

SEVEN MOUNTAINS EMS COUNCIL



SEVEN MOUNTAINS EMS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

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.

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

Director: Timothy E. Nilson

Report has been prepared by Regional Council Staff

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	5
5. SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING	5
6. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES/ ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT.....	6
7. CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	6
8. MEDICAL DIRECTION	7
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 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				#EMS Calls ⁵
			Hospitals	Trauma Centers	Command Facilities	Stroke Centers	
Centre	157,795	1109.92	2	-	1	1 - Primary	18,400
Clinton	37,860	887.98	2	-	1	1 – Primary	5,400
Columbia	65,439	483.11	2	-	2	1 – Acute Stroke Ready	10,700
Juniata	24,760	391.35	-	-	-	-	4,100
Mifflin	46,143	411.03	1	1 ³	1	1 – Primary	8,800
Montour	18,136	130.24	1	1 ⁴	1	1 - Comprehensive	8,000
Northumberland	90,120	458.37	-	-	-	-	17,300
Snyder	39,717	328.71	-	-	-	-	6,300
Union	42,042	315.98	1	-	1	1-Primary	9,400
Regional Total	522,012	4,516.69	9	2	7	6	88,400

¹2019 Population estimates

²Square Miles

³ Level 4 Trauma Center

⁴Geisinger Medical Center, Montour County, is recognized for both Adult (Level 1) & Pediatric (Level 2) trauma

⁵Based on information obtained from Cloud PCR Bridge. Calendar year 2021. **For representative purposes only.** Excludes QRS and air medical. Shows response of an organization from within the County, not necessarily responding ‘within’ the County.

The following table provides an overview of the Regional EMS System. EMS is available throughout the Region with some areas being more fully 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 continues dialog 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	Agency			Bags						Providers ²		
	QRS	BLS	ALS	QRS	BLS	IALS	MICU	CCT	Air ¹	EMSVO	BLS	ALS
Centre	4	6	4	6	33	3	17	0	-	3	234	113
Clinton	9	2	3	16	13	1	6	-	-	-	169	47
Columbia	4	1	1	5	3	-	1	-	-	-	66	11
Juniata	-	5	1	-	13	-	2	-	-	3	63	15
Mifflin	1	3	1	1	16	-	6	-	-	7	108	39
Montour	2	-	2	2	23	2	15	2	6	-	88	165
North- umberland	6	-	6	13	14	4	13	3	-	-	193	203
Snyder	8	6	2	13	17	3	4	-	-	9	162	40
Union	1	3	2	11	16	5	11	-	-	4	118	68
Regional Totals	35	26	22	67	148	18	75	3	6	26	1201	701

¹Location of aircraft – not necessarily headquartered out of the County. Geisinger has a total of 9 aircraft systemwide.

²EMS providers residing within the Region as of 6/30/2024 Not necessarily indicative of the number of providers who are actively engaged with a regional EMS agency.

Seven Mountains EMS Council is comprised of 154 organizations (not all currently active, having 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 (BOD), consisting of 20 delegates, elect their Board officers and establish a schedule of meeting times & locations. At these meetings, the BOD 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 have been rotating our meetings between the eastern & western locations and started conducting our meetings using videoconference technology. As of August 2021, we have been offering both in-person and virtual attendance options for all Board of Directors/Delegates.

1. Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers

President: Gerard Banfill
Vice President: Thomas Perrin-Deceased 12/2023
Treasurer: Joy Byler
Secretary: Joy Byler

(Please list all other members below)

<u>NAME</u>		<u>NAME</u>
1 <u>Matthew Abbey</u>	19	<u></u>
2 <u>Chad Aucker</u>	20	<u></u>
3 <u>James Blount, III</u>	21	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
4 <u>Mike Coldren</u>	22	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
5 <u>Tom Derby</u>	23	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
6 <u>Robert Hare</u>	24	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
7 <u>Rich Kelley, Deceased 2/2024</u>	25	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
8 <u>Matt Kurtz</u>	26	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
9 <u>Romayne Naylor</u>	27	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
10 <u>Mattew Rodgers</u>	28	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
11 <u>Derick Shambach</u>	29	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
12 <u>Laura Shay</u>	30	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
13 <u>Tim Wagner</u>	31	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
14 <u>Adam Waite</u>	32	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
15 <u></u>	33	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
16 <u></u>	34	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
17 <u></u>	35	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
18 <u></u>	36	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>

2. Regional EMS Council Staff:

Executive Director: Tim Nilson

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>Regional Education Coord.</u>	<u>Ryan Blee</u>
<u>EMS Program Specialist</u>	<u>Cathy Grimes</u>
<u>Office Manager</u>	<u>Laura Rompolski</u>
<u>EMS Program Specialist/CARES</u>	<u>Gage Lyons-McCracken</u>
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3. Regional Medical Director(s)

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

4. Financial Statement of income and expenses:

During Fiscal year 2023-2024, Seven Mountains EMS Council, Inc. spent program funds from the Department of Health to support the EMS System in nine Counties. An independent financial audit will be completed in the fall of 2024.

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: 49,566.09
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Project Narrative:

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.

EMS Provider Equipment Funds	Amount: \$3,46.00
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Project Narrative:

This year’s EMS Provider equipment fund comprised of purchasing the agencies their choice of Mega-Movers, Epi Syringe Based Check and Inject, or a reimbursement for IAmResponding or Active 911. Near all services participated and items were distributed appropriately.

Patient Moving Devices	Amount: \$5,100.00
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Project Narrative:

In an effort to reduce EMS provider lifting & moving injuries, Council has purchased a variety of life-assist devices for distribution to the Regional EMS transport agencies as needed – we purchased some previously and want to give priority to those agencies who haven’t received before. We

6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date 2011 ¹
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	5
Public Education Stop-the-Bleed Events	0 ²
Public Education CPR Events	Unknown ³
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	1 ⁴
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	7 ⁵

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.

²Council staff has not conducted any Stop-the-Bleed events but Council has loaned the equipment/supplies out to regional organizations who have conducted training throughout the Region.

³Council staff has not conducted public CPR events although we are an AHA training center with a little over 100 BCLS instructors and 10 recognized training sites. Council supports these instructors (supplies & technical) and processes rosters for AHA completion card distribution. We/AHA Sites have processed approximately 3900 individuals – supporting our community training sites in providing this public outreach.

Council completed 54 Fatal Accident Report System (FARS) reports and submitted the requested information to PennDOT.

⁴These contacts revolve around the Legislative Breakfast conducted in March. Other than that, we have not been contacted by or in contact with any legislator about a concern, problem or issue.

⁵The quantity doesn't represent the significance. We have fielded calls from municipal leaders concerning staffing/response, substation/dispatching issues – handling them as appropriate but

- some are multiple contacts listed as one. This included contact with every municipality within the Region requesting them to adopt a proclamation for EMS Week as well as participation (multiple times) at county/area advisory group meetings (Centre County Amb. Assoc., Central Susquehanna Regional 911 Advisory, EMS Leadership Committee, etc.) where elected officials (or their representatives) are sometimes in attendance.

7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	30 ¹
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	3
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	5

Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:

¹These are medication usage reviews conducted by MAC as required within the program participation guidelines. No investigation/complaint reviews were forwarded to MAC. The Regional Medical Director does review, and as available participates in provider interviews, on all – as long as it is a patient care issue and/or has a clinical element - complaint investigation authorizations received.

8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	5
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	1
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	4
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	1
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	0
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	1

Medical Direction Narrative:

Inspected multiple facilities within our region without incident providing the region with appropriate Medical Direction and coverage.

9. Systems Operations

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	2
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	4
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	0
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	0
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	0
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	12
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	32

Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	460
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	9
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	265
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	0
Certification Class Visits Conducted	15
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	36
Number of Authorized Injury Reports Filed with the Bureau	9

Systems Operations Narrative:

Required BEMS safety inspections were conducted every quarter from 7-1-23 to 6-30-24 at regional hospitals. Some of the EMS agency re-inspections were for the agency’s 3-year renewal, consisting of new vehicles as well as relicensing of existing units.

¹Number provided is a conservative estimate as I don’t have the exact number of photo’s/signatures uploaded

We also assisted our neighbor – Southern Alleghenies EMS Council – with staff support during several EMS agency licensure inspections & one practical examination.

10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended <small>(only EMSOF funded staff attendance)</small>	19
Table Top Exercises Attended / Conducted	1
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	2
Special Event Plans Submitted	4
Responses / Deployments	0
Strike Team Agencies	0

Emergency Preparedness Narrative:

We have loaned equipment, especially the Kubota, to multiple events throughout year; but I don’t consider them ‘responses/deployments’. Identified are the situations where a PEMA deployment # was issued. Strike Team Agencies-Currently not known who is considered ‘active’ with the Bureau although there are agencies that we would be able to contact who would potentially provide assistance if needed.

11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
08/17/2023	Noon	BOD – Union County Govt. Center & Conference Call
10/19/2023	18:30	Council – Council Bellefonte Office & Conference Call
01/18/2024	Cancelled	BOD – Council Bellefonte Office
03/14/2024	Jan-Makeup	BOD – Council Bellefonte Office & Conference Call
04/18/2024	Cancelled	BOD – Union County Govt. Center
06/24/2024	Noon	BOD – Council Bellefonte Office

12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
12/05/23	10:00	Teleconference
03/08/24	10:00	Teleconference/In person at regional conference
06/04/24	10:00	Teleconference
09/03/24	10:00	Teleconference

13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
12/05/23	10:00	Teleconference
03/08/24	10:00	Teleconference/In person at regional conference
06/04/24	10:00	Teleconference
09/03/24	10:00	Teleconference

MAC & QIC have been meeting simultaneously.

14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

Legislative Breakfast – Council hosted our fourth legislative breakfast in State College in March. Public Officials (Senators, Representatives, Commissioners) from throughout the Region were invited to attend this session to hear first-hand the challenges facing the EMS system and to be an active participant in a brainstorming session to formulate a plan to overcome identified obstacles. Excluding staff, there were 55 individuals in attendance – 30 public officials & 25 EMS personnel. Productive, collegial dialogue between the legislators & EMS providers was recognized by all attendees. Guest Speaker, Heather Sharar, Executive Director, Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania provided an overview of the current legislation and status of EMS reimbursements.

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 CISM – is approximately 33 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 2023-24 grant period, the team was requested for a total of 11 incident requests.

Annual Conference – An in-person conference was held at the Graduate Hotel in State College, Pa in March. Mental health and wellness was a major focus of this year’s conference with the loss of several prominent individuals within our region. Around 120 EMS providers were able to choose between 28 course offerings to maintain/upgrade their skill level and/or knowledge of EMS System issues. The conference was a success with just over 1800 hours of continuing education credit being awarded. Along with the educational opportunities, we organized a social event (Cheers! To 50 years) where the providers were able to relax and catch up with old and new friends – exchanging ideas and ‘war’ stories. This year was very exciting for the Council as we got to get our friends and extended EMS family together to improve on each other’s comradery and support while also celebrating 50 years of service to our region.

RURAL EDUCATION- During the last fiscal year, with the 'rural education' funds, the Council continued our National Registry voucher program and continued offering tuition assistance to individuals within the Region affiliated with licensed EMS agencies. This assistance helped cover tuition and book costs associated with EMS programs leading to certification. Approximately \$93,615 was spent on tuition assistance, supporting 42 EMR, 90 EMT, and 1 A-EMT candidates, some of whom are still in the process of completing their certification. For the voucher program, approximately \$9,736 was spent on 9 EMR, 89 EMT, 4 A-EMT, and 2 Paramedic vouchers, with similar ongoing progress among recipients. The program proved quite popular; however, it was noted that many individuals were still unaware of its availability, with most applicants coming from educational institutions actively promoting the program.

EMD UPDATE – Regional MAC recognized the need to review our current regionally approved EMD protocols to address relatively new issues including Advanced EMTs and the ever-increasing need to potentially ‘stack’ calls for EMS assistance as long as the request meets specific, medically approved guidelines. A work group of medical directors, agency managers, providers, and PSAP personnel have started work on this update which was anticipated to be complete by the end of 2022 or early 2023. EMDs were not completed by this time. While working through this update, it was determined that the Region no longer has standardizations across the board with the PSAPs. EMD updates have been very difficult due to the multiple systems being used and associated connections. MAC has advised the PSAPs that they require their own medical direction for any internal EMD change as they had been changing them on their own without direction. MAC voted to release EMD work to anyone requesting it. EMD information has been released to at least one PSAP under the direction of their newly hired Medical Director.

CARES – Our Council currently hosts the Pennsylvania CARES Coordinator from our Bellefonte Office. CARES was originally funded in full (fees and salary) by a large Medtronic Grant that was received years ago with the introduction of CARES in the Commonwealth. This grant money has been fully used up and CARES is now being fully funded (fees and salaries) via yearly promise of the Bureau. CARES fees for access into the registry is \$25,000.00 yearly as the price has increased. Associated staff salaries and benefits roughly amount to an additional \$25,000.00. The CARES coordinator assists with over 140 ALS EMS Agencies and 150 Hospitals in maintaining the

CARES Registry. In the 23-24 contract period, 7106 OHCA cases were entered into the registry for Pennsylvania with a Commonwealth wide Lost to Follow up of less than 1%. In this contract period, the CARES organization was granted a massive federal grant to extensively expand its systems. Continued discussions will need to occur regarding cost responsibilities. The 2023 National CARES Report can be distributed upon request.
