



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS

PEHSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Web Conference Call
Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Minutes

CONVENE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mr. Jones, President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Allegheny County EMS Council – Douglas Garretson
Allegheny General Hospital – David Lindell
American Heart Association – Alex Kuhn
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA – Ronald Roth, MD
Cetronia Ambulance Corps. – Chris Peischl
Cumberland Good Will EMS – Nathan Harig
Emergency Medical Services Institute – Thomas McElree, Esq.
Emergency Nurses Association, PA – Kay Bleecher, RN
First Aid and Safety Patrol of Lebanon – Bryan Smith
Harrisburg Area Community College – Robert Bernini
Horsham Fire Company No 1 – Duane Spencer
Main Line Health – Christopher Knaff
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center – Steven Meador, MD
Pennsylvania ACEP – Cicely Elliott
Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute – Donald Konkle
Pennsylvania State University – J. David Jones
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation – Juliet Altenburg, RN
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation – David Bradley
Philadelphia University – Jean Bail, RN, Ed.D
Reading Health System – Anthony Martin
VFIS/Education & Training Services – William Niehenke
Wellspring York Hospital – Thomas Yeich, MD
Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Cooperative – Gregory Frailey, DO

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania – Heather Sharar
Burholme EMS – Blake Bradley
City of Allentown – Eric Gratz
Emergency Health Services Federation, Inc. – Michael Reihart, DO
Myerstown First Aid Unit – David Kirchner
Southwest Ambulance Alliance – J.R. Henry
UPMC Hamot – David Basnak
UPMC Presbyterian – Myron Rickens
Valley Ambulance – Mel Musulin

BUREAU OF EMS

Ray Barishansky, Deputy Secretary of Health
Aaron Rhone

PEHSC STAFF

Janette Swade, Director
Patricia Morrison
Angela Poorman
Donald Potter

OTHERS

Josh Stuart – EMSC Chair

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Bail and seconded by Dr. Frailey to approve the previous board meeting minutes of September 20, 2017. (Motion Carried.)

Mr. Furjanic, CPA gave an overview of the Council’s Audit for FYE June 30, 2017. There were no findings. The 990 tax return will be filed today.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Dr. Roth, Treasurer, gave the following report:

ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	CASH BALANCE AS OF:					
		7/31/2017	8/31/2017	9/30/2017	10/31/2017	11/30/2017	12/31/2017
Contract Fund		91,304.52	93,182.47	100,212.69	94,657.56		
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	6,442.79	9,964.09	14,803.10	20,301.00		
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	12,892.34	12,830.47	12,830.58	12,830.69		
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	46,755.67	65,494.14	90,628.52	86,658.20		
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends into Balance	236,190.58	236,041.83	240,440.93	242,691.00		DRAFT

Mr. Henry motioned and Dr. Bail seconded to accept the Treasurer’s Report.

(Motion Carried.)

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

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Jones, President, gave the following report:

- A moment of silence was observed for William Ashby and Charlie Bortle.
- The Executive Committee approved the 990 as found in the meeting materials; it has been efiled.
- A 911 Commission update was provided.
- SR6 appointments were made. Mr. Jones and Ms. Swade will represent PEHSC.
- A few errors were discovered in the Protocols – a letter has been sent to Deputy Secretary Barishansky.
- Organizations that have recently undergone name changes, please complete the PEHSC Organization Update form available for download in the meeting documents.
- Ten organizations will be coming off of the Board of Directors in March. The following six organizations are not eligible for re-election (for one year) do to term limits: Cetronia Ambulance Corps., EMS West, First Aid and Safety Patrol of Lebanon, Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation and Seven Mountains EMS.

- Mr. Jones asked the following members to serve on the 2018 Nominating Committee: Ms. Altenburg, Dr. Bail, Mr. Deaven, Mr. Niehenke, and Mr. McCaughan. Those present accepted and Mr. Smith accepted for Mr. Deaven. (Staff Note - Mr. McCaughan was contacted by email and also accepted.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- We had a successful conference; thanks to all for their assistance.
- We are currently holding interviews for an open EMS Specialist position. The position is expected to be filled in January.
- Awaiting our current year budget from the Department pending changes with both EMSC and EMSOF funding. We received new budget numbers from BEMS and will re-submit amendments next week.
- The Line of Credit with Citizen's Bank has been renewed for another year.
- A Replica Survey was concluded to gauge field support for Replica which was the majority.
- A Services Survey comparison was sent out to compare data from 2009 to today. No real changes except finances and staffing moved up as a priority for the system.
- Prepared a Workers Compensation Survey for BEMS regarding strike teams and the results were provided to them.
- A Micro Hospital will be coming to Cumberland County, the Department was asked about the impact of this on the destination policy.
- Please take time to review the Information Documents that are available for review.
- Legislation – Federal – passage of patient access to medication – permits standing orders (not against DEA).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

Mr. Rhone provided the following report:

- The Registry System will go off line on 1/12/18 and the new system is set to go live on 1/23/18.
- A NHTSA review has been requested by Deputy Secretary Barishansky.
- Updated FAQ's has been placed on the Department website.
- Regional Coordinators- future meeting being planned with regional Education Coordinators.
- PA Train resigning contract with EMS 24/7 which will return previous educational programs to website.

TASK FORCE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The medical advisory met on November 15th. The meeting was very productive; the committee engaged in discussion on a wide range of subjects. Today, the MAC has two (2) important recommendations for the board's consideration:

- The dramatic price increase of auto injector devices over the last 3-4 years has caused a financial strain on some EMS agencies; some have considered withdrawing from the voluntary BLS Epi Program.
- In 2014, King County Washington pioneered a program known as "Check and Inject," which trained the county's EMTs to administer epinephrine using a syringe and vial of medication.
 - The program gained national attention and according to county officials, has been highly successful from both a clinical and cost-reduction standpoint
- In the inception of the King County program, several other states, including New York and West Virginia have established a similar program.
- PEHSC contacted both New York and West Virginia; the report their respective programs have been very successful with no reported medication dosage errors or bad outcomes. Both states

were also kind enough to share their educational programs. An overview of their programs has attached to the VTR document.

- Based on the success of other states, the MAC believes providing BLS agency medical directors with an option of deploying an auto injector or a syringe-based epinephrine makes both clinical and economic sense for Pennsylvania's EMS system.
- Although Pennsylvania, like most of the country, finds itself in the grips of an opioid abuse crisis, management of acute pain must remain a priority for healthcare providers at all levels.
- Historically, EMS pain management options have been limited to narcotics for severe pain – but there were no options for pain assessed as mild to moderate in scale.
- Patients concerned with the possibility of opioid addiction or those in recovery from opioid dependency are more frequent refusing narcotics substances; this situation leaves EMS with few options at present to manage their pain.
- With the passage of Act 216 of 2016, the Department of Health is mandated to create a patient initiated non-opioid directive that is binding on all healthcare settings, including prehospital care.
- The MAC has worked with Dr. Kupas to create a new statewide ALS protocol that provides non-opioid treatment options for non-traumatic pain. In addition to the non-opioids on the approved drug list, this recommendation seeks to add ibuprofen and ketorolac, the use of both medications are options in the new protocol.
- In addition to the new protocol, the MAC has also recommended to Dr. Kupas that all non-opioid options in the non-traumatic pain protocol be included in the current ALS extremity trauma protocol.
- Dr. Kupas hopes to have publish an off-cycle ALS protocol revision in the first quarter of 2018.

Other items of interest from MAC include:

1. A presentation by Pennsylvania's CARES coordinator to promote increased agency participation in the cardiac arrest registry.
2. A presentation by Alex Kuhn from AHA on the future availability of hospital cardiac arrest and stroke data for QA and research purposes.
3. A presentation from Montgomery County EMS grassroots efforts in their county to develop education on emergency canine care for working animals and potential legislation to address scope of practice concerns if a provider is asked to provide emergency care to a police K-9 or search and rescue dog.
4. Discussion of a potential pilot or research project on the use of ketamine for pain management.

Mr. Rickens motioned and Mr. Lindell seconded to approve VTR 1217-01 which recommends: The Pennsylvania Department of Health should amend the EMT scope of practice, statewide BLS protocols and applicable documents to permit EMTs who have completed additional education and are credentialed by the EMS agency medical director to administer epinephrine (1mg/ml concentration) using a syringe and vial/ampule as an alternative to an auto-injector device in cases of suspected anaphylaxis. (Motion passed.)

Mr. Niehenke motioned and Dr. Bail seconded to approve VTR 1217-02 which recommends: The Pennsylvania Department of Health should amend the list of Approved and Required Medications for EMS Agencies and Providers to include Ibuprofen and Ketorolac for EMS providers at or above the paramedic level. (Motion passed.)

The next MAC meeting will be a webinar on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 1000 hours.

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

- We recently partnered with Final Focus Productions, who've done other videos for us, to record a Safe Transport of Children in Ambulances educational video that will be available in PA TRAIN and by distribution into regions. We are hoping to have that ready by February. Stay tuned.
- All of the Pediatric Symposium Webinar Series courses, previously kept on our EMSC website are now available on TRAIN. We've had a huge increase in providers taking the courses from the number of people who were going to our site for them. We will continue to sponsor and coordinate courses but instead of doing live webinars they will now be recorded and placed directly on TRAIN. Please contact Angie if you have ideas for education, want to refer a presenter, or wish to present a topic yourself.
- PA EMSC now has a Facebook page. We will be updating information on this page for providers and community members on topics related to pediatrics. If you have a con ed course being held in your area contact Angie so she can put it on the page. Please 'like' and 'follow' so we can get information out there on a social media platform as this is more readily accessed than websites.

Ms. Poorman provided the following updates:

- We are at the end of our current grant cycle (Feb.28, 2018) and have received the notice for funding opportunity for the next grant cycle which is due by January 08th. We are currently working with the department on getting the application ready for submission. The next cycle will be four years and will go from April 1- March 31 annually. We will need letters of support from EMS agencies and several other partners. Contact Angie if you like to submit a letter of support for the EMSC program.
- We have a significant carry over budget that includes an additional \$31,000 more than originally planned. This has been approved by our federal partners and we will be working with the regions to help supply the recommended pediatric devices to services that have demonstrated a financial need.
- The Pediatric Voluntary Recognition Program continues to grow and receive applications. We currently have 200+ agencies enrolled in the program. We are still working to get all participating agencies to complete the 2017 update, which included the addition of pediatric transport devices and pediatric NPA's as well as the addition of the P.A.T.C.H. background check
- As we approach 2018 and the new grant cycle we will be looking to partner with hospitals on a pediatric recognition project similar to the voluntary recognition project we have with ambulance services as part of one of our new performance measures for the grant. Please contact Angie if you have a hospital contact that may be interested in learning more and participating on a project to be better prepared for pediatric patients.

The next EMSC meeting is a webinar scheduled for March 1st at 9:00 am.

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

- We received three new applications for Council membership; Centre LifeLink EMS, Medic-CE, and Technical College High School-Brandywine and two member applications for Affiliate membership; Beavertown Rescue Hose Co. Ambulance Service and Spring Grove Area Ambulance Club.
A motion was made by Mr. Knaff and seconded by Mr. Henry to approve all five new membership applications. (Motion passed.)

CONFERENCE REPORT

- The 2017 Conference Report was submitted to the Department in November and is available for review in the meeting documents.
- There were 43 presenters and over 300 attendees at the conference.
- Call-For-Speakers will begin in January.
- Both the 2017 EMS State Awards luncheon and the American Heart Association Award luncheon were held at the conference.
- Dates for the 2018 conference have not yet been finalized.
- PEHSC and the Department will be working be working closer together on next year's event.

LODD – Bryan Smith, from First Aid & Safety provided the following update:

- No funds have been received as related to their LODD.
- All of the paperwork related to the loss has been processed.
- Volunteer EMS with the assistance of several legislators. The PA Department of General Services now understands that volunteers are eligible for LODD benefits.

Ms. Swade suggested that when all is settled, it may be a good time to reconvene the LODD Task Force.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute (PFESI) – Mr. Konkle provided the following update:

- Nothing moving legislatively due to budget related issues.
- Fireworks Bill passed. Fire and EMS will be given up to 2 million from related special tax on sales. Fire intends to use their portion for training. EMS use of funds to be determined.

Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania- Ms. Sharar provided a brief update.

- Medicare preauthorization for repetitive medical transports pilot program has been extended for one year.
- Working with PEHSC to advise the Department on PA participating as a REPLICIA state.
- Treat no transport legislation still in committee.
- In 2018, we will be taking the Board meetings to other parts of the state.

Ms. Swade highlighted some legislation that is pending:

- HB 1139 - newborns being dropped off at fire/EMS stations; liability still to be considered.
- Workers compensation issues; currently volunteers such as auxiliary and social members are not covered if insured by SWIF.
- Social Media Policy – HB 1835 to require EMS and Fire to have in order to get grants and loans.
- CPR in schools – HB 1097
- POLST – SB 623
- Increase in EMSOF funds still pending HB400.
- HB 3729 – federal bill to extend current medicare increases for ambulance services is supported by NAEMT.

Pennsylvania ACEP – Ms. Elliott provided a brief update:

- Balanced billing – HB 1553
- Opioid issues impacting all areas of care.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on March 14, 2018 at 10:00 am at the The Conference Center at Central Penn College, 600 College Hill Road, Summerdale, PA 17093

ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD MEETING

Following the business of the day, Mr. Smith motioned and Mr. Harig seconded to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. David Jones

President

JDJ/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.