



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

PEHSC Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Spooky Nook Sports

75 Champ Blvd

Manheim, PA 17545

1500 hours

Minutes

CONVENE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mr. Jones, President, called the meeting to order at 1510 hours

- Welcome and Introductions

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Allegheny County EMS Council – Douglas Garretson
Ambulance Association of PA – Donald Dereamus
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western PA – Walt Stoy
Centre LifeLink EMS – Kent Knable
Chester County Department of Emergency Services – Harry Moore
Cumberland Goodwill EMS – Nathan Harig
Emergency Nurses Association, PA – Kay-Ella Bleecher, CRNP
Good Fellowship Ambulance and Training Institute – Kimberly Holman, RN
Harrisburg Area Community College – Robert Bernini
Hospital and Healthsystem Association of PA – Scott Mickalonis
Non-Profit Emergency Services of Beaver County – Steve Bailey
Penn State Milton S Hershey Medical Center – Scott Buchle
Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute – Jerry Ozog
Pennsylvania State University – J. David Jones
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation – Juliet Altenburg, RN/David Bradley
Southern Alleghenies EMS Council – Carl Moen
Thomas Jefferson University – Jean Bail, RN, Ed. D
Tower Health – Anthony Martin
Valley Ambulance Authority – JR Henry
Western Berks Ambulance Association – Anthony Tucci
Williamsport Area Ambulance Service Cooperative dba Susquehanna Reg. EMS – Gregory Frailey, DO

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Cetronia Ambulance Corps. – Chris Peischl
Chester County EMS Council, Inc. – Leo Scaccia III
City of Allentown EMS – Eric Gratz
Community Life Team – Barry Albertson/Anthony Deaven
Main Line Health – Keith Laws
VFIS Education and Training Services – Justin Eberly

BUREAU OF EMS

Dylan Ferguson, Director

OTHERS

PA ACEP – Greg Hellier, DO

EMS for Children Committee – Ted Fessides, Chair, Cranberry Township EMS

PEHSC STAFF

Janette Swade, Director

Donald Potter, Sr. EMS System Specialist

Andy Snavely, EMS System Specialist

Kelli Kishbaugh, Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Bleecher and seconded by Mr. Martin to accept the June 12, 2019 Board of Directors meeting minutes as drafted. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REPORT

Director Dylan Ferguson reported on the following topics:

1. Thanked PEHSC staff for the EMS Conference.
2. Clinical and Protocol Related Notes
 - BLS, ALS, CCT regular cycle revisions have been approved and distributed. Go live date for those protocols was September 1.
 - Anticipating off cycle changes for ALS
 - There will likely be an additional PA Bulletin posting in the future, will be announced through normal channels
 - Two (2) meetings scheduled to finalize AEMT protocols
3. Education Related Items
 - Public comment for National EMS Education Standards through 09/20/19
 - BLS and ALS protocol courses are on TRAIN-PA and were released to the regional councils.
4. Recommendations and Status
 - Based on a recommendation from the MAC the Department has approved the Prehospital Airway Control Trial (PACT) from UPMC.
 - In regard to VTR0619-01, the Department of Health accepted that recommendation in its entirety and communicated such back to the council.
5. Administrative
 - The Bureau of EMS has had a few staffing changes since the last board meeting, Linda Westfall and Jamie Foster from the administrative services section are no longer with the bureau and we wish them well in their future endeavors.
 - Bureau of EMS phone upgrade
 - EMSC Grant Update
6. Bills to Watch
 - HB 1005-Reporting to PDMP
 - SB 569-Fentanyl Restriction
 - SB 142-POLST/DNR
 - HB 1113-Community Paramedicine
 - HB 872 --Telemedicine
 - HB 1459-Emergency Services Mental Health
 - SB 637-Use of criminal history in certification and licensing decisions
 - HB 1773— First Responder Tuition Assistance
 - HB 1780-Volunteer Fire/EMS Companies and the Right-To-Know-Law

- HB 1786—First Responder Loan Forgiveness Program

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

J. David Jones reported the following:

1. Not much movement on the SR6. Maybe some Legislative activity in October. Nothing specific to EMS at this point. Should know more tomorrow (September 5).
2. 911 Commission meeting tomorrow (September 5). Draft concepts being discussed.
3. Thank you’s and acknowledgement’s were made to the conference Sponsors, Vendors and Presenters.
4. The Award winner’s names were read to the attendance.
5. Executive Committee met early today (September 4) and discussed the:
 - Need to document our informal recommendations and making a more flexible formal process at the Board level.
 - Has anyone looked at the EMS Agenda 2050?
 - We will be putting a workgroup together to review and make long term planning recommendations.
6. Mr. Jones asked Mr. Ferguson on the Department’s position on Community Paramedicine? What is the current position in terms of their scope of authority?
 - Mr. Ferguson’s responses:
 - First thought was to introduce through regulation, however definition of EMS in the law deals with emergencies and medical transportation.
 - There is no bridge in the definition section of the law to allow Department to create regulations. Would need to have legislative action to add CP to EMS Act in some way (definition) to facilitate regulations or function under the medical practice act.
 - Providers should stay within their scope of practice, however, each agency should consult their own legal counsel DOH at this time does not have regulatory authority. Mr Jones requested the Department Legal Interpretation of CP in writing for the Board. (Mr. Ferguson agreed)
 - Mr. Jones asked about the ET3 Project: ET3 related issues – RC memo sent to regional council to share as needed (will forward to PEHSC):
 - Alternative receiving facility issue —> ok if participating in ET3 and under direct medical command order.
 - Created under innovation grant, so costs cannot go up, preferably quality should increase and costs stay level or go down.
 - Do not know currently how many have applied.
 - Remember that this is a “pilot” program to determine if this will work or not.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Dr. Ronald Roth, Treasurer provided a report, a copy of which is on file for the member’s review. Note: two date errors were corrected (2019 and 2020).

A motion was made by Mr. Frailey and seconded by Mr. Laws to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

EMS Conference Overview

Mr. Snively reported

The 2019 Pennsylvania EMS Conference began today and is running through Friday, September 6. In addition to today’s preconference workshops, we are excited to be holding 29 unique sessions offering

EMS continuing education credit. We have succeeded on all of our internal objectives for this year's event by implementing a new event management platform, increasing attendance, and increasing sponsor and vendor participation.

Current registration is just shy of 300 attendees with 7 major health system sponsors and 50 vendor exhibits.

As part of the conference, the Pennsylvania State EMS Awards will be celebrated with a public awards ceremony and cocktail reception on Thursday, September 5 at 5:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Swade reported on the following:

1. Since the last meeting, focus has been on the EMS Conference, as well as closing out the fiscal year
2. The annual report to HRSA and the PEHSC annual report were submitted in a timely fashion.
3. The EMSC Grant is processing within the DOH – we will wait to hire the Manager position until it has moved to the final steps for signature.
4. The annual audit is due in October will require Executive Committee approval by electronic vote.
5. The Grant with PA Office of Rural Health is still pending approval from HRSA. The goal of the grant is to develop strategies to assist in rural sustainability with linkages to critical access hospitals
6. September 9 is the deadline for comments on the survey as created by NAEMT in regard to the National EMS Education Standards. This was sent to the PEHSC EMS Education Task Force for comment.
7. Staff continues to monitor and participate in discussions regarding the SR6 package of bills.
8. As discussed previously we will start 2020 with a look at the EMS Agenda 2050 , to include
 - a. Establishing a new Task Force
 - b. Explore recommendations
9. Thank you to staff for all your help with the EMS Conference.
 - a. Planning for 2020 – ideas welcome

TASK FORCE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

EMS for Children Committee

Mr. Fessides reported

- No meeting was held for the 3rd quarter
- Slow Progress with funding as we wait on agreement for current FY, hence the manager spot remains open.
- National Meeting held August 20-23rd in DC. Duane Spencer and Myself attended
- National update on PECC project for targeted states(PA, NY, OH, Conn, RI, NM, KY, MO)
 - Many experiencing same issues with response rates and showed greatest success with the groups that did not respond to the initial surveys
 - Need robust well developed toolkit, educational resources, QA/QI templates.
 - Use social media, PVRP, and websites to decimate info
 - Resources available at EIIC website
 - Emails with PECC Newsletters
 - NY most similar to PA with varied geographical areas, showed success with
 - Dept. EMS Inspection staff promote program during inspections
 - Agency recognition

- Hospital Recognition which is performance measure #4 and 5 was a hot topic and PA will focus on this in 2020

Medical Advisory Committee

Dr. Reihart Reported

The MAC met by conference call on August 14, 2019:

1. Dr. Frank Guyette presented a research study entitled, “Prehospital Airway Control in Trauma.”
 - a. This is a multi-center study involving 28 agencies in 8 different localities nationally.
 - b. In Pennsylvania, STAT MedEvac, the City of Pittsburgh EMS and Emergycare will be participating.
 - c. The study will compare endotracheal intubation vs. a supraglottic airway device in trauma patients requiring advanced airway control.
 - d. Study participants will use their local protocols to determine when to employ an advanced airway and will rotate every 6 months between endotracheal intubation and their choice of SGA.
 - e. This is a Department of Defense funded and monitored study expected to begin in the first quarter of 2020 and will run for 4 years.

The committee voted to recommend to the Department approval of the study – a letter of support was sent to Director Ferguson and Dr. Kupas.

2. There were three (3) ALS and Critical Care protocol-related items discussed:
 - a. First, the chief and medical director from the City of Allentown EMS made a presentation proposing ALS Protocol #8002, Excited Delirium, be amended to permit the administration of ketamine prior to contacting medical command if presented with a situation where a delay in treatment would pose a safety risk to the patient and/or first responders.
Specifically, the medical command contact requirement should mirror the language contained in the agitated patient protocol, “*Contact Medical Command, if possible.*” The committee agreed with the proposed amendment and recommended its adoption to Dr. Kupas, commenting it is consistent with dialogue that occurred during the update process.
 - b. Second, an amendment to ALS Protocol #4091 Volume Controlled Mechanical Ventilation was discussed during the review process but was not part of the final draft; it would permit an ALS provider to transport a long term, vent-dependent patient who requires pressure control or support.
Technically, patient’s requiring pressure control ventilation should be triaged to a critical care team, however, ALS units commonly encounter these patients on 911 calls or a return transport to an LTACH or residence. Although pressure support is generally associated with higher acuity patients, in these cases the patient is otherwise stable. Dr. Alvin Wang provided suggested language for the amendment; the MAC concurred with the proposed amendment and recommended its adoption to Dr. Kupas.
Since the types of mechanical ventilation are delineated in the scope of practice document, the amendment will also require a footnote to be added to the affected line make the protocol change operational.
 - c. The final item is a technical amendment to the critical care scope of practice to clarify the ability of an expanded scope paramedic to monitor blood products initiated prior to transport. This line needs to be split into two lines; one line for prehospital initiation of blood and the other for monitoring of an infusion initiated by the sending facility. Staff spoke to Dr, Kupas prior to the meeting and he concurs on the need for clarification.

3. Dr. Kupas lead a review of the first draft of the proposed revisions to the AEMT protocols. The proposed changes would permit the AEMT to practice more autonomously, which may be of benefit when the AEMT becomes the default ALS provider for a patient when no paramedic-level resources are available.

The proposed changes will also play an important role in the pilot project being conducted by the EMS West region to increase the number and functionality of AEMTs in the region due to a significant paramedic shortage.

The MAC reviewed and discussed the contents of the first draft and additional meetings are being planned for September and October to complete the review and produce a final draft.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the MAC will be on Wednesday, November 13th at 1000 hours in Mechanicsburg.

- Questions to clarify report on blood product monitoring by a critical care paramedic; mechanical ventilation with patients on pressure support; use of ketamine for ED prior to MC. (Doug Garretson)
- Dave Jones offered PEHSC support to the final review of DOH publications prior to dissemination to avoid republication

Presentations:

1. VFIS – Overview of ResponderHelp.com – Justin Eberly
2. Lessons Learned: The State College January 24 Shooting – Kent Knable

President Jones asked for items to discuss for the next meeting in December

Staff will prepare a method to expand concepts in these areas for discussion:

1. Money
2. Staffing
3. People
4. Insurance
5. Drug Companies

ADJOURN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Tucci and seconded by Mr. Gratz to adjourn the 2018-2019 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

The next scheduled meeting of the PEHSC board of directors will be on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 via Webinar.