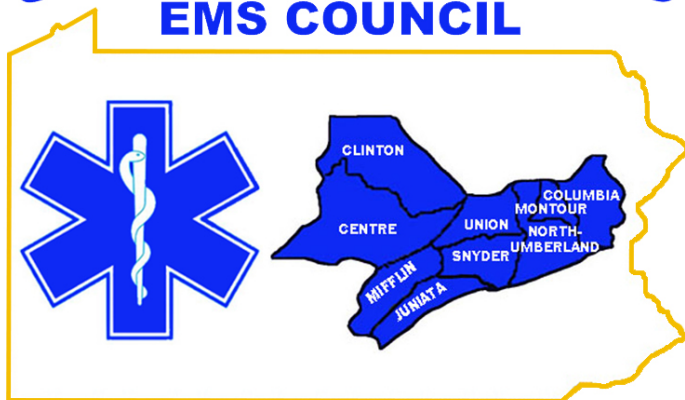


SEVEN MOUNTAINS EMS COUNCIL



SEVEN MOUNTAINS EMS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Authority

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.

Report are due within 30 calendar days of the end of each state fiscal year (June 30th)

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REGIONAL SUMMARY:

(Provide a summary of the council including regional background / demographic and other information unique to individual region / county)

Seven Mountains EMS Council, incorporated in December 1974 and recognized by the PA Department of Health in March 1975, is one of thirteen (13) organizations currently holding a grant with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, PA Department of Health as a Regional EMS Council. The grant is to assist the Department through the Bureau of EMS in coordinating the emergency medical service (EMS) efforts within the Central Pennsylvania counties of Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder and Union into a unified regional emergency medical services system which is consistent with the Commonwealth EMS system. The Council specifically assists the Bureau of EMS with system planning, development, maintenance, expansion, and improvements by assisting with the implementation of the EMS Systems Act (Act 37 of 2009) as well as providing a forum for feedback from regional agencies, providers and stakeholders on the status of our regional EMS service delivery.

Below is a geographic overview of our Region:

County	Population ¹	Land Area ²	Facilities			#PCRs completed ⁴	
			Hospitals	Trauma Centers ³	Stroke Centers	County MCD	Agency Base of Operations
Centre	162,805	1109.92	1		1 - Primary	15,711	17,227
Clinton	38,684	887.98	2		1 – Primary	4,202	4,920
Columbia	65,456	483.11	2		1 – Acute Stroke Ready	4,124	3,799
Juniata	24,704	391.35				3,457	3,685
Mifflin	46,222	411.03	1		1 – Primary	9,192	9,478
Montour	18,240	130.24	1	1	1 - Comprehensive	1,925	1,064
Northumberland	91,083	458.37	1			16,607	20,448
Snyder	40,540	328.71				4,415	5,388
Union	44,785	315.98	1		1- Primary	7,345	4,673
Regional Total	532,519	4,516.69	9	1	6	66,978	70,682

¹2019 Population estimates

²Square Miles

³Geisinger Medical Center, Montour County, is recognized for both Adult & Pediatric trauma

⁴Based on information obtained from the EMS PCR Bridge. Calendar year 2020. For representative purposes only. Excludes a majority of regional QRSs (who don't complete electronic PCRs & some calls (mostly aeromedical) originating outside the regional boundaries.

The following table provides an overview of the Regional EMS System. EMS is available throughout the Region with some areas being better served than others. Overall, populated areas within the region have EMS available within 10 minutes with ALS care available within 20 minutes or less. Council staff continue dialogue with organizations to potentially fill the service gaps, especially with establishment of QRS agencies. Likewise, there are also some areas within the region where EMS Agency consolidation could be beneficial to the overall system and potentially improve care available.

County	Agencies				Vehicles						Personnel ²		
	QRS	BLS	IALS	ALS	QRS	BLS	IALS	MICU	Squad	Air ¹	EMSVO Only	BLS	ALS
Centre	4	6	1	3	8	20	2	9	5	1	3	364	70
Clinton	5	3		2	9	5	0	6	1	0	2	145	18
Columbia	5			3	6	4	0	8	1	0	1	169	44
Juniata	0	6		1	0	14	0	2	0	0	5	93	18
Mifflin	3	3		1	3	10	0	5	1	0	4	133	26
Montour	2	0		2	3	9	0	12	2	0	0	47	18
North-umberland	9	1		6	17	11	0	17	5	0	11	246	76
Snyder	8	5		2	10	11	0	4		1	4	155	18
Union	1	3		2	5	6	0	7	2	0	1	135	18
Regional Totals	37	27	1	22	61	90	2	70	17	2	31	1487	306

¹Location of aircraft – not necessarily headquartered within the County. Geisinger has a total of 10 aircraft systemwide.

²EMS providers residing within the Region as of 6/30/2021. Not necessarily indicative of the number of providers who are actively engaged with a regional EMS agency.

Seven Mountains EMS Council is comprised of 156 organizations (not all currently active with an appointed delegate) including responder (police, fire, EMS), emergency management, hospital, PSAP, County Government, & consumers. Council delegates meet in October of each year to review the previous year's activities and elect a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, consisting of 20 delegates, elect their Board officers and establish a schedule of five meetings per year to direct & oversee Council operations and establish program objectives. Board members are elected for a two-year term with half the Board up for election each October. Non-Board delegates are invited to participate in the Board meetings and are extended all privileges other than moving items and casting votes. With the region being so geographically large, we were rotating our meetings between the eastern & western portions of the region. Since March 2020, we have been conducting videoconference (Zoom) meetings in compliance with the Commonwealth's guidelines concerning in-person meetings to try and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 virus. We intend to start in-person meetings again in August 2021 as long as pandemic conditions allow.

1. Board of Directors \ Council Officers

President: Mike Coldren

Vice President: Gerard Banfill

Treasurer: S. Scott Rhoat

Secretary: S. Scott Rhoat

(Please list all other members below)

<u>NAME</u>		<u>NAME</u>
1 <u>Matthew Abbey –Northumberland FD QRS</u>	19	<u>Laura Shay – Port Royal EMS</u>
2 <u>Chad Aucker – Central Susquehanna 911</u>	20	<u>Allen Weaver – Juniata County EMA</u>
3 <u>Gerard Banfill – Lock Haven EMS</u>	21	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
4 <u>James Blount III – William Cameron FD</u>	22	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
5 <u>Dayne Brophy – Bloomsburg Amb.</u>	23	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
6 <u>Joy Byler – Big Valley Amb. Assoc.</u>	24	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
7 <u>Mike Coldren – FAME EMS</u>	25	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
8 <u>Tom Derby – Geisinger EMS</u>	26	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
9 <u>Robert Edwards Jr. - PSU</u>	27	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
10 <u>J. David Jones – University Ambulance</u>	28	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
11 <u>John Harahus – Geisinger Medical Center</u>	29	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
12 <u>Bob Hare – Americus Hose Co. EMS</u>	30	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
13 <u>Nicole Fye – Goodwill Hose Co. EMS – until May 7, 2021</u>	31	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
14 <u>Matt Kurtz – Geisinger EMS</u>	32	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
15 <u>Romayne Naylor – American Red Cross</u>	33	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
16 <u>Thomas Perrin – Union CtyWest End EMS</u>	34	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
17 <u>S. Scott Rhoat – Bellefonte EMS</u>	35	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
18 <u>Derick Shambach – Snyder Cty. EMA</u>	36	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>

2. Regional EMS Council Staff:

Executive Director Timothy E. Nilson

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>Regional Education Coord.</u>	<u>Scott Reiner</u>
<u>Regional Licensure Coord.</u>	<u>James Urban</u>
<u>EMS Program Specialist</u>	<u>Cathy Grimes</u>
<u>Office Manager</u>	<u>Laura Rompolski</u>
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3. Regional Medical Director(s)

	<u>NAME</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Randi McLeod D.O.</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>

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

	Final Budget	Expended*
Personnel Services	\$306,339.04	\$306,339.04
Consultant Services	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00
Subcontracted Services	\$66,471.96	\$66,471.96
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$3,000.00	\$2,349.93
Supplies	\$19,000.00	\$14,143.89
Travel	\$7,510.00	\$5,465.53
Other Costs	\$117,000	\$102,903.52
TOTALS	\$524,921.00	\$503,283.87

NOTE: THE AMOUNTS SHOWN ABOVE ARE PRELIMINARY END OF YEAR TOTALS AND NOT FINAL AUDIT AMOUNT

*This is total grant funding used in these categories. Council obtained a federal CARES grant and supplemented EMSOF funds with money received through that grant.

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 PCR – Data Collection	Amount: \$45,360
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
For years now Council has negotiated a contract for PCR access for regional EMS agencies who choose to participate. Council provides access and either tablet & mobile access – other “add-ins” are at the expense of the agency. All transport agencies, other than one, use this access – a few of the QRS agencies also participate.	
Provider Con-Ed	Amount: 1,698.93
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
Council sponsored a virtual Con-Ed day for interested providers. Rommie Duckworth presented three CPC courses (which were then loaded to TRAIN-PA for additional providers) which were offered Commonwealth wide free of charge. Along with these, a 1 hr. EMSVO Con-Ed & Bureau update were provided. Overall a little over 200 individuals attended each of the five sessions with over 1,600 hours of con-ed being awarded – not counting hours earned through TRAIN-PA.	
Prehospital Ultrasound Pilot	Amount: \$13,032
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
Council approved a pilot project submitted by Centre LifeLink EMS and Mount Nittany Hospital Prehospital Services to study the feasibility and usefulness of ultrasound technology in the Prehospital setting. They are partnering with Southern York County EMS to conduct this pilot	
Active Threat Kit - Update	Amount: \$4,381.03
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
Council approved updating of the active threat kits which were assembled several years ago. Some of the supplies – esp. the occlusive dressings – were expiring and needed replaced.	

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date 2011 ¹
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Council meetings	6
Public Education Stop-the-Bleed Events	0 ²
Public Education CPR Events	0 ³
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	39
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	7 ⁴

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:

¹As per Bureau of EMS direction, the annual plan has been referenced with minimal review other than resource updates since 2011. We are waiting for the development and adoption of a Commonwealth EMS System Plan from which we will format & develop our Regional plan. Council & Regional EMS agencies actively participated in the planning workshops conducted in 2012 and are awaiting further guidance.

²Due to ongoing COVID concerns, there have been no public courses conducted though we have maintained the equipment & supplies and are prepared to resume conducting/assisting with courses within the Region. Have been discussing Stop the Bleed efforts with representatives from Penn State Health who want to increase the campaign throughout the campus and area.

³Again, COVID concerns have halted the offering of public events. We are an AHA training institute whereby issuing roughly 900 lay rescuer and 1700 professional rescuer course completion cards within the grant period – some courses requiring equipment and logistical assistance through Council. Providers opting to take the on-line renewal course and have an instructor verify their skills have drastically increased due to the lack of course availability.

Majority of the legislative contacts were concerning our Legislative education effort (legislative breakfast/lunch). A second event is tentatively scheduled for March 2022 prior to our annual conference.

Council also completed 55 Fatal Accident Report System (FARS) reports and submitted the requested information to PennDOT.

⁴The identified requests were between Council & PSAPs mainly, but not exclusively, concerning the COVID pandemic & dispatch protocol recommendations.

6. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	32
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	1
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	4

Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:

The Regional QI committee meeting in conjunction with the Regional MAC. The committee reviews all Ketamine, Etomidate & Prehospital Antibiotic usages along with any other incidents that warrant committee review. CQI revealed a few minor concerns with some of the usages, which

were discussed and corrected, and recognized one unauthorized administration of Etomidate which was forwarded to the Bureau.

7. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	4
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	0
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	4
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	1
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	0
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	1

Medical Direction Narrative:

Geisinger Medical Center is both an Adult & Pediatric trauma center.

8. Systems Operations

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	0
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	0
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	18
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	2
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	0
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	0
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	0

Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	105
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	1
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	18
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	0
Certification Class Visits Conducted	11
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	13
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	4

Systems Operations Narrative:

Due to COVID-19, EMS Agency & Medical Command Facility Safety Inspections were cancelled.

Agency licensure activity for the 2020-21 grant cycle include licensure renewal of 13 agencies, totaling 61 vehicles; 2 new and 3 replacement transport vehicles; 3 new QRS vehicles; and one VRSR Water Rescue agency was inspected. Two new substations were established – one inside the region and one by a regional agency outside the region. There were also two medical command facility inspections conducted this grant period – one within the Region and one assisting LTS EMS Council. We also assisted other Regions with EMS agency/ vehicle inspections as requested & available.

Council continues to mail out 120, 90, 60, &30 day licensure reminders to regional EMS agencies.

9. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	40+
Table Top Exercises Attended / Conducted	1
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	1
Special Event Plans Submitted	2
Responses / Deployments	14
Strike Team Agencies	3 ¹

Emergency Preparedness Narrative:

Along with the two special events that plans were submitted for, Council also assisted in preparing for multiple other special events by sharing of information and/or supplying equipment or supplies including six events where our Kubota was deployed for EMS purposes and supplying Active Threat kits for all PSU home football games.

For Responses/Deployments I am including those times when agencies needed assistance in acquiring COVID preparedness supplies and Council assisted by delivering needed items within the Region and/or traveled to pick-up or deliver equipment.

¹I think our official count is 3 agencies; but would guess more in the neighborhood of 6-8 would be interested & available to assist once the program requirements, objectives, & paperwork are finalized and consistent. Staff has requested a strike team meeting to discuss program issues, but nothing has been finalized to date.

10. Board of Director \ Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
8/20/2020	Noon	BOD – Conference Call
10/15/2020	18:30	Council – Conference Call
10/15/2020	20:14	BOD – Conference Call
1/21/2021	Noon	BOD – Conference Call
4/15/2021	Noon	BOD – Conference Call
6/17/2021	Noon	BOD – Conference Call

11. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9/1/2020	10:00	Teleconference
12/1/2020	10:00	Teleconference
3/2/2021	10:00	Teleconference
6/1/2021	10:00	Teleconference

12. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9/1/2020	10:00	Teleconference
12/1/2020	10:00	Teleconference
3/2/2021	10:00	Teleconference
6/1/2021	10:00	Teleconference

13. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

COVID-19 – Seven Mountains Board and staff have continued to support our regional agencies throughout the fifteen months of this ongoing pandemic. We have coordinated the flow of information concerning the pandemic from the Department, CDC and other reliable sources about the virus itself, mitigation efforts, regulation modifications, and most lately vaccination efforts. Council has acquired new and/or additional equipment & supplies to have available within the Region to help our agencies in times of supply shortages or pandemic, crisis operations. As a whole, I think the Region has fared well throughout but we continue to be in ‘readiness’ mode as incidences are again increasing within a few of our counties.

Prehospital Ultrasound – Council was approached by Centre LifeLink & Mount Nittany Medical Center Prehospital Services to support them in a prehospital ultrasound project that they want to become involved in with Southern York EMS. Both agency medical directors support the endeavor

which they hope to get underway fall 2021. Council reviewed their proposal voted to support the efforts by allocating some of the available 2020-21 Provider Equipment money to purchase the hardware needed. The agencies are funding the cost of the software/training component. Regional MAC reviewed and supports the project; they will be involved with review of the data obtained.

Manpower Recruitment – Manpower shortages have consistently been identified as an EMS system shortfall. Council recognizes the need to both expand and replace the current EMS provider pool and have instituted a few measures to assist. One problem identified is the low percentage of provider candidates who successfully complete, or even attempt, the cognitive certification examination. Lack of familiarization with and experience using computer adaptive testing has been identified as an obstacle. To overcome this, Council purchased keys (program seats) with Fisdap to allow candidates within the Region to experience computer adaptive testing as part of their training curriculum. These seats are for modular quizzes as well as comprehensive mid-term, final examinations. Enrollment with Fisdap is on a class/training institute basis and currently we are experiencing less than anticipated participation. For several years now Council has assisted EMS agencies in obtaining needed manpower by covering the cost of first-time, National Registry certification testing of their provider candidates. With the cognitive testing process shut down for a majority of this grant cycle, only 15 vouchers were requested & issued: 9 EMR; 3 EMT; & 3 ALS. We intend to continue/expand this program and anticipate additional requests as examination opportunities continue to open. We also promoted EMSIB 2020-05 allowing non-current providers to re-enter the system. To date we re-registered 105 providers back into the EMS system – 10 EMRs; 70 EMTs; & 5 ALS providers using exemption 1 and 3 EMRs; & 17 EMTs using exemption 2. Another 13 providers have requested information on the program but haven't completed the required paperwork.

Honor Guard – Seven Mountains Board & staff continue to support efforts to recognize EMS providers for the sacrifices they make while in service to others – especially those who make the ultimate sacrifice. Seven Mountains maintains a complement of LODD supplies and accoutrements for both Regional & Commonwealth wide use – loaning/supplying items to sister Councils & the Bureau as needed. As much as possible, we actively support organizations/activities intended to recognize the EMS system and providers - such as the 911 Memorial Service in Harrisburg, National & PA EMS bike rides, National EMS Memorial Service, & National Moment of Silence. Eight to ten years ago, Council established an EMS Honor Guard to represent us during memorial (Honor Guard) and celebratory (Color Guard) occasions. The team is comprised of regional staff and providers (with assistance, as needed, by other regional or BEMS staff) and have functioned at several funerals, sporting events, conference openings, and presented the colors at the PA Fire & Emergency Services annual banquet for the past handful of years. Though we continue to be prepared and ready if called upon, thankfully the 2020-21 grant year has been quite for both Honor & Color Guard requests.

CISM – Seven Mountains collaborates with LTS EMS Council to maintain an active critical incident stress management (CISM) team to debrief/defuse emergency providers after a major event or special situation/event that triggers an unhealthy, potentially responder disabling response. The team – Seven Mountains/Susquehanna Valley CISM – is about 40 members strong; is coordinated by a Licensed Psychologist; and integrates training individuals from a variety of disciplines – police, fire, EMS, dispatch, nursing, clergy, corrections, coroner, and mental health. We are recognized by and/or work in coordination with the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF), the SouthCentral Mountains & NorthCentral Task Forces, the Keystone Healthcare Coalition, PEHSC, and sister teams in Southern Alleghenies & Eastern EMS Councils. The team is available 24/7/365 with initial contact through the Lycoming or Mifflin County PSAPs and coordination of activities conducted by the EMS Program Specialist utilizing SERV-PA. During the 2020-21 grant period,

the team was requested for a total of 19 incident requests and provided support for 2 Critical Incident Training (CIT) programs. Staff also participate in the Keystone Healthcare Coalition meetings representing behavioral health for the Region.

Virtual Con-Ed Day – Due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to hold our annual spring conference as previously conducted. In place of that conference we organized a virtual Con-Ed event for providers who needed the continuing education credit and/or were interested in expanding/refreshing their knowledge of various aspects of patient care. Rommie Duckworth was contacted to conduct 3, 1.5 hour critical patient care (CPC) care lessons (including one on pediatric care) to satisfy those in the Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program. The Bureau of EMS also conducted an update of EMS events/happenings within the Commonwealth and Scott Reiner conducted a 1 hour EMSVO con-ed class for those providers needing that credit. The event was a success with approximately 270 EMS providers taking part in some or all of the event; most sessions were 200 attendees or just below that; and a little over 1600 hours of continuing education credit hours were processed. The CPC courses were recorded and uploaded to TRAIN-PA allowing additional providers to gain that knowledge & receive the credit hours for attendance. Not sure how many providers took advantage of that opportunity?

CARES – Seven Mountains EMS Council continued to coordinate the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) activities within the Commonwealth. Kimbra Shoop resigned her position last July. Not knowing the future of CARES funding, Council assigned Jim Urban – Licensure Coordinator – to assume most of her responsibilities (agency maintenance/on-boarding & auditing of data continued but outreach efforts were minimized). Due to on-going budget concerns Commonwealth wide and with minimal funds left in the original Medtronic grant, the Council Director will be assuming CARES responsibilities starting July 2021. With assistance from CARES National, we will enter a maintenance mode for the foreseeable future. Following within this report is a copy of the 2020 PA CARES report which was finalized and distributed to all Regional Councils & participating agencies late April. Agencies were also provided a copy of their agency report and each council was provided a report specific to their region.
