



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

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Board of Directors & Annual Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 11, 2026

Board Members Present:

Keith Morse	Allegheny County EMS Council	Dr. Bryan Wexler	Pennsylvania ACEP
Donald DeReamus	Ambulance Association of PA	Dr. Stephanie Costa	Pennsylvania ACEP
Kent Knable	Centre Lifelink EMS	Bob Hotchkiss	Southern Chester County EMS
Matthew Welch	Elverson Honey Brook Area EMS	Mervin Wertz	Tower Health
Gene Lesneski	Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern PA	Dr. Christian Martin-Gill	UPMC EMS Physicians
John Brindle	Harrisburg Area Community College	Keith Johnson	Uwchlan Ambulance Corps
Dr. Jeff Kuklinski	Lehigh Valley Health Network	Gary Vinnacombe	West Grove Fire Company
Tony Deaven	Lower Allen Twp EMS	Robert Hotchkiss	Southern Chester County EMS
Norman Prycl	McCandles-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority	Mark Trueman	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Brian Kuklinski	Montgomery County Regional EMS Office	Tony Bixby	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Dr. Alvin Wang	National Assoc of EMS Physicians - PA Chapter		

Council Members' Present:

Tylor Glenn	Allegheny Health Network	Ed Martin Jr	Montgomery County EMS Office-Public Safety
Everitt Binns	Binns and Associates	Wade Amick	Municipal Emergency Services Authority
Larry Smythe	Chester Co Dept of Emergency Services	David Kirchner	Myerstown First Aid Unit
Harry Moore	Chester County Dept. of Emergency Services	Steve Bailey	Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver Co
Jason Smith	Eastern PA EMS Council	Francis Feld	Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council	Ed Lendvay	Philadelphia Regional EMS Office
Dr. Michael Reihart	Emergency Health Services Federation	Eric Valentine	Plum EMS
Kyle Ostrowski	Elverson Honey Brook Area EMS	Joe Festa	Plum EMS
Chaz Brogan	Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training Institi	Jordan Anthony	Southern Alleghenies Regional EMS Council Inc.
William Miller	LTS EMS	Keith Morse	Tri-Community South EMS/Allegheny EMS Council
John Goddard	Main Line Health - Riddle Hospital EMS		

DOH Staff Present:

Anthony Martin	Director, PA Bureau of EMS
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PEHSC Staff Present:

Janette Swade	Executive Director	Duane Spencer	EMSC Program Manager
Donald Potter	Sr. EMS Systems Specialist	Alexander Snyder	Administrative Officer
Andrew Snavelly	EMS System Specialist		

Guests/Liaisons Present:

Alan Hitchen	Eastern Area Prehospital Services	Dave Jones	Past President
Ian Donat	EHSF – Public Health Division	Edgar Grant	Penn Twp Ambulance Rescue No 6
Megan Ruby	EHSF		

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action or Resolution
Call to Order Board of Directors Meeting		The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Alvin Wang at 1000 hrs.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes from December 15, 2025, were reviewed.	MOTION: Matthew Welch SECOND: Tony Deaven RESULT: Motion carried. To accept the December 2025 minutes as drafted.
President's Report	Dr. Alvin Wang reported the following: • EMSC Suspension Letter • ODIN Press Conference • EMS Act Rewrite ○ Executive Committee Update • NASEMSO Membership • HB 2265 – EM Physician on site ED	
Treasurer's Report	Dr. Bryan Wexler gave the account balances as of 2/29/26. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes.	MOTION: Matthew Welch SECOND: Tony Deaven RESULT: Motion carried. To acknowledge and file the Treasurer's report.
Executive Director's Report	Janette Swade reported the following: • Current Financial Situation: ○ EMSC and EMSOF • Operational Changes • Audit Accepted • Obituary ○ Tom Savage	

PA DOH Report	BEMS Director Anthony Martin reported the following: • Deputy Secretary roll filled by Shane Lockwood • PHRN Policy Updated and communicated to Regional Directors based on the EMS Compact. • ED readiness program approval sent this morning for EMSC • Awaiting response for ○ Shared staffing VTR ○ Tactical Licensure • Agreement with Image Trend accepted to replace old EMS Registry with a new one for EMS Compact updated, takes up to a year. • 6 million EMSOF – 4.5 million for EMS Equipment within the regions	
Medical Advisory Committee Report	Drs. Mike Reihart and Alvin Wang reported the following: • The MAC met virtually on January 14, 2025 • Director Martin Reported: ○ The pilot at Superior Ambulance for BLS administration of 50:50 nitrous oxide-oxygen was completed with no undesirable outcomes. With MAC support this analgesic option will be added to the draft 2025 protocol update. ○ The EMS reporting requirements regarding ODIN will be accomplished by data transfer of PCR data. No additional action is required on the part of EMS. • Dr. Wang provided an update on the 2025 statewide protocol development process, which he will provide additional information during his report. • Dr. Scott Goldstein provided an update of the medetomidine monitoring pilot program. Jefferson Health System has indicated their interest in participating in the pilot, of for the MAC is supportive.	

	• Dr Avram Flamm introduced the concept of a regionalized prehospital blood administration program. He will lead a discussion of this concept at the April MAC meeting along with Dr Josh Hazelton, Chief of Trauma at Wellspan Health York Hospital. • The committee discussed the interfacility transport of patients on flow nasal cannulas, regarding the level of EMS care during transport. Currently these patients are transported at an ALS or critical care level as they are at a high risk for respiratory failure resulting in the need for ALS airway placement. This topic will also be referred to the CCT protocol development group for further discussion. • VTR #0326-01 Amending Equipment Requirements for Prehospital Capture and Transmission of 12-lead ECG by Basic Life Support ○ The PEHSC Medical Advisory Committee recommends the Department of Health amend the Vehicle, Equipment and Supply Requirements for Emergency Medical Services Agencies [54 Pa.B. 476], 12-Lead ECG, to read “paper print out and/or digital display and transmit capabilities” and assist BLS agencies in obtaining equipment through the EMS Operating Fund. ○ AHA guidelines support the early capture and transmission of 12-lead at both BLS and ALS levels of EMS ○ Furthermore, Given that the BLS scope of practice for 12-lead ECG acquisition and transmission mirrors that of IALS, it is reasonable to extend the established basic equipment standards to encompass BLS operations in this context.	MOTION: Garry Vinnacombe SECOND: Matthew Welch RESULT: Motion carried. To recommend the Department accept VTR# 0326-01 regarding Amending Equipment Requirements for Prehospital Capture and Transmission of 12-Lead ECG by BLS
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2025 Protocol Update Report	Dr. Alvin Wang reported the following: • The protocol update process is proceeding at a steady pace. • The workgroup is nearing completion of the clinical topics update. • Director Martin provided the workgroup with a first look at the BEMS developed protocols for Sections 1 and 2. • The group will review these drafts offline then provide comments and questions at the March 16 workgroup meeting. There was a brief review of and discussion of: ○ Protocol 1-5 Non-Transport or Cancellation of Response ○ Protocol 2-1 Initial Patient Contact ○ In the current protocols, (150 and 210) there topics were a source of considerable discussion/debate as to their individual applicability.	
Critical Care Transport Taskforce Report	Butch Potter reported the following: • The task force is engaged in an update of the statewide CCT protocols. The existing protocols have been converted to an editable format • The BEMS responded to 2024 VTR on the development of ground CCT agency level protocols. The BEMS has determined a ground CCT medical director may develop protocols for PHRNs under the Nurse Practice Act, but not for paramedics, who must continue to utilize the statewide CCT protocols. • Recently, based on an agreement with the State Board of Nursing, the BEMS has issued guidance on the eligibility of nurses holding a compact license to obtain PHRN certification.	

EMS Operations Committee Report:	Tony Deaven reported the following: • Committee met on January 7, 2026 • Status of VTR 0625-01 – “Shared staffing operations between agencies” • 2026 Work Plan ○ Protocol Updates ○ Soliciting for high priority issues	
Special Operations Taskforce Report	Andy Snavelly reported the following: • Tactical EMS Agency Recommendations (VTR 0623-02) ○ Ongoing meetings with stakeholders ○ Continued work on next steps required for implementation by BEMS, • Wilderness EMS Agency Recommendations (VTR 1225-02) ○ Awaiting response/next steps	
EMS Education Task Force Report	Merv Wertz & Mark Trueman reported the following: • Taskforce met on January 20, 2026 • EVOC Problem Statement • Proposed Student Minimum Competencies for BLS Programs ○ VTR 0326-02 • Next meeting April 21, 2026	MOTION: Matthew Welch SECOND: Tony Deaven RESULT: Motion carried. To recommend the Department accept VTR# 0326-02 regarding the Proposed SMC’s for BLS Programs

EMS for Children Project Report	Duane Spencer, EMSC Project Manager, reported the following: • A Notice of Award for the next grant year April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027, is expected to be released this month (March 2026). • Mark Pinchalk from the City of Pittsburgh EMS will assume Chair position effective the May meeting. • The Prepared for Pediatrics ED program is awaiting DOH approval. ○ Expected program roll out date Q4 2026 • The Prepared for Pediatrics EMS program has 19 letters of intent to apply. • The 2026 National Pediatric Readiness Assessment opened March 3rd. • Prepared for Pediatrics – EMS Milestones ○ The AC reviewed one application and granted recognition to Community LifeTeam Inc. at Gold level. ○ The program received federal approval on March 5, 2026. • Supplemental program projects seeking stakeholder support: ○ FAN ○ Education Subcommittee ○ Readiness application review and site visit participation ○ Emergency Guidelines for Schools Update ○ Pediatric reference materials ○ Performance Improvement Initiative	
EMS Conference Report	Andy Snavelly, Conference Coordinator, reported the following: • 2025 Final Report Completed and Submitted to BEMS • Sponsors Needed for 2026 – Info coming soon • Call for Speakers Open	

Other Business	- Statewide Awards 2026 - Nominations Close March 15, 2026 - DEA issued final regulations concerning EMS Controlled Substances - Available on the PEHSC Website - The regulations emphasize prevention of drug diversion.	
Adjournment Board of Directors Meeting	2026 Board Meeting Dates to be Announced.	MOTION: Tony Deaven SECOND: Mervin Wertz RESULT Motion carried To adjourn the March 11, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting.

Annual Council Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action or Resolution
Call to Order Annual Council Meeting		The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Alvin Wang.
Nominating Committee Report	- Tony Deaven presented the following for election to the PEHSC Board of Directors for a 3 year term 2027-2029: - Bucks County EHS Council - Harrisburg Area Community College - Mongomery County Regional EMS Office - Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County - PA Chapter – ACEP - PA Trauma Systems Foundation - Penn State Hershey Medical Center - Second Alarmers Association and Rescue Squad of Montgomery County - UPMC Presbyterian Hospital - Western Berks Ambulance Association	MOTION: Matthew Welch SECOND: Mervin Wertz RESULT Motion carried To accept the nomination slate as is with no changes

Election of 2027-2029 Board of Directors	• Council held vote with no changes to the Nomination Committee Report • Thank you to those who served and completed their service to the PEHSC Board of Directors ending this year. ○ Allegheny General Hospital ○ Cetronia Ambulance Corps ○ Lower Allen Twp EMS ○ VFIS ○ Wellspan York Hospital	MOTION: Matthew Welch SECOND: Garry Vinnacombe RESULT Motion carried To elect the slate of candidates as the 2027-2029 BOD.
EHSF Presentation	• PA EMS Overdose Prevention and Substance Use Disorder Training presented by Ian Donat • Education Offered ○ Addiction 101 ○ Responding to Overdose Calls ○ Intro to CRS's ○ Local Recovery Resources • Naloxone Leave Behind Kits • Data Dashboards • Partners and Participants ○ Looking to expand statewide within other PA Regions	
Organization Reports	• PA Trauma Systems Foundation • PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute • Ambulance Association of PA	
For the Good of the Order	• EMS Week May 17-23, 2026 ○ Improving Outcomes, together	
Adjournment Board of Directors Meeting	• 2026 Annual Council Date to be Announced.	MOTION: Matthew Welch SECOND: Tony Deaven RESULT Motion carried To adjourn the March 11, 2026, Annual Council Meeting.