

Background

Emergency Medical Services in Pennsylvania are in crisis, affirmed by findings of multiple studies and most prominently in the 2004 SR 60 report, and reaffirmed in report of the legislature's SR 6 Commission, released in 2018.

At the insistence of the Perry County Board of Commissioners, The Perry County EMS Council formed a Strategic Planning Committee December 16, 2021, comprised of representation from each EMS organization within Perry County, County Emergency Management, Cornerstone Adminisystems, Emergency Health Federation, Life Team, PSH Life Lion, and the Perry County Board of Commissioners.

The following **Mission Statement** was adopted March 16, 2022:

The mission of the EMS Strategic Planning Committee is to sustain and improve high quality emergency medical services for the residents and visitors of Perry County and surrounding areas by evaluating the current level of services as well as projected increases over the short- and long-term future. This will be achieved through evaluating the financial health of all currently operating EMS companies, investigating the feasibility of adequate pay, benefit plans and training for staff to achieve adequate staffing levels and utilizing resources wisely. It is our vision to work together with multiple state, county and municipal agencies to achieve long lasting, sustainable improvement.

Statement of Purpose

It is the vision to explore a feasibility study to give direction to this organization on the ability to find the best path to provide emergency medical services to the citizens of our County, have adequate staff with adequate pay and benefit plans with the most efficient resources.

Scope of Work

Elements that we would expect to be addressed, but not limited to, include:

- a. Potential creation of an authority to provide and manage the service(s), either directly, by contract, in partnership with municipalities, or in some combination that centralizes scheduling, accounting, purchasing and other operations that current individual units are currently performing;
- b. Prioritize improving access to service and system efficiencies;
- c. Services would include EMS (QRS, BLS, ALS);
- d. Services may be provided for all municipalities, or select municipalities based on criteria including among others demographics, fiscal capacity, regional contiguity, service response areas and expression of need;
- e. Determination on full time and part time, and volunteer staffing configurations, and whether provided directly or through a contracted third party;
- f. Alignment with other regional providers, including hospitals, trauma centers, or other medical providers;

- g. Funding sources and methodologies, including among others direct payment by municipalities, authorization and allocation of dedicated municipal emergency services mileages, authorization of a dedicated county emergency services millage or per capita levies, provider billing and payment, subscriptions, and state and federal funding sources;
- h. Provide for municipal agreement and participation per capita of the governing bodies of the municipalities in the service region; and
- i. The potential development of a partnership with local schools to offer entry level training for EMTs to encourage our youth in career pathways and volunteerism of emergency response.
- j. The need for possible relocation of emergency response units and sustainable manpower to operate considering historic peak and of peak needs of geographic area.
- k. Innovative staffing solutions that would allow human resources to interchange with unit locations
- l. The potential for the development of increased advocacy at the local level for supporting needed changes of legislation and to update funding sources and municipal leaders.

Deliverables

- 3,5,10 and year goals
- Collaboration with Tri-County Regional Planning to project growth populations of various age groups of different regions of Perry County over the next 10 years, and guidance to keep current with Perry County's Comprehensive Plan.
- Call volumes based on 4–5-year trends i.e. Areas of the county with high call volume, type of calls, time of day and day of week distribution, dispatch time, response time, transport time to hospital, and time available status.
- Guidance to establish a data base to track hospital utilization, classifying type of call and patient outcome to assist enhancements in resource dispatch
- Prioritized action plan to initiate changes to reach goal
- Accurate data on neighboring salary and benefit packages
- Innovative ideas on additional compensation for paid staff
- Proposed realignment of staffed unit resources
- Guidance on enhanced dispatch procedures that would mesh with goals
- An outline for creation of a county authority with municipal participation of a fully multi-municipal authority to provide regionalized emergency response services
- References of data sources to be listed

Qualifications of Bidders

Please provide a resume of your, and or your company's relevant experience to address this Request for Proposal for the Perry County EMS Council Strategic Planning Committee.

It is required, at a minimum, to provide:

- a. Years of experience in providing consulting services in the EMS field relevant to the outlined scope of work
- b. Examples of previous studies and outcomes

- c. Demonstrate experience in working with rural EMS providers, in an arena of similar scope as Perry County, that includes references that may be contacted
- d. Provide names and contact information of parties that will directly with our committee
- e. Current state of knowledge on subject matter
- f. Bidder must have qualified and trained staff with sufficient back-up personnel to successfully complete the contract requirements
- g. Names, qualifications, contact information of all staff involved with proposal

Criteria in scoring successful candidate

Among the points that will be evaluated in determining the successful candidate for performing this study include, but not limited to the following:

- a. Past record of relevant studies and their outcome
- b. Ability to work with our committee in accumulating needed data to reach outcome
- c. Demonstrate continued progress in proposal
- d. Will the study generate new knowledge?
- e. Will research assist or influence policy?
- f. Would outcome be related to reality?
- g. Shows motivation
- h. What research are you basing information on?
- i. Current state of relevant knowledge on subject matter
- j. Cost of study, including schedule of payments at timeline points

Proposed Time Line

- RFP invitation to bid starts September 1, 2022
- RFP bid due November 3, 2022
- Proposal bid will be opened at the Commissioner's Meeting November 6, 2022
- Contract issued November 21, 2022
- Study begins November 21, 2022
- Final Report from Solicited Study for Review is May 19, 2023
- Comment period will be 45 days, ending July 7th, 2023
- Project will be completed upon satisfactory response to any questions or comments from the Council.

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Point of contact:

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