



**PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL**

*Your Voice In EMS*

**PEHSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 20, 2018**

**CONVENE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

Mr. Jones, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., followed by the self-introduction of those in attendance.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Douglas Garretson, Allegheny EMS Council  
Donald DeReamus, Ambulance Association of PA  
Heather Sharar, Ambulance Association of PA  
Ronald Roth, MD, Center for Emergency Medicine  
Walt Stoy, Ph.D., Center for Emergency Medicine  
Christopher Peischl, Centronia Ambulance Corps  
Nathan Harig, Cumberland Goodwill EMS  
Thomas McElree, Esq., EMS West  
Anthony Deaven, First Aid and Safety Patrol of Lebanon  
Robert Bernini, Harrisburg Area Community College  
Duane Spencer, Horsham Fire Company No 1  
Steve Bailey, Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County  
Steven Meador, MD, Penn State Hershey Medical Center  
Cicely Elliott, Pennsylvania ACEP  
Bryan Wexler, MD, Pennsylvania ACEP  
David Jones, Pennsylvania State University  
Juliet Altenburg, RN, Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation  
David Tepper, Second Alarmers Association and Rescue Squad  
Tim Nilson, Seven Mountains EMS Council  
Jean Bail, RN, Ed.D., Thomas Jefferson University  
Myron Rickens, UPMC Presbyterian  
Melvin Musulin, Valley Ambulance Authority  
William Niehenke, VFIS  
Steven Schirk, MD, Wellspan York Hospital  
Thomas Yeich, MD, Wellspan York Hospital

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Blake Bradley, Burholme EMS  
Tim Hinchcliff, Burholme EMS  
Kent Knable, Centre LifeLink EMS  
Harry Moore, Chester County Dept of Emergency Services  
Leo Scaccia, Chester County EMS Council  
Eric Gatz, City of Allentown EMS  
Michael Reihart, DO, Emergency Health Services Federation  
Tim Hinchcliff, Montgomery County Ambulance Association  
Robert Shank, Ed.D., Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Association

**PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH/BUREAU OF EMS STAFF**

Dylan Ferguson, PA Department of Health – Bureau of EMS

John Englert, PA Department of Health – Bureau of EMS

**PEHSC STAFF**

Janette Swade, Director

Donald Potter

Angie Poorman

Andy Snavely

**OTHERS**

Connie Benson, Pennsylvania ACEP

Michael Campeggio, Goodwill EMS Pottstown

Michele Rymdeika, Bucks County EMS Council

Josh Stuart, Medic Rescue Team South. EMSC Chair

Mark Wolfgang, Seven Mountains EMS Council

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Mr. Bernini and seconded by Ms. Blecher to approve the previous board meeting minutes of March 14, 2018. Motion carried.**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

- This is the last meeting for Mr. Jones as President, but he will continue to serve on the executive committee as immediate past president.
- As part of the SR 6 committee work, EMSOF reports were obtained from the state and show the current rate of spending is in excess of the current annual income. The SR 6 committee is looking at alternative funding sources.
- 911 Board; the fund is doing well and the board is looking at next generation 911 systems, which will require accurate geographic information. Overflights statewide will be starting soon and cover the entire state, after which, they will overfly 1/3 of the state each year so data will be no more than 3 years old. Data will be beneficial for numerous branches of government in addition to emergency services.
- Thank you to the off-going board members for their service: Cetronia Ambulance Corps, EMS West EMS Council, First Aid and Safety Patrol, Penn State University, PA Trauma Systems Foundation, Seven Mts. EMS Council and UPMC Presbyterian Hospital.
- Thank you to the members of the membership and nominating committees for their work.
- Welcome to our newly elected board members: Burholme EMS, Centre LifeLink EMS, Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA, Southern Alleghenies EMS Council and Valley Ambulance Authority.
- Mr. Jones introduced Mr. Dylan Ferguson, who is the new director of the Bureau of EMS.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Dr. Roth provided the following update on fund balances and the need to transfer cash temporarily due to delays in payment from the Department of Health - accounts are now being reimbursed.

**Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council  
Account Balances FY 2017-2018**

		CASH BALANCE AS OF:					
ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	7/31/2017	8/31/2017	9/30/2017	10/31/2017	11/30/2017	12/31/2017
Contract Fund	2017-2018 Contract Amount \$653,428.39	91,304.52	93,182.47	100,212.65	94,657.56	22,398.96	30,072.48
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	6,442.79	9,964.09	14,803.10	20,301.00	24,489.30	29,933.22
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	12,892.34	12,830.47	12,830.58	12,830.69	12,830.80	12,830.91
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	46,755.67	65,494.14	90,628.52	86,658.20	80,808.54	81,133.81
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends Into Balance	236,190.58	236,041.83	240,440.93	242,691.00	245,264.35	248,130.70
		CASH BALANCE AS OF:					
ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	1/31/2018	2/28/2018	3/31/2018	4/30/2018	5/31/2018	6/30/2018
Contract Fund	2017-2018 Contract Amount \$653,428.39	24,217.65	23,396.54	93,320.67	36,386.85	93,443.60	
Payroll Account	Transfer Account	34,136.65	32,775.90	3,025.03	7,565.92	13,200.96	
Investment Income Fund	Income from Previous Investments HRA	12,610.25	11,209.28	11,179.37	3,724.67	3,724.70	
Secondary Income	Conference & Secondary Income	83,201.51	83,280.42	13,243.53	3,206.83	17,245.41	
Investment Funds transferred to PAEMSA 8/2015	Monthly Dividends Into Balance	256,009.81	248,601.40	245,944.51	246,497.16	247,856.22	
Signature	_____				Date	_____	

**A motion was made by Ms. Bleecher and seconded by Mr. Harig to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion carried.**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Ms. Swade reported the following information:

- Patti Morrison, our office manager, is out on medical leave and is not anticipated to return to work until sometime later in the summer, but has been trying to work from home to support as best as she can to support council activities. Until her return, the staff is taking on extra duties.
- Thanks to the departing board members and welcome to those newly elected board members.
- The Council has received its FY 2018-219 contract from Department of Health with the same level of funding as the current fiscal year. We are working with the Department to amend the contract to reflect the federal funds for EMS for Children project.
- The Council supported EMS Week activities by securing proclamations for the Governor and legislation commemorating the event.
- The June 6<sup>th</sup> rally at the Capitol in support of House Bill 699, which calls for an increase in medical assistance reimbursement, was well attended and covered by the press.
- Hero’s Day for PD, FD and EMS at a Penn State home football game will be on September 15<sup>th</sup>. EMS participation has been a little weak – would like to see more participation. More information on tickets to follow.
- Documents of note posted in the board’s adobe meeting room:
  - EMSC performance measures
  - Draft EMS Agenda 2050
  - Draft National Scope Practice Model
- National legislation of note:
  - EMS memorial planning
  - Rural EMS grants
- State legislation of note:
  - Medical assistance fee increase (HB 699)
  - EMS reimbursement for treatment without transport (SB 1003)
  - Establishing an emergency responder mental wellness and stress management program (HB 2508)
  - Workers compensation reform to cover emergency services volunteers who do not engage in field activities but provide support in fund raising and other activities.

- Organization reps and alternates were asked to check their organization's representation on the Council to ensure its accuracy.
- Watch our social media feeds to be more connected with council activities.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT**

- Mr. Dylan Ferguson introduced himself as the new director of the Bureau of EMS. He comes from Illinois and expressed that he is very impressed with Pennsylvania's EMS system; we have a great group of EMS providers serving the commonwealth.
- Mr. Ferguson provided a brief overview of current EMS-related legislation:
  - Reimbursement for treatment with transport (SB 1003)
  - Medical assistance rate increase (HB 699)
  - Firefighter and emergency service training in high schools (SB 955)
  - Increases to EMS Operating Fund through increased moving violation surcharge (HB 400)
  - Amendments to controlled substance act regarding fentanyl (HB 1987)
  - Establishing an emergency responder mental wellness and stress management program (HB 2508)
- The Bureau of EMS has completed its move to the new PEMA building, but will continue to be a Department of Health function.
- The NEMSIS 3.4 changeover is now 95% complete at the EMS agency level. The BEMS is working with the remaining agencies and PCR vendors to be in compliance. Agencies should check with PCR programs to ensure they have accurate provider certification numbers.
- The BEMS has completed or is in the process of completing FY 18-19 contracts with PEHSC and the regional EMS councils.
- The BEMS continues to support the activities of the Governor's opioid task force. EMS Providers should complete the online SurveyMonkey if they leave naloxone behind at the scene.
- Mr. Ferguson has reviewed the CARES cardiac arrest data for 2017 and advocates for high performance CPR.
- The 2018 statewide treatment protocol update has been published; providers are expected to begin using the updated protocols on or before July 1, 2018
- The BEMS is working on the Council's previous recommendation for increasing the number of commercial tourniquets on EMS vehicles and has allocated approx. \$80,000 for device purchases in FY 18-19
  - Mr. Spencer asked about education initiatives related to naloxone. A program is being developed for PA Train related to opioids and nalcans. Mr. Spencer commented it would also be helpful if EMS is aware of available public education.
  - Mr. Peischl inquired as to the status of the recommendation related alternative [syringe-based] epi administration techniques for EMTs.
  - Mr. Deaven asked about potential budget cuts for PEHSC or the regional councils. At this point funding is level for 18-19 and Mr. Ferguson isn't aware of any proposed cuts; he is unsure if the new fireworks tax will generate additional revenue.
  - Mr. Dereamus asked about timeline on implementing special operations projects previously developed by the Council, i.e. tactical and wilderness EMS agencies. Mr. Ferguson commented that he is aware of projects, but could not provide timeline for implementation.

## **MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Reihart provided the following report on the April 18, 2018 meeting of the medical advisory committee:

- The committee reviewed a resource education document drafted by the PA College of Emergency Physician's EMS Committee. This document will assist emergency physicians in selecting the appropriate level of EMS transport based on patient acuity and treatment plan. The committee, along with the PEHSC critical care task force, provided several comments and suggestions. As a collaborative effort, the final document will have the logos of both organizations.
- Dr. Alvin Wang, Deputy Medical Director, Montgomery County EMS Council, provided an update on the sedation assisted intubation pilot project using ketamine. Dr. Wang report several uses thus far without no bad outcomes. As part of the pilot's quality improvement process, two needed protocol changes were identified; one relates to dose administration time and the second provides for a follow up dose if adequate sedation is not achieved. Both recommendations are within current ACEP guidelines. A letter of support for these changes was sent to the Department of Health.
- Dr. Frank Guyette, Medical Director, STAT MedEvac, provided an update on the previously recommended STAMP research project. This DoD funded project seeks to establish the efficacy of tranexamic acid for trauma patients at risk for significant hemorrhage. Originally the study focused on patients transported by air ambulance; the DoD now has requested the study participants expand the use of TXA to ground ambulances since injured patients arrive at trauma centers by both modes of transport. A letter of support for the requested expansion was sent to the Department of Health.
- Dr. Duane Siberski, Associate Medical Director, Eastern Region EMS Council, presented a proposal for a pilot project using low-dose ketamine for analgesia. As a non-opioid, ketamine has demonstrated efficacy in pain management and is commonly used in emergency medicine. This would offer another non-opioid pain control option in the prehospital setting. During the ensuing discussion, the members felt that a pilot is not necessary; since ketamine is well established for pain management, the members would like to incorporate its use as part of the 2019 statewide protocol update.
- At the March PEHSC board meeting, a member brought to the board's attention that the expiration dates of some medications are being extended up to 1 year by the FDA. The current DOH guidance provides for up to a 6-month extension, which has created some confusion for EMS when the dispensing pharmacy indicates a 1-year extension is available. Dr. Kupas commented that although the current guidelines permit a 6 month extension, the Department has the ability to further extend the time period when appropriate. The committee recommended to Dr. Kupas that the Department issue a bulletin clarifying this issue for those FDA designated medications.
- **VTR# 0618-01** recommends the Department of Health consider modifying the current guidelines for the voluntary BLS Epi Auto Injector Program by reducing the number of adult and pediatric injectors per vehicle from (2) each to (1) each. The committee also recommends the auto injectors only be required on the agency's primary vehicle, and stocking of devices on reserve [unstaffed] vehicles be at the discretion of the agency medical director. This change will potentially reduce the agency's cost by 50% and possibly encourage agencies who dropped the program due to cost concerns to consider participating again.

**A motion was made by Mr. Deaven and seconded by Mr. Peischl to accept VTR# 0618-01. Motion carried.**

- **VTR# 0618-02** recommends the Department of Health, working with the regional EMS councils, provide education and guidance to medical command physicians regarding ordering the involuntary transport of patients following the administration of naloxone when no other immediate health threat exists. At the March PEHSC board meeting, a member raised this concern, which creates a potential safety and risk management issue for both EMS and law enforcement.

The MAC recognizes that while each patient encounter is unique in circumstance and management. However, a medical command physician should have a compelling reason to order the involuntary transport of a patient apart from a successful opioid reversal. Some physicians may believe that law enforcement will routinely compel a patient to submit to involuntary transport, this however is not always the case.

While the committee is unable to gauge the depth or breadth of these occurrences, it does believe that an educational bulletin would be a reasonable quality improvement and risk management initiative.

**A motion was made by Mr. Peischl and seconded by Mr. Spencer to accept VTR# 0618-02. Motion carried.**

### **CRITICAL CARE TASK FORCE REPORT**

Mr. Spencer provided the following report on the April 24, 2018 meeting for the critical care transport task force:

- As was highlighted in the MAC report, the task force reviewed and made recommendations on the draft transport resource document developed by PACEP. A resource of this type was originally discussed during the ground critical care program planning process and we are pleased to be collaborating with PACEP on this project.
- The members discussed the ongoing concern regarding a reported statewide lack of critical care transport resources, which have at times resulted in inter-facility transport delays or use of air ambulances due to a lack of ground transport resources. This lack of resources is reportedly occurring in both rural and urban areas of the commonwealth. The task force recognizes this is a multifaceted issue that will require “out-of-the-box thinking” to develop both short and long-term recommendations.

A special workgroup comprised of members of the critical care task force, medical advisory committee and other appropriate stakeholders will be convened to further explore this issue and develop a package of recommendations. The first meeting of this group will be on Monday, July 23rd in the Mechanicsburg area.

- **VTR# 0618-03** recommends the Department, under its authority to grant exceptions to the EMS rules and regulations, permit licensed ground critical care ambulance services to develop agency-level, Department approved treatment protocols. Air ambulance services are already permitted by regulation to utilize agency level-protocols; this recommendation provides a pathway to a more consistent standard of care, particularly for agencies licensed for both air and ground critical care transport. It is the task force’s position that the use agency-level critical care transport protocols should not be mode of transport dependent.

On a related note, the regulations permit the use of Department approved, agency protocols by air ambulance agencies. However, the regulations do not specifically speak to their use in situations when the flight team is required to transport a patient by ground ambulance due to adverse weather conditions, mechanical failure or other unforeseen circumstance. Although the regulated community currently interprets this as a permitted use, the task force requests the Department clarify and/or affirm this interpretation.

**A motion was made by Mr. Garretson and seconded by Mr. Harig to accept VTR# 0618-03. Motion carried.**

**EMS FOR CHILDREN COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Stuart provided the following report on the June 7, 2018 meeting of the EMSC committee:

- The Emergency Guidelines for School Nurses guidebook is now available from the printer and ready for distribution. We have several schools who have requested hard copies, and it is also posted electronically to the EMS for Children web page, as well as the Dept. of Health web page under the division of School Health. Requests for hard copies can be made to Angie Poorman.
- We continue to see success in the online Safe Transport modules on PA TRAIN, as well as the other pediatric webinars that EMSC has provided for TRAIN. We have also provided multiple in person workshops throughout the regions for Safe Transport through conferences, and agency based requests. If your service or hospital has interest in hosting one of these workshops please contact us.
- Part of the EMSC spend down from earlier this year was used to purchase Pedi-Mate Plus devices, which meet the required equipment list obligations and have distributed them to services and regions that made requests. We have a couple more left over, please contact Angie if you have a service in your area that cannot meet the requirement without assistance. We also used some funds to print off weight conversion charts for distribution to ambulance services. These have been well received and more requests have been made. We do have some here if you are interested in taking a few back to your service for your ambulances.
- EMS for Children received our notice of full funding! We are now working on updating our contract with the Department of Health to reflect the fully funded award.
- We are currently in the middle of surveying all hospital emergency departments as part of the national assessment on EMSC Performance Measures 06 & 07 which relate to interfacility transfer guidelines and agreements. The surveys opened in mid-May and will remain open until Mid-August. If you can assist in any way with the completion of these surveys please contact Angie for information on if your hospital completed or not and who the contact person was in case it may need updated. Currently PA is just under 30% for a response rate. The national goal established is 80% however, we would like to have every hospital complete this survey to most accurately reflect where we stand on these performance measures.
- The next meeting for EMSC is the annual in-person advisory committee meeting and is scheduled for Thursday September 13th at 10am.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Bernini provided the following report on membership activities:

The following organizations have applied for full council membership and the committee recommends their acceptance:

- Medical Rescue Team South Authority
- Western Berks EMS
- Pennsylvania College of Technology

**A motion was made by Ms. Bleecher and seconded by Mr. Henry to accept the recommendation of the membership committee. Motion carried.**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Deaven reported on the proposed slate of officers for FY 18-19:

- President – JR Henry
- Vice President – Rob Bernini
- Secretary – Greg Frailey
- Treasurer – Ron Roth
- Member at Large – Doug Garretson
- Member at Large Bob McCaughan
- Immediate Past President – Dave Jones

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Conference Update: Ms. Swade
  - Conference flyers were distributed to the board and are available online in the board's adobe connect meeting room.
  - This year's conference will be held on September 5-7 at a new location, the Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Manheim, PA. This facility will provide more room in which to accommodate attendees and exhibitors.
  - There will be three preconference workshops, along with an EMS skills competition that is being sponsored and coordinated by the Lancaster County EMS Council.
  - It is very important that our council members support the conference by registering staff to attend!! There are also sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities that members should consider.
  - Visit [www.paemsconference.org](http://www.paemsconference.org) for more information
- EMS Awards: Mr. Snavelly
  - Nominations for individual and organizational awards are being received.
  - Nominations will be open until July 15, 2018 and can be made online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018PAEMSawards>
  - This year's awards ceremony will be held during the EMS conference on Thursday, September 6, 2018.
- Trauma Patient Hand off Communications: Mr. Snavelly
  - The Council is working in conjunction with the PA Trauma Systems Foundation to develop a standardized communications tool to assist providers with transferring care of a trauma patient to the trauma team.
  - Although there are many tools available, the most common is "DMIST," which stands for **D**emographics, **M**echanism, **I**njuries, [**V**ital] **S**igns and **T**reatment.
  - The goal is to streamline the transfer of care procedure and ensure the trauma team receives essential information early in the transfer process.
- Senate Resolution 6 Commission: Mr. Jones
  - Senate Valokovich was not successful in the primary election and will not be on the ballot in the fall.
  - There are numerous EMS representatives working on a wide range of issues. A strong EMS presence is essential so that our issues are taken seriously by the legislature.
  - The final report due to legislature by November.
  - A preliminary draft report is being assembled for commission review
  - Group recognizes the need to think outside the box and if needed force a paradigm shift that will ensure sustainability.

- Along with Janette Swade, Dave Jones will continue to represent PEHSC on the commission as the immediate past president.
- Please forward issues and solutions to Dave Jones or other commission members, e.g. Heather Sharar or Don Dereamus.

**A motion was made by Ms. Bleecher and seconded by Mr. Deaven to adjourn. Motion carried.**

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**FY 18-19 PEHSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JUNE 20, 2018**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Dave Jones called the meeting to order.

**ELECTION OF FY 18-19 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- There were no nominations for the floor in addition to the slate of candidates previously presented by the nominating committee.

**A motion was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Niehenke to accept slate of executive committee members as submitted by the nominating committee. Motion carried.**

- Conflict of Interest forms were distributed to the FY18-19 board members. Please return the completed forms to our office as soon as possible.

**PRESENTATION BY DR. SHEILA ROTH – ACUTE STRESS IN EMS PROVIDERS**

Dr. Roth presented a program illustrating how occupational stress can affect a provider in both their work and personal life. Recognition of acute stress in others is the first step towards treatment and support of our colleagues. Dr. Roth will also be a presenter at this year's PA EMS Conference.

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

- AAP: Mr. DeReamus
  - The state budget with the medical assistance and EMSOF increases is being voted on in House today
    - Tracking legislation to ensure EMS and emergency medicine physicians can continue to administer Fentanyl (HB 1987)
- PA EMS Provider Foundation: Ms. Sharar
  - PA Memorial Bike Ride for fallen Pennsylvania EMS providers will be held in September
  - The annual PA EMS Provider Foundation dinner will be in September
- Emergency Nurses Association: Ms. Bleecher
  - Emergency Nursing 2018 Conference, September 26-29, 2018 in Pittsburgh
- Cetronia Ambulance: Mr. Peischl
  - Their training institute recently graduated their first class of high school aged persons from EMT training.
  - Due to the program's success, Cetronia has been contacted by other area school districts who have expressed interest in program.

- PA College of Emergency Physicians: Ms. Elliot
  - PACEP was pleased to work with PEHSC to create the interfacility transport resource document.
  - They are participating in the workgroup that is discussing trauma handoff communications.
  - They continue to monitor the balance billing legislation; this is an issue of great concern to their members
  - Supports legislation to require CPR instruction in public schools
  - Continuing to provide support to the Governor's opioid task force and monitoring legislation that would restrict the dispensing of fentanyl in the emergency department.
  - Looking at resources required for the involuntary commitments in the emergency department.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Ms. Swade thanked both Mr. Jones and Mr. Deaven for their service on the executive committee.
- Next meeting of board will be on September 5, 2018 at the PA EMS Conference site

**A motion was made by Mr. Niehenke and seconded by Ms. Blecher to adjourn. Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

J. David Jones  
*President*

JDJ/JS/BP

**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.**