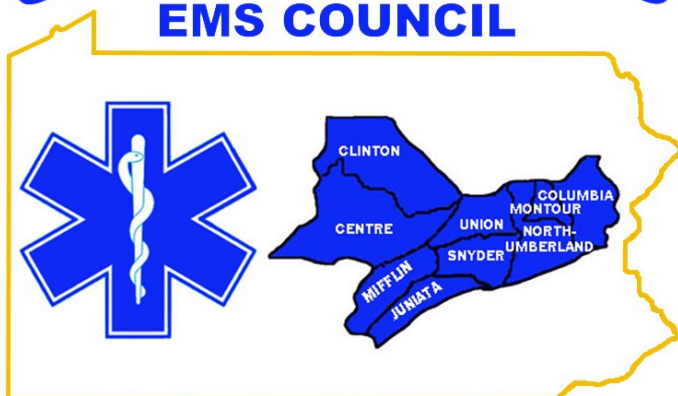


SEVEN MOUNTAINS EMS COUNCIL



SEVEN MOUNTAINS EMS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

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)

Interim Director; William Miller

This 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	Agency Base of Operations
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:	<u>Gerard Banfill</u>
Vice President:	<u>Josh Fremberg</u>
Treasurer:	<u>Robert Hare</u>
Secretary:	<u>Robert Hare</u>

(Please list all other members below)

NAME	NAME
1 Chad Aucker	19
2 James Blount, III	20
3 Mike Coldren	21 Click or tap here to enter text.
4 Tom Derby	22 Click or tap here to enter text.
5 Glenn Kerstetter	23 Click or tap here to enter text.
6 Matt Kurtz	24 Click or tap here to enter text.
7 Romaine Naylor	25 Click or tap here to enter text.
8 Paula Miller	26 Click or tap here to enter text.
9 Derick Shambach	27 Click or tap here to enter text.
10 Jared Stumpff	28 Click or tap here to enter text.
11 Tim Wagner	29 Click or tap here to enter text.
12 Adam Waite	30 Click or tap here to enter text.
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18	36 Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Regional EMS Council Staff:

Interim Executive Director: William Miller

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

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

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

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$496,856.69	\$298,629.71
Consultant Services	\$104,865.39	\$103,489.91
Patient Services	\$0	\$0
Equipment/ Supplies	\$19,956.49	\$21,597.38
Travel	\$13,121.75	\$8,249.18
Other Costs	\$230,146.35	\$243,642.24
TOTALS	\$864,946.67	\$644,977.18

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	\$51053.08
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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.

Carbon Monoxide Monitors	Amount: \$19582.20
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Project Narrative:

In increasing the safety of all responders within the region, Seven Mountains EMS Council provides a Carbon Monoxide Monitor for each agency licensed vehicle. The program is designed that the CO Monitor will be attached to the responders “first in bag” or Cardiac Monitor. Multiple agencies report this device has alerted the crew to potentially dangerous levels of CO present within the residence.

	Amount:
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Project Narrative:

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
Public Education CPR Events	5
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	Multiple contacts 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 11 recognized training sites. Council supports these instructors (supplies & technical) and processes rosters for AHA completion card distribution. We/AHA Sites have processed approximately 3500 individuals – supporting our community training sites in providing this public outreach.

Council completed 39 Fatal Accident Report System (FARS) reports and submitted the requested information to PennDOT.

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	20 ¹
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	2
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	10

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	1
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	0
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	4
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	27

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	

Systems Operations Narrative:

Required BEMS safety inspections were conducted every quarter from 7-1-24 to 6-30-25 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 one EMS agency licensure inspection & two practical examinations.

10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended	17
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
1 st Tuesday of every 3 months	10:00 – 12:00	Microsoft Teams – Teleconference

13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
2 nd Tue of the Month	10:30 – 12:30	In-Person – Selinsgrove Office

Starting this year, MAC and CQI have been occurring separately of each other. All Agency Medical Directors are invited to attend, however CQI is comprised of Gage Lyons-McCracken as Council Staff and Regional Medical Director Dr. Randi McLeod. Aprils Meeting occurred via Teams due to heavy rains and flooding.

14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

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 38 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 9 incident requests.

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.

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 the yearly promise of the Bureau. CARES fees for access to the registry is \$25,000.00 yearly. Associated staff salaries and benefits roughly amount to an additional \$27,500.00. The CARES coordinator assists with over 140 ALS EMS Agencies and 150 Hospitals in maintaining the CARES Registry. In the 24-25 contract period, 139 EMS services were included in the 2024 National Reports, which is on par with the past three years. These Pennsylvania EMS services contributed a total of 7,277 cases, with the hospitals providing their follow-up to these cases. Out of these cases, 25 were considered lost to follow-up, and those 25 cases were genuinely lost to follow-up as they were unknown patients, Jane or John Doe's. This puts the Commonwealth at an astonishing 0.34% Lost to Follow-Up. This is an incredible achievement and represents the best numbers seen over the past three years ago. These may also be some of the best numbers Pennsylvania has seen in years. These cases account for approximately 70% of the total population of Pennsylvania. CARES continues to advance forward, being a leader in cardiac arrest registries with their continued efforts into their next generation system as well as introduction of Statewide auto uploads.
