



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

13 September 2016  
1000 hours  
EHSF Conference Room

### ATTENDANCE

**Present:**

Melissa Etzweiler  
Christopher Irvin  
Donald Kilheffer  
Andrew Melius  
Darryl Mitchell  
Richard Pearson  
Steve Poffenberger  
Randy Spies  
Don Weigel

Harrisburg Area Community College  
Manheim Township Ambulance Association  
Eastern Lebanon County High School  
Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department  
Manheim Township Ambulance Association  
PA College of Health Sciences  
HACC Paramedic / Holy Spirit EMS  
Blue Ridge Community & Technical College  
Blue Ridge Community & Technical College

**Staff:**

Megan A. Ruby  
Ann Marie Christie  
Carol A. Kauffman

Director of System Operations  
Program Coordinator  
Program Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Ruby called the meeting to order at 1004 hours in the absence of Chair Rob Bernini.  
Ms. Ruby asked for introductions.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Psychomotor Exam: Logistics**

Ms. Ruby reported the changes to the BLS psychomotor exam process as discussed in the June 2016 Education Committee meeting. Ms. Ruby announced since the previous meeting, the EHSF administered some large psychomotor exams with 60 candidates along with smaller, single class psychomotor exams. The EHSF discovered success with hosting the single class exams during the traditional meeting time of the class schedule. The EHSF also reduced the number of testing rooms by combining stations. The candidates are now routed from the staging area only four times to complete a total of seven stations. This change reduces the exam length by one hour for 15 candidates. Ms. Ruby reminded the training institutes their responsibilities to secure the testing location with adequate rooms for skill stations, provide the equipment for testing, and recruit patient actors. The EHSF will provide continuing education to certified EMS providers assisting as patient actors. The EHSF is willing to further discuss partnerships with the training institutes to recruit patient actors.

Ms. Ruby reported some facilities cannot provide enough rooms to efficiently administer the psychomotor exam. When this issue occurred recently, the EHSF had to run two rooms of stations in one room. For example, one room was divided in half where the supine and random stations were administered at one end of the room while the bag value management, oxygen administration, and cardiac arrest management stations were administered at the other end of the room. Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF monitored the success of the candidates closely and did not witness any increased failures from multiple stations in one room running simultaneously. Ms. Ruby questioned the training institute's perspective on this topic. Mr. Melius responded when they teach their students the stations from the psychomotor exam, they administer the stations similarly, so the students are used to multiple stations in one room. The other training institutes present did not voice concern for this practice.

**End of Class Presentations**

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF postponed end of class presentations because of short staffing. The EHSF worked with the training institutes to provide the end of class presentation materials for the candidates. The EHSF is orientating a new employee and has one additional position open. The EHSF will reevaluate their ability to conduct the end of class presentation near the end of the calendar year. Ms. Ruby also stated the EHSF is still considering nontraditional delivery models for the end of class presentation using technology and the future EHSF website.

**2017 NREMT Initial Certification Fees**

Ms. Ruby reminded the NREMT will increase their fees for testing effective January 2017.

<b>NREMT Level</b>	<b>Current Fees</b>	<b>Fees Effective 01/01/2017</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>EMR</b>	\$65	\$75	\$10
<b>EMT</b>	\$70	\$80	\$10
<b>AEMT</b>	\$100	\$115	\$15
<b>Intermediate/99</b>	\$100	\$125	\$25
<b>Paramedic</b>	\$110	\$125	\$15

Learning Management System: Centrelearn to Train

Ms. Ruby announced the new Learning Management System (LMS) through Train will be live 01 October 2016. Ms. Ruby provided there is not a training site for EMS agencies and providers available yet. Once the Department of Health site is established, the EHSF will work to provide training. Ms. Ruby reported Train is a national training database and will offer more options to providers for continuing education credits.

Ms. Ruby also stated effective Friday, 09 September 2016, no new accounts could be created in the current LMS through Centrelearn. Providers are also encouraged to print their continuing education record via the transcript or certificates before 30 September 2016.

EHSF Website

Ms. Ruby announced the EHSF responded to the feedback from various stakeholders regarding the website. The EHSF selected a new vendor to redo the website. The website will be live by May 2017, but the EHSF anticipates it will be available sooner. Ms. Ruby stated the input from EMS agency managers, providers, and other stakeholders will be vital for the design and functionality of the website. Any suggestions should be directed to Ms. Ruby.

Ms. Ruby also reported the third phase to the EHSF website will be a new site for the psychomotor exam manager website, which is currently Pangeais. The EHSF will solicit feedback from the training institutes for the future functionality of the site.

The committee expressed interest in the website's capabilities blogging or author area where a partner can create an article to post on the website, calendar providing upcoming class registration deadlines and continuing education courses, and ability to review psychomotor exam trending.

Field Preceptors

Ms. Ruby reported at the last meeting Mr. Poffenberger suggested the creation of regional field preceptor recognition. Ms. Ruby stated with the staffing changes at the EHSF office, the staff has not been able to invest time in the conception of the program. Ms. Ruby announced Ms. Carol Kauffman from the EHSF office will take the lead on the project. The concept of this program is based on how often EMS candidates from both BLS and ALS programs are paired with providers across various EMS agencies to complete skills and obtain patient contacts, and there are not clear guidelines to the role of a preceptor. The idea of this program would allow one EMS agency to verify criteria is met for a respective provider to precept an EMS candidate, and other EMS agencies could acknowledge the criteria was met from a different organization. The program would also provide consistency of information shared with EMS candidates in the field. Ms. Kauffman will coordinate a working group meeting in October.

Mr. Spies announced Blue Ridge Community & Technical College recently created a two-hour educational module for their preceptors. Mr. Spies is willing to share their information for a regional program.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Psychomotor Exam: Result Trending

Ms. Ruby discussed trending of stations failed during the psychomotor exam. Ms. Ruby announced when the EHSF notices a high volume of failed candidates from a specific class; they will communicate with the training institute following the psychomotor exam. Ms. Ruby also

reported the EHSF will begin communicating the station failure trends with the training institute in hope to enhance the quality of education provided to the candidates in the future.

#### Opening Class Presentations

Ms. Ruby reported the EHSF will continue attending the opening night of certification classes to obtain the provider certification applications from EMS candidates. Ms. Ruby announced the Department of Health, Bureau of EMS (BEMS) provided a PowerPoint presentation for the opening class. The EHSF is waiting on additional information from BEMS before using the presentation materials during the opening night of class.

#### New Provider Certification Applications

Ms. Ruby reported the BEMS created a new provider certification application. The EMSVO credentialing information has been removed from the provider certification application and made into its own application. The provider certification application for EMS candidates to complete comes in a new format with a cleaner presentation. The application is also a fillable PDF. The EHSF will work with training institutes to determine ways to facilitate the completion of the application electronically rather than handwriting the information.

#### Approved Courses for Certification Eligibility

Ms. Ruby reminded the training institutes of the Department of Health approved courses for Hazmat, Incident Command, and CPR for certification eligibility. The most recent version of the EMS Education Standard Operating Procedures is from August 2015. This document provides the list of approved courses. Discussion pursued regarding the verbiage in the manual stating "completion of a recommended acceptable" course.

#### EMS Registry

Ms. Ruby reported the new EMS Registry was originally to be live on 15 October 2016. However, the live date has been postponed to November 2016. Ms. Ruby provided once there is access to provide training to the EMS agencies and providers, the EHSF will communicate the information.

#### Reinstatements/Reciprocities

Ms. Ruby announced the Bureau of EMS provided a change involving reinstatements and reciprocities. In the past if a provider's EMS certification expired, the only way for the provider to receive active certification was by completing the reinstatement process even if the respective provider held current EMS certification with the National Registry or another state. Now the Bureau of EMS will permit reciprocity or certification by endorsement for expired Pennsylvania certified providers if they hold current certification with the National Registry or another state.

#### New ALS Psychomotor Exam

Ms. Ruby announced Donald Kilheffer and Raphael Caloia will be the ALS National Registry Representatives for the EHSF office in the future. Ms. Ruby is waiting for a Registry Representative course to be available after the transition course is completed relating to the updates for the new ALS psychomotor exam.

Ms. Ruby reported there are changes to the ALS psychomotor exam process coming effective 01 January 2017. Ms. Ruby provided the ALS candidates will be required to maintain a portfolio. Mr. Ruby also reported the skill stations for testing change. Starting January 2017, ALS candidates will test six stations: patient assessment – trauma, dynamic cardiology, static cardiology, oral station – case A, oral station – case B, and the new out-of-hospital scenario.

Mr. Ruby provided the EHSF is evaluating the logistics needed for the new exam format and will be working with the ALS training institutes to prepare for the transition.

*EHSF Future Growth*

Ms. Ruby announced the growth of the EHSF region by two additional counties. Effective 01 July 2017, the EHSF will also be the regional EMS council for Chester and Delaware Counties. Ms. Ruby provided Mr. Lyle is working with the current staff of those regions to prepare for a successful transition. Ms. Ruby also suggested inviting the Chester and Delaware Counties communication staff to upcoming committee meetings to learn more about their system.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

*PEHSC Education Task Force*

Ms. Ruby provided no update was available for this committee.

*2016-2017 Meeting Dates*

Ms. Ruby announced the upcoming meeting dates are 13 December 2016, 14 March 2017, and 13 June 2017.

*Additional Certification Classes in the Region*

Mr. Spies announced Blue Ridge Community & Technical College will be offering their first Paramedic class in Pennsylvania in a partnership with Holy Spirit EMS. The class will begin in January 2017. Mr. Spies provided the college will be offering their first Advanced EMT class in Pennsylvania in partnership with Shippensburg Area EMS. Mr. Spies announced a second EMT class will be offered in the spring of 2017. Mr. Spies is sensitive to their training institute being located outside the region and wanted to provide they are attempting to meet the needs of those soliciting their assistance to provide EMS training.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Ruby adjourned the meeting at 1131 hours.

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for 13 December 2016 at 1000 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan A. Ruby  
Director of System Operations