

DRAFT

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2007

Council Office, Bellefonte

- I. Call to Order and Introductions
Meeting was called to order by 2nd Vice-Chairman, Dave Jones, at 7:30 PM. Introductions were made.
- II. Roll Call (sign-in sheet)
A sign-in sheet was circulated.
- III. Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Craig Wheeler, 2nd by Joanne Furl to approve the April, 2007 minutes as mailed. Motion approved.
- IV. Financial Reports, April-May, 2007
A motion was made by Richard Shilling, 2nd by Romaine Naylor to accept the financial reports for April-May, 2007 as mailed. Motion approved.
- V. Staff Reports, April-May, 2007
Mark gave his staff report. Mark reported that Mifflin County and Centre LifeLink EMS will be conducting EMT courses beginning in August. Mark reported that he has been attending EMS Association meetings along with conducting licensure inspections. Multiple CPR courses have also been conducted throughout the region.

Tim reported for Cathy that there were no CISM team activities to report and that all other projects are up to date.
- VI. Reports
 1. Operational Committees
 - a. MAC Meeting
Dave Jones, in conjunction with PSU, reported that a protocol has been compiled that would address alcohol related calls and transport procedures. This protocol should be ready to submit to the Department for approval by July. Dave Jones also reported that the Etomidate protocol will be in effect July 1, 2007. Centre LifeLink EMS and Mt. Nittany ALS Department have scheduled training sessions in June for their personnel. The next scheduled MAC meeting is for July 16, 2007 at Damons Restaurant.

b. Communications

Joanne Furl reported that two counties in the region have returned the allocated funding for electronic EMS implementation. Centre County and Clinton County are still planning to implement the project.

2. Council Committees

a. Bylaws

Tim reported that there is nothing to report.

3. Organization/Representative

Craig Wheeler reported that on July 10, 2007, Geisinger Medical Center will be conducting a Sim-Man Class at Lewistown Hospital. Council encourages provider attendance at this training session and will advertise it on the web.

4. Executive Director Report

- Tim introduced Jennifer Williams, PSU student, who will be interning with the Council Office until August.
- Reported that Council participated in two counter-terrorism drills. The State FRED system was activated and the drill seemed to go well.
- Reported that the Council, thanks to Scott Rhoat's assistance, participated in a Pandemic Drill in conjunction with the South-Central Counter Terrorism Task Force. Participating services will receive monies to cover their training expenses.
- The Council Mass Casualty Trailer has been delivered and is stocked to respond with Strike Teams and as otherwise requested.
- The final draft of Act 45 has been completed and is available on line for review.
- Tim reported that Council staff is participating on the Centre County Crisis Response Committee working with the regional school districts and EMS services.
- The ICS for EMS class is now available and the Council is planning on sponsoring a class sometime this summer.
- Reported that the Council mailed coupons to all regional providers in recognition of EMS Week.
- Council participated in a training session at the Juniata College for software to coordinate POD development and staffing.
- Reported that the Centre County Honor Guard attended the EMS Memorial in Roanoke.
- HealthSouth in Pleasant Gap has asked that they be included in the State FRED system. Council is working with them to get them onboard.

- A plaque is to be awarded to the State Fire Academy from the Council in recognition of their support of EMS over the years.

VII. Old Business

1. Regional MCI Plan

Tim reported that the regional MCI plan has been updated to include the new language to make it NIMS compliant. A motion was made by Craig Wheeler, 2nd by Rich Kelley to accept the regional MCI plan.

Motion approved.

VIII. New Business

1. Personnel Issues

Tim announced that Scott Rhoat has left Council employment to accept the position of Director of Bellefonte EMS. Tim met with the Board and the decision was made to advertise the position in local newspapers and also on our website. Plan to interview and hire by mid-July.

2. Proposed Legislation

Dave Jones reported that there is proposed legislation, House Bill 911, that would pull the Bureau of EMS out from under the Department of Health and place EMS under Homeland Security. Concerns were expressed that EMS would get lost in the system. A motion was made by Rich Kelley, 2nd by Romaine Naylor, that Council send a resolution (attached) to all Pennsylvania House Representatives stating the regional Council does not support this legislation and recommend that EMS remain under the Department of Health. Motion approved. Also, under this legislation PEHSC would no longer exist.

3. Other New Business

The PEHSC Conference will be held in Lancaster on August 16-18.

Tim and Jennifer reported that a Firefighter/EMS Appreciation Night is being offered by the State College Spikes on July 26. The regional Council is participating and encourages as many providers to attend as possible. A motion was made by Richard Shilling, 2nd by Rich Kelley to purchase two tickets for each regional EMS service which they can use at their discretion. Motion approved. Craig Wheeler made a friendly amendment to the motion, 2nd by Rich Kelley to also purchase two tickets for each Council staff. Motion approved. Any service would also have the opportunity to purchase additional tickets. A total of 108 tickets are to be purchased.

Deb Smeal asked that a Legislation Link be added to the regional Council website.

- IX. Date/Location of Next Meeting
The next Council Meeting will be August 2, 2007 in Clinton County.
Location to be announced.
- X. Adjournment
Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Council Attendance
June 7, 2007 7:30 PM
Council Office, Bellefonte

1. Dave Jones, Delegate, Penn State University
2. Rich Kelley, Delegate, Mt. Nittany Medical Center
3. Chris Gardner, Alternate, Lewistown Hospital, Medic 29
4. Craig Wheeler, Delegate, American Heart Association
5. Joanne Furl, Delegate, Clinton County 911
6. Romaine Naylor, Delegate, American Red Cross
7. Debra Smeal, Delegate, Centre County Ambulance Assoc.
8. Richard Shilling, Delegate, Mifflin County Consumer at Large
9. Jennifer Williams, Intern, SMEMSC
10. Mark Wolfgang, Staff, SMEMSC
11. Tim Nilson, Staff, SMEMSC
12. Vana Dainty, Delegate, Centre County Consumer at Large

June 12, 2007

Honorable Michael K. Hanna
PA House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
302 Main Capital
P.O. Box 202076
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2076

Dear Representative Hanna:

Seven Mountains EMS Council is the officially designated agency responsible for assisting the Department of Health in planning, developing, maintaining, expanding, improving and upgrading the emergency medical services (EMS) system within the Commonwealth, with specific geographic responsibility for Centre, Clinton, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties. We were established in April 1974 by the Board of Commissioners of each of our four member counties and received our first contract to assist the PA Department of Health with coordination of EMS activities in March 1975. Council has fulfilled that mission and maintained its contract with the Department for the past thirty-two (32) years. Along with providing support to regional EMS organizations, one of the ways that we expand, improve and upgrade EMS throughout the region is to educate “stakeholders” of what EMS ‘is and does’ in service to the residents and visitors within the Commonwealth.

In accordance with Pennsylvania statute (Act 1985-45 as amended by Act 1994-82) and Title 28 of the Pennsylvania Code, Council membership is comprised of thirty-eight (38) member organizations that annually elect a delegate to voluntarily attend Council and committee meetings to provide input into EMS related issues and how they do, or would, effect those member agencies and the regional EMS system as a whole. These organizations include regional EMS, allied health, public safety, emergency management, and local government organizations as well as ‘consumer-at-large’ (stakeholder) representatives appointed by the county commissioners.

Upon introduction of House Bill No. 911, delegates were asked to review the bill, considering its probable impact on the regional EMS system, and come prepared to discuss this proposed legislation at the Council meeting. At the June 7th meeting of Seven Mountains EMS Council, the following resolution was proposed, and unanimously adopted, by those present:

After review of and discussion concerning House Bill No. 911, Seven Mountains EMS Council is unable to support passage of this proposed legislation as currently introduced.

Specifically, we are concerned with those portions of the bill which involve emergency medical services (EMS) and the proposal to move oversight of the Commonwealth's EMS system into a proposed Department of Public Safety. Accordingly, as EMS is an integral part of the Commonwealth's public health network, we support retention of EMS oversight within the PA Department of Health as being in the patient's, as well as the system's, best interest. Consequently, in furtherance of our stakeholder education efforts, we instruct our secretary to transmit a copy this resolution to all House members representing our member counties; all sponsors and co-sponsors of the bill; the Majority & Minority Chairmen of the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee; and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide feedback on this proposal which will so greatly impact EMS organizations and provision of EMS care within the Commonwealth. I extend the opportunity to discuss our concerns in greater depth, and their potential impact on the regional EMS system, with our Executive Director. His contact information is:

Timothy "Tim" Nilson, Executive Director
Seven Mountains EMS Council
523 Dell Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-1474
tnilson@smemsc.org

Sincerely,



Lee E. Snyder, Chairman
Seven Mountains EMS Council

Cc: Honorable Kerry A. Benninghoff
Honorable H. Scott Conklin
Honorable Mike Fleck
Honorable C. Adam Harris
House Members introducing House Bill 911
Honorable Anthony J Melio, Majority Chairman
Honorable Russell H. Fairchild, Minority Chairman