



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2024

Board Members Present:

Allegheny General Hospital	Robert Twaddle
	Mary Kovac
Burlhome EMS	Timothy Hinchcliff
Centre LifeLink EMS	Kent Knable
Cetronia Ambulance Corps	Robert Mateff
Chester Co. Dept. of Emergency Services	Harry Moore
	Larry Smythe
Community LifeTeam EMS	Barry Albertson
	Anthony Deaven
Harrisburg Area Community College	John Brindle
Hospital & Healthsystem Assn. of PA	Chris Chamberlain
Lower Allen Twp. EMS	Anthony Deaven
Montgomery County Regional EMS	David Brown
ACEP – Pennsylvania Chapter	Bryan Wexler
	Greg Hellier
PA Fire & Emergency Services Institute	Jerome Ozog
Penn State Hershey Medical Center	Keith McMinn
Penn State University	J. David Jones
	V. Joshua Fremberg
PA Trauma Systems Foundation	Juliet Altenburg
	Jeffrey Kuklinski
Riddle Hospital – Main Line Health	Keith Laws
	Mark Giangulio
Southern Alleghenies EMS	Jordan Anthony
Southwest Ambulance Alliance	J.R. Henry
Tower Health	Merv Wertz
UPMC Presbyterian Hospital	Myron Rickens
	Ronald Roth
Valley Ambulance Authority	J.R. Henry
Volunteer Fireman's Insurance Services	Justin Eberly
Wellspan York Hospital	Steven Schirk
	Thomas Yeich
Western Berks Ambulance Assn.	Anthony Tucci
Susquehanna Regional EMS	Jeffrey Myers

Council Members Present:

Alexander Kuhn	American Heart Association
Alvin Wang	NAEMSP – PA Chapter
William Wells	Technical College High School
Brent Smith	PA Athletic Trainers Society
Brian Maloney	Plum EMS
Christian Martin-Gill	UPMC EMS Physicians
David Kirchner	Myerstown First Aid Unit
Everitt Binns	Binns & Associates
Francis Feld	PA Athletic Trainers Society
Gregory Frailey	Susquehanna Regional EMS
Robert Hotchkiss	Southern Chester County EMS
Jason Smith	Eastern PA EMS Council
Joseph Stevens	First Capital EMS
John Kloss	Eastern PA EMS Council
Matthew Collins	Southern Chester County EMS
Matthew Welch	Elverson Honey Brook Area EMS
Michael LaPearl	Cetronia Ambulance Corps
Michele Rymdeika	Bucks County EMS Council
Michael Reihart	Emergency Health Services Federation
Robert Carpenter	EMS of Northeastern PA
Steven Bailey	Non-Profit Emergency Servies of Beaver County
Thomas McElree	EMS West
Tony Bixby	Susquehanna Regional EMS
William Miller	LTS EMS Council

BEMS Staff Present: Anthony Martin, Director

PEHSC Staff Present: Janette Swade, Executive Director
Donald Potter
Andrew Snavelly
Duane Spencer

Guests and Liaisons:

Robert Magley	Gene Lesneski	Jonathan Trager
Robert Walker	Stephen Zimmerman	

Topic	Discussion	Action/Resolution
Convene the Board of Directors meeting		The board of directors meeting was called to order at 1000 hours by President Dave Jones
Approval of Meeting Minutes	The meeting minutes of December 13, 2023 were reviewed.	Motion: Tucci Second: Laws To accept the December 13, 2024 meeting minutes as drafted. Result: Motion carried.
President's Report	President Dave Jones reported the following: • Passing of Mike Touchstone and Rich Kelley – our condolences to their families. • Passing of Steve Lyle's son. PEMSA contributed to the Go Fund Me effort. • Passing of Director from Northern Berks. • VTR Response Letter from DOH • Organizations leaving the board • Heather [Sharar] Harris marriage. Attending SR120 hearing today on report release.	
Treasurer's Report	Dr. Ron Roth presented the attached financial report.	Motion: Tucci Second: Deaven To accept the Treasurer's report as presented Result: Motion carried.
Executive Director's Report	Executive Director Janette Swade reported the following: • Member changes of rep or other information – send to us. • PEHSC web information resources. • Dialogue with DOH on invoicing and prompt payment. Also participated with regions in meeting with the DOH on challenges and solutions for a more streamline system. • Cash follow was a concern during a period when payments were slow coming from the DOH. • Received contract from DOH for next fiscal year – same \$\$ as current year.	

	Hoping for additional \$\$ for staffing and in-person meetings. • Needed upgrades to the PEHSC website, i.e., stability and functionality. Need to ID \$\$ for project. • Legislation: grant fund reauthorization; overdose notification network – push for EMS to be reporters – data should come from PCR data • Fire and EMS Caucus has been stood up in the legislature, more information to come. • Working with AAP in change over of legislature with the November elections. Developing education opportunity for new members, including show “Honorable But Broken.” • EMS Week – 50th Anniversary. Legislative and Administration resolutions have been submitted. • Workplan for CY 2024, has been approved by the Executive Committee. If you would like to be involved, please notify staff. • Data access at the BEMS to enable us to do our work. • Letter received from our auditor – there were no findings in the prior FY audit.	
Department of Health Report	BEMS Director Anthony Martin reported the following: • Budget process – still learning about the process. The Governor has submitted his new budget, if passed, then requires amendments to the fiscal code to implement. • Regional budget amendments for FY 23-24 that were not processed. Will have conversation with Janette on additional \$\$ for FY 24-25. • Fireworks fund applications are available. Working to get the funds awarded and payments processed. • \$30M increase for Fire and EMS Grant by Governor. Keep up the	

	pressure for EMS to receive funding equity. • Outstanding VTR regarding the portfolio for the psychomotor exam – should have a response in the next few weeks. • Prehospital blood protocol education. Submit a course to BEMS for approval if you wish or use the course recently uploaded to PA TRAIN from Tower Health.	
Membership Committee Report	JR Henry presented Evangelical Regional Mobile Medical Services in Lewisburg, PA for council membership.	Motion: Tucci Second: Laws To accept Evangelical Regional Mobile Medical Services for council membership. Result: Motion carried.
Medical Advisory Committee Report	Drs. Reihart and Wang reported the following: • The MAC met on January 17, 2024: • Dr. Ron Roth inquired about the inclusion of several medications for interfacility transport recently published in the updated approved medication list. The committee voted to ask the BEMS to remove the five (5) medications of concern until the MAC could have more discussion. • POLST legislation (HB 1212) was reintroduced in this legislative session. The language appears to be consistent with previous versions. If passed, how would this affect current OOH-DNR orders? According to the legislation, those orders would be sustained, but future orders will be using POLST criteria. • The committee reviewed a draft comprehensive shock protocol from the critical care task force. The members asked that it be sent back to the task force for comparison to the 2023 changes to the statewide ALS protocol. • The BEMS has committed to producing a unified BLS/iALS/ALS protocol in 2025. The MAC is forming	

	a planning workgroup to provide the BEMS with advice on foundational issues, e.g., structure, format and timeline, in advance of the actual protocol writing. The MAC also voted its support of a unified statewide protocol. • The Drug Enforcement Administration's Harrisburg Field Office conducted an educational seminar for EMS on regulatory compliance on February 21st. DEA's objective was to respond to frequently asked questions from EMS in what is a confusing regulatory environment. DEA published proposed rulemaking in 2020 containing EMS-specific regulations, however, these regulations have never been promulgated. • Director Swade recommended the MAC voting committee be expanded to include a representative from NAEMSP-PA. Dr. Wadas, as their current President, nominated Dr. Frank Guyette from UPMC/STAT MedEvac to fill the position. Congratulations Dr. Guyette!! • The scheduled MAC meeting will be on Wednesday, April 17th. This will be a in-person meeting at PEMA headquarters in conjunction with a day of education for physicians in EMS Fellowship programs. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting in-person (also available via Zoom) <u>must RSVP</u> to Butch Potter to be admitted to the secure facility.	
EMSC Report	Duane Spencer, EMSC Project Manager, reported the following: • The program is pending receipt of its Notice of Award for grant year 2 which is expected by April 1st. Funding is expected to be equal to year 1. • The 2024 Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project survey is set to roll out May 1st. This survey is much	

	more comprehensive than previous annual EMSC surveys and will help to identify areas of pediatric readiness strengths and weakness. Multiple avenues of notification including US Postal mailings, emails and phone calls will be incorporated to notify and remind EMS agencies regarding participation. The survey closes July 31st. • The Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program for Emergency Departments is progressing with several engagements to recruit Pilot Facility participation having occurred or planned. The Pilot phase will continue program development and address seven key focus areas. • The Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program for EMS (Prepared for Pediatrics) review team continues to address the current program with new expectations to develop a next version of the PVRP for implementation. The current timeline is hopeful for an end of year final product. • EMSC will be presenting our statewide activities at the upcoming National Association of State EMS Officials annual meeting being held in Pittsburgh in May.	
EMS Education Task Force Report	Merv Wertz reported the following: • The task force met via Zoom on February 24, 2024 • The BEMS reported continued development of a new psychomotor exam(s). This will be a more efficient and cost-effective process than the current exam. It will contain a single assessment station with an integrated skill, which is primarily designed to assess the student's understanding of illness or injury and articulate an appropriate plan of	

	treatment. Butch Potter has been participating with this workgroup. The role out of the new exam is slated for July 1st of this year. • There is a workgroup development a package of education sessions for EMS instructor enrichment. Upon their completion, these sessions will be available on PA TRAIN. Dr. Ev Binns, Bill Wells and Butch Potter are representing the PEHSC Education Task Force. • The BLS Education Institute Best Practices workgroup has developed a survey for the BLS education institutes to solicit feedback on a wide range of topics that will eventually become a best practices guideline. The survey was launched on March 14th. • CoAEMSP is offering voluntary accreditations for AEMT programs beginning in 2025. The BEMS is working to establish student-minimum-competencies, similar to those already in place at the paramedic level.	
Critical Care Transport Task Force Report	Dr. Jonathan Trager reported the following: • The task force met via Zoom on March 12, 2024 • Dr. Matthew Poremba, Medical Director, AHN Flight/Critical Care Transport has been appointed as task force co-chair. • Dr. Dylan Morris, UPMC STAT MedEvac and Tony Bixby, Susquehanna Regional EMS have been appointed co-chairs of the CCT Protocol Workgroup. • With the changes to the 2023 ALS protocols, the previously offered comprehensive shock protocol now appears to be duplicative. Dr. Martin-Gill, the principal author, recommended pulling from	

	inclusion from the protocol update. • At this point, the task force does not have any recommended changes to the CCT protocols. Dr. Trager asked that air-medical agencies submit a list of their protocols, which will be used to develop list of topics of future protocol development. • A concept, referred to as just-in-time training, involves training of ALS paramedics for certain CCT transports when no other resources are available. Although the concept is a great example of “thinking outside the box,” the workgroup recommended it not be pursued due to concerns with risk v. benefit. • The members engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the long-standing interest for ground CCT agencies to be permitted to develop and utilize BEMS approved agency-level protocols. The task force voted to support the ability of ground CCT agencies to develop and utilize BEMS approved agency-level protocols.	
RSI Task Force Report	Dr. Greg Frailey reported the following: In the BEMS’ February 9, 2024 letter regarding VTR# 0623-01 RSI Pilot Program Recommendations, the pilot was approved with the following recommendations: 1. Develop minimum criteria for agencies to participate in the RSI Pilot. 2. Include a medical director attestation statement committing to 100 review of every [RSI] attempt as well as	

	oversight of the training and credentialing process. In addition, the method of data collection must be finalized. The goal is to identify or develop an electronic reporting platform that is user friendly for data entry, analysis and reporting. The task force will be meeting in the coming weeks to discuss these issues in preparation for the pilot program launch.	
EMS Operations Committee Report	Tony Deaven reported the following: • The committee awaits a response from BEMS on CFC 0622-01, regarding EMS agency shared staffing agreements • The committee awaits a responds from BEMS on various data requests regarding EMSVO, ambulance crash statistics, and QRS usage trends • Next meeting date is TBD	
Special Operations Workgroup Report	Dr. Duane Siberski reported the following: • Regarding VTR 6023-02 (Tactical EMS Standards), a response from BEMS was received that requested some minor revisions. These were reviewed and completed at the executive level and resubmitted, a response is pending • The group is now beginning work on the Wilderness EMS Standards with a meeting scheduled for April 12, 2024	
Medical Assistance Update	Don DeReamus, AAP Legislative Chair, reported the following: • Increase brokered by AAP is historic in terms of its size • SPA needs to be signed off by CMS • Will be retroactive to Jan 1 2024 • Medicaid and Medicaid HMOs will apply these payments retrospectively, however depending on your current rates, it's possible that you might have to resubmit claims. More information to come.	

EMS Conference Update	Andy Snavelly, Conference Coordinator, reported the following: • The 2024 PA EMS Conference will again be held via a virtual platform. • Live sessions will be held from September 3-6, 2024 • Sessions will be recorded and available on-demand as in past years as well.	
EMS Awards Update	Duane Spencer, Awards Coordinator, reported the following: • Nominations were open from February 1st – March 15th. • Large nomination response this year. • Vetting will soon begin, then the PEHSC Executive Committee will make a selection in each category.	
Adjourn Board of Directors Meeting	The next board meeting will be held at 1000 hours on Tuesday, June 11, 2025 at Central Penn College. This meeting will be in-person with a virtual option.	Motion: Deaven Second: Laws To adjourn the March 2024 board of directors meeting. Result: Motion carried.
Convene the annual PEHSC membership meeting.		The annual membership meeting was called to order by President Dave Jones at [1120] hours.
Nominating Committee Report	The nominees for election to the board of directors for the 2025-2027 term were presented. Report attached. There were no nominations for the floor.	Motion: Tucci Seconded: Albertson To accept the slate of nominees for the 2025-2027 board term as presented. Result: Motion carried.
Election of nominees for 2025-2027 board term	1. Elverson Honey Brook EMS 2. EMS of Northeastern PA 3. Lehigh Valley Health Network 4. MCCandles-Franklin Park Ambulance Authority 5. National Assoc of EMS Physicians – PA Chapter 6. PA Fire and Emergency Services Institute* 7. Riddle Hospital – Main Line Health* 8. Uwchlan Ambulance Corps	Motion: Tucci Second: Laws To elect the nominees listed herein to the board of directors for the 2025-2027 term. Result: Motion carried.

	9. West Grove Fire Co* 10. Susquehanna Regional EMS* * Nominated for 2 nd term.	
For the Good of the Order	- Access to Honorable But Broken thru Tony Tucci at Western Berks Ambulance. - Francis Feld, PAATS, now the representative to PEHSC. There is a proposed bill to expand scope of practice.	
Organizational Reports	PFESI: Senate Bill 355 - supporting PTSI as a workplace eligible workers comp claim. Does include EMS providers.	
Adjourn Annual Council Meeting		Motion: Wells Second: Deaven Adjourn the annual council meeting at[1130] hours. Result: Motion carried.