



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS

PEHSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Web Conference Call
Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Minutes

CONVENE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mr. Henry, President, called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Allegheny County EMS Council – Douglas Garretson
Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania – Donald DeReamus
Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania – Heather Sharar
American Heart Association – Alexander Kuhn
Burholme EMS – Tim Hinchcliff
Burholme EMS – Blake Bradley
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA – Ronald Roth, MD
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA – Walt Stoy, Ph.D.
Cumberland Goodwill EMS – Robert Pine
Emergency Nurses Association, PA – Kay Bleecher, RN
Harrisburg Area Community College – Robert Bernini
Highmark Inc. – Robert McCaughan
Horsham Fire Company No 1 – Duane Spencer
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center – Steven Meador, MD
Pennsylvania State University – J. David Jones
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation – David Bradley
Thomas Jefferson University – Jean Bail, RN, Ed.D
Reading Health System – Anthony Martin
Second Alarmers & Rescue Squad of Montgomery County – Ken Davidson
Valley Ambulance Authority – J.R. Henry
Valley Ambulance Authority – Melvin Musulin
VFIS/Education & Training Services – William Niehenke
Wellspring York Hospital – Steven Schirk, MD
Wellspring York Hospital – Thomas Yeich, MD
Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Cooperative – Gregory Frailey, DO

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Bucks County EHS Council – Michele Rymdeika
Cetronia Ambulance Corps. – Chris Peischl
City of Allentown EMS – Eric Gratz
Eastern PA EMS Council – Jason Smith
Emergency Health Services Federation – Michael Reihart, DO
Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital – Craig Wheeler
LTS EMS Council – Wendy Hastings
Southern Alleghenies EMS – Carl Moen
Western Berks Ambulance Association - Anthony Tucci

BUREAU OF EMS

Dylan Ferguson, Director
Doug Kupas, MD

OTHERS

Michael Furjanic, CPA
Josh Stuart – EMSC Chair

PEHSC STAFF

Janette Swade, Director
Patricia Morrison
Angela Poorman
Donald Potter
Andy Snavelly

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Bail and seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the previous board meeting minutes of September 5, 2018. (Motion Carried.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Henry, President, gave the following report:

- A moment of silence was observed for Robert Reeder - Crozier Health.
- There are two resignations to report - Bob Shank's final retirement. PA Athletic Trainers Association will identify a new representative and Tony Deaven left first Aid and Safety Patrol of Lebanon but will join us via Community Life Team's affiliation.
- Committee Chair changes and additions are as follows:
 - Community Paramedicine Task Force – Mr. Swayze will be joined by Anthony Martin as co-chair.
 - Medical Advisory Committee – Dr. Reihart will be joined by Dr. Wang as co-chair.
 - EMSC for Children Committee – Ted Fessides will be the new chair. Thank you to Josh Stuart for all of your work.
 - Critical Care Task Force – Duane Spencer will be joined by Dr. Jonathan Trager as co-chair.
- We will be establishing the following committees for a corporate update: Bylaws, Membership, Audit/Investment and Nominating.
- Don Konkle will be retiring. The new Executive Director at PFESI will be Jerry Ozog starting March 1, 2019.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dr. Ronald Roth, Treasurer, gave the report

Ms. Bleecher motioned and Dr. Frailey seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report.

(Motion Carried.)

(The Treasurer's Reports are on file for members to review.)

Mr. Furjanic, CPA gave an overview of the Council's Audit for FYE June 30, 2018. There were no findings. Mr. Henry thanked Mr. Furjanic for his assistance with the audit.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Swade, Executive Director, gave the following report:

Operational Update

- The audit for FYE 2018 has been sent to the Department and the 990 filing is complete.
- A budget amendment is pending from the Department for both the EMSC and PECC Grants.
- The line of credit was used to borrow \$20,000 to provide funding for the PECC Grant. The LOC paperwork has been refiled with the bank for next calendar year.
- The investment account showed a slight loss recently due to the recent flux in the stock market.
- The Conference Report was submitted to the Department in a timely manner.

Planning

- Looking at some new work plan activity and structure for FY 20; waiting on budget figures from DOH for next contract.
- Contract at Spooky Nook signed for the 2019 EMS conference.

Additional Information

- Thanks to all for assisting with the conference.
- Member survey on opioids and associated stressors for field providers; thanks to all those agencies who participated

Current Significant Issues

- PECC grant – Duane Spencer is taking the lead. Due to a conflict of interest, he has turned over his Board Seat and Committee Chair until after March – Horsham Fire Company #1 representative Matthew Bowers.
- Rural Health - Flex Grant focuses on sustainable programs to enhance the delivery of EMS services to rural areas of Pennsylvania. PEHSC has been asked to assist with the planning and evaluation process.
- A copy of the final SR 6 document is available for download in the meeting documents.
- Treat No Transport legislation has been signed by Governor Wolfe.
- PTSF is seeking changes to the EMS Act related to the establishing minimum patient contact thresholds for both Level 1 and 2 trauma centers; and to establish a minimum permissible distances between Level 3 trauma centers.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

Mr. Ferguson provided the following report:

- **PECC Grant**
Currently working through administrative process
Working to gain approval through the entire process as swiftly as possible
- **EMSOF Audit**
Currently working on 120-day progress report, regarding Departments efforts to resolve findings.
- **Biannual Protocol Review**
Participation in MAC face to face meeting
Revised NHTSA National Scope of Practice Model is awaiting publication and may impact certain aspects of protocol development
- Preparedness Projects**
Ebola Transport Team meeting
 - Monitoring outbreak in Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - CDC/WHO are not recommending any travel restrictions or enhanced screening
 - Training for front line hospitals and EMS

EMS/Healthcare Coalitions

- Looking for ways to increase collaboration between EMS and the Coalitions
- Department will be participating in the newly formed PEHSC work group with a similar focus
- **EMS Registry EMSVO tracking feature to be turned on 01/01/2020**
- **Legislative**
Session has ended no active bills being tracked, continue to perform analysis on previous bills that are likely to return next session.
Department continues to review SR 6 to identify any potential short-term solutions we can assist in facilitating
- **Opioid Crisis**
Overdose PA Week 12/10-12/14
Naloxone Give Away Day 12/13 at various locations through the commonwealth
EMS has administered 11,954 doses of naloxone this year
Agencies participating in the voluntary naloxone leave behind program have left behind 640 doses year to date.

TASK FORCE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Medical Advisory Committee – Dr. Reihart, Chair, provided the following report:

The Medical Advisory Committee met on November 28th for its annual fall meeting.

Dr. Riehart introduced Dr. Alvin Wang as the committee's new vice chair. Dr. Wang serves as the Montgomery County EMS Regional Medical Director and a highly respected emergency medicine physician who began his career as an EMS provider.

Dr. Wang provided the committee with an update on Montgomery County's Ketamine Sedation Assisted Intubation pilot project. To date, 25 patients have been enrolled with a nearly 90% first attempt success rate and a high degree of provider satisfaction. This project is due to conclude on December 20th, however Dr. Wang requested the MAC's support in requesting the Department grant the project a one-year extension to enroll additional patients – the committee voted its unanimous support.

The committee reviewed a potential pilot project from the Delaware County region related to the creation of a critical care squad. This vehicle, staffed by a critical care paramedic or PHRN would meet up with an ALS ambulance at a facility to form a critical care transport ambulance. The committee indicated this novel approach merits further investigation and could be part of a larger strategy to improve the efficiency of existing prehospital critical care resources. Dr. Kupas indicated that the Department is reviewing the concept to determine how this could be accomplished within existing regulations and EMS agency licensing standards.

The balance of this meeting was dedicated to reviewing protocol update recommendations received by PEHSC and the Bureau of EMS:

There were approximately 70-80 suggestions received from across the commonwealth. Following the initial review, the accepted recommendations will be incorporated as draft language in the protocol documents. At the January MAC meeting, the drafts will be reviewed and any needed technical changes made. Dr. Kupas commented that the updated national scope of practice model has been accepted by NHTSA, but not yet published and may influence protocol changes.

Dr. Kupas further commented that it's the Bureau's goal to publish the revised protocols in a timeframe that permits stakeholder review and education prior to the usual July 1st mandatory implementation date.

EMS for Children Advisory Committee – Mr. Stuart, Chair, provided the following report:

The EMSC advisory committee meeting was held on Nov. 1st via conference call/webinar.

During this meeting the committee approved the VTR equipment recommendation that was discussed in the September meeting to go on to the MAC, where no changes were made. Safe Transportation of Children in Ambulances workshops are still available at no cost and can be hosted with agencies or hospitals. Contact us for scheduling.

There is a 3-hour workshop on how to recognize and report suspected child abuse and neglect through the PA Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) program available to EMS providers. This has been a well-received program that is taught on site by a team which includes an EMS educator, a children and youth social worker, and an emergency room nurse or physician. Contact our program office for the contact information.

Additionally, the EMSC program will have funds available to reimburse for pediatric education held within your region, or agency at any time between the dates of April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2019. Please contact program office for more information.

The EMSC program will once again be sponsoring Child Passenger Safety technician courses for EMS providers. We are in the works of scheduling two courses, in the eastern and western parts of the state, for April 2019. Be looking for registration information as those courses are finalized in the coming weeks.

The EMS agency Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program continues to see new enrollment and participation. We currently have over 200 agencies participating in levels that range from Basic to Expert. For information on program requirements check the EMSC website at www.paemsc.org

The next committee meeting will be March 7th 2019 at 9am via conference call/webinar.

Mr. Jones motioned and Ms. Blecher seconded to approve VTR 1218-01 which recommends: The Pennsylvania Department of Health should maintain the required minimum equipment list regarding pediatric size intubation tubes. (Motion passed.)

Critical Care Task Force- Mr. Spencer, Chair provided the following report:

The critical care task force met on October 10th in conjunction with CODE EMS conference at the Kalahari Resort. This was the first time the task force met at this event and the feedback was overwhelming positive. We would like to thank Mr. John Kloss at the Eastern PA EMS Council for his assistance in setting up the meeting.

The members discussed the progress made on identifying short and long-term strategies to address the statewide lack of critical care transport resources. There was agreement in principle on several short-term concepts, which will be reviewed by the critical care resource workgroup at its scheduled webinar tomorrow, December 6th.

In preparation for the 2019 statewide protocol update, the members reviewed stakeholder recommendations received by PEHSC from its electronic survey, several of which concerned critical care transport. The task force sent nine (9) recommendations to the MAC for revisions to existing ALS and critical protocols, and the creation of a critical care protocol related to the transport blood products.

Membership Committee – Mr. Bernini, Chair, provided the following report:

We received three new applications for Council membership; Commonwealth Health Emergency Medical Services, Marple Township Ambulance Corps. And Portage Area Ambulance Association.

A motion was made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Ms. Bleecher to approve all three new membership applications. (Motion passed.)

CONFERENCE REPORT

- The conference dates for next year are September 4-6, 2019 at Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Manheim, PA.
- Rob Bernini has volunteered to be the Executive Committee Liaison for the conference. We are very early in the planning stages and are focusing on a few broad issues at this time. Our current priorities are selecting a vendor for event management software, obtaining corporate sponsorships, and securing our keynote speakers.

Mr. Snavelly reported on the following groups:

Trauma Patient Handoff / DMIST

This is a joint project between PEHSC and PTSE. Both agencies have fielded concerns regarding inconsistency in procedures in various trauma centers when receiving patients from EMS. We have formed a small work group which is looking at what is being done currently across the state with the goal of establishing a statewide standardized process. Surveys were sent to both the EMS community and PA's trauma centers. We are currently performing a gap analysis of the results that will guide our next steps.

HCC / EMS

This is a joint project between PEHSC, BEMS, and BPHP examining the current Healthcare Coalitions. EMS is considered a core member in the Healthcare Coalition (HCC) model. It has been noted that participation of EMS agencies currently varies greatly from region to region. A work group has been established to examine the problem with the goal of improving participation across the commonwealth.

LODD

Problems have been identified with the legislation regarding Line of Duty Death (LODD) of EMS providers. The current language in both PA Acts 101 and 51 allows for death benefits to be provided only to members of municipal-based EMS agencies. This excludes a large number of PA's EMS workers. The PEHSC LODD Task Force is being reactivated and expanded to review the current language and offer recommendations on changes that will allow for benefits to be paid to all EMS providers, regardless of employer, in the event of a LODD.

NIH/Community Paramedicine – Mr. Potter provided the following report:

The CP task force task force is scheduled to meet by webinar on Friday, December 14th at 1000 hours

The tentative items for the meeting include:

1. Discussion of 2019 task force priorities.
2. PA Office of Rural Health Flex Grant opportunity for rural hospitals and EMS agencies to develop a strategic partnerships for CP programs in rural PA
3. An opportunity for current CP programs to showcase their programs and share successes or novel approaches to CP delivery.

SR6 – Mr. Jones

The project is complete and with the start of the next legislative session, efforts will be made to introduce legislation meeting the identifies recommendations.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Several organizations, including the Ambulance Association of PA, PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute and PA Trauma Systems Foundation updated the board on their group’s activities.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2019 - 10:00 am at the The Conference Center at Central Penn College, 600 College Hill Road, Summerdale, PA 17093

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

The webinar ended at 11:32 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

J.R. Henry
President

JRH/pm

Please Note: Recommendations voted upon at meetings are reflective of the consensus of the group present at that meeting, and does not guarantee a policy or procedural change by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the regional EMS councils.

DRAFT