

EASTERN PA EMS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2020 - 2021



In accordance with the Pennsylvania Department of Health Rules and Regulations 28 Pa. Code § 1021.103, The regional council governing body shall submit an annual report to the Department.

Reporting requirements of Appendix A – Work Statement. Comprehensive Annual Report as related to, Coordinate and Improve the delivery of EMS in the Council’s region.

Report are due within 30 calendar days of the end of each state fiscal year (June 30th)

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REGIONAL SUMMARY:

The Eastern PA EMS Council maintains responsibility for a diverse six (6) county region which encompasses urban, suburban, and rural communities. The Eastern region is comprised of one hundred thirty-seven (137) licensed EMS agencies and over four thousand two hundred (4,200) certified EMS practitioners. Additionally, the region proudly supports the Philadelphia Fire Department via our licensure division with inspections during the scheduled triennial process and with the addition of vehicles and assets to the fleet when applicable.

The mission of the Eastern PA EMS Council is to further the development of the region's pre-hospital emergency care and transportation of the sick and injured. In addition, the EMS Council advocates for advancing the quality of patient care, improving patient access to care, and assisting practitioners secure educational programs, training and maintain compliance with the EMS Systems Act. With an emphasis on customer service and professionalism, the Eastern PA EMS Council is committed to serving our constituents from across our region. Additionally, the EMS Council is engaged with our Healthcare Networks, PSAPs, Emergency Management partners and our Health Care Coalitions. Engagement, cooperation, and the willingness to support a multi-disciplinary delivery of services remains our core mission as we continue to build our regional EMS system.

The Eastern PA EMS Council host one of the commonwealths three EMS Emergency Preparedness Specialist. This party maintains responsibility for twenty-one (21) counties in Eastern PA. The EMS Council also supports the Bureau of EMS and provides fiduciary responsibility for the commonwealths EMS Preparedness SAF funding programs.

The Council also host the annual CODE EMS Conference which features fifty (50) educational sessions over the course of this three (3) day event and awards more than six thousand (6000) continuing educational credits to EMS practitioners in 2020 as we strive to expand the availability of quality educational programs.



1. Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers

President: Mr. Eric C. Gratz

Vice President: Mr. Thomas Decker

Treasurer: Mr. Chris Basile CPA

Secretary: Mr. Edward Coleman

(Please list all other members below)

NAME		NAME	
1	<u>Anthony Martin</u>	19	<u>Barbara Conrad</u>
2	<u>Matthew Brett</u>	20	<u>Kerry Dempsey</u>
3	<u>Steve Ridgway</u>	21	<u>Shawn Silvoy</u>
4	<u>Tara Henry-Morrow</u>	22	<u>Bryan Wilson, MD</u>
5	<u>Greg Drake</u>	23	<u>Anthony Tucci</u>
6	<u>Craig Deppe</u>	24	<u>Jonathan Trager, DO</u>
7	<u>Mark Wiekrykas</u>	25	<u></u>
8	<u>Jeff Knopf</u>	26	<u></u>
9	<u>Bryan Evans</u>	27	<u></u>
10	<u>Carrie Frey</u>	28	<u></u>
11	<u>Adam Maziuk</u>	29	<u></u>
12	<u>Maria Wescoe</u>	30	<u></u>
13	<u>Joel Calarco</u>	31	<u></u>
14	<u>Donald DeReamus</u>	32	<u></u>
15	<u>Brian Nelson</u>	33	<u></u>
16	<u>John Semonich</u>	34	<u></u>
17	<u>Amy Grill</u>	35	<u></u>
18	<u>Aaron Ratner, DO</u>	36	<u></u>

2. Regional EMS Council Staff:

Executive Director John G. Kloss

[illegible]

3. Regional Medical Director(s)

	NAME
1	Alex Rosenau, DO Lehigh Valley Health Network
2	Duane Siberski, DO Penn State Health - St. Joseph

4. **Financial Statement of income and expenses:**

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$424,862	\$424,963
Consultant Services	\$25,000	\$25,000
Subcontracted Services	\$125,000	\$125,000
Patient Services	\$0	\$0
Equipment	\$0.	\$0
Supplies	\$16,499	\$16,932
Travel	\$1,600	\$0
Other Costs	\$198,717	\$202,797
TOTALS	791.678	\$794,692

NOTE: THE AMOUNTS SHOWN ABOVE ARE PRELIMINARY END OF YEAR TOTALS AND NOT FINAL AUDIT AMOUNT

5. **Special Project Funding:**

Projects, as determined by the Department to be appropriate and necessary for the implementation of a comprehensive statewide EMS system. The amounts listed below are included in the categorical totals shown above.

Patient Care Reporting (PCR) Reimbursement Program	Amount: \$125,000
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
Regional initiative reimbursed each applying EMS agency with .49 cents per PCR generated during the period of May 1, 2020, and May 1, 2021. This program was open to all licensed EMS agencies served by the EMS Council.	
	N - A
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
	Amount: \$
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	

Total Reinvestment into EMSOF Provider Services (EMS Agencies) **\$125,000.00**

6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date 2020
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	6
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	0
Public Education CPR Events	105
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	4
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	5

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:

The Eastern PA EMS Council is partnered with Lehigh Valley Health Network in efforts to promote CPR training in schools across the region. Additionally, the Council visits schools and promotes Stop the Bleed initiatives throughout the region. Unfortunately, COVID had impacted this campaign and our total outreach was dramatically decreased.

7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	25
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	9
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	4

Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:

The EMS Council Regional Performance Improvement committee convenes quarterly and reviews Ketamine, Etomidate usage records and is pursuing the development of expanding upon the capturing of regional cardiac arrest data utilizing the CARES network.

8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Pediatric Trauma Centers Accredited Level 1 or 2	2
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	3
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	2
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	11
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	2
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	3

Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	2
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Medical Direction Narrative:

The Eastern PA EMS Council maintains two (2) Regional Medical Directors, both of which are actively engaged in regional, state, and national programs specific to EMS.

9. **Systems Operations**

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	3
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	12
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	0
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	0
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	0
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	6
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	24
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	1
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	12
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	148
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	4
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	42
Certification Class Visits Conducted	16
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	3
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	25

Systems Operations Narrative:

The EMS Council continues random monthly regional safety inspections. This campaign has proven very successful, with the number of deficiencies continually decreasing.

10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	31
Tabletop Exercises Attended / Conducted	2
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	3
Special Event Plans Submitted	1
Responses / Deployments	4
Strike Team Agencies	5

Emergency Preparedness Narrative:

Emergency Preparedness Specialist Program Year End Review: Accomplishments

Asset Maintenance and Inventory Control

Providing service and assistance to seven (7) partnering regional EMS Council across 21 counties, the EMS Preparedness Specialist provided additional support, maintenance, inventory control and additional work to:

- CCP Trailers	- Mobile generators
- Generators	- MSEC Trailers
- Heater Trailer	- Mobile Surge tent systems
- HVAC units	- Strike Team assets
- Light Towers	
- MESS Trailers	

COVID19

Briefings, Meetings, and Conference Calls	Webinar
ACS Demobilization Temple University Site.	City of Allentown Mass Vaccination Site.
Aeroclave Deco Support to EMS and HCC.	ACS Demobilization Glen Mills Site.
Coordinated with local hospitals to produce	The Science of mRNA Vaccine Con-Ed.

Emergency Responses

Montgomery County Western Shelter Deployment and Demobilization to support PANG.	Heater Trailer Deployment – Bethlehem Mass Vaccination Site (January 2021).
Tamaqua High Rise Fire – recalled from staging.	Monroe County EMA – Portable generator and heater support for Mass Testing Site.

Functional / Full Scale Exercises

Carbon County Mass Vaccination Clinic.	LVIA Tri-Annual FSE.

HCC Participation

Participation in NE, NC, EC HCC Meetings.	HCC Regional / Zone Meetings.
Monitored bi-weekly HCC All-Healthcare Provider Update Calls.	EPC Secretary for NE HCC.

Planning Meetings

ACS Demobilization Temple University	Luzerne County ESF-8 Planning Meeting
American Red Cross Shelter and Reunification	Northeast Task Force COVID Planning
Carbon County Mass Vaccination Clinic. Lehigh Valley Disaster Planning Work Group. Lehigh County Mass Testing Planning Meeting Coca-Cola Stadium. ASPR REACT MITRE Risk Tool 2.0 Planning Committee.	Long Term Care - Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and COVID Testing. Lehigh & Northampton County Partnership PA DOH COVID Planning.

Tabletop Exercises / Tests

NE HCC Cyber Tabletop	BASD Severe Weather Tabletop

Training – Facilitate / Support

Heater Trailer Operations – Monroe County EMA, and NE HCC Members.	Heater Trailer Operations – Schuylkill EMS and East Central HCC members.
EMSVO Trailer Operations and Safety Program Monroe EMA x 2 sessions April 2021.	EMSVO Trailer Operations and Safety Program, PA DHS June 2021.
TEEX Active Shooter Incident Management Training Course Virtual x 2 sessions May 2021.	Regional EMS Special Event Symposium Con-Ed hosted.
CIU 20 District-wide Emergency Preparedness Meetings.	Preventing EMS Burnout / Compassion Fatigue Con-Ed Dec 2020.

11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
7/15/2020	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council 4801 Kernsville Road Orefield PA 18069
9/16/2020	18:00	Annual Meeting, Webinar meeting (COVID)
11/18/2020	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
1/20/2021	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
3/17/2021	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
5/19/2021	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)

12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
8/19/2020	10:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
10/15/2020	10:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
1/27/2021	15:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
6/14/2021	15:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)

13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
6/8/2020	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
9/14/2020	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
2/8/2021	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)
6/14/2021	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting (COVID)

14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

The Eastern PA EMS Council recognizes the importance of regional collaboration, partnerships, and the continual development of our evolving EMS System. Our regional Council strives to deliver premier customer service with timely, accurate, and responsible outcomes. While fiscal year 2020 – 2021 presented both financial challenges and a global pandemic, the EMS Council continued to provide exceptional customer service, opportunities, and engagement across our six (6) county region.

- ❖ The Eastern PA EMS Council was honored to maintain the fiduciary oversight of multiple Emergency Preparedness Programs for the Bureau of EMS, Emergency Preparedness Program. These programs coordinated both the logistical placement of inventory, ordering, distribution, accountability, and management of funds. The EMS Council reviewed, processed, and submitted payments for over 125 requests from across the commonwealth's EMS Council regions.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expended</u>
Mobile Medical Assets	\$69,996.00	\$ 64,410.00
Interoperable Communications	\$20,000.00	\$ 8,724.00
Strike Team Program	\$130,000.00	\$ 97,311.00
Total Federal Pass through	\$ 219,996.00	\$ 170,445.00

NOTE: THE AMOUNTS SHOWN ABOVE ARE PRELIMINARY END OF YEAR TOTALS AND NOT FINAL AUDIT AMOUNT

- ❖ The Eastern PA EMS Council continues to partner with the Philadelphia Fire Department to provide licensure inspections of the departments EMS Fleet, inspecting 6 new ambulances and 2 fire boats this fiscal year and has initiated operational planning to coordinate this year's triennial licensure inspection.
- ❖ EMS Council developed a regional Centralized Coordination Center to share EMS practitioners at COVID clinics, providing vaccinations and clinical support. See below under COVID operations for complete details.
- ❖ Region supports the Bureau of EMS by providing fiduciary responsibility for the Emergency Preparedness program budgets.
- ❖ EMS Council faced with budgetary reductions, continues to operate without a licensure specialist, roles and responsibilities distributed without disruption to our constituents.

- ❖ EMS Council's Performance Improvement committee continues to review each administration of Ketamine, validating utilization and clinical necessity.
- ❖ Council continues to provide guidance and technical support to our regional PSAPs.
- ❖ 2020 CODE EMS Conference hosted virtually, awarding 6423 continuing education credits to EMS practitioners.
- ❖ Council, in partnership with Northampton Community College, offered six (6) no-cost Respiratory protection and PPE training programs across the region.
- ❖ Staff continues to attend and support county EMS Association meetings.
- ❖ Region continues to receive, inventory, and distribute emergency preparedness assets across the commonwealth.
- ❖ Staff supported the Bureau of EMS with inventory and set-up of Western Shelter tents at the PA Farm show complex.
- ❖ Council based Emergency Preparedness Specialist serves 21 counties in the eastern portion of the Commonwealth, providing traditional asset maintenance, ensuring a state of readiness and coordinating proactive educational opportunities across multiple regional geographical boundaries.
- ❖ Council assisted multiple municipalities with EMS specific concerns or in the provision of education on EMS operations and deployment.
- ❖ Assisted in operational planning for the Lehigh Valley International Airport, FCC mandated triennial Full-Scale Exercise (FSX).
- ❖ Council staff engaged as evaluators, operations, and support during the Lehigh Valley International Airports Triennial Full-Scale Exercise.
- ❖ Continual monitoring of PA Legislative activities website and sharing of said actions with our regional partners.
- ❖ Promotion of ALS agencies engagement in the Cephazolin project, securing the vast majority of ALS agency participation.
- ❖ Council staff monitors ALS Educational facilities for compliance and broadcasting of required information on their respective media outlets.
- ❖ Council reviews, follow-up and provides additional support following each reported EMS unit accident or personnel injury.
- ❖ Monthly audit of EMS agency PCR submissions conducted follow-up with agencies when submissions appear in question.
- ❖ Council staff invested countless hours supporting our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with inventory, maintenance, and preparation of assets.
- ❖ Supported three (3) agencies in establishing BLS EMS training institutes.
- ❖ Council continues engagement and support of the commonwealths Highly Infectious Disease transport team program.
- ❖ Regional Director maintains Co-Chair position within the Northeast Healthcare Coalition.
- ❖ The COVID 19 crisis impacted regional operations, however with the previous development and implementation of our organizational COOP plan, Council operations continued without disruption, in fact expanded to meet the demands associated with a rapidly changing environment.

COVID Operations:

- Council developed and provided EMS Practitioners to the Bureau of EMS to support COVID testing locations across the eastern aspect of Pennsylvania, including the Pennsylvania State Police Training Academy.
- Staff provided Aeroclave disinfection of EMS units, facilities, PSAPs and other emergency services upon demand.
- Staff assisted with PPE distribution as requested.
- Staff maintained a seat on the Berks County C.A.R.E.S. funding allocation project.
- Council created weekly informational messaging and shared with EMS Leadership and agencies.
- Staff remained intimately engaged with our Healthcare Coalitions, Bureau of EMS, and Emergency Management partners.
- Participation in daily COVID specific updates with local, regional, state, and federal partners.
- Understanding the challenges in securing CPR recertification training for regional practitioners, Council offered multiple No-cost recertifications programs for healthcare providers.
- Council partnered with EMS Liaisons from our regional healthcare networks to allow the decontamination of EMS units upon arrival at the emergency department.
- Council worked with our regional healthcare networks EMS Liaisons to establish priority vaccinations for EMS Practitioners.

Regional EMS Centralized Coordination Center – COVID Vaccinations

The Eastern PA EMS Council recognized the need for a centralized coordination center to assist in the coordination, staffing and utilization of EMS Practitioners to support vaccination clinics across the region. This program was designed to provide:

- Validation of required skills of participating EMS practitioners.
- Agency Medical Director signatory page validating skills competency.
- Completion of an Independent Contractor agreement.
- Coordination of schedules to meet the needs of vaccination clinic schedules.
- Payment too EMS practitioners for services rendered.
- Distribution of applicable tax forms upon completion of the tax year.

Clinic Operations - Staffing

- 61 Emergency Medical Technicians enrolled in program.
- 60 Paramedics completed all components of the application process.
- EMS Practitioners worked.
 - 1,200 hours worked by Emergency Medical Technicians.
 - 1,623 hours worked by Paramedics.
 - 2,823 total EMS hours invested in program.
- ❖ Council attended and supported the Move Over Rally at the PA Capital complex, supporting recently introduced legislation which will protect our First Responders during roadway operations.
- ❖ Regional R.S.I. sub-committee established to develop guidelines for a proposed regional or statewide initiative.
- ❖ Staff continues to participate in statewide MAC meetings and conference calls.

- ❖ Staff participated in the Northeast Healthcare Coalition revisions of the statewide burn surge annex document.
- ❖ Staff continues to provide exemplary customer service as each quarter closing approaches, working to assist and recertify as many practitioners as possible.
- ❖ Council Director continues to serve on the Burn Preventions Networks Spirit of Courage selection committee.
- ❖ Council Director continues to serve with the PA Ambulance Association EMS Provider Foundation.
- ❖ Prepared and delivered a presentation specific to Act 93 to our regional education partners, objective being the establishment of regional rural education initiative.
- ❖ Preparedness staff supported Lehigh County CERT team with a county training program.

- ❖ EMS Council maintains a robust internal Safety Committee team.
- ❖ Staff maintains regular attendance with two (2) Health Care Coalitions, both East Central and Northeast.
- ❖ Council participates in inter-regional conference calls, sharing best practices and other enhancing information.
- ❖ Council continues to support a regional C.I.S.M. team recruitment, development, and ongoing training.
- ❖ Council supported multiple regional events through the provision of emergency preparedness assets, supplies and equipment.
- ❖ Council host both monthly and on-demand Basic Vehicle Rescue testing at the council office.
- ❖ Council staff, upon request, responds and assist to large scale events within the region.
- ❖ Council maintains participation in statewide ESF 8 Committee.
- ❖ Council hosted VFIS sanctioned trailer operations program.
- ❖ Council remains engaged in the Statewide Advisory Council on Preparedness meetings.
- ❖ Council supported three (3) organizations pursuing educational institutions status, with the successful completion by all.

