



# SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES EMS COUNCIL, INC. ANNUAL REPORT FY 2020-2021

## 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)**

Carl Moen, Executive Director  
cmoen@saems.com

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## **REGIONAL SUMMARY:**

Southern Alleghenies EMS Council, Inc. (SAEMS) has continued to aid, support and guide improvement in the EMS system in Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon and Somerset counties and continues to collaborate with multiple EMS and non-EMS organizations in furthering our goal of addressing needs and improving the EMS system.

Discussions of EMS within our region frequently contain the words “crisis” or “failure” as EMS agencies struggle to provide service in the face of increasing costs, decreasing reimbursements, staffing difficulties and the current global pandemic. We continue to provide support and technical assistance to EMS agencies, providers, and municipal leaders on an almost daily basis in an effort to improve care, ensure appropriate response with trained and capable providers, and to evaluate the EMS system within the region, identify issues and work with stakeholders to develop solutions. It is a time of rapid change for EMS across the nation.

This has continued to be a year of significant changes and rapid adaptations for the Council with the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has led to many new partnerships and cooperative efforts to protect the public and the EMS members of our communities and to safely respond during this public health crisis. We have adapted by integrating work from home, increased use of technology and remote access and meeting capabilities and developed a safe, social distancing office setting for employees to return to work. COVID-19 has led to rapidly changing and fluid processes for the Council and is sure to bring additional changes in the upcoming years. It is important that Regional Council have and maintain the ability to quickly pivot missions to adapt and respond to ever changing situations. During the pandemic response, our organization has worked to track EMS related exposures, provided guidance and personal protective equipment (PPE), distributed daily status reports and even utilized our resources and equipment to assist in delivery of meals to persons with disabilities in conjunction with our neighboring agency, the Center for Independent Living of Southwestern PA.

Additionally, we continue to work with our partners to address the opioid crisis by meeting and working with providers, drug and alcohol organizations and serving as the Centralized Coordinating Entity (CCE) distribution point for naloxone to emergency services and community organizations.

We continue to be active in emergency preparedness and response activities at the Commonwealth, task force county and municipal levels. With limited staff and funding, we often evaluate and prioritize the best use of our skills, talents and knowledge, resources and equipment to address and prioritize all of the significant issues the EMS system is facing. Our resources are frequently tapped by county EMA’s to assist with situations within their counties.

Like many of our counterparts, the primary concern for our region remains availability of funding to not only maintain, but also to expand, improve, develop, and move the EMS system forward within our region. With decreasing funding, we are reaching a point where we are providing maintenance of the system only, and are less able to move forward and address the growing needs of EMS agencies and to develop and support plans and strategies to address increasing call volumes, decreasing reimbursement and revenues, decreasing availability of EMS providers, both career and volunteer, new delivery models and evaluation of whether the system is providing the right provider, with the right knowledge, equipment, and support, at the right time to residents and visitors to the Commonwealth.

**1. Board of Directors Officers**

President: Glenn Stutzman, Cambria County

Vice President: Gary Watters, Blair County

Treasurer: Terry Ruparcic, Somerset County

Secretary: Brian Barton, Fulton County

(Please list all other members below)

	<u>NAME</u>		<u>NAME</u>
1	<u>Donald Penatzer, At Large, Bedford County</u>	19	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
2	<u>Joe Thompson, At Large, Huntingdon County</u>	20	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
3	<u>Sheila Barton, Fulton County</u>	21	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
4	<u>Michael Brawley, Cambria County</u>	22	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
5	<u>Deborah Fleegle, Huntingdon County</u>	23	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
6	<u>Beth Jamison, Huntingdon County</u>	24	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
7	<u>Josh Lang, Bedford County</u>	25	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
8	<u>Storm Nagle, Cambria County</u>	26	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
9	<u>Steven Ott, Blair County</u>	27	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
10	<u>Jessica Sorge, Blair County</u>	28	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
11	<u>Andrea Sprow, Fulton County</u>	29	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
12	<u>Thomas Stoudnour, Bedford County</u>	30	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
13	<u>Kris Wyant, Somerset County</u>	31	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
14	<u>John Zellam, Somerset County</u>	32	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
15	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>	33	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
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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      Carl Moen**

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>EMS Specialist</u>	<u>Rachelle Tippery</u>
<u>EMS Specialist</u>	<u>Deborah Mellott</u>
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**3. Regional Medical Director(s)**

	<u>NAME</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>R. Scott Magley, MD</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Anthony Fidacaro, MD</u>

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

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$269493.39	\$262568.59
Consultant Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontracted Services	\$9000.00	\$8829.53
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$6500.00	\$6116.44
Travel	\$659.75.	\$659.75
Other Costs	\$217613.86	\$220318.22
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$503267.00</b>	<b>\$498492.42</b>

**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.

Statewide EMS Safety Program	Amount: \$0
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*Project Narrative:*

- Original contract included \$30,000 for Statewide EMS Safety program. Funds removed from budget due to forced reduction of contract

(Project Name Here)	Amount: \$0.00
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*Project Narrative:*

Click or tap here to enter text.

(Project Name Here)	Amount: \$0.00
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*Project Narrative:*

Click or tap here to enter text.

## 6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date 06/2020
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	10
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	0
Public Education CPR Events	34
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	7
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	25

*Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:*

- Updated regional website to provide updated information to agencies and providers on an ongoing basis
- Developed and updated personnel policy manual
- Evaluated, reorganized, and adjusted operations to address decrease in staff.
- Act as central coordinating agency for the distribution of naloxone in the counties of Bedford, Blair and Somerset
- Participate in Blair County overdose prevention committee meetings and activities
- Coordinate with and attend Cambria County Drug Coalition healthcare committee and support events
- Support and distribute information on SCOPE training for emergency responders
- Conducted contractually required audit and submitted to Department of Health

## 7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	0
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	1
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	3

*Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:*

- Conducted three (3) performance improvement committee meeting in conjunction with regional medical advisory committee meetings
- Processed and submitted Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) reports

## 8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	3
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	1

Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	2
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	3
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	0
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	0
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	2

*Medical Direction Narrative:*

- Received resignation of long term Regional Medical Director, John Karduck MD. Conducted extensive application and review process of four candidates, naming R. Scott Magley, MD as Regional Medical Director to complete Dr. Karduck’s uncompleted term and Anthony Fidacaro, MD, as Associate Medical Director for the remainder of the unfulfilled term.
- Conducted performance improvement committee meetings in conjunction with medical advisory committee (MAC)
- Reviewed draft protocols and submitted comments for review by state MAC
- Utilized regional and agency medical director input to develop communications and updates on response to COVID, PPE and response to exposed or COVID positive providers

**9. Systems Operations**

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	0
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	0
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	0
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	1
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	0
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	0
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	0
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	0
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	0



ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	0
Certification Class Visits Conducted	1
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	1
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	0

*Systems Operations Narrative:*

- Southern Alleghenies EMS Council continued to function as a Pearson Vue/National Registry of EMT's authorized cognitive examination site as possible. Examinations were conducted with appropriate infection control precautions and examinations were paused for a period at the height of the COVID pandemic due to staff exposure and work from home restrictions. For the 2020-2021 fiscal years, SAEMS administered:
  - Three EMR cognitive exams
  - 80 EMT cognitive exams
  - One Advanced EMT cognitive exams
  - 14 Paramedic level cognitive examinations
  - Total of 98 cognitive examinations administered
- 4073 certified providers attended 243 continuing education courses within the region which equates to 1058 individually certified providers. An additional 421 requests for continuing education by endorsement were processed.
- Registered three (3) EMT courses with 46 initial students, and one paramedic program with nine (9) initial students.
- Submitted four (4) complaints for review. Three (3) referred as quality improvement issues. One (1) received no response
- Coordinated application and licensure process for one (2) two new QRS units with two (2) vehicles
- Coordinated application and licensure process for 28 ambulance agencies renewing their licenses, including inspection of 106 vehicles, including one (1) CCT vehicle
- Coordinated application and licensure process for 16 QRS agencies including inspection of 17 vehicles
- Coordinated application and inspection process for one (1) additional ambulance vehicle and five (5) replacement vehicles at five (5) agencies
- Coordinated application and inspection process for one (1) additional QRS vehicle
- Took one (1) vehicle out of service at an inspection and returned to reinspect that vehicle and agency
- Inspected Penn Highlands Huntingdon for renewal of medical command facility
- Inspected Fulton County Medical Center for renewal of medical command facility
- Inspected Nason Hospital for new medical command facility designation
- Coordinated regional CISM team and deployed to seven (7) incidents
- Conducted online CISM training to provide support during incidents involving children
- Provided support to EMS agency that whose long-time manager contracted COVID and died. Continue to work to determine whether infection can be correlated to response and determined to be a line of duty death

- In accordance with direction and advice of Bureau of EMS continued suspension of- psychomotor exams and provided support and information to EMS certification candidates on Pennsylvania certification and National Registry of EMT's certification and processes.
- Provided updates to providers on National Registry certification process.
- Processed the following certifications through the EMS Registry System:

Certification Level	Certification Type	Count
EMSVO	Initial Certification	47
EMSVO	Reregistration	281
EMSVO	Admin Edit	8
EMSVO	System Edit	32
EMS Instructor	Initial Certification	4
EMS Instructor	Reregistration	9
EMS Instructor	Admin Edit	1
EMR	Initial Certification	7
EMR	Reregistration	63
EMR	Reinstatement	10
EMR	Upgrade	1
EMR	Admin Edit	12
EMT	Initial Certification	53
EMT	Reregistration	397
EMT	Certification by Endorsement	4
EMT	Reinstatement	54
EMT	Upgrade	8
EMT	Admin Edit	41
AEMT	Upgrade	1
Paramedic	Reregistration	2
Paramedic	Certification by Endorsement	1
Paramedic	Reinstatement	6
Paramedic	Upgrade	9
Paramedic	Admin Edit	6
PHRN	Initial Certification	1
PHRN	Reinstatement	3
PHRN	Downgrade	2
PHRN	Admin Edit	2
MC Physician	Initial Certification	12
MC Physician	Reregistration	15
MC Physician	Admin Edit	14
Admin Access	Initial Certification	5
Admin Access	Reregistration	1
EMSVO QRS	Initial Certification	2

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## 10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	36
Tabletop Exercises Attended / Conducted	1
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	0
Special Event Plans Submitted	0
Responses / Deployments	35
Strike Team Agencies	

*Emergency Preparedness Narrative:*

- Distributed hand sanitizer and PPE to all EMS agencies to support COVID response.
- Purchased and distributed hand sanitizer to all agencies from local chemical company while hand sanitizer was in short supply.
- Coordinated logistics and guidance for EMS use of PPE as well as distributed from regional PPE stockpile to agencies that were running low and unable to purchase through normal channels
- Coordinated with Huntingdon County EMA, Bureau of Prisons and local agencies to provide appropriate response to COVID infections at state correctional institutes, including evaluation and logistical support for coordination of interfacility transport between local hospital and tertiary care center
- Provided ongoing updates and dashboards of current COVID status in the region
- Provided support and assistance and advice to EMS agencies with COVID exposed or COVID positive providers including one agency that experienced 11 confirmed cases related to a positive EMS provider.
- Participated in multiple DOH calls and Zoom meeting related to COVID pandemic and response.
- Prepared and coordinated work from home capabilities as part of our continuity of operations plan for staff protection and for quarantine when staff identified as COVID positive.
- Provided logistical support to neighboring non-profit organization that works with the disabled to ensure food security for their clients, utilizing emergency preparedness assets.
- Provided support and assistance to County EMA's related to COVID, PPE, response, testing and mental health issues.
- Participated in Somerset County EMA on-line meeting related to COVID response and planning.
- Participated in Blair County Health Care Leadership and Vaccination planning taskforce, long term care task group, and COVID 19 task group.
- Participated in SCMRTF and Region 13 EMS committees and COVID-19 task groups
- Distributed PPE to EMS agencies in all counties within region
- Distributed the following PPE to EMS agencies:
  - 6800 latex gloves
  - 89 pair nitrile dipped gloves
  - 100 pair safety glasses

- 1000 443 ml bottles of hand sanitizer
- 326 plastic ponchos(gowns)
- 275 pair Tyvek sleeves
- 40 plastic raincoats (gowns)
- 10 rain suits
- 125 Tyvek suits
- 28 face shields
- 12 Air purifying respirators (APR's)
- 2 half face APR's
- 24 APR filters
- 800 large nitrile gloves
- 800 X-large nitrile gloves
- One (1) DOH transport ventilator

**11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
8/19/2020	19:00	Zoom
9/23/2020	19:00	SAEMS Office
10/21/2020	19:00	SAEMS Office and Zoom
11/18/2020	19:00	Zoom
12/16/2020	19:00	Zoom
1/20/2021	19:00	Zoom
3/17/2021	19:00	SAEMS Office and Zoom
5/19/2021	19:00	SAEMS Office and Zoom
6/7/2021	19:00	SAEMS Office and Zoom

**12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
12/03/2020	09:00	Zoom
03/04/2021	09:00	Zoom
06/10/2021	09:00	Zoom
		Click or tap here to enter text.

**13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
12/03/2020	09:00	Zoom
03/04/2021	09:00	Zoom
06/10/2021	09:00	Zoom
		Click or tap here to enter text.

## **14. Regional Accomplishments:**

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Narrative:

As the COVID 19 pandemic continued from the 2019-2020 fiscal year into the 2020-2021 fiscal year, with significant increases in infections and peak hospital utilization in November and December of 2020, one of the greatest accomplishments for Southern Alleghenies EMS Council was the support and assistance that we were able to provide to support EMS agencies, EMS providers, emergency management officials and other stakeholders throughout the pandemic.

The capability of being able to rapidly adapt and to respond to local needs, issues and situations is a hallmark of the regional EMS council system. Regional councils represent the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Bureau of EMS to the agencies, but also represents the agencies interests to the DOH and BEMS. Councils are situated to be able to work with multiple organizations and interests to address specific needs in our areas, whether it is ensuring that PPE is available when it is in short supply, or providing logistical support to other organizations that are ensuring that their clients receive the services that they need and do not become a burden to the health care system, to providing naloxone to EMS and other entities to address the opioid epidemic and preventable overdoses. It is important for Councils to be able to perform operationally as well as administratively and to be able to adapt and pivot to address current and developing issues.

We have been able to support EMS certification through the use of the psychomotor examination waiver and functioning as a Pearson Vue test center. We find that many of the NREMT cognitive exams we administer are providers who are from outside our region and in some cases from other states, when we were the closest Pearson Vue testing center that was open and available for them to complete their cognitive exam.

Our council functions collaboratively with many different organizations and stakeholders, and I believe that is one of our best assets. Nothing occurs in a silo, and it is important to be able to build relationships and address situations collaboratively.

EMS stands at a crossroad, where the future of the system remains uncertain. There are a myriad of changes that have and are occurring that impact the system, including financial, personnel, pandemic, economic and societal. It is our mission to ensure that people within our region, and across the commonwealth receive the right response, with the right equipment and personnel at the right time to address their need. To continue that mission, we must ensure that EMS agencies and providers receive the necessary support, assistance and guidance to continue their mission of service their community. It is important that the role of the councils is recognized, adequately funded and supported to not only maintain, but also to expand and develop the EMS system in south-central Pennsylvania

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