



# PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

*Your Voice In EMS*

600 Wilson Lane Suite 101 Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 • (717) 795-0740 • www.pehsc.org

## **Board of Directors and Annual Meeting Minutes March 15, 2023**

### **Board Members Present**

Don DeReamus	Ambulance Assoc of PA	Juliet Altenburg	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
Tim Hinchcliff	Burholme Ambulance Corps	Anna Over	PA Trauma Systems Foundation
Kent Knable	Centre Lifelink EMS	David Jones	Penn State University
Bob Mateff	Cetronia Ambulance Corps	Keith Laws	Riddle Memorial Hospital
Harry Moore	Chester Co Dept of Emerg Services	Anthony Martin	Tower Direct EMS
Mehmet Barzev	City of Allentown EMS	JR Henry	Valley Ambulance Authority
Matt Brett	City of Allentown EMS	Justin Eberly	VFIS Education
Barry Albertson	Community LifeTeam EMS	Dr Steve Schirk	Wellspan York Hospital
Nathan Harig	Cumberland Goodwill EMS	Gary Vinnacombe	West Grove Fire Co
Tony Deaven	Lower Allen EMS	Wayne Marsh	West York Ambulance
Steve Bailey	Non-Profit Amb Service of Beaver Co	Anthony Tucci	Western Berks Ambulance
Jerome Ozog	PA Fire and Emerg Svcs Institute		

### **Council Members Present**

Dr Greg Hellier	PA College of Emerg Physicians	Rich Kelley	Mt Nittany Medical Ctr EMS
Dr Bryan Wexler	PA College of Emerg Physicians	Dave Kirchner	Myerstown Ambulance
Alexander Kuhn	American Heart Association	Scott Kingsboro	Northwest EMS
Krista Brands	American Trauma Society-PA	Robert Brooks	PA Professional Firefighters Assoc
Michele Rymdeika	Bucks Co EMS Council	Cheryl Sweet	PA State Nurses Assoc
Ron Romano	City of Pittsburgh EMS	Wayne Reich	PA State Nurses Assoc
Patrick O'Connell	Delaware Co EMS Council	Keith McMinn	Penn State Lifelion - Hershey
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council	Ed Lendvay	Philadelphia Regional EMS Council
Dr Duane Siberski	Eastern PA EMS Council	Greg Porter	Ross Westview EMS
Matthew Welch	Elverson Honeybrook EMS	Dr Jeffrey Kuklinski	St. Lukes University Health System
John Campos	EMS of Northeastern PA	James Houser	STAT MedEvac
Joe Stevens	First Capital EMS	Tony Bixby	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Bob Stakem	Hbg Area Community College	Mark Trueman	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Chris Chamberlain	Hospital Assoc of PA	Christopher Ritter	Temple University Hospital
Craig Wheeler	Lewistown Hospital	Jean Bail	Thomas Jefferson University
Mervin Wertz	Lower Alsace Ambulance Assoc	Myron Rickens	UPMC
Carla Miller	LTS Regional EMS Council	Dr Alvin Wang	VMSC - Lower Merion
Jeff Myers	LTS Regional EMS Council	Annie Phillips	Delaware Co EMS Council
Chris Dell	McCandles-Franklin Park Amb		

### **Department of Health Staff Present**

Aaron Rhone, PhD  
Dr Daniel Bledsoe

### PEHSC Staff Present

Janette Swade  
Butch Potter  
Andy Snavely  
Duane Spencer

### Guests/Liaisons Present

Heather Sharar     Ambulance Assoc of PA  
Jason Smith        Eastern PA EMS Council  
Jim Slotterback    Susquehanna Regional EMS  
John Shook         Penn State LifeLion - Berks

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action/Resolution</b>
Call to Order		The board of directors meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by President Dave Jones.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	The minutes from the December 12, 2022 meeting were reviewed	<b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b> <b>Second: Chris Chamberlain</b>  <b>To accept the meeting minutes as drafted.</b>  <b>Result: Motion carried</b>
President's Report	President Dave Jones reported on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Passing of 5 providers, our condolences to their families. A moment of silence was observed in their honor.</li><li>• We currently do not have a budget figure for the next fiscal year.</li><li>• EMSOF allocation for the next budget is basically the same.</li><li>• Updated Medicare rates are in today's meeting materials.</li><li>• New authority in Lancaster County with Northwest EMS. We will ask them to present at a later meeting.</li><li>• New funding ordinance for Ross Westview EMS Authority. All 5 of their communities have adopted the ordinance. Overall has been well received at this point.</li></ul>	
Treasurer's Report	Janette Swade reported for Dr. Roth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some \$ moved between contract and payroll accounts</li></ul> <p>[See attached report]</p>	<b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b> <b>Second: Anthony Deaven</b>  <b>To accept the treasurer's report as presented.</b>  <b>Result: Motion carried</b>

Executive Director's Report	<p>Executive Director Janette Swade reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual audit and impact on cash flow from DOH until the audit is complete. Audit will also show \$ contributed to operations from other PEHSC accounts. Line of credit is still available. Audit should be completed by May.</li> <li>• EMSC grant is delayed at the federal level. Once received by the DOH, it will take 6 months to process for approval.</li> <li>• If organizations have changes in leadership, please keep us updated so we can update our database.</li> <li>• EMS bulletins are available on our website.</li> <li>• EMS Week May 21-27, 2023 – “Where care Begins”</li> </ul>	
Department of Health Report	<p>Director Rhone reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working on CFC's submitted by PEHSC – running through Policy and Legal.</li> <li>• Rep Roae introduced another bill to exit PA from the NREMT process.</li> <li>• EMSOF budget figure went from 10.2 to 10.6 million.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Dan Bledsoe reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol process status. Working to get that process on track. Will be discussed at the April MAC meeting. Would like to complete emergency protocols first, then focus on CCT.</li> <li>• Looking at the national scope of practice model vs. PA scope.</li> <li>• Addition of Levalbuterol as an albuterol alternative due to supply chain issues.</li> </ul>	
<b>Committee and Task Force Reports</b>		
Membership Committee	<p>JR Henry reported on the following organizations seeking PEHSC membership:</p> <p>Applications reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elverson Honeybrook EMS</li> <li>• Lower Alsace EMS</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b>  <b>Second: Bob Mateff</b></p> <p><b>To accept Elverson Honeybrook for council membership</b></p> <p><b>Result: Motion carried</b></p>
		<p><b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b>  <b>Second: Anthony Deaven</b></p> <p><b>To accept Lower Alsace EMS for council membership.</b></p> <p><b>Result: Motion carried.</b></p>

<p>By-Law Committee</p>	<p>Chris Chamberlain reported of the following proposed changes to the PEHSC by-laws:</p> <p>Changes are focused on minor clean-up and corrections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistency with the EMS Act</li> <li>• Consistency with physical vs. virtual meetings</li> <li>• Streamline %'s to conduct business in line with norms and potential changes to the size of the board and council.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b> <b>Second: Kent Knable</b></p> <p><b>Approve the proposed changes to PEHSC bylaws.</b></p> <p><b>Result: Motion carried.</b></p>
<p>Medical Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Dr. Alvin Wang reported on the following committee activity:</p> <p>The MAC met on January 11<sup>th</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee offered its support and assistance to Dr. Rhone in securing a new Commonwealth EMS Medical Director and;</li> <li>• Resolved to formally recognize Dr. Doug Kupas for his 23 years of service to the Commonwealth – a plaque was presented at the annual NAEMSP meeting by Dr. Wang</li> <li>• Development of a pilot program for the Air-Q3 is ongoing, any medical directors who are interested in participating should contact Dr. Wang</li> <li>• Dr. Risavi renewed a previous discussion and recommendation regarding the use of alternative methods of Epi injection by EMTs.</li> <li>• The previous recommendation, VTR 1217-01, was never acted on by the BEMS</li> <li>• Today, <b>VTR 0323-01</b>, again recommends that EMT's be permitted to administer Epi by syringe in cases of anaphylaxis following completion of a medical director supervised education program.</li> <li>• This is an optional program for medical director consideration</li> <li>• This type of program has been successfully implemented in other parts of the country with a substantial cost saves to the agency due to the high cost of auto injectors, for example, Seattle's Check-and-Inject.”</li> <li>• A syringe-based Epi kit can be assembled for less than \$10.00, there are also prepacked kits commercially available at a higher price point</li> <li>• Following the January meeting, a request was received by Dr. Rick Wadas requesting the MAC consider the use of Levalbuterol as an alternative to Albuterol due to supply chain</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion: Tucci</b> <b>Second: Deaven</b></p> <p><b>To accept VTR# 0323-01 as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Result: Motion carried.</b></p>

	<p>disruptions in some areas of the Commonwealth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Dan Bledsoe suggested that an expedited process may be in order due to the high rate of administration of inhaled beta agonists by EMS.</li> <li>• An e-vote on the recommendation was conducted with the MAC, who affirmed their support by unanimous vote.</li> <li>• A letter of recommendation was forwarded to Dr. Bledsoe and Director Rhone</li> <li>• The next meeting of the MAC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1000 hours</li> </ul>	
<p>EMS for Children Committee</p>	<p>Duane Spencer reported on the following committee activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023-2027 State Partnership Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice of Award still pending by federal government, expected April 1st</li> <li>• Funding amount may be less than anticipated</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Three primary objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2027, expand the uptake of pediatric readiness in EDs</li> <li>• By 2027, improve pediatric readiness in EMS systems</li> <li>• By 2027, prioritize and advance family partnership and leadership in efforts to improve EMSC systems of care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New/updated Performance Measures</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pediatric specific protocol update recommendations completed</li> <li>• 2023 EMSC Survey in progress through end of March</li> </ul>	
<p>RSI Task Force</p>	<p>Dr. Greg Frailey reported on the following task force activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the provider education program has been completed and is currently under review by the education workgroup. This program was developed, in part, by students from the University of Pittsburgh under the supervision of Dr. Walt Stoy.</li> <li>• The education program, along with the pilot program document will then be sent to the RSI Task Force, Critical Care Transport Task Force and Medical Advisory Committee for review.</li> <li>• We anticipate presenting the program for the board's consideration at the June meeting.</li> </ul>	

<p>EMS Operations Committee</p>	<p>Tony Deaven reported on the following committee activity:</p> <p>The committee met on February 27, 2023. The group is still awaiting a response from BEMS on CFC 0622-01. Additional topics under discussion are effectiveness of the EMSVO credential, relaxed minimum staffing standards, and QRS usage.</p>	
<p>Special Operations Workgroup</p>	<p>Dr. Duane Siberski reported on the following workgroup activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the phase 1 recommendations are nearing completion</li> <li>• We anticipate presenting the proposal at the upcoming MAC meeting and, if approved, at the June 2023 BOD meeting.</li> </ul>	
<p>Opportunities Workgroup</p>	<p>Dave Jones reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted areas for Committee / Task Force work has been established</li> <li>• Work by Committees / Task Forces may generate recommendations or Council Position statements</li> <li>• Recommendations or Council positions statements will be brought to the Board of Directors for consideration</li> <li>• The Steering Committee will stay intact to consider 2 areas: the preparation of a position statement on EMS as an Essential Service and PSAP Integration</li> <li>• The Process Algorithm for this project is in the meeting materials</li> </ul>	
<p>EMS Law Committee</p>	<p>Jerry Ozog reported on the following committee activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Agenda finalized – in today’s materials – Questions? Vote to support?</li> <li>• Volunteer members of the committee will support requests for bill reviews</li> <li>• Next steps will be working on advocacy efforts</li> <li>• 3 new pieces of legislation under review – in today’s materials CP legislation, EMS Testing and adding EMS to receive county fee for local use money (vehicle registration fees)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b> <b>Second: Chris Chamberlian</b></p> <p><b>To support the proposed legislative agenda.</b></p> <p><b>Result: Motion carried.</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion - concerns associated with the concept of elimination of the NR exam.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Business</b>		
Transitioning away from the NREMT exam	<p>What is the feeling of the board on leaving the NREMT exam? Not a test problem as much as an education and test prep issue. Although there is a lot of local support based on perception.</p> <p>It would be very expensive for PA to re-establish a cognitive exam (about \$2.5M). Would negatively impact PA as a COMPACT state and providers from other states coming to PA and conversely, PA providers going to other states.</p> <p>PEHSC will be developing a comprehensive position statement on this issue.</p>	<p><b>Straw poll of board:</b></p> <p><b>To support the continued use of the NREMT exam for all levels of certification.</b></p> <p><b>Result: Overwhelming support for the continued use of the NREMT cognitive exam.</b></p>
EMS Conference 2022 and 2023 Update	<p>Andy Snavelly provided an update on the 2022 conference and planning of the 2023 conference:</p> <p><b><u>2023 PA State EMS Conference</u></b>  <b>September 5-8, 2023</b>  <b>Virtual delivery format</b></p> <p>Need support from council members to assist us in keeping the conference free to providers – please talk to your vendors!</p>	
PA EMS Awards	<p>Duane Spencer provided an update on this year’s statewide awards process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly 100 nominations have been received for the 10 awards</li> <li>Selection Committee currently reviewing and recommending award winners</li> <li>State and Regional vetting, notifications, presentations</li> <li>Planned EMS Week event</li> </ul>	
Adjournment		<p><b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b>  <b>Second: Keith Laws</b></p> <p><b>To adjourn the March 2023 board of directors meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Result: Motion carried.</b></p>

Topic	Discussion	Action/Resolution
Convene the Annual Council Meeting		The annual PEHSC council meeting was called to order at 1120 hours by President Dave Jones.
By-Law Changes	<p>Chris Chamberlain reported of the following proposed changes to the PEHSC by-laws:</p> <p>Changes are focused on minor clean-up and corrections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistency with the EMS Act</li> <li>• Consistency with physical vs. virtual meetings</li> <li>• Streamline %'s to conduct business in line with norms and potential changes to the size of the board and council</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b>  <b>Second: Jean Bail</b></p> <p><b>To accept the changes to the PEHSC by-laws as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Result: Motion carried.</b></p>
Nominating Committee Report	<p>Steve Bailey presented the following slate of candidates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allegheny General Hospital</li> <li>2. Cetronia Ambulance Corps*</li> <li>3. Harrisburg Area Comm College</li> <li>4. Lower Allen Twp EMS*</li> <li>5. Montgomery Co Regional EMS Office</li> <li>6. PA Chapter – ACEP</li> <li>7. Penn State Hershey Med Ctr</li> <li>8. UPMC Presbyterian</li> <li>9. VFIS – Education Services*</li> <li>10. Wellspan York Hospital</li> </ol> <p>* Nominated for a second term</p>	
Board of Directors Election	Based on the slate of candidates presented by the nominating committee, the following organizations have been elected [or re-elected] to the board for the 2024-2025 term of office.	<p><b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b>  <b>Second: Kent Knable</b></p> <p><b>To accept the slate of candidates for election to the board of directors for the 2024-2026 term of office.</b></p> <p><b>Result: Motion carried</b></p>
Good for the Order	None	
Organizational Reports	<p>Ambulance Association of PA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authority bills for fire and EMS have been introduced.</li> <li>• Has developed an updated legislative</li> <li>• Reimbursement Conference May 1-2 in Hershey PA</li> <li>• PA EMS Memorial Bike Ride [Date] followed by the Stars of Life Dinner at the Best Western in Harrisburg. The</li> </ul>	

	<p>EMS memorial Sept 11<sup>th</sup> at 1000 a.m. in East Rotunda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add EMS to the proposed tax credit of \$2500 that is being proposed for fire and police.</li> </ul>	
	<p>PA Trauma Systems Foundation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New board member, Dr. Dan Bledsoe as designee for the Sec. of Health</li> <li>• New board member, Dr. Jeff Kuklinski representing PEHSC</li> <li>• Legislators on the board have not changed</li> <li>• Site surveys starting in March and extends into the fall.</li> <li>• Stop the bleed training in partnership with the Rotary Club and ATS-PA</li> </ul>	
	<p>PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported on legislative priorities for the year</li> </ul>	
<p>Adjourn Annual Council Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.3;">DRAFT</p>	<p><b>Motion: Anthony Tucci</b>  <b>Second: Barry Albertson</b>  <b>To adjourn the 2023 annual council meeting.</b>  <b>Result: Motion carried.</b></p>

Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council  
Account Balances FY 2022-2023

		CASH BALANCE AS OF:						
ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	7/31/2022	8/31/2022	9/30/2022	10/31/2022	11/30/2022	12/31/2022	
Contract Fund	<b>2022-2023 Contract Amount \$353,940.00/ EMSC 128,144.00</b>	87,109.23	44,777.90	55,416.58	15,192.40	2,168.09	93,855.44	
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	45,980.84	48,013.08	50,045.31	52,061.53	54,077.74	55,865.98	
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	2,764.22	2,764.24	2,764.26	2,764.28	2,764.30	2,764.32	
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	81,419.58	86,868.55	95,243.58	95,092.64	95,041.62	69,990.54	
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	297,880.75	291,347.74	271,640.70	284,281.08	297,884.01	289,178.71	
		CASH BALANCE AS OF:						
ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	1/31/2023	2/28/2023	3/31/2023	4/30/2023	5/31/2023	6/30/2023	
Contract Fund	<b>2022-2023 Contract Amount \$353,940.00/EMSC 128,144.00</b>	92,479.69	145,321.60					
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	56,698.27	24,307.12					
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	2,647.34	2,647.36					
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	69,840.38	69,789.17					
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	303,401.59	297,030.68					

DRAFT