

**SEVEN MOUNTAINS EMS COUNCIL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Meeting Minutes May 27, 2020  
Conference Call**

- I. Call to Order  
President Mike Coldren called the Board of Directors' Meeting to order at 12:00 PM.
- II. Roll Call (sign-in sheet)  
Roll call was taken and a quorum was determined as present.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence  
Mike thanked everyone for their participation in the first, Board of Director's video meeting which is being held in response to the COVID-19 social distancing recommendations. Some housekeeping was discussed (video conference). Mike asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence.
- IV. Approval of Agenda  
A motion was made by Dave Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Rhoat to approve the Meeting Agenda as presented. Motion approved.
- V. Approval of Minutes – January 16, 2020 Board Meeting  
A motion was made by Scott Rhoat, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Jones to approve the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved.
- VI. Financial Reports – January–March 2020  
The following reports were furnished for Board Review: 2019-20 Grant to date; Jan.-March 2020 transactions; Council Balance Sheet; CARES Sept. 2019-March 2020 transactions & complete grant expenses.  
Scott Rhoat discussed our current interest rates - .65%. Gerard questioned the interest rates vs. what other banks offered last year.  
Motion by Dave Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Derick Shambach to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion Passed.  
Council's 2018-19 financial audit was presented at the January meeting & posted on 'Delegate Web'. Motion by Dave Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Rhoat to approve the 2018-19 audit as submitted. Motion Passed.  
Tim asked the Board if they had a desire to apply for a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan/grant through the Federal Government. The Commonwealth has continued our monthly payments throughout this pandemic; but who knows what the future holds as far as money coming into the fund and what will be available next year. To supplement the regional &/or Commonwealth EMS system funds, a motion was made by Dave Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Rhoat to authorize the Executive Director to apply for a PPP loan. Motion Passed.

VII. Council Reports

STAFF:

Staff reports were distributed via the Web.

RMAC/QI

MAC conducted a telephone meeting since the Regional Conference was cancelled.

-Dr. McLeod reported (from state MAC) that the new AEMT protocols are out with implementation in September, an in-person, 4-hour protocol update is required, Jim & Scott are working with MAC to try to coordinate a regional update;

-Dr. Kupas reported on a new protocol to allow ALS to use antibiotics for open fractures. He discussed the program and QI requirements. MAC endorsed regional participation in this program and asked that it be presented to the Board for approval;

-MAC discussed COVID-19 and Dr. McLeod reported that he has corresponded with both providers & PSAPs concerning appropriate response & PPE for those type calls;

-There was an inquiry from an agency medical director concerning EMS's ability to assist in conducting the COVID-19 tests &/or transportation of such;

-MAC surveyed the regional hospitals concerning contingency plans for potential transport of patients to other than emergency departments. Jim stated that he got a single response to his e-mail inquiry.

-MAC discussed the application for I-ALS licensure within the Region and the dispatch implications that may have. Additional follow-up was requested.

Jim then review information he pulled from EMS Charts concerning Regional response to the COVID-19 epidemic. 297 potential COVID transports were made within the Region. He can provide to the regional agencies if they wish.

EMS LEADERSHIP

Leadership committee met but no report is available other than the Legislative Breakfast was discussed. The committee though the event went well and are hoping that they will continue. Cathy Grimes estimates the attendance was approximately 80 and thanked the Board members who participated.

PEHSC

Dave Jones mentioned PEHSC has decided to conduct the state EMS conference as a virtual conference this year. Scheduled for August, more information will be coming soon.

VIII. Business

OPERATIONS OVERVIEW/UPDATE

A) COVID-19 Pandemic

For the most part, the epidemic hit right after the legislative breakfast and we have been actively participating in EMS preparedness efforts ever since. The conference was cancelled; but the office remained open throughout. We assisted in PPE distribution within the Region but distributing some supplies

that Council has stockpiled over the years – including masks & gowns. Council has two fit-testing kits which have been in almost constant use over this time frame. Tim expressed a concern that (his feelings only) the EMS Councils have a very minor role in preparedness/response to this pandemic – emphasis has been placed on the County EMA's for unmet needs and HAP for information sharing/coordination. Seven Mountains has done everything possible to assure that our Regional EMS agencies have the supplies & personnel they need to successfully and safely respond to calls for assistance. Staff has been disseminating information concerning BEMS efforts to mitigate COVID-19's effects on the system and assisting providers/agencies in implementing the bulletins.

B) EMS Week

Council has sent out information concerning EMS week to local & county officials asking for them to proclaim EMS Week. A few Counties have already responded. A provider 'Thank You' was also submitted to the regional media outlets. Most other activities have been put on hold including the National EMS memorial service.

C) Intern

Our Intern (Rachael Kuhlen) has completed her internship, though the second half needed to be from home. She did an excellent job and has expressed her appreciation for the opportunity. Tim asked permission to provide her a stipend to help with some expenses she has incurred over the past several months. Council agreed to \$250.

D) Conference

As has already been mentioned, the conference got cancelled the day before it was to begin. As much as it was a hard decision, it was the only decision. All attendees were provided with total refunds. The Ramada was very gracious in that they waived all potential fees that could have been associated with the cancel – even returning money for Thursday evening reservations. Council did incur approximately \$6000 in expenses for supplies and such that were already committed.

E) CARES

Kim Provided an update on CARES activities and the 2019 CARES report. Participating agencies should have received their Utstein & survival reports. She said that she participated on a conference call with CARES national and it was mentioned that they were going to send out reports for first quarter 2020; she cautioned referencing those reports due to the frequent delay in reporting.

ANTIBIOTIC USAGE FOR OPEN FRACTURES IN THE PREHOSPITAL SETTING

Jim reported that the Regional MAC endorsed regional participation in the 'field use of antibiotics for patients with open fractures' program; MAC is requesting Board approval. A discussion followed including if this was a new program or a pilot & who was paying for the antibiotics? It was mentioned that the antibiotics will be included on the approved drug list but not included in the required drug list. Due to the lack of information and a motion, this was tabled and returned to MAC for additional clarification.

### PROVIDER EQUIPMENT DISCUSSION

Tim asked the Board what they wanted to do with vacant staff position funds which total approximately \$50,000. He stated that along with those funds, we still have approximately \$6,700 in provider funds that need allocated. He reviewed approximately \$15,000 in COVID-19 related expenses that has already been committee (additional fit test kits; UV lights; provider/agency supplies; PAPR batteries; etc.) and the potential expense of \$5,500 for a new roof for the MSEC in Selinsgrove. He also mentioned the bariatric survey which Rachael conducted to see if there were any purchases that needed to happen to maintain that program. A discussion followed. Mike asked about replenishing our PPE stockpile – it was agreed that this should happen; but the purchases should be held off for a while. A regional project to provide patient movement devices – such as binder lift or Doty belt – was suggested. The suggestion was made to make a lifting/moving device available to the agencies using a 50/50 or 60/40 funding formula as was previously done on some other EMSOF purchases. Staff was directed to reach out to the regional agencies to determine interest in a split-cost purchase of devices. Motion by Gerard Banfill, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Jones, to purchase the additional CO monitors which would need to be purchased during the 2020-21 grant period. Motion Passed.

### OTHER BUSINESS

President Coldren mentioned that he intended on identifying committee chairs but hasn't completed that yet.

- IX. Good of the Organization  
Mike & Tim recognized the Council staff for their unwavering support of Council operations before and during the pandemic.
- X. Next Meeting  
June 18, 2020 via Conference call – starting at noon.
- XI. Adjournment  
Motion by Dave Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerard Banfill to adjourn the meeting at 1:54 PM.  
Motion passed.

Attendance/Sign-in Sheet  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
May 27, 2020  
Conference Call – Roll Call of participants

Gerard Banfill, Delegate Lock Haven EMS\*  
Scott Rhoat, Delegate, Bellefonte EMS\*  
Thomas Derby III, Delegate, Geisinger EMS/Berwick Ambulance\*  
Dayne Brophy, Delegate, Bloomsburg Ambulance Association\*  
Chad Aucker, Delegate, Snyder County 911\*  
Michael Coldren, Delegate, FAME EMS \*  
Bob Edwards, Delegate, PSU  
Derick Shambach, Delegate, Snyder County EMA\*  
Phil Lucas, Delegate, Mifflin County EMA  
Nichole Fye, Delegate, Goodwill Hose Ambulance\*  
Romaine Naylor, Delegate, American Red Cross\*  
Dave Jones, Delegate, U.A.S.\*  
Kent Knable, Delegate, Centre LifeLink EMS  
Paula Miller, Delegate, EMTs Inc.  
Rich Kelley, Delegate, Mount Nittany Medical Center Prehospital Services  
Matthew Kurtz, Delegate, Geisinger EMS/Danville Ambulance\*  
Tim Nilson, Council Staff  
Cathy Grimes, Council Staff  
Kimbra Shoop, Council Staff  
Laura Rompolski, Council Staff  
Scott Reiner, Council Staff  
Jim Urban, Council Staff

\* Board Member