



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

15 September 2015  
1000 hours  
EHSF Conference Room

### ATTENDANCE

**Present:**

Robert Bernini	Chair
John Brindle	Community Life Team
Anthony Deaven	First Aid & Safety Patrol of Lebanon
David Kirchner	Eastern Lebanon County High School
Steve Poffenberger	Holy Spirit EMS
Bryan Smith	First Aid & Safety Patrol of Lebanon
Randy Spies	Blue Ridge Community & Technical College
Mervin Wertz	Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences

**Staff:**

Megan A. Hollinger	Director of System Operations
Ann Marie Christie	Program Coordinator
Katelyn M. Galer	Program Coordinator

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bernini called the meeting to order at 1000 hours.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Rosters Submission for Psychomotor Exam

Ms. Hollinger expressed the need to submit rosters of eligible candidates to test at least two weeks before the psychomotor exam. The number of candidates testing is vital to ensure adequate evaluation team staffing, and verification the student completed the requirements from the training institute. The EHSF cannot permit candidates to test if they are not verified through the roster submission.

### PA Scope of Practice

Ms. Hollinger reported the newest version of the scope of practice was published on 29 August 2015. The changes permit volume control ventilators by Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers.

### PA EMS Protocols

Ms. Hollinger announced the ALS protocols were released and the training is available. The effective date of the ALS protocols has been postponed to 01 October 2015. EMS agencies should work with their EMS agency medical director to ensure adequate provider competency.

Ms. Hollinger highlighted areas where the (Basic Life Support) BLS protocols may cause confusion, especially to the Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs). In some BLS protocols, there is an identification of exclusion criteria where the EMR is not permitted to perform a skill (i.e. pulse oximetry). However, there are protocols where the EMR is not permitted to perform a skill according to the EMS scope of practice, but the protocol does not identify exclusion criteria for the EMR (i.e. aspirin administration for chest pain). The Bureau of EMS (BEMS) was alerted but does not plan to provide revisions to the 2015 protocols. The BEMS identified providers are responsible to know both documents.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Predetermination for Certification

Ms. Hollinger announced the BEMS will no longer review prospective students' criminal histories to determine certification eligibility. The BEMS will only provide certification eligibility for candidates currently enrolled in a certification class and for those candidates providing the appropriate court documents. The candidate will receive notification once the BEMS makes a certification eligibility decision. The timeframe for official notification is unknown. Mr. Bernini expressed concern regarding this change. One concern involves losing a practice to provide a professional courtesy to prospective providers trying to make life decisions. The other concern involves the challenges associated with a refund if the candidate does not receive notification of ineligibility until the end of the class.

### Background Checks for EMS Provider

Mr. Wertz questioned the requirements for EMS to obtain background checks. Ms. Hollinger reported the BEMS released an updated version of their overview document suggesting EMS is not required to obtain background checks. However, this change raised concern among various

organizations' legal counsels. The EHSF advises any EMS agency considering not completing background checks on their personnel should consult their own legal counsel first.

#### EMR to EMT Psychomotor Exam

Ms. Hollinger explained there is an increase in EMR classes transitioning into an EMT class. These candidates are successfully testing the EMR exams and receiving state certification before entering the EMT class. The EHSF is noticing these new EMR students will be testing the BLS psychomotor exam for the EMT in less than two years from the date they successfully completed the BLS psychomotor exam for the EMR. The candidate is currently required to retake the entire psychomotor exam. Ms. Hollinger asked the committee to consider recommending to the BEMS that EMT candidates who successfully completed the EMR psychomotor exam in less than two years would be eligible to apply the EMR psychomotor exam results toward the relevant stations. When applicable the EMT candidate would be required to test the two additional skills stations: supine immobilization and random skill. This change of process could entice newly certified EMRs to enroll in an EMT class to advance their certification level, which would assist with recruitment and retention initiatives. Mr. Spies suggested sharing information from other states with similar processes between their EMT and advanced EMT certification. Committee members discussed this suggestion and determined to send a recommendation to the Bureau of EMS. Ms. Hollinger will create a presentation to provide with the recommendation for newly certified EMRs (within two years) to apply their EMR psychomotor exam results toward their EMT psychomotor exam.

#### ESO Solutions – Data Overview

Ms. Hollinger presented regional data from ESO Solutions.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

#### Budget

Ms. Hollinger reported the EHSF is currently working without a budget. Each regional council is in a different financial situation while awaiting the state to pass a budget. There has been rumor some regional councils may eliminate psychomotor exams. The EHSF staff are closely monitoring out-of-region candidates requesting testing. The EHSF will continue to ensure the students' needs within our region are being met.

#### Chester County Project

Ms. Hollinger announced the EHSF met with Chester County EMS Council to discuss a partnership to develop a software-system for an electronic psychomotor exam process.

#### EHSF Personnel Update

Ms. Hollinger reported the vacant system coordinator position has been offered and accepted. However, there is a delayed start date until the state budget is passed. EHSF will announce the new employee once a start date is determined.

Ms. Hollinger reported Christopher Wilkening is no longer a test team leader with the evaluation team. James Swartz was recently offered the position and will begin transitioning into his new role in the near future.

PEHSC Education Task Force

Mr. Deaven reported the PEHSC Education Task Force is awaiting a response from the BEMS from a recommendation submitted in March 2015.

ICD-10

Mr. Wertz announced Reading's annual document education for the upcoming International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD) version 10 release.

Lebanon County Ambulance Association

Mr. Smith announced the Lebanon County Ambulance Association identified needs for additional EMS education within Lebanon County. Various EMS agencies within Lebanon County are working together to form a training institute and become an advisory committee for the Eastern Lebanon County High School EMS certification program.

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College

Mr. Spies announced their facility is in the process for their Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professional (CoAEMSP) reaccreditation. The site visit is scheduled for October 08, 2015 and October 09, 2015.

The next meeting is scheduled for 08 December 2015 at 1000 hours.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Bernini adjourned the meeting at 1103 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan A. Hollinger  
Director of System Operations