to accept applications, with over 50 being accepted this FY. Through a coordinated effort between the EMSC Program, PEHSC, the Department of Health, and Pennsylvania’s EMS Regional Councils, the Program continues to accept applications on a rolling basis. The Program received its first ever comprehensive review and was updated to include a new level to recognize EMS agencies that perform child seat safety checks and have Child Passenger Safety Technicians at their agencies. As of June 30, 2015, over 100 EMS agencies have been recognized under the program at the following levels:
  - Basic: 20 EMS agencies
  - Intermediate: 10 EMS agencies
  - Advanced: 15 EMS agencies
  - Master: 60 EMS agencies

- The Pennsylvania EMS for Children website, www.paemsc.org, has been active for over a year and is the go-to website for information about emergency care for children in Pennsylvania and continues to be Pennsylvania’s EMS providers’ go-to resource for pediatric emergency medical care.

- In an effort to provide new and unique pediatric education, the EMSC Program partnered with Jerome Spinnato, RN, of Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh to offer a new, one-of-a-kind offering of the S.T.A.B.L.E. course. Mr. Spinnato took the S.T.A.B.L.E. course, which is normally offered in the hospital environment, and tailored it specifically to EMS providers to provide pertinent information related to the care of sick newborns and infants. The course was offered multiple times statewide and received rave reviews from attendees.

- New legislation expanding the requirements for background checks was passed during the FY. This legislation was interpreted to include EMS providers, now requiring them to complete background checks for the first time ever. In response to this legislation, PA EMSC released an FAQ document to address questions EMS providers had regarding background checks.
Emergency Medical Services for Children, continued

- The EMSC Program provides support and educational content to the annual statewide EMS conference.
- Multiple equipment distributions were established and are ongoing. The EMSC Program continues to distribute pediatric-capable pulse oximeters, with over 100 already distributed. Additionally, the EMSC Program used remaining funds to purchase a pediatric safe transport device for distribution to EMS agencies.
- The EMSC Advisory Committee provided recommendations regarding sudden cardiac arrest in student athletes, including monitoring multiple pieces of legislation related to CPR training in schools.
- The EMSC Program continued to offer the popular continuing education webinar series. These webinars are provided at no cost to Pennsylvania’s EMS providers and focus on varied pediatric topics. The webinars are recorded and are placed onto the EMSC website with continuing education attached to them. The following webinars were presented:
  - December 04, 2014: Pediatric Trauma: General Principles and Trauma Team Activation by Dr. Brett Engbrecht
  - February 05, 2015: Child Abuse: Recognizing the Signs by Dr. Lisa Simonian
  - June 11, 2015: Pediatric Shock by Joyce Foresman-Capuzzi, RN

Public Relations Events

EMSC Program Director Tom Winkler attended multiple public relations events related to the Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program, including this event at Cheltenham Township EMS recognizing them for their dedication to providing high-quality pediatric emergency medical care.
Council Activities, continued

Community Paramedicine / Mobile Integrated Healthcare Task Force

The Bureau of EMS has requested the PEHSC to explore how community EMS care can be integrated into Pennsylvania’s EMS system. In this model, EMS-based community health services, also referred to as Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH), can supplement the traditional EMS response to deliver a wide range of healthcare services, including injury prevention screening, wellness checks and post discharge follow up. In the future, it may provide a viable alternative to EMS transporting some low acuity patients, which could have a positive impact on emergency department overcrowding and healthcare cost containment.

The cornerstone of MIH is the community needs assessment. As with all other areas of healthcare, MIH is not a one-size-fits-all proposition; the assessment helps to avoid duplication or replication of existing services. The two major areas of focus in MIH are services triggered as the result of calling 9-1-1 or those pre-scheduled by a hospital, extended care facility, healthcare insurer, or the patient themselves.

Pennsylvania is fortunate to have several MIH programs and added more last year, all of which are somewhat different in their scope of services based on the aforementioned community needs assessment. These programs operate in communities that span the Commonwealth and provide the task force with valuable real-world experience that will help to shape the future of mobile integrated healthcare in the Commonwealth.

During FY 13-14, the task force focused on defining a vision for community paramedicine in Pennsylvania by producing a whitepaper, “Community Paramedicine, A New Approach to Integrated Healthcare”. In FY 14-15, the task force continued to educate the public and members of the general assembly on the benefits of this emerging area of EMS practice. The task force also embarked on what it sees as the next phase of development for community paramedicine: establishing minimum education standards for providers and minimum licensing standards for agencies. Although specific community initiatives are based on a local needs assessment, the task force will identify foundational educational objectives essential for all community paramedics.
Council Activities, continued

Education Task Force

PEHSC received a formal request from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of EMS to review the EMS educational system, identify strengths and weaknesses, and offer recommendations for improvement. A broad range of stakeholders was selected to serve on the task force, ensuring representation from the various geographies of the Commonwealth and its EMS education system. The task force met regularly from May until November to conduct a thorough evaluation of the Commonwealth’s EMS Education System. The task force identified three areas of focus: accessibility to certification programs, cost of certification programs, and access to cognitive and psychomotor examinations. The task force compiled eight recommendations to improve these three areas. A recommendations package was submitted to the PEHSC Board of Directors at the December 10, 2015 board meeting. The Board of Directors approved the recommendations and the package was submitted to the Bureau of EMS.

The Education Task Force continues to meet to address other educational concerns that were not addressed in the recommendations package. Discussions on psychomotor examinations revealed that there was no feedback mechanism for BLS training institutes as to how their students perform on psychomotor examinations. The task force agreed that it is important to close the feedback loop so that training institutes can continue to improve their programs. The task force submitted VTR 0615-04 BLS Psychomotor Examination Deficiency Assessment Feedback Form, to the Board of Directors which was subsequently approved.

The task force has identified inconsistencies in the psychomotor exam process that prehospital registered nurses (PHRNs) and prehospital physician extenders (PHPEs) are subject to in comparison to that of other advanced life support providers. In an effort to ensure that PHRNs and PHPEs are meeting the same competency requirements as other ALS providers, the task force submitted VTR 0615-03 PHRN and PHPE ALS Skills Verification, to the Board of Directors, which was subsequently approved.

The task force also offered a concept for consideration, CFC 0615-01 Continuing Education Course Approval Process, to the Board of Directors, which was subsequently approved. The CFC recommends a revamp of the current continuing education approval process. The task force contends that the process can be streamlined and updated to better serve the needs of the continuing education sponsors, and reduce the workload of regional council and Bureau of EMS staff members.
Council Activities, continued

Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Task Force

The Advanced Emergency Medical Technician became part of Pennsylvania’s EMS System with the passage of Act 37 of 2009 and its associated rules and regulations. In FY 2013-14, PEHSC submitted seven (7) recommendations to the Department of Health related to implementing the AEMT Program. In FY 2014-15, the Council continued to assist the Department with the implementation process by:

- Tasking the Medical Advisory Committee to work with the Commonwealth EMS Medical Director to recommend statewide treatment protocols for the advanced EMT.
- Assisting the Bureau of EMS staff in the publication of the AEMT scope of practice, medication list and the minimum equipment requirements for an Intermediate Advanced Life Support (IALS) agency.

Air Medical / Critical Care Transport Task Force

During the past year, the task force worked to make final edits on the comprehensive program recommendations. Many of these final edits were made in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of EMS and concerned the Department of Health’s regulatory authority in a number of areas. As a result of this consultation, several component areas were changed to reflect recommended “best practices” instead of requirements. The affected areas include provider integration, continuing education, and agency medical director qualifications.

Following these edits, the final recommendation document to establish the critical care level paramedic in Pennsylvania was sent to, and accepted by, the PEHSC Board of Directors (VTR# 0515-01). PEHSC continues to assist the Department in implementing this program by:

- Tasking the Medical Advisory Committee to work with the Commonwealth EMS Medical Director to finalize statewide treatment protocols for the expanded scope of practice paramedic working in a ground or air critical care transport environment.
- Assisting the Bureau of EMS staff in the publication of the expanded scope of practice and medication list for the expanded scope paramedic and the minimum equipment requirements for both ground critical care transport and air ambulances.
- Creating critical care course sponsor checklists and Department course review forms to facilitate new critical care course approval.
Council Activities, continued

State Plan

The State Plan, as developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, with assistance from PEHSC, is available on the PEHSC and the Department of Health, Bureau of EMS websites. PEHSC was requested to wait to prepare revisions to the plan pending Bureau of EMS review and recommendations for this fiscal year.

Personal Protective Equipment in Suspected Ebola

With the proliferation of Ebola in West Africa and the possibility of introducing the disease into the United States by international travelers, including returning aid workers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mobilized to create guidance for EMS providers. This advice included surveillance information, signs and symptoms, and specific recommendations for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health issued guidance to all EMS agencies and personnel consistent with that provided by the CDC. To assist the Department and ensure providers properly donned and doffed the required enhanced PPE, PEHSC produced an instructional video with the assistance of Good Fellowship Ambulance of West Chester, PA.
Council Activities, continued

Medical Advisory Committee

The Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) convened five meetings during the Fiscal Year, during which they discussed a wide range of clinical topics including:

- Forming a workgroup to make recommendations that will establish additional educational requirements and an expanded scope of practice for providers working in tactical (TEMS) or wilderness (WEMS) settings.
- Working with the Commonwealth EMS Medical Director to update the statewide BLS and ALS protocols, and to finalize the new AEMT and Critical Care Transport protocols.
- Directing the creation of an educational publication on changes to the prehospital spinal care protocol for emergency department personnel.
- Recommending amendments to the EMS provider scope of practice regarding mechanical ventilation.
- Reviewing and supporting the final critical care expanded scope of practice paramedic project.
- Conferencing with the Pennsylvania Physician General to discuss strategies to increase the availability of naloxone to first responders to reverse the effects of opioid overdoses.

Other MAC activity during the year included continued discussion and review of draft documents associated with scope of practice, medications, and protocols; review of four clinical research and pilot programs; discussions on the expanded use of Naloxone by emergency services providers and law enforcement due to the increased incidence of opioid related overdoses; provided feedback to the critical care taskforce on elements of Phase II and III of the critical care paramedic project; and recommendations that ALS providers be permitted to monitor Acetylcysteine during interfacility transports.

Research Initiatives Approved by the Medical Advisory Committee

Evidence-based practice helps to ensure that our patients are receiving best possible care. During FY 2014-15 the committee reviewed and approved the following proposals:

1. A study to determine the efficacy of administering tranexamic acid during air medical transport.
2. A study to determine if achieving a target systolic blood pressure improves the outcome of patients experiencing cerebral hemorrhage.
3. A study to determine if immediate transportation in lieu of prehospital procedures in penetrating trauma patients will result in improved survival.
Council Activities, continued

Naloxone Working Group

PEHSC convened a working group to address the national and state concerns associated with opioid overdoses. In FY 2013-14 the group reviewed pending state legislation and developed a list of questions with regard to the expanded scope of practice for EMRs and EMTs and expanding the availability of naloxone to police officers and firefighters.

In September 2014, Senate Bill 1164 was signed into law becoming Act 139. This legislation allows first responders, including law enforcement, firefighters, EMS and other organizations, the ability to administer naloxone. The law also allows individuals, such as friends or family members, who may be in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid overdose, to obtain naloxone. In April 2015, on instructions from the Governor, the Pennsylvania Physician General issued a standing order to allow the aforementioned persons to obtain and administer naloxone.

In response to Act 139, the Department of Health tasked PEHSC to develop an online training program on the administration of naloxone for EMRs and EMTs. This continuing education course was added to the state’s Learning Management System (LMS) in December 2014 (Course# 007622).
Council Activities, continued

EMS Information Task Force

The EMS Information Task Force continues to evaluate the effectiveness of the data collection processes of the Commonwealth’s EMS System. As a part of the routine evaluations of data elements collected, the task force identified elements being collected that were not beneficial to the system; in addition, the task force identified elements not being collected that could be of benefit. The task force submitted VTR 0615-02, Pennsylvania NEMSIS Elements, to the Board of Directors, recommending the addition of 20 elements removal of 33 elements. The VTR was subsequently approved by the board.

The task force also discovered that no formal standard existed as to what elements were included on a printed patient care report (PCR.) The task force reviewed the elements being collected digitally, and in consultation with the PEHSC Medical Advisory Committee, Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation, STEMI, and stroke registrars, compiled a list of recommended elements as minimum standard for all printed PCRs. The list was submitted to the PEHSC Board of Directors in VTR 0615-01 Printed PCR Elements; the VTR was subsequently approved.

Communications Committee

The PEHSC Communications Committee, under the direction of Chairman Mel Musulin, has been actively engaged with the PA FirstNet program in assisting with the national initiative to establish a first responder’s broadband network. The committee’s primary role has been to disseminate information from PA FirstNet to PEHSC members and encourage participation in surveys conducted by PA FirstNet.

The Communication Committee has received a formal request from the PA Department of Health, Bureau of EMS to evaluate the Commonwealth’s EMS Communications. PEHSC Staff and the committee chairman are currently reviewing the request and formulating a plan and timeline to complete the evaluation.
Council Activities, continued

Additional Ad-Hoc Projects

Farm Safety
PEHSC holds a seat on the Department of Agriculture’s Farm Safety Advisory Board. At this year’s meeting the Board voted to request additional funding for agricultural safety and training. The group prepared a draft recommendation for submission in FY 15-16.

Trauma Centers
PEHSC staff participated in a comprehensive review of the updated trauma standards from the American College of Surgeons hosted by the PTSF. PEHSC also worked with the PTSF in regard to perceived concerns of delays with inter-facility transfers. Data was discussed to support concerns, and the trauma center registrars were engaged to validate the data for consideration. After much discussion, it was decided that the data collection would need to be changed to accommodate the request. At this point PEHSC and PTSF decided to monitor the situation to see if a need arises to make such a change.

EMS Agency Reimbursement
PEHSC shared proposed CMS zip code changes to EMS agencies in PA in an effort to educate them about the financial impact. PEHSC also shared a change in the medical assistance mileage reimbursement policy as printed in the PA Bulletin to services.

DOH Requests
The PEHSC was requested by BEMS to supply them with any and all recommendations that were made in regard to EMS funding for the system. We were also asked to staff the BEMS booth at the PA Farm Show to teach citizen level CPR; four staff members participated. The BEMS provided PEHSC with several work requests for completion in FY 16.

PA EMS Association
After several years of study, the PEHSC incorporated the PA EMS Association as a supporting corporation to the council as another 501(c)(3). The organization held its first meeting in March 2015, with a subsequent meeting held in June.
Legislative Affairs

During Fiscal Year 14-15, PEHSC tracked, and, when appropriate, provided comment on state and federal legislation affecting emergency medical services including:

- Review of bills related to Volunteer Companies Loan Fund Grants and the Grant Program and additional funding for EMS organizations
- EMS Week Proclamation and Resolutions
- Review of bills related to certification sanctions for convictions, etc.
- Review of bills and education related to direct payment for ambulance services
- Review of bills related to ambulance service billing
- Review of bills related to the establishment of an EMS memorial flag
- Review of bills related to Workers’ Compensation insurance issues
- Review of bills and education regarding overdose response and immunity
- Review of bills and education regarding incentives for EMS agency volunteers
- Review of bills regarding the development of the medical home model for patients
- Review of bills related to line of duty death benefits
- Review of bills and education related to an exemption for volunteers being counted as fulltime employees under the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Review of legislation regarding organ donation
- Review of legislation regarding the development of a community based health care program in the Department of Health
- Review of legislation regarding background checks for EMS providers

During the Fiscal Year, the Council also provided legislative testimony related to a House of Representative request to discuss EMS system needs, including recruitment and retention concerns (March 2015). The full texts of both of these testimonies are available by contacting any Council staff member.
Legislative Initiatives

The PEHSC identified the following legislative initiatives for FY 14-15:

1. Healthcare Providers Shortage: Support efforts to provide incentives to recruit and retain a sufficient healthcare provider force; incentives may include certification exam and continuing education educational funding support, tax credits, and reduced tuition fees for EMS providers and families to attend in-state colleges and universities.

2. Grants: Support legislation to provide for grants both at the state and federal level for EMS agencies. Support grant funding to assist in the process of official agency level mergers, consolidations, and partnerships.

3. PA Low Interest Loans: Support legislation to provide for expanded low interest loans at the state level for EMS agencies.

4. Mobile Integrated Health Care/Community EMS: Support legislation to recognize and fund mobile integrated health care as performed by EMS agencies.

5. Reimbursement: Support legislation that provides appropriate reimbursement levels for EMS services from Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance entities in general and to fund treat and transport and treat and no transport activities. Support legislation that provides direct payment and appropriate payments for EMS agencies from Medicare and other insurance entities.

6. Provider Health and Safety: Support legislative efforts to protect EMS providers from infectious diseases and ensure the inclusion of providers in the prophylactic treatment for exposures to infected patients and/or hazardous environments.

7. Funding: Support increased EMSOF revenue and any other feasible funding source to provide direct support to EMS agencies.

8. Patients: Support lawful efforts to protect patients from providers who have been charged and/or convicted of crimes that jeopardize the safety of the patient.

9. Communications: Support efforts to fund a stable and enhanced 911 system to include Emergency Medical Dispatch.

10. Malpractice Insurance: Support efforts to reduce premiums to sustain a viable physician work force to support EMS agencies and related specialty areas.
2014 Pennsylvania EMS Awards

The 2014 Pennsylvania State EMS Award recipients were announced by Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Director Richard Gibbons at the 37th Annual PA EMS Conference in Lancaster and Altoona, Pennsylvania. These individuals and organizations were formally recognized at a ceremony held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute annual dinner.

**ALS Practitioner of the Year**
Gregory Porter, EMT-P
Ross Westview EMS
Allegheny County

**BLS Practitioner of the Year**
John Sly, EMT
Westwood Volunteer Fire Company
Chester County

**EMS Educator of the Year**
Stacey Girven, EMT
Muncy VFC & LTS Regional EMS Council
Lycoming County

**EMS Communications Award**
James Douglass, EMT
Tioga County Department of Emergency Services
Tioga County

**Rescue Service of the Year**
King of Prussia VFC
King of Prussia, PA
Montgomery County

**Amanda Wertz Memorial EMS for Children Award**
Edgar Grant, EMT-P
Penn Township Ambulance Assn.
Westmoreland County

**Dr. George Moerkirk Memorial Outstanding Contributions to EMS Award**
John McCarthy, DO
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Lehigh County

**EMS Agency of the Year – Small Agency Division**
Williamstown EMS
Williamstown, PA
Dauphin County

**EMS Agency of the Year – Large Agency Division**
Murraysville Medic One
Murraysville, PA
Westmoreland County
2015 PEHSC Awards

Each year, as a thank you to those individuals who have provided exemplary service to the Council, a series of awards are delivered at a luncheon held in conjunction with the June Board of Directors meeting. The 2015 award recipients are as follows:

Jerry Esposito EMS Administrator Award

William Wells, Sr.
Good Fellowship Ambulance & Training Institute
Montgomery County

Walter J. Thomas Citizen Award

David Bradley
Volunteer Fireman’s Insurance Services
York County

Joel Grottenthaler Memorial Award

Robert Cooney
PA Bureau of EMS (retired)
Dauphin County
Pennsylvania’s 37th Annual EMS Conference was held at two sites on August 13-15, 2014 at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square in Lancaster, PA, and September 17-19, 2014 at the Blair County Convention Center, Altoona, PA. The curriculum was the same for both sites, with most faculty members presenting at both locations.

Objectives  Note: This is only a select list – see full conference report for all objectives
- Provide participants with a variety of clinical and non-clinical topics to improve EMS provider education and knowledge
- Offer an extensive exhibitor area for the promotion of new technology & services
- Provide participants with pediatric-specific education content in conjunction with the PA EMS for Children Program.

Conference Highlights
- Co-sponsorship with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of EMS
- Pediatric Emergency Care Symposium – August 14th/September 18th
- Exhibitor Reception – August 14th/September 18th
- National Faculty plus 24 Pennsylvania educators
- Lunch-and-Learn Session with Bureau of EMS, with 158 attendees in total
- Opportunity for professional networking among EMS providers
- Exhibitor Reception – August 14th/September 18th
Pennsylvania’s 37th Annual EMS Conference, cont.

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Note: A full conference summary is available upon request.

Conference Participant Demographics
- 95% of respondents indicated plans to attend again next year.
- 55% of respondents are paid to work in EMS, while 31% solely volunteer.
- Attendees ranged in age from 18 to 77 years. The average age was 48.
- 52% of attendees commuted in each day and did not stay at the hotel overnight.
- Participants represented quick response services, ambulance services, fire and rescue services, hospitals, and other public safety agencies.
- BLS providers (197) outnumbered ALS providers (188)

Session Summary
- 28 Sessions Total
- Attendees could receive up to 21.5 hours of Continuing Education
- All sessions were approved for Nursing Continuing Education

Conference Participant Feedback
At the conclusion of the program, all participants were sent an electronic survey and feedback form via e-mail, which was available to participants for two weeks from the final day of the conference. This survey provided the opportunity for attendees to evaluate the overall program, facilities, activities, and individual education sessions. In addition, attendees were asked certain demographic questions as well as questions of their individual role within the EMS system. A sample of comments: “Good facility with easy access and parking. Food was good and the conference was well attended” and “I thoroughly enjoyed the conference, everyone did a terrific job, all went very smoothly and [sessions were] very informative. Great speakers and vendors, too!”
Professional Development & Outreach

Summary of Regular Meetings Attended by PEHSC Leadership & Staff

- 2014 Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute Annual Dinner and Pennsylvania State EMS Awards Presentation
- National Community Paramedicine Webinars
- 2014 Pennsylvania EMS Providers Foundation Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation
- NASEMSO
- SCAN EMS Advisory Board Meeting
- American Trauma Society – PA Chapter Conference
- 9/11 Event at the Capitol
- NEDARC Workshop/Meetings
- HRSA EMSC Town Hall Conference Calls
- HRSA/University of Pittsburgh SPROC
- PA Safe Kids Meeting
- American Academy of Pediatrics Meetings
- Atlantic EMS Council and EMSC Council Meetings
- Volunteer Loan Assistance Program Meetings, monthly
- EMSI Conference
- PA Agricultural Safety Advisory Board meetings
- Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation Board of Directors Meetings
- Quarterly Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute Statewide Advisory Board Meetings

Council Membership Communication

Throughout the course of the Fiscal Year, the PEHSC provided the Council with 26 alerts to members on information pertinent to the EMS system. Additionally, PEHSC provides routine updates on changes to the EMS system, as well as releasing all information passed along by the Department of Health on topics related to legislation, rules and regulation, protocols, equipment lists, scopes of practice, and medication lists.
Continuity of Operations and Emergency Response Plan

PEHSC maintains, and updates annually, a Continuity of Operations and Emergency Response Plan. The purpose of this continuity of operations plan is to establish how PEHSC will provide for 24 hour operations in the event of a local, state, or national disaster and how the Council will provide assistance in local, state, and national planning for disaster response. The plan also outlines the procedure PEHSC need to relocate from its current location; the purpose of the emergency operations plan is to establish a procedure should PEHSC staff be faced with an emergency while at work. The plan outlines how PEHSC staff should respond to specific emergencies at the office.

Website

The PEHSC website has been updated with a new sleek, clean look. The main PEHSC website and the Pennsylvania EMS Info website were merged during this update to provide easier access to information. The website has over 25,000 visitors looking for resources and information about the Council and its activities annually. The PEHSC also maintains a public website, www.pa-ems.org, to assist in the collection of requests for people interested in starting an EMS career. The site provides basic information about education and the certification levels. It also provides a response form so Council staff can link prospective students to regional EMS council offices. On average, staff processes about 10 requests per week for information to the appropriate regional offices.
Acknowledgement

Without the continued support of our council members and individuals who participate on our committees and task forces, PEHSC would face a daunting task to identify and discuss issues in order to make recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Health for EMS system improvement.

This positive attitude enables PEHSC to continue our role in Pennsylvania’s EMS system and meet our mission. The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time.

Submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Health August 27, 2015

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