

*A System Designed to Save Lives*

**EASTERN PA EMS COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022**



**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.**

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## **REGIONAL SUMMARY:**

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 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-two (132) 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 Eastern PA EMS Council hosts 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 commonwealth's EMS Preparedness SAF funding programs.

The Council is also host to the annual CODE EMS Conference which features fifty (50) educational sessions over the course of this three (3) day event and awarded 5895 continuing educational credits to EMS practitioners in 2021 as we strive to expand the availability of quality educational programs.

The Eastern PA EMS Council remains committed and dedicated to the men and women that have unselfishly dedicated themselves to serving our communities, residents, and visitors of our region. We thank you, the EMS practitioners that have, and will continue to serve, respond, and engage, even during the most difficult of times.



**1. Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers**

President: Dr. Bryan Wilson

Vice President: Mr. Anthony Tucci

Treasurer: Mr. Chris Basile CPA

Secretary: Mr. Edward Coleman

Directors, Eastern PA EMS Council

<u>NAME</u>		<u>NAME</u>	
1	<u>Anthony Martin</u>	19	<u>Jarad Yeastedt</u>
2	<u>Matthew Brett</u>	20	<u>Kerry Dempsey</u>
3	<u>Steve Ridgway</u>	21	<u>Edwin Hillegass</u>
4	<u>Maria Wescoe</u>	22	<u>Jonathan Trager, DO</u>
5	<u>Greg Drake</u>	23	<u>Vacant</u>
6	<u>Craig Deppe</u>	24	<u>Vacant</u>
7	<u>Mark Wiekrykas</u>	25	
8	<u>Jeff Fritz</u>	26	
9	<u>Bryan Evans</u>	27	
10	<u>Carrie Frey</u>	28	
11	<u>Jeff Yanochko</u>	29	
12	<u>Bryan Fritz</u>	30	
13	<u>Joel Calarco</u>	31	
14	<u>Donald DeReamus</u>	32	
15	<u>Brian Nelson</u>	33	
16	<u>John Semonich</u>	34	
17	<u>Robert Mateff</u>	35	
18	<u>Aaron Ratner, DO</u>	36	

**2. Regional EMS Council Staff:**

**Executive Director**     John G. Kloss

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>Deputy Director</u>	<u>Jason T. Smith</u>
<u>EMS Specialist – Licensure Coordinator</u>	<u>Jonathan Henritzky</u>
<u>Emergency Preparedness Coordinator</u>	<u>Christopher Confalone</u>
<u>EMS Specialist -Provider Services</u>	<u>Presently Vacant</u>
<u>EMS Specialist – Education &amp; Certification</u>	<u>April Liskowacki</u>
<u>Business Manager</u>	<u>Robert Kempf</u>
<u>Administrative Support Specialist</u>	<u>April Zehr</u>
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**3. Regional Medical Director(s)**

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

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

2021 - 2022	General Allocation	Rural Education	Equipment	Total Budget	Expended
Personnel	\$337,442	\$172,081	\$0	\$509,523	\$530,016
Consultants	\$25,001	\$0	\$0	\$25,001	\$25,000
Subcontracted Services	\$16,950	\$0	\$92,113	\$109,063	\$109,063
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,568
Supplies	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$9,731
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Cost	\$121,872	\$146,930	\$0	\$268,802	\$245,356
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$509,265</b>	<b>\$319,011</b>	<b>\$92,113</b>	<b>\$920,389</b>	<b>\$920,734</b>

**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.

Regional Performance Improvement Data Collection Software (First Watch)	\$109,063
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*Project Narrative:*

Regional initiative engaged the regions ALS agency leadership, medical directors, and Performance Improvement team to secure a comprehensive software program intended to both enhance and expand upon data collection and patient care.

	N - A
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*Project Narrative:*

	Amount: \$ 109,063
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*Project Narrative:*

Total Reinvestment into EMSOF Provider Services (EMS Agencies)

**\$109,063**

## 6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

	Date
Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	2020
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	6
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events (COVID Restrictions)	0
Public Education CPR Events	6
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	3
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	3

### *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 this year.

## 7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	27
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	8
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	2
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	4
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	12
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	2
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	1

Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	1
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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	4
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	5
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	8
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	22
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	1
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	18
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	412
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	3
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	26
Certification Class Visits Conducted	45
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	4
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	25

*Systems Operations Narrative:*

The EMS Council continues random monthly regional safety inspections across our six (6) county region. This campaign has proven very successful, with the number of deficiencies continually decreasing, a testament to the EMS Professionals serving the region.



## 10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	15
Coalition Northeast HCC Meetings Attended (EPC Role)	16
Coalition Southeast HCC Meetings Attended (EPC Role)	8
Redundant Communications Exercises Attended / Conducted	12
Tabletop Exercises Attended / Conducted	3
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	1
Special Event Plans Submitted	2
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's 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	Federal EMS Strike Team Support, Fit Testing
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Mass Vaccination Site Support Schuylkill County

### **Emergency Responses**

Heater Trailer Deployment, Carbon County Correctional Facility	EMS Facility support, failure of HVAC System
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### **Functional / Full Scale Exercises**

Operation Tangled Web EP Exercise

## Emergency Preparedness Activities

### HCC Participation

Participation in NE, NC, EC HCC Meetings.	HCC Regional / Zone Meetings.
Regional Council Director, Co-chair HCC EMS	EPC Secretary for NE HCC
Regional EPC Chair for Training / Education for SE HCC	Strategic Planning meetings

### Planning Meetings

Inclusion of Individuals with Access and Functional Needs Group	CHEMPACK Installation – Monroe County
ASPR REACT MITRE Risk Tool 2.0 Planning Committee	Statewide Advisory Committee on Preparedness (SACP)
Lehigh Valley Disaster Planning Work Group	Eastern PA EMS Council Safety Committee
Regional County EMS association Meeting	ESF 8 Winter Planning Meetings

### Tabletop Exercises / Tests

NEHCC Infectious Disease Annex Exercise	

### Training – Facilitate / Support

Heater Trailer Operations – Country Meadows Nursing Facility	Heater Trailer Operations – Montgomery County EMS (SEHCC)
Heater Trailer Operations – Christ’s Home SEHCC	Emergency Trailer Operations Class – Monroe County EMA
Heater Trailer Site Survey – Laurel Square LTC (SEHCC)	Heater Trailer Site Survey – Brookside LTC (SEHCC)
Emergency Trailer Operations Class – Nazareth Fire - EMS	Emergency Trailer Operations Class – Montgomery County EMS
DEX-AR Workshop Hosted Rydal Park (SEHCC)	DEX-AR Workshop Hosted Cetronia Ambulance Corps (NEHCC)
DEX-AR Workshop Hosted UPMC Williamsport (CRHCC)	DEX-AR Workshop Hosted Department of Human Services, Harrisburg PA

### **11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
7/21/2021	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
9/15/2021	18:00	Annual Meeting, Webinar meeting
11/17/2021	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
12/2/2021	18:30	EMS Council Executive Board Webinar meeting
1/19/2022	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
3/16/2022	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
5/18/2022	18:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting

### **12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
8/18/2021	15:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
10/27/2021	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
1/25/2022	15:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
6/22/2022	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting

### **13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
10/27/2021	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
1/25/2022	15:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
4/27/2022	15:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting
6/27/2022	11:00	Eastern PA EMS Council Webinar meeting

#### 14. Regional Accomplishments:

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 2021 – 2022 presented continued financial challenges, a result of the lingering global pandemic, the EMS Council continued to provide exceptional customer service, opportunities, and engagement across our six (6) county region and instituted a successful rural education funding program.

The Eastern PA EMS Council was again 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 150 requests from across the commonwealth’s EMS Council regions.

<b>2021 - 2022</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expended</b>
Emergency Preparedness Coord.	\$105,000	\$105,000
Mobile Medical	\$62,996	\$62,996
Interoperable Communications	\$18,000	\$18,000
Strike Team	\$113,800	\$113,800
<b>Total Federal Pass Through Funds</b>	<b>\$299,796</b>	<b>\$299,796</b>

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 and had initiated operational planning to coordinate this year’s triennial licensure inspection. Council staff, with support from external regions, coordinated the inspection of the entire fleet in November 2021, with the successful licensure process completed in three (3) days.
- ✓ Council continues to coordinate and distribute emergency preparedness supplies, assets, and equipment to partnering regions and agencies.
- ✓ Council supports the Bureau of EMS by providing fiduciary responsibility for the Emergency Preparedness program budgets.
- ✓ 2021 CODE EMS Conference hosted virtually, awarding 5895 continuing education credits to EMS practitioners.
- ✓ Council staff continues to attend and support county EMS Association meetings from across the region.
- ✓ Councils Centralized Coordination Center for COVID Operations and EMS Scheduling of clinics ceased operations July 2021, investing 2,823 total EMS clinic hours into vaccinations campaigns.
- ✓ In cooperation with the University of Pittsburg, Council hosted a SCOPE program for regional practitioners (substance abuse program)
- ✓ Council faced with budgetary reductions, continues to operate without a Provider Services Specialist, roles and responsibilities distributed without disruption to our constituents.

- ✓ Council's Performance Improvement committee continues to review each administration of Ketamine, validating utilization and clinical necessity. Region initiated a review and ultimate acquisition of the First Watch Performance Improvement program to further develop and enhance data collection and overall performance improvement campaigns across the region.
- ✓ Council continues to provide guidance and technical support to our regional PSAPs.
- ✓ With Northampton Community College the lead, EMS Council supported implementation of OSHA respiratory protection programs across the region.
- ✓ Council collected and compiled data specific to the statewide Cephazolin pilot program, submitting data to the Bureau of EMS.
- ✓ 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 participated in the annual Northern Valley EMS Legislative luncheon.
- ✓ Council assisted multiple municipalities with EMS specific concerns or in the provision of education on EMS operations and deployment.
- ✓ Council Director represents Council of the Burn Prevention Networks Advisory Council.
- ✓ Council staff participated in the Lehigh Valley International Airports Annual Tabletop exercise.
- ✓ Continual monitoring of PA Legislative activities website and sharing of said actions with our regional partners.
- ✓ Council performs monthly random audits of CPR and EMSVO certifications for regional EMS practitioners.
- ✓ Council Director maintains seat on the Valley Preferred, Spirit of Courage nominating committee.
- ✓ Council staff monitors ALS Educational facilities for compliance and broadcasting of required information on their respective media outlets.
- ✓ Council reviews, follows-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 accuracy appears in question.
- ✓ Preparedness staff hosted four (4) trailer operations classes across the region(s).
- ✓ Council staff invested multiple hours supporting our Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with inventory, maintenance, preparation, and deployment of assets.
- ✓ Supported two (2) 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 (EMS) within the Northeast Healthcare Coalition.
- ✓ Regional CISM team continues to offer services, training, and educational services across region.
- ✓ Council streamlined Independent Contractor processes, creating efficiencies, and reducing duplications of efforts.
- ✓ Council staff provided technical support to Schuylkill County EMS agency, its Board of Directors and leadership specific to EMS Operations.
- ✓ Council continues to advocate and develop programs specific to the newly installed Rural Education programs (Act 93).
- ✓ Council updated and renewed its Continuance of Operations Plan, distributed amongst participating agencies.
- ✓ Region partnered with the Emergency Health Services Federation region, implemented region wide Hospital Communications & Capabilities website available to all hospital and EMS partners electronically.
- ✓ Council completed twenty-seven (27) Bureau of EMS authorized investigations.

- ✓ Efforts to support EMS agencies during challenging times, initiated a regional No-Cost CPR program for practitioners needing assistance.
- ✓ Council identified Bylaws committee, language reviewed, drafted recommendations, presented to general membership and adopted.
- ✓ Staff continues to participate in statewide MAC meetings and conference calls.
- ✓ Staff maintains seat and supports the Northampton Community College's Large Structures working group (warehouse expansion and impact on emergency services)
- ✓ 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 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 remains engaged in the Statewide Advisory Council on Preparedness meetings.
- ✓ Council staff continues to provide exemplary customer service as each quarter closing approaches, working to assist and re-register EMS Practitioners.

On behalf of the Eastern PA EMS Council staff, we thank our Board of Directors, and the many dedicated EMS practitioners and physicians that support our regional efforts as we pursue the continued development of our 'System Designed to Save Lives'.

