

SEVEN MOUNTAINS EMS COUNCIL



SEVEN MTNS. EMS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2018-19

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)

Timothy E. Nilson, Executive Director
tnilson@smemsc.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	0
REGIONAL SUMMARY:	1
1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS \ HEALTH COUNCIL OFFICERS	3
2. REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL STAFF:	4
3. REGIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR(S)	4
4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES:	4
5. SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING:	4
6. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES/ ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT	5
7. CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	6
8. MEDICAL DIRECTION	6
9. SYSTEMS OPERATIONS	7
10. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES	8
11. BOARD OF DIRECTOR \ HEALTH COUNCIL MEETINGS	9
12. MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING	9
13. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING	9
14. REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:	9

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 Dept. of Health in March 1975, is one of thirteen (13) organizations currently recognized as Regional EMS Councils which hold a grant with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health. 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's EMS system. The Council specifically assists the Bureau with 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			# EMS Calls ⁴
			Hospital ³	Trauma Center	Stroke Center	
Centre	158,742	1109.92	1		1	19,715
Clinton	39,745	887.98	2		1	4,716
Columbia	67,122	483.11	2			10,926
Juniata	24,796	391.35				4,456
Mifflin	46,552	411.03	1		1	10,388
Montour	18,641	130.24	1	1	1	7,942
Northumberland	93,944	458.37	2			18,854
Snyder	40,323	328.71				6,258
Union	44,874	315.98	1			12,154
Regional Total	534,739	4,516.69	10	1	4	95,409

¹ 2014 Estimates

² Square Miles.

³Hospital listing is inclusive of specialty centers.

⁴Based on information obtained using EMS Charts and quarrying agencies who don't use EMS Charts as their PCR platform.

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

County	Agencies			Vehicles					# Personnel ²		
	QRS	BLS	ALS	QRS	BLS	MICU	Squad	Aircraft ¹	EMS VO	BLS	ALS
Centre	4	7	3	6	22	9	5	1	7	355	69
Clinton	5	3	2	8	6	5	1		3	145	20
Columbia	3	2	3	3	8	9	1		1	157	42
Juniata		5	1		10	2	1		1	97	18
Mifflin	3	3	1	3	10	5	1		16	131	24
Montour	1	0	1	2	5	4	1	4		37	13
North- umberland	8	1	6	16	13	13	5		7	234	73
Snyder	8	5	2	11	9	5			7	152	13
Union	1	3	3	5	8	3	2		7	133	16
Regional Total	33	29	22	54	91	55	17	5	49	1441	288

¹Aircraft is stationed within the County – licensed EMS Agency operating the aircraft may be headquartered in another County.

²EMS providers currently residing within the Region. Not necessarily indicative of the number of providers who are actively engaged within a Regional EMS Agency.

Seven Mountains EMS Council is comprised of 154 organizations including responder (police, fire, EMS), emergency management, hospital, PSAP, County Government, and Consumers. As should be expected, some agencies are more active than others with some member organizations never even appointing a delegate. 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 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 big geographically, we have been rotating our meetings between the eastern & western portions of the region – we also allow for conference call access if arranged in advance.

1. Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers

President: Michael 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</u>	19	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
2	<u>Chad Aucker</u>	20	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
3	<u>James Blount III</u>	21	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
4	<u>Dayne Brophy</u>	22	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
5	<u>Ed Burkland</u>	23	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
6	<u>Joy Byler</u>	24	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
7	<u>Thomas Derby</u>	25	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
8	<u>Robert Edwards Jr.</u>	26	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
9	<u>J. David Jones</u>	27	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
10	<u>Robert Hare</u>	28	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
11	<u>Sean Kleckner</u>	29	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
12	<u>Matthew Kurtz</u>	30	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
13	<u>Romayne Naylor</u>	31	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
14	<u>Thomas Perris</u>	32	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
15	<u>Derick Shambach</u>	33	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
16	<u>Laura Shay</u>	34	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
17	<u>Allen Weaver</u>	35	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
18	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	36	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>

2. Regional EMS Council Staff:

Executive Director Timothy E. Nilson

STAFF POSITION	NAME
Executive Director	Timothy E. Nilson
Regional Education Coord.	Mark A. Wolfgang
Regional Licensure Coord.	James P. Urban
EMS Program Specialist	Cathy D. Grimes
Office Manager	Laura Rompolski
Pennsylvania CARES Coord.	Kimbra Shoop
Regional Medical Director	Randi McLeod MD
Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Regional Medical Director(s)

	NAME
1	Randi McLeod MD
2	Click or tap here to enter text.

4. Financial Statement of income and expenses:

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$337,980.38	\$337,901.42
Consultant Services	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00
Subcontracted Services	\$118,293.00	\$118,408.63
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$15,725.00	\$15,665.17
Supplies	\$26,600.00	\$26,600.88
Travel	\$12,753.23	\$10,590.76
Other Costs	\$103,907.39	\$100,949.33
TOTALS	\$620,859	\$615,715.19

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

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 Availability	Amount: \$45,360.
<i>Project Narrative:</i> Working through Penn Care, we make EMS Charts available to all interested, licensed EMS agencies throughout the Region – both basic and either tablet or mobile versions.	
12 Lead Upgrade	Amount: \$33,261.
<i>Project Narrative:</i> ALS agencies are going to need upgraded modems to allow for 12-Lead transmission by 1/1/20. Council is purchasing the needed equipment for all licensed ALS agencies within the Region who are going to be effected by this requirement.	
Provider Test Prep Help	Amount: \$12,222
<i>Project Narrative:</i> Council BOD has authorized a pilot project whereby we provide computer adaptive testing support to interested candidates to see if this improves first-time success rates with the National Registry Written Examination. We are also working with initially unsuccessful candidates to remediate and pass the exam on the subsequent attempt.	
Active Threat Support	Amount: \$ 11,787
<i>Project Narrative:</i> Council has been working on a multi-year initiative to support regional EMS agencies in preparing for potential active threat situations. This year we allocated money to purchase additional Stop-the-Bleed training kits/supplies to be used throughout the Region.	
Prehospital Provider Con-Ed	Amount: \$1,165
<i>Project Narrative:</i> Council offered each Regional, licensed EMS agency one (additional if funding is available) educational scholarship to this year's statewide EMS Conference being held in Manhiem PA. We were able to fund all scholarships requested.	
Prehospital Provider Examination Reimbursement	Amount: \$ 1,820
<i>Project Narrative:</i> Council has been offering vouchers for regional EMS certification candidates – endorsed by a licensed EMS Agency – to pay for their first attempt at the National Registry cognitive examination (certification).	

6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan*	Date 2011
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	5
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	34
Public Education CPR Events	16
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	1

Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	13
---	----

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:

*Council has been told since 2010 that we are to hold off on development of/revision to a comprehensive regional EMS system plan until the Department provides definitive direction. We have been maintaining/updating the ‘development’ plan on an annual basis and are using it to conduct regional needs assessments.

-Council assisted the Bureau with the annual PA Farm Show event where both Hands-Only CPR & Stop the Bleed was showcased to approximately 1500 people.

7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	9
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	5
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	4

Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:

-The Regional QI Committee is contained within the Medical Advisory Committee since the MAC is open to ALL Agency Medical Directors and management personnel.

-Regional CQI Committee continues a 100% review of all Etomidate and Ketamine uses within the Region for both appropriateness and effectiveness. Etomidate usage is reported to the Bureau on a quarterly basis as required.

8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	4
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	1
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	1
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	2

Medical Direction Narrative:

The Regional Medical Advisory Committee meets on a quarterly basis. The March meeting is an in-person meeting in conjunction with the Annual Spring Conference while the remaining meetings are conducted at Mt. Nittany Medical Center Corporate offices with both in-person & teleconference participation. This format has allowed for participation from Agency Medical Directors who have been unable to attend in the past.

9. Systems Operations

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	2
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	5
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	6
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	7
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	1
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	3
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	45
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	212
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	9
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	229
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	0
Certification Class Visits Conducted	44
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	1
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	

Systems Operations Narrative:

Click or tap here to enter text.

10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	29
Table Top Exercises Attended / Conducted	1
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	1
Special Event Plans Submitted	3
Responses / Deployments	2*
Strike Team Agencies	3

Emergency Preparedness Narrative:

-Council supported Danville EMS with deployment of trailers & equipment to support EMS coverage for the Bloomsburg Fair. MSEC, CCP, and two supply trailers were all deployed along with some additional equipment including our Kubota, radios, and cots.

-Council supported multiple other, smaller events throughout the Region – mainly by allowing EMS agency usage of our Kubota. Events include: Punkin Chunkin in Howard; Open Streets Event in Bellefonte; Country Memory Days in McVeytown; 4th of July Parade in Lewisburg; Union County Fair in Glen Iron. The Kubota was also used during a ‘back country’ training event held in Centre County and responded to an airplane accident in Centre County.

-The weakest component of our overall preparedness program is the Strike Teams. Our Strike Teams haven’t been provided the opportunity to meet and/or drill in several years and it is getting to the point that the Regional Director isn’t sure what, if any, participation we will have should the team(s) be activated. Officially we have three (3) recognized strike teams but numerous other regional EMS agencies have expressed interest in maintaining their status – just haven’t gotten the proper guidance on how to proceed.

-Council has been actively involved in presenting the Stop the Bleed program throughout the Region to both providers and general public. We maintain a cache of training equipment which is used by Council staff to conduct programs and available to EMS agencies for use within their programs. For the past two years, Council has committed substantial funds toward the purchase of Active Threat kits to increase the amount of supplies available to meet EMS preparedness and response needs throughout the Region. Council Active Threat kits have been deployed to supplement local supply caches & have been used at events including the Arts Festival; Penn State Football games; and children fairs.

-*Council BOD endorses two staff as members of the Keystone Incident Management Team (IMT). The Executive Director deployed to two events this grant cycle – Lower Swatara Flooding and a missing person in Catawissa PA – as part of the IMT planning team.

11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
8/16/18	Noon	523 Dell Street Bellefonte, PA 16823
12/12/18	19:00	523 Dell Street Bellefonte, PA 16823
1/17/19	Noon	Union County Government Center – Lewisburg, PA 17837
4/18/19	Noon	523 Dell Street Bellefonte, PA 16823
6/20/19	Noon	Union County Government Center – Lewisburg, PA 17837

12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9/12/18	10:00 AM	Mt. Nittany Corporate offices-teleconference
12/18/18	10:00 AM	Mt. Nittany Corporate offices-teleconference
3/15/19	2:00 PM	Toftrees Resort-Annual in-person meeting at Spring Conference
6/4/19	10:00 AM	Mt. Nittany Corporate offices-teleconference

13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9/12/18	10:00 AM	Mt. Nittany Corporate offices-teleconference
12/18/18	10:00 AM	Mt. Nittany Corporate offices-teleconference
3/15/19	2:00 PM	Toftrees Resort-Annual in-person meeting at Spring Conference
6/4/19	10:00 AM	Mt. Nittany Corporate offices-teleconference

14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

-Seven Mountains EMS Council coordinates activities for the PA CARES program within the Commonwealth. In October 2018, the PA House of Representatives adopted House Resolution #1096 designating the week of October 15-19, 2018 as “CARES Recognition Week” within the Commonwealth. During CARES recognition week, 122 EMS agencies were recognized with the 2018 CARES Award – acknowledging their commitment to measuring OHCA and using data to improve the quality of care provided. Statewide, EMS agency participation in the CARES program continues to grow having increased 20.5% over 2017. CARES reporting now represent approximately 70% of the overall out-of-hospital-cardiac-arrests (OHCA) occurring throughout the Commonwealth. Increased community education (Hands-Only CPR & How/when to call 911) along with best practices realized through the CARES registry continue to increase OHCA survival rates. CARES was an exhibitor at the 2018 State EMS Conference, increasing provider awareness of the database and benefits of agency participation.

-Seven Mountains EMS Council, assisted by LTS EMS Council, continue to sponsor the Seven Mountains/Susquehanna Valley CISM Team. This team offers debriefing & defusing sessions to regional providers who are having a problem coping with a traumatic event. The team responded to 18 CISM requests within this grant cycle.

-Council staff, through the support of the Board of Directors, continue to be active participants in ‘EMS provider recognition’ and ‘Line of Duty Death (LODD)’ events. Several years back – because of a lack of available honor guards - we established an EMS Honor Guard and have maintained fairly active within that role. We have presented colors at various events including at the Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services dinner for the past several years. Council was approached by a local emergency room nurse asking if there was a traveling EMS memorial (similar to the one PennDOT has for their employees who are killed in the line of duty) for PA EMS providers who die in the line of duty. With there being none, a group was established and tentative plans drawn for such a memorial. Staff considers this an important project and intend to work on making this a reality as funding can be obtained. Staff attended the 2019 National EMS Memorial Service in recognition of Larry Oberle – an EMS LODD occurring in Centre County in 1971.

Council maintains a variety of EMS public information/education materials & equipment (including ANDY the Ambulance, EMSKI, Hands-Only CPR manikins, and Fatal Vision Goggles) and work with Regional EMS agencies in offering these programs throughout the area. Council supports local educational efforts (mostly Hands-Only CPR & Stop the Bleed) through use of our equipment by regional EMS agencies, school districts & other community groups/events such as Camp Cadet.

Council staff maintains an active, leadership role in assisting the Bureau of EMS with ongoing projects and work groups. Staff, mainly the Education Coordinator, has been actively involved with various projects throughout the grant year including, but not limited to, the Education SOG manual; Joint Rescue Program Committee; ongoing EMS registry enhancements; and the Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) advisory committee.

Council successfully presented another Spring Conference, for the second year at Toftrees Resort in State College. 157 EMS providers - mostly from within the region - were given 2.25 (planned for 3) days of quality continuing and re-education on relevant numerous topics. Ken Bouvier, national recognized EMS educator, highlighted the cadre of presenters delivering information on patient care and agency administrative topics. The ‘networking’ opportunities provided throughout the event – within the educational setting, corresponding with vendors, socializing at the Saturday evening ‘EMS Rally in the Valley’ – were all valuable opportunities that probably wouldn’t be experienced if they weren’t available in such close proximity.
