

# Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council

## Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Annual Corporate Report



*The core mission of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council is to serve as an independent advisory body to the Pennsylvania 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.*

*“Your Voice In EMS”*

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## Mission

The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. 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 • Diversity • Objectivity • Responsiveness • Synergy

## History

PEHSC was formed and incorporated in 1974. In 1985, 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 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.

## Advisory 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. 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.

## Composition

The Council is an organization-based, non-profit corporation consisting of 101 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 Medical Center – EMS Division  
 Allegheny County EMS Council  
 Allegheny General Hospital  
 Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania  
 American Heart Association – Great Rivers Affiliate  
 American Medical Response Mid-Atlantic, Inc.  
 American Red Cross  
 American Trauma Society, PA Division  
 Best Practices of PA  
 Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire Co.  
 Bradford/Susquehanna EMS Council  
 Bucks County EHS Council, Inc.  
 Bucks County Squad Chief's Association  
 Burholme EMS  
 Butler County Community College  
 Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA, Inc.  
 Cetronia Ambulance Corps  
 Chal-Brit Regional EMS  
 Chester County Department of Emergency Services  
 Chester County EMS Council  
 City of Allentown EMS  
 City of Pittsburgh – Bureau of EMS  
 Columbia Quick Response Service, Inc  
 County of Schuylkill - Office of Public Safety  
 Danville Ambulance Service  
 Delaware County EHS Council  
 Eastern Lebanon County School District  
 Eastern PA EMS Council  
 Emergency Health Services Federation, Inc.  
 Emergency Medical Service Institute  
 Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern PA  
 Emergency Nurses Association  
 EMMCO East  
 EMMCO West  
 First Aid and Safety Patrol of Lebanon  
 Fraternal Association of Professional Paramedics  
 Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training Inst.  
 Harrisburg Area Community College  
 Hershey Medical Center  
 Highmark, Inc.  
 Horsham Fire Company #1  
 The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA  
 JeffSTAT  
 J R Henry Consulting, Inc.  
 Lancaster County EMS Council  
 Lancaster General Hospital  
 Lehigh Valley Health Network  
 Levittown-Fairless Hills Rescue Squad  
 Lewistown Hospital  
 LTS EMS Council  
 Lycoming Co Health Improvement Coalition

Montgomery County Regional EMS Office Murrysville  
 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.  
 PA Association of Rehabilitation Facilities  
 PA Athletic Trainers' Society, Inc.  
 PA Chapter, American College of Emerg. Physicians  
 PA Committee on Trauma – ACS  
 PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute (PFESI)  
 PA Firemen's Legislative Federation  
 PA Medical Society  
 PA Neurosurgical Society  
 PA Orthopaedic Society  
 PA Osteopathic Medical Association  
 PA Psychological Association  
 PA Society of Internal Medicine  
 PA Society of Physician Assistants  
 PA State Nurses Association  
 The Pennsylvania State University  
 PA Trauma Systems Foundation  
 Philadelphia Fire Fighters' Union IAFF Local #22  
 Philadelphia Paramedic Association  
 Philadelphia Regional EMS Council  
 Philadelphia University  
 Providence Township Ambulance  
 Second Alarmers EMS & Rescue Squad  
 Seneca Area Emergency Services  
 Seven Mountains EMS Council  
 Southern Alleghenies EMS Council  
 Southern Chester County EMS  
 Southwest Ambulance Alliance  
 Special Events EMS, Inc.  
 St. Luke's University Health Network  
 STAR Career Academy  
 State Firemen's Assoc. of PA  
 Suburban EMS  
 Susquehanna EHS Council, Inc.  
 Susquehanna Health System  
 Tioga County EMS Council  
 UPMC Presbyterian  
 Valley Ambulance Authority  
 VFIS/Education and Training Services  
 VMSC of Lower Merion and Narberth  
 Washington County EMS Council  
 Westmoreland County EMS Council  
 York Hospital / WellSpan Health

## Affiliate Council

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

7th Ward Civic Association Ambulance Service	Factoryville Fire Co. Ambulance
Acute Care Medical Transports Inc.	Fame Emergency Medical Services, Inc
American Health Medical Transport	Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.
American Life Ambulance	Fellows Club Volunteer Ambulance Service
American Patient Transport Systems, Inc. (APTS)	Forest Hills Area Ambulance Association, Inc.
Area Services, Inc	Franklin and Northmoreland Township Ambulance Assn.
Auburn Fire Company Ambulance Service	Gilbertsville Area Community Ambulance Service
Blakely Borough Community Ambulance Association	Girardville Ambulance Service
Brownsville Ambulance Service Inc	Goshen Fire Company
Buffalo Township Emergency Medical Services	Greater Pittston Ambulance & Rescue Assn.
Canonsburg General Hospital EMS	Greater Valley EMS, Inc
Central Medical Ambulance Service	Guardian Angel Ambulance Service Inc.
Centre County Ambulance Association	Halifax Area Ambulance and Rescue Association, Inc
Christiana Community Ambulance Assoc Inc	Hamburg Emergency Medical Services, Inc.
Citizens Volunteer Fire Company EMS Division	Hamlin Fire & Rescue Co.
Clairton Volunteer Fire Dept.	Harmony EMS
Clarion Hospital EMS	Hart to Heart Ambulance Service Inc.
Community Ambulance Association Ambler	Haverford Township Paramedic Department
Community College of Beaver County	Health Ride Plus
Community Life Team	Health Trans Ambulance
Conemaugh Township EMS Inc.	Honey Brook Ambulance Association
Corry Ambulance Service, Inc.	Hose Co #6 Kittanning Ambulance Service
Cresson Area Ambulance Service Inc.	Irvona Volunteer Ambulance Service
Delaware County Community College	Jacobus Lions Ambulance Club
Delaware County Memorial Hospital EMS	Jefferson Hills Area Ambulance Association
Dover Area Ambulance Club	Jessup Hose Co No 2 Ambulance Association
Duncannon EMS, Inc	Karthaus Ambulance Service
Duquesne EMS	Kecksburg VFD Rescue Squad
Duryea Ambulance and Rescue Association	Kutztown Area Transport Service, Inc.
East Brandywine Fire Company QRS	Lack Tuscarora EMS
Eastern Area Prehospital Service	Lackawanna/Wayne Ambulance
Ebensburg Area Ambulance Association	Lawn Fire Co. Ambulance
Elizabeth Township Area EMS	Lehigh Carbon Community College
Elysburg Fire Department EMS	Lehighton Ambulance Association, Inc.
EmergyCare, Inc.	Liverpool Emergency Medical Services
Em-Star Ambulance Service	Lower Kiski Ambulance Service Inc.
Event Medical Staffing Solutions	Loyalsock VFC #1 EMS Division

Manheim Twp. Ambulance Assn.  
Manheim Veterans Memorial Ambulance Assn.  
McConnellsburg Fire Department  
Meadville Area Ambulance Service LLC  
Med-Van Transport  
Memorial Hospital EMS  
Meshoppen Fire Company  
Midway Volunteer Fire Company  
Mildred Ambulance Association, Inc  
Milmont Fire Co. EMS  
Mount Nittany Medical Center - EMS  
Muncy Township Volunteer Fire Company Amb  
Nazareth Ambulance Corps.  
New Holland Ambulance Association  
Newberry Township Fire & EMS  
Northampton Community College  
Northampton Regional Emergency Medical Services  
Northwestern Ambulance Corps.  
Norwood Fire Co #1 EMS  
NovaCare Ambulance  
Orwigsburg Ambulance Inc.  
Penn State Hershey Life Lion EMS  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Pike County Advanced Life Support, Inc.  
Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department  
Pointe 2 Pointe Services Inc  
Pomeroy Volunteer Fire Co. No. 1 Ambulance  
Portage Area Ambulance Association  
Pottsville Area Emergency Medical Services, Inc.  
PRISM Health Services  
ProMobile Transportation, Inc.  
Quick Response Service Medical Transport  
Regional EMS

Regional EMS & Critical Care, Inc.  
Rices Landing Volunteer Fire Department  
Robinson Emergency Medical Service, Inc  
Rostraver/West Newton Emergency Services  
Russell Volunteer Fire Department  
Scott Township Emergency Medical Services  
Shippensburg Area EMS  
Snow Shoe EMS  
Somerset Area Ambulance  
South Central Emergency Medical Services, Inc.  
Southern Berks Regional EMS  
Springfield Ambulance Association  
Springfield Hospital EMS  
Stat Medical Transport, LLC  
Superior Ambulance Service, Inc  
Susquehanna Township Emergency Medical Services, Inc.  
Temple Health System Transport Team, Inc.  
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, Inc.  
Western Berks Ambulance Association  
Westmoreland County Community College  
White Mills Fire Department Ambulance  
White Oak EMS  
White Rose Ambulance  
Yoe Fire Co. Ambulance Service Inc.  
York Technical Institute LLC



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

Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania	Donald DeReamus
American Heart Association, Great Rivers Affiliate	Jennifer Ebersole
Bradford/Susquehanna EMS Council	Thomas Brandt, RN
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA	Walt Stoy, Ph D
Cetronia Ambulance Corps	Chris Peischl
City of Allentown EMS	Bryan Fritz
City of Pittsburgh, Bureau of EMS	Mark Bocian
Columbia Quick Response Service, Inc	Frank Splain, Jr.
Danville Ambulance Service	Scott Lynn
Emergency Medical Services Institute	Thomas McElree, Esq.
Emergency Nurses Association	Kay Ella Bleecher, RN
EMMCO East	Don Fortney
First Aid and Safety Patrol of Lebanon	Anthony Deaven
Harrisburg Area Community College	Robert Bernini
Hershey Medical Center	Steven Meador, MD
The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA	Tom Grace, RN
JEFFSTAT	Guy Barber
Murrysville Medic One	Darrick Gerano
Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County	Robert Lordo, Sr.
Pennsylvania Chapter of ACEP	Arthur Hayes, MD
Pennsylvania Committee on Trauma – ACS	Susan Baro
Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants	Lane Bower
The Pennsylvania State University	J. David Jones
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation	Juliet Geiger, RN
Philadelphia University	Jean Bail, RN, Ed D
Susquehanna EHS Council, Inc	Richard Gibbons
UPMC Presbyterian	Myron Rickens
Valley Ambulance Authority	J R Henry
Volunteer Medical Service Corps of Lower Merion & Narberth	Dominic Folino
Westmoreland County EMS Council Inc.	Randy Margarelli

## PEHSC Executive Committee

J. David Jones	President
Jean Bail, RN, Ed D	Vice President
Robert Bernini	Secretary
Ronald Roth, MD	Treasurer
Arthur Hayes, MD	Member-at-Large
Richard Gibbons	Member-at-Large
J. R. Henry	Immediate Past President

## PEHSC Staff

PEHSC 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	Executive Director
Donald Potter	EMS Systems Specialist
Stephen Mrozowski	EMSC Program Director
Travis Woodyard	EMS Systems Specialist
Patricia Morrison	Office Manager
Jean Gochenauer	Administrative Assistant

## Executive Offices

The Council'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.

## Electronic Media

The Council maintains several websites as well as other types of electronic communications:

***Your Voice in EMS*** PEHSC Website: [www.pehsc.org](http://www.pehsc.org)  
***Pediatric Emergency Care*** PA EMS for Children Website: [www.paems.org](http://www.paems.org)  
***Information*** PA EMS Information Resource: [www.paemsinfo.pehsc.org](http://www.paemsinfo.pehsc.org)  
***Recruitment*** Website: [www.pa-ems.org](http://www.pa-ems.org)  
**Follow us on TWITTER** – [www.twitter.com/pehsc](https://twitter.com/pehsc)  
**Like us on FACEBOOK** – PEHSC



## Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Financial Information

Note: Complete PEHSC financial audits are available by request as prepared by James J. McCarthy, Jr. & Associates PC, Harrisburg, PA.

### Income and Expense Comparison

	<b>FY 12-13</b>	<b>FY 11-12</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>% of Change</b>
<b>State Contract:</b>				
Income	\$491,949.00	\$491,949.00	\$0.00	0%
Expense	\$491,949.00	\$491,949.00	\$0.00	0%
<b>EMSC Contract:</b>				
Income	\$128,222.00	\$90,000.00	\$38,222.00	42.469%
Expense	\$128,222.00	\$90,000.00	\$38,222.00	42.469%
<b>EMS Conference:</b>				
Income	\$126,516.00	\$100,109.00	\$26,407.00	26.378%
Expense	\$104,172.00	\$79,630.00	\$24,542.00	30.820%

### Investment Account

	<b>FY 12-13</b>	<b>FY 11-12</b>	<b>Net Change</b>	<b>% of Change</b>
Balance as of Fiscal Year End	197,006.00	\$186,686.00	\$10,320.00	5.528%

## Committee and Task Force Meetings

### **Board of Directors/Council:**

Chair – J. David Jones

October 24, 2012; December 12, 2012; March 20, 2013; June 19, 2013

### **Air Medical Task Force:**

Chair - Duane Spencer

March 22, 2013

### **Air Medical Task Force/Critical Care Workgroup:**

July 5, 2012; July 26, 2012; August 30, 2012; October 5, 2012; December 7, 2012; January 11, 2013; February 22, 2013; April 12, 2013; May 10, 2013; June 21, 2013

### **Community EMS Task Force:**

Co-Chairs – Daniel Swayze, DrPH, Daniel Bledsoe, MD

April 2, 2013; June 4, 2013

### **EMS for Children Advisory Committee:**

Chair – Kirsten Johnson-Moore, RN

October 4, 2012; December 6, 2012; March 13, 2013; June 6, 2013

### **EMS Information Task Force:**

Chair - Christopher Heile

August 16, 2012; October 3, 2012; December 4, 2012; February 14, 2013

**Executive Committee:**

Chair – J. David Jones

August 2, 2013; August 13, 2012; August 15, 2012; September 5, 2012; October 18, 2012; November 29, 2012; December 11, 2012; December 12, 2012; December 27, 2012; January 16, 2013; January 29, 2013; February 6, 2013; February 15, 2013; February 22, 2013; June 12, 2013; June 25, 2013

**Level IV Trauma Triage Workgroup:**

Chair – J. David Jones

November 7, 2012

**Medical Advisory Committee:**

Chair – Michael Reihart, DO

July 11, 2012; November 20, 2012; January 16, 2013; May 15, 2013

**Membership Committee:**

Chair – Robert Bernini

September 12, 2012; November 5, 2012; February 12, 2013; May 8, 2013

**Nominating Committee (2012-2013 PEHSC Board of Directors/Executive Committee):**

Chair – Kay Bleacher, RN

January 17, 2013; February 5, 2013; April 22, 2013; May 7, 2013

**State EMS Development Plan Task Force:**

Chair – Everitt Binns, PhD

July 25, 2012; January 24, 2013; February 25, 2013; June 5, 2013

**Workers' Compensation Pool:**

Several meetings were held during Fiscal Year 2012-2013

## **Recommendations Approved by the Board of Directors**

As forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the official response

**VTR# 1012-01**

**Portable Carbon Monoxide Detectors**

Recommendation

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should amend the list of “Required Ground and Air Ambulance Equipment and Supplies” in FY 2014 to include one (1) portable carbon monoxide detector for each [ground-based] licensed EMS vehicle. The CO detector should be carried on board the [ground-based] licensed EMS vehicle in a manner that ensures it is present when an EMS provider(s) enter a structure or situation where they could be exposed to carbon monoxide (e.g., on a primary piece of portable equipment).

Department of Health Response

The Bureau of EMS (Bureau) accepts this recommendation.

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**VTR# 1012-02                      Racemic Epinephrine**Recommendation

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should amend the list of “Approved Drugs for ALS Ambulance Services” (28 Pa Code § 1005.11 related to drug use, control, and security) to include the addition of Racemic Epinephrine as an available optional medication.

Department of Health Response

The Bureau accepts this recommendation.

**VTR# 1012-03                      EMSOF Priority for Pediatric Transport Devices**Recommendation

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should include “devices to facilitate the safe transportation of children in ground ambulances” as an EMS Operating Fund (EMSO) priority item upon publication of the next EMSOF priority list (28 Pa Code § 1001.22 and 1001.23 related to criteria for funding; and allocation of funds).

Department of Health Response

The Bureau of EMS accepts this recommendation and will include such devices when the next list is published.

**VTR# 1012-04                      EMSC Voluntary Recognition Program Decal**Recommendation

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should approve the attached decal design as the official vehicle decal for EMS vehicles recognized through the EMSC Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program.

Department of Health Response

The Bureau accepts this recommendation.

**VTR# 1212-01                      Required Elements - QRS Patient Care Report Form**Recommendation

The Department of Health should publish an Information Bulletin with the attached list specifying the minimum elements required for a QRS patient care report form.

**Elements required on a QRS patient care form**

The following list should be published in an information bulletin for QRS agencies choosing to create their own patient care form.

1. Date
2. EMS Agency Name

3. Patient Name
4. Age
5. Gender
6. Chief Complaint
7. History of Present Illness
8. Vital Signs
  - a. Pulse
  - b. BP
  - c. Respirations
  - d. Pupils
  - e. SpO2
9. Mental Status
10. EMS Treatment
11. Oxygen Administration: LPM
12. EMS Provider Name
13. EMS Provider Signature
14. Care transferred to: Agency Name

#### Department of Health Response

The Department thanks the PEHSC for the recommended list of QRS PCR data elements. An update of the form containing the elements will be circulated more broadly than the previous pilot form to permit all Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agencies in the Commonwealth a chance to use and comment of the form in anticipation of regulations that require standardized hand-off information.

#### **VTR# 1212-02                      Removal of ALS fields on QRS PCR Sample Form**

##### Recommendation

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should modify the sample QRS patient care report form distributed with the Overview of QRS Manual by removing all fields specific to the provision of advanced life support (ALS) level care.

#### Department of Health Response

The Department thanks the PEHSC for the recommended changes to the QRS PCR data elements. An update of the form containing the elements will be circulated more broadly than the previous pilot form to permit all Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agencies in the Commonwealth a chance to use and comment on the form in anticipation of regulations that will include ALS QRS units.

#### **VTR# 0313-01                      QRS Agency PCR Requirement for ALS Care**

##### Recommendation

In anticipation of new EMS Agency levels provided for in the new EMS Act, the Department of Health will require that all EMS agencies providing care beyond the basic life support will complete a full electronic Patient Care Report.

Department of Health Response

The Department thanks PEHSC for this recommendation. The Emergency Medical Services Systems Act (EMSS Act), 35 Pa.C.S. §8106. Emergency medical services patient care reports require:

§ 8106. Emergency medical services patient care reports.

(a) Preparation.—An EMS agency shall ensure that it's responding EMS providers complete an EMS patient care report for each response made in which it encounters a patient or a person who has been identified as a patient to the EMS agency, unless the Department by regulation exempts certain types of patient contact from the reporting requirement. The Department shall employ an electronic EMS patient care reporting process that shall solicit standardized data and patient information. The Department may require an EMS agency to complete a different standardized report or different fields in a standardized report based upon the type of resources the EMS agency uses in responding. The Department shall permit an EMS agency to file a paper report for extraordinary reasons as determined by the Department on a case-by-case basis.

The Department will use this section of the EMSS Act as it develops regulations and policies required for EMS Agencies.

**VTR# 0313-02                      PCR Data Validation**Recommendation

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should implement a data validation process for PA NEMSIS data collection.

Department of Health Response

The Department thanks PEHSC for this recommendation. Currently there are multiple processes being developed to guide stakeholders as we maintain the current standard (NEMSIS 2.2), implement NEMSIS 3.0 and begin the process to measure the quality and accuracy of reports based on Pennsylvania's PCR collection system. Currently the Department will be focusing on making a smooth transition from NEMSIS 2 to 3 while updating requirements for data quality and transmission. Once version 3 is functional the Department will include data validation as a requirement for NEMSIS version 3.

**VTR# 0613-01                      Critical Care Paramedic Project – Phase II**Recommendation

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should adopt the standards for resource typing, scope of practice, critical care drugs and medical director requirements detailed in the attached document entitled, "Establishing the Critical Care Paramedic in Pennsylvania – Phase II."

Department of Health Response

The Department thanks PEHSC for this recommendation. The attached document will be included with resource materials as this project is developed.

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## Additional Projects by PEHSC Committees, Task Forces, and Staff

**Critical Care Paramedic Project** – During FY 2012-2013, the PEHSC Air Medical Task Force Critical Care Workgroup continued with Phase II of establishing the critical care paramedic in Pennsylvania. During this phase, the workgroup built on the work completed in Phase I and established a resource typing scheme that matches a patient’s anticipated medical care needs during transport with the appropriate crew configuration and equipment complement. Three (3) resource levels were recommended and range from a high level multi-disciplinary transport team (Type I) to what is currently referred to as an “ALS transport” that does not require specialized critical care resources (Type III).

The workgroup also recommended both a scope of practice and statewide drug list for the critical care paramedic. Both of these recommendations were driven primarily by the standards recommended in the resource typing scheme. For example, a critical care paramedic functioning with a Type I team may be permitted to institute a particular therapy, while the same paramedic functioning on a Type II team, where they are the highest trained EMS provider, may only be permitted to monitor and maintain a therapy established by the transferring facility.

Recognizing the importance of the medical director in critical care transport, the workgroup made several recommendations on enhanced medical director requirements and established other areas of “best practices” for these physicians. Given the complex nature of high acuity transports, it is essential that a medical director be prepared to guide and support the practice of these specialized EMS providers.

Phase II was presented to and accepted by the PEHSC Board of Directors at the June 19, 2013 meeting and forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Health for their consideration. The goal of the Air Medical Task Force is to complete the remaining program elements in a timeframe that will enable critical care paramedics to become operational upon implementation of the Act 37 rules and regulations in April 2014.

**Community EMS** – Also known as “Community Paramedicine,” this is an emerging area of prehospital practice that focuses on non-traditional areas of EMS practice including, but not limited to, chronic disease management, alternative patient destinations during transport, treat-n-release, and post discharge follow up on patients who are identified to be at-risk for re-admission.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of EMS requested that PEHSC provide recommendations on the various ways Community EMS integrates into Pennsylvania’s EMS system. A multidisciplinary task force was formed and is co-chaired by Dr. Daniel Swayze, Vice President, Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania and Dr. Daniel Bledsoe, Emergency Medicine Physician, Wellspan Health System.

The task force believes:

- Infinite possibilities exist for EMS to establish value-added healthcare services in the community apart from, or integral to, their emergency response and medical transportation functions.
- Potential markets exist for these services, including:
  - Individual Consumers
  - Small Businesses

- Physician Practices
- Hospitals and Healthcare Systems
- Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs)
- Public Health
- Health Care Plans
- Community EMS is not a one-size-fits-all proposition and should be driven by a local needs assessment.
- Community EMS compliments, rather than competes with, other healthcare provider groups.
- Existing community EMS initiatives in Pennsylvania will provide value information during the recommendation development process.

At the first meeting of the taskforce, the members established the following work priorities:

1. Create a registry of community EMS programs in the Commonwealth; this will provide the task force with valuable information on existing programs and facilitate effective communications with these organizations.
2. Develop a “white paper” outlining a vision for community EMS in Pennsylvania. This document will provide a framework for future recommendations and play a key role in educating stakeholders, legislators, regulators, and consumers.

**Statewide EMS Development Plan** – The Department is collecting the regional plans, and the PEHSC Board of Directors Executive Committee is considering the Council’s work plan related efforts to support years 1-3. The State Plan Task Force met in January and February. Members of the Task Force completed a review of the 3 to 5 year priority document, the agency level document, a reformat of the 1-3 year priority document, and the consideration of system wide costs in regard to the implementation of the plan.

## EMS for Children Project

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:



- The availability of online and offline pediatric-specific medical direction
- The presence of essential pediatric equipment and supplies on all EMS units
- The existence of a standardized system to recognize hospitals capable of treating pediatrics
- The existence of interfacility transfer guidelines and agreements to ensure appropriate transfer of pediatric patients between facilities
- The requirement for pediatric education for certification renewal of EMS providers
- The 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 continued to meet 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). Several key projects included hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pediatric Emergency Care Symposium in August 2012, in conjunction with the statewide EMS conference, and in October 2012 in Williamsport. During the symposium, multiple continuing education webinars were presented and information regarding the Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program was explained so that EMS agencies could begin submitting applications for participation in the program.

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. The EMSC Program Director and committee members are actively partnered with the following organizations:

- PA Trauma Systems Foundation: Pediatric Trauma Committee
- American Academy of Pediatrics - PA Chapter
  - PA Child Death Review Team
  - Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) for EMS
  - Prevent Child Abuse PA
- Safe Kids Pennsylvania
- Atlantic Region EMSC Council
- The National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO)
- NASEMSO Pediatric Emergency Care Council
- The EMSC National Resource Center and National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center
  - The EMSC Director actively participates in annual conferences and workshops offered by both of these organizations.

The EMSC Committee provided input on several PEHSC projects including the State EMS Plan and the following Board recommendations:

**VTR#: 1012-02 Racemic Epinephrine**

THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHOULD AMEND THE LIST OF “APPROVED DRUGS FOR ALS AMBULANCE SERVICES” (28 PA CODE § 1005.11 RELATED TO DRUG USE, CONTROL, AND SECURITY) TO INCLUDE THE ADDITION OF RACEMIC EPINEPHRINE AS AN AVAILABLE OPTIONAL MEDICATION.

DOH Response: The Bureau accepts this recommendation.

**VTR#: 1012-03 EMSOF Priority for Pediatric Transport Devices**

THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHOULD INCLUDE “DEVICES TO FACILITATE THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN IN GROUND AMBULANCES” AS AN EMSOF PRIORITY ITEM UPON PUBLICATION OF THE NEXT EMSOF PRIORITY LIST (28 PA CODE § 1001.22 AND 1001.23 RELATED TO CRITERIA FOR FUNDING; AND ALLOCATION OF FUNDS).

DOH response: The Bureau of EMS accepts this recommendation and will include such devices when the next list is published.

**VTR#: 1012-04 EMSC Voluntary Recognition Program Decal**

THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHOULD APPROVE THE ATTACHED DECAL DESIGN AS THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE DECAL FOR EMS VEHICLES RECOGNIZED THROUGH THE EMSC PEDIATRIC VOLUNTARY RECOGNITION PROGRAM.

DOH response: The Bureau accepts this recommendation.



Staff coordinated with Athletic Trainer Michael Horan to film an educational module on youth sports & concussions on August 7, 2012, which was used in an on-line education session and was made available to Pennsylvania EMS providers.

To meet the NEDARC workshop requirement for this current Fiscal Year, staff attended a workshop from October 9-11, 2012, entitled "Identifying Opportunities to Improve Performance Measure Results."

An Infant Safe Sleep webinar was distributed to approximately 110 EMS providers on January 31, 2013. This webinar was focused on prehospital providers and explained tips and ways to improve living situations that providers might see on an emergency call.

The EMSC Committee provided to the Bureau an Interfacility Toolkit, aimed at providing EMS agencies with information on how to safely transport children from one facility to another.

The EMSC Voluntary Recognition Program overview was distributed to all PA EMS agencies. Applications for designation through this program were received during this fiscal year. PEHSC staff is coordinating with the BEMS licensure staff to ensure designation information is shared between both agencies.

The EMSC Committee meets quarterly via webinar or live meetings, and is comprised of members covering many facets of pediatric emergency care including prehospital personnel, pediatric physicians, pediatric nurses, emergency department physicians, state agency representation, and a family representation. In addition to the required membership, the PA EMSC Committee also maintains strong representation from our partner organizations, regional EMS councils, and injury prevention programs. Additionally, the EMSC Program Director, committee chair, FAN representative, and project medical director meet monthly via conference call.

Finally, the EMSC Program provides support and education content to the annual statewide EMS conference and the Pediatric Emergency Care Symposium.

## **PEHSC List Serv Distributions**

Notices sent included topics such as:

- President Signs Dale Long/Danny McIntosh Act Language Into Law
- Workers' Compensation Pool Updates
- EMSIB 2013-001 Out-of-Service Decal
- EMR Information Bulletin
- Medicare Payments for Ambulance Services
- FCVAS Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2012-13
- Medicare LCD Policy Changes – Novitas Solutions

## Partnership Meetings Attended by PEHSC Leadership and Staff

- 2012 Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute Annual Dinner and Pennsylvania State EMS Awards Presentation
- 2012 Emergency Medical Services Institute Regional EMS Conference
- National Community Paramedicine Webinars
- 2012-13 Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania Leadership and Reimbursement Conferences
- 2012 Pennsylvania EMS Providers Foundation Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation
- 2012 Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation
- NASEMSO
- SCAN EMS Advisory Board Meeting
- American Trauma Society – PA Chapter
- Joint State Government Commission Meetings – as requested
- Legislative Budget & Finance Committee Meetings – as requested
- 911 Event at the Capitol
- NEDARC Workshop/Meetings
- HRSA EMSC Town Hall Conference Calls
- HRSA/University of Pittsburgh SPROC
- PA Safe Kids Meeting
- Eastern PA EMS Council Conference
- American Academy of Pediatrics Meetings
- Atlantic EMS Council and EMSC Council Meetings
- VLAP Meetings
- Hurricane Sandy Response Conference Calls
- DOH Hands Only CPR – Farm Show Event
- EMSI Conference
- Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation Board of Directors Meetings
- Regional Directors Meetings
- 2012-2013 Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation Annual Conference Volunteer Loan Assistance Program Application Review Committee
- Quarterly Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute Statewide Advisory Board Meetings

## Legislative Affairs

During Fiscal Year 12-13, PEHSC tracked, and when appropriate, provided comment on state and federal legislation affecting emergency medical services.

- Review of bills related to Volunteer Companies Loan Fund Grants and the Grant Program
- EMS Week Proclamation and Resolutions
- Review of bills related to certification sanctions for convictions, etc.
- Review of legislation directing the review via study of the EMS System by the LBFC and JSGC
- Review of legislation to amend the Good Samaritan Law in PA (Act 125 of 2012)
- Review of bills related to direct payment for ambulance services

- Review of bills related to the establishment of an EMS memorial flag
- Review of bills related to Workers' Compensation insurance issues

## Corporate Activity

- The Executive Director reviewed and secured benefit packages for the next twelve months.
- The Executive Director prepared the FY 13-14 operating budget and submitted the final FY 12-13 budget revisions.
- The PEHSC Continuity of Operations Plan for relocation of the Council's operation in the event of emergency or unanticipated worksite disruption was updated during FY 12-13 and forwarded to the Department of Health.
- The financial audit for FY 11-12 was completed by James J McCarthy and Associates and approved by the PEHSC Board of Directors.
- The final FY 11-12 activity report was completed by the Executive Director and submitted to the Department of Health.
- PEHSC explored the feasibility of member organizations obtaining group Workers' Compensation benefits through its group purchase program.

## Group Purchasing

PEHSC has partnered with Strategic Insurance Partners to form a self-funded workers' compensation pool for member ambulance companies. The pool is still in the initial stages and interested agencies are being encouraged to submit workers' compensation policy information to determine if the pool is beneficial to them. The self-funded pool is expected to provide:

- Member Run/Owned Insurance Group
- Premium Savings
- Long Term Stability
- Risk Management Tools
- Future Dividends/Return of Premiums

## Pennsylvania's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS Conference

The Pennsylvania 35<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS Conference was held on August 15-17, 2012 at the Lancaster County Convention Center & Marriott at Penn Square, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

### National Faculty:

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • A.J Heightman (California) | • Keith Wesley (Wisconsin)     |
| • Glenn Luedtke (Delaware)   | • John Todaro (South Carolina) |
| • Katrina Altenhofen (Iowa)  | • Chris Ebright (Louisiana)    |
| • Sara House (Kansas)        |                                |

### Session Summary:

- 31 Sessions Total
  - 4 Preconference Sessions
    - Advanced Burn Life Support (ABLS)
    - NAEMT EMS Safety Program
    - Patient Handling: Train-The-Trainer

- Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN-EMS)
  - 2 General Sessions
  - 25 Breakout Sessions
  - 20 Sessions with a primarily clinical focus
  - 11 Sessions with a primarily management of a blended management/clinical focus
- 53 hours of continuing education credits were available
- 35 nurses submitted for contact hours

#### Conference Highlights:

- Preconference Sessions – August 15<sup>th</sup>
- Pediatric Emergency Care Symposium – August 16<sup>th</sup>
- Pediatric Emergency Care Symposium – October 5<sup>th</sup>; PA College of Technology, Williamsport
- Exhibitor Reception – August 16<sup>th</sup>
- DOH Regional EMS Director & Regional Education Coordinator Meetings
- ITLS Workgroup Meeting
- Lunch-and-Learn Session with the Bureau of EMS – attended by more than 150 people

<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>392</b>
Multi-Day General Conference	276
Single-Day General Conference	47
Pediatric Symposium	41
Exhibiting Organizations	56

### Preparations for Pennsylvania's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS Conference

- A survey was distributed to all attendees of the PA 35<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS Conference to obtain feedback on the program. The results of this survey will be considered when planning for the PA 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.
- Based on an analysis of the survey data, the PA 36<sup>th</sup> Annual EMS Conference will return to the Lancaster Convention Center and Marriott in August of 2013. In order to reach new audiences, a second conference site with the same or similar schedule will be scheduled for September 2013. The second conference site will be located at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, PA.
- In cooperation with the EMS for Children Program, two Pediatric Emergency Care Symposia are planned for 2013 and will be offered in conjunction with the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at both conference sites. This program will offer a full-day of pediatric-specific continuing education for EMS providers and registered nurses.
- Enhancements were made to the PA EMS Conference website to facilitate ease of online registration for both exhibitors and attendees.

#### PEHSC staff:

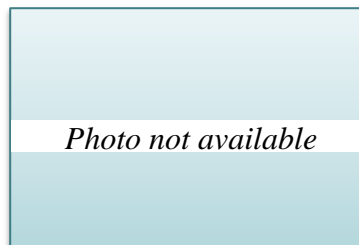
- Prepared a preliminary conference budget
- Secured both local and national speakers for the conference
- Secured exhibitor organizations to attend the conference
- Presented proposed session topics to, and obtain approval from, the Bureau of EMS Director
- Coordinated with the Bureau of EMS to assign continuing education credit to sessions
- Coordinated with the PA Department of Education for Act 48 nursing continuing education

## 2013 PEHSC Awards

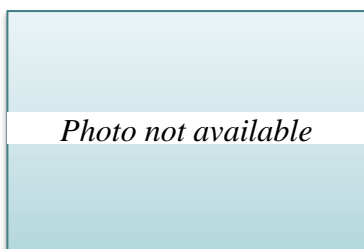
Each year, as a thank you to those individuals who have provided exemplary service to the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council, a series of awards are delivered at a luncheon held in conjunction with the June Board of Directors meeting.



Walter J. Thomas Citizen Award  
David Blunk  
Pennsylvania Chapter of the  
American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)



Jerry Esposito EMS Administrator Award  
Don Dereamus  
Suburban EMS



Mildred K. Fincke Nursing Award  
Susie Werner, RN  
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation



Joel E. Grottenthaler Memorial Award  
Duane Spencer  
Mid- Atlantic MedEvac at  
Hahnemann University Hospital

## 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 PA 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.*

## Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council

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