



## PREHOSPITAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting Report  
12 May 2016  
1000 hours  
EHSF Conference Room

### Attendance

<b>Present:</b>	Scott Buchle	Chair / Dauphin County EMS Council
	Eric Zaney	Adams County EMS Council
	Duane Nieves	Cumberland County EMS Council
	Doug Bitner	Franklin County EMS Council
	Robert Patterson	Lancaster County EMS Council
	Kraig Nace	Perry County EMS Council
	Mark Moody	York County EMS Council
	Kelly Altland	Northeastern Area EMS
	Mark Berry	WellSpan – Ephrata Hospital ALS
	Kevin Dalpiaz	Community Life Team
	Eric Durham	Hanover Hospital Medic 46
	Darrell Fisher	New Holland EMS
	Nathan Harig	Cumberland Goodwill EMS
	Elizabeth Heller	Fayetteville EMS
	Suzette Kreider	Northwest EMS
	Andrew Melius	Fayetteville EMS
	Darryl Mitchell	Manheim Township EMS
	Denny Shelly	WellSpan – York Hospital
	Andrew Snavelly	Holy Spirit Hospital
	Jim Tunnesson	Jeff Stat
<b>Staff:</b>	Megan A. Ruby	Director of System Operations
	Ann Marie Christie	Program Coordinator
	Celia M. Fraticelli	System Coordinator
	Michael J. Guerra	Resource Coordinator

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Buchle called the meeting to order at 1000 hours and asked for introductions.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ePCR Project Update

Ms. Ruby stated EHSF will fund the ePCR program with ESO through the next fiscal year of 2016-2017. All EMS agencies now have access to the new platform per ESO. EMS agencies are to contact ESO when ready to upgrade. Of the 183 EMS agencies within the region, 92 agencies are actively using ESO, and 28 agencies do not wish to use ESO. To date, 63 agencies still need implementation.

Ms. Ruby reported the Department of Health, Bureau of EMS (BEMS) does not anticipate a transition to National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) version 3 until at least 2017.

### Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Healthcare (CP/MIH)

Ms. Ruby stated there are no new updates. The next meeting is scheduled 16 June 2016.

### Commendation Program Update

Ms. Ruby reminded the committee of the changes approved at the previous Prehospital Operations Committee meeting to include; the clinical save award criteria will be worded to capture patients who become pulseless in the field while under prehospital care rather than only prior to EMS arrival. The revisions also capture the additional terminology for certification to include the Emergency Medical Responder under the BLS provider of the year and the Advanced EMT under the ALS provider of the year.

Ms. Ruby discussed the new meritorious service award to honor providers who provide clinical care resulting in lifesaving intervention during an unusual EMS response. An ePCR will be required to review the call for all meritorious award applications. The commendation award bars/pins and cards are ordered. Once the pins and cards arrive, the EHSF will begin fulfilling requests.

There was a discussion regarding classifying the use of naloxone in opioid overdoses as a clinical save award. Mr. Buchle suggested this topic be discussed among the working group comprised of each county's EMS council presidents.

### Public Service Calls

Mr. Buchle discussed his conversation with Dr. Lubin and utilizing Dr. Jess Mann, their EMS fellow, starting on 01 July 2016, to review data surrounding public service responses. There is also a possibility of using graduate students to assist in this study. Data from each county along with a partnership with the Medical Advisory Council and Regional Communications Committee is needed.

Mr. Bitner questioned the difference of a fire department providing medical assist versus providing EMS without a license. Ms. Ruby advised if an EMS agency has a working relationship with the fire department, the fire department is responding as a medical assist. The committee discussed operations in Lebanon County, which does not dispatch fire departments on EMS calls unless the fire department is a licensed QRS. Ms. Ruby noted each county has different policies for dispatching units on responses. Ms. Ruby stated the EHSF will continue to

support the role of medical assist by the fire departments and encourage fire departments to obtain licensure as a QRS.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **EMSIB 2016-01: QRS Staffing Clarification**

Ms. Ruby provided EMS Information Bulletin (EMSIB) 2016-01 clarifying an EMT is permitted to administer treatment according to their approved scope of practice and protocols when responding on a licensed QRS unit.

### **EMSIB 2016-02: CCT Education**

Ms. Ruby announced EMSIB 2016-02 provided EMS agencies seeking licensure as a critical care transport (CCT) may accept providers who had training under the DOH approved educational program from University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and providers currently certified by the Board for Critical Care Transport Paramedic Certification as a flight paramedic or ground critical care transport paramedic.

### **EMSIB2016-03: Clarification Chest Tubes**

Ms. Ruby provided EMSIB 2016-03 to address transporting patients with indwelling chest tubes during interfacility transports.

### **EMSIB2016-04: CCT Licensure Process**

Ms. Ruby announced EMSIB 2016-04 provided information about the CCT level of licensure. This bulletin reinforces the requirements for minimum staffing, approved education for providers, and process to gain licensure.

### **BLS Blood Glucose Testing**

Ms. Ruby announced a vote to recommend was approved by the BEMS to permit BLS providers to use glucometers to obtain blood glucose as an optional skill. However, the use of glucometers by BLS is not yet permitted. The EHSF is awaiting information on the protocol and education requirements.

### **Ketamine**

Ms. Ruby announced the BEMS approved the use of ketamine for excited delirium patients by ALS providers. The BEMS alluded the process will mirror the etomidate protocol process. The BEMS will provide the process for approval and protocol in the future.

### **Sternal IO Project**

Ms. Ruby discussed Dr. Reihart's desire to pilot the use of sternal intraosseous for IV initiation and medication administration. Sternal IOs are used by the military with success. ALS agencies interested in participating in a possible pilot study should contact Ms. Ruby.

### **BLS Testing Process**

Ms. Ruby discussed changes to the BLS psychomotor exam process and schedule. The EHSF will be shifting tests from Saturdays to weekday, evenings. This change will offer more frequent practical exams throughout the year with a delivery to the time of day the students are used to attending class. If EMS providers are interested in joining the evaluation team, they should contact Ms. Ruby.

Landing Zones

Ms. Ruby reported discussion about landing zones during the Medical Advisory Committee. The EHSF wants to host a workgroup to pre-identify landing zones throughout the eight counties to increase safety. More information will be forthcoming.

EMS County Council Meetings

Ms. Ruby announced in the fall, the EHSF will divide the EMS county council representation among three EHSF coordinators who focus primarily on the EMS system. Ms. Ruby asked the county council presidents to send information pertaining to meeting schedules to her.

Ms. Ruby suggested scheduling a meeting between the EHSF office and the EMS county councils because of the leadership change among various counties. More information will be provided.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

EMS Week

Ms. Ruby discussed the EMS Week activities for 2016 and distributed a schedule of events.

Staffing Update

Ms. Ruby announced the appointment of the new Deputy Secretary of Health, Raphael Barishansky.

Ms. Ruby notified the committee of Ms. Hooker's maternity leave until 18 July 2016.

Phone System

Ms. Ruby distributed the updates for the EHSF phone system to assist with contacting the EHSF staff.

Website

Ms. Ruby recognized concerns on the EHSF website that has outdated information and is difficult to navigate. The EHSF is evaluating a website revision and will provide more information during the fall meetings.

2016-2017 Meeting Dates

Ms. Ruby announced the meeting dates for FY 2016-17: 08 September 2016, 10 November 2016, 05 January 2017, 09 March 2017, and 11 May 2017.

Mr. Buchle adjourned the meeting at 1140 hours.

The next Prehospital Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for 08 September 2016 at 1000 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan A. Ruby  
Director of System Operations