



# SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES EMS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

## 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  
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## **REGIONAL SUMMARY:**

*(Provide a summary of the council including regional background / demographic and other information unique to individual region / county)*

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

SAEMS is celebrating it's 40<sup>th</sup> year as a Pennsylvania EMS council, originally chartered in 1979 through Federal block grants. SAEMS was formed and continues as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. As funding has ebbed and flowed, we have had a staff of up to 10 full and part-time personnel, and currently stand at 5 full-time staff.

Discussions of EMS within our region frequently contain the words “crisis” or “failure” as EMS agencies struggle to continue to provide service considering increasing costs, decreasing reimbursements and staffing difficulties. 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.

Additionally, we are being asked to assist in different roles than ever before, joining with our partners to address the opioid crisis by meeting and working with providers, and serving as distribution points 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, input and equipment to address all of the issues the EMS system is facing.

Like many of our counterparts, the primary concerns for our region remains availability of funding to not only maintain, but also to expand, improve, develop and move the EMS system within our region forward. With decreasing funding, we are reaching a point where we are providing maintenance of the system only, and are not able to move forward and address the growing needs of EMS agencies and to develop plans and strategies to address increasing call volumes, decreasing availability of staffing, new delivery models and evaluation of whether the system is providing prompt, appropriate and clinically based care to residents and visitors to the Commonwealth.

For additional information, demographics and specifics, please see the attached Regional Assessment and Inventory from December 2018 that provides an overview of the regional background / demographic and other information unique to individual region/county.

**1. Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers**

President: Glenn Stutzman (Cambria County)

Vice President: Donald Edelblute (Blair County)

Treasurer: Terry Ruparcic (Somerset County)

Secretary: Brian Barton (Fulton County)

(Please list all other members below)

**NAME**

- 1 Natalie Barlick – Reed (Blair County)
- 2 Sheila Barton (Fulton County)
- 3 Mike Brawley (Cambria County)
- 4 Billie Brown (Bedford County)
- 5 Deb Fleagle (Huntingdon County)
- 6 Kevin Harper (Huntingdon County)
- 7 Josh Lang (Bedford County)
- 8 Steven Ott (Blair County)
- 9 Donald Penatzer (Bedford County)
- 10 Tim Reitz (Cambria County)
- 11 Joe Thompson (Huntingdon County)
- 12 Andrea Tritle (Fulton County)
- 13 Kris Wyant (Somerset County)
- 14 John Zellam (Somerset County)

**2. Regional EMS Council Staff:**

Executive Director      Carl Moen

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>Program Manager</u>	<u>Lori Driscoll</u>
<u>EMS Specialist - Administration</u>	<u>Deb Mellott</u>
<u>EMS Specialist - Certification</u>	<u>Rachelle Tippery</u>
<u>EMS Specialist – Safety &amp; Operations</u>	<u>JC Miller</u>

**3. Regional Medical Director(s)**

	<u>NAME</u>
1	<u>John S. Karduck, MD</u>

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

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$377,934.29	\$377,934.29
Consultant Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontracted Services	\$56,327.81	\$56,327.81
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$6000.89	\$6,000.00
Travel	\$6,710.38	\$6,710.38
Other Costs	\$149,364.03	\$149,306.52
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$596337.40</b>	<b>\$596,279.00</b>

**The above unaudited amounts indicate expenses slightly greater than total budget (\$58.48). Any amounts over total budget will be offset by corporate funds as determined during the audit process**

**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.

EMS Safety Initiative	Amount: \$25,000
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*Project Narrative:*

Supported multiple Traffic Incident Management (TIM and TIM Train the Trainer) programs throughout the Commonwealth

Assisted with, supported and reviewed pre-release TIM training program for TRAIN PA

SAEMS continues to work with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and PENNDOT to facilitate and encourage EMS agencies to participate in TIM training programs, not only in programs offered above, but also participating in the steering and education committees, to minimize the risk to providers while working on roadways.

Supported Emergency Vehicle Driver Training Instructor program to ensure availability of EVDT/EVOC training for EMSVO certification

Offered NAEMT Safety Course in Somerset County

Staff participated in EMSC committee

Staff attended conferences offered by EMSWest, EMMCO West, Seven Mountains EMS Council, Eastern PA EMS Council, PEHSC and Emergency Health Services Federation to display, distribute information, encourage engagement and promote the Statewide EMS Safety program. Supported offering of safety related courses at conferences

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In conjunction with web design consultant, developing, populating and expanding Statewide EMS Safety Initiative website to improve communications with stakeholders regarding initiative, collect information related to safety incident, provide education and support safety for EMS providers within the Commonwealth

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EBOLA Infectious Disease Training	Amount: EP Funded
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*Project Narrative:*

Project funded through EBOLA emergency preparedness funds distributed by the Emergency Health Services Federation (EHSF) rather than through SAF. \$26,694.94 was utilized to offer two (2) 2-day Infectious Disease Designated Officer courses, one in Altoona and one in Allentown. Forty-four students attended in Altoona, and 40 in Allentown, a total of 84 students. Four (4) staff became recognized as designated infection control officers.

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**6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management**

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date 03/01/2017
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	7
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	0
Public Education CPR Events	57 classes/547 students
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	Multiple- Not specifically tracked
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	Multiple- Not specifically tracked

*Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:*

Hosted a legislative breakfast meeting with about 70 providers, legislators, aides and other interested parties, involving local state, and federal legislators to discuss issues related to EMS. Received positive response and several follow up inquiries from legislative staff

Worked with Nason Foundation on grant opportunity for community AED's. Nason Foundation provided \$35,000 in funding that was utilized to purchase community AED's and distributed to organizations within specific zip codes. 25 AED's purchased in 2018-2019 FY.

Initiated CISM training and worked with stakeholders to develop new team, develop policies, procedures and activation mechanisms and implemented new CISM team to provide service within region to all disciplines of emergency responders

Met with Blair County TIRT team to discuss CISM roles and to develop cross training, cooperative ventures and opportunities to support roles of each organization

Met with Representative Jesse Topper, Staff and Bedford County commissioners and 911 to discuss EMS availability system and to address concerns of EMS providers

Attended Regional Directors meetings as determined by BEMS

Regional website currently under review and revision to provide updates and current information to agencies and providers

**7. Continuous Quality Improvement**

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	0
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	16



Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	2
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*Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:*

- Met with Performance Improvement Chair to determine future plans, developing quality indicators and encouraging/ensuring EMS agency participation with regional PI program
- Conducted meeting to discuss reorganization of regional performance improvement committee, suggestions for improving participation and current PI activities occurring with agency medical directors, facilities and trauma centers within the region.
- Received and evaluated CARES report and discussed with program coordinator and PI committee members opportunities to improve participation and increase regular submissions

**8. Medical Direction**

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	1
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	1
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	3
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	2

*Medical Direction Narrative:*

Stroke center designation indicated above is per current Bureau of EMS Stroke Center list and additional resources. Multiple lists are available which are inconsistent.

Three (3) Medical Advisory Committee meeting were scheduled. Two of those meetings were cancelled due to lack of quorum or lack of business. Attempts have been made to strengthen EMS agency medical director participation in Medical Advisory Committee meetings.

Worked with UPMC Bedford Hospital, Raystown and Bedford Ambulance Services and UPMC Altoona Hospital to evaluate interfacility transport issues and to provide recommendations to resolve difficulties in arranging transports.

Coordinated educational program with UPMC Bedford Hospital, EMS agencies and PWW EMS Law on legal and ethical issues related to inter-facility transports, attended by approximately 50 people.

Staff attended Keystone Trauma and EMS Symposium presented by Conemaugh Trauma Services that provided updates on the latest trends in trauma care for rural areas

**9. Systems Operations**

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	2
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	3
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	1
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	12
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	Multiple- Not specifically tracked
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	3
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	97
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	1
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	16
Certification Class Visits Conducted	7
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	27
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	3

*Systems Operations Narrative:*

Attended and worked with Blair, Bedford, Cambria and Somerset drug and alcohol programs to distribute Naloxone to organizations requesting, and to evaluate the drug overdose status in each county and develop, recommend and implement mitigating programs

Staff appointed to Blair County 911 advisory committee to recommend improvements to the 911 system in Blair County.

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Staff attended Blair County 911 EMS committee meetings

Staff attended several SR-6 related meetings

Regularly attended and provided support and information to newly reformed Somerset County Ambulance Association

Conducted meetings with EMS agencies about EMS availability system and implementation. Meetings held in Bedford, Somerset and Cambria. System adopted and active in Huntingdon, Fulton, Bedford and Somerset counties. Cambria County using alternate system through their CAD system.

Attended meetings, provided copies of regional MCI plan, and additional support and assistance in developing Somerset County MCI plan

Coordinated and supported EMT -Instructor program  
Participated in Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) information and program overview conference call

Attended Opioid Overdose Warm Handoff meetings conducted by DOH

Staff attended Human Trafficking/Operational Stress program

Staff met with Alleghany College of Maryland program director to discuss possibility of ACM becoming Pennsylvania educational institute and possibly offering BLS and ALS certification training

Participated in several meetings with consultant and Planning and Development to evaluate the possibility of developing EMS apprenticeship program

Coordinated and conducted AHA CPR Instructor course

Conducted several conference calls and discussions with Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) related to offering additional EMS Certification courses within the region

Maintained recognition as Pearson-Vue testing site for National Registry of EMT's (NREMT) cognitive examination to support students seeking certification. Seventy-four (74) students tested at our Pearson-Vue site during the fiscal year (EMR-4, EMT-55, AEMT-1, Paramedic-14)

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## **10. Emergency Preparedness Activities**

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	30
Tabletop Exercises Attended / Conducted	2
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	4
Special Event Plans Submitted	0

Responses / Deployments	1
Strike Team Agencies	5

*Emergency Preparedness Narrative:*

- Attended meetings of the South-Central Mountains RTF EMS committee, executive committee and health care coalition meetings
- Attended Region 13 RTF health care coalition meeting
- Supported SCMRTF EMS committee and health care coalition by coordinating review and inventory of task force and county MCI trailers
- Provided equipment and support to Huntingdon County EMA for annual Creation Festival event with approximately 35,000 attendees
- Worked with Pennsylvania Harm Reduction, DanceSafe, BadAss Raves and Four Quarters event venue to provide naloxone, EMS support and equipment for Big Dub event with approximately 5,000 attendees
- Staff attended Active Shooter Rescue Task Force (ASRTF) program sponsored by SCMRTF
- Provided EMS equipment and staff support to Nightmare Festival over Halloween for approximately 4,000 attendees
- Attended State Committee on Preparedness meetings
- Attended EBOLA Transport team meeting with BEMS, DOH PHP and EMS agencies to improve planning for EBOLA response
- Participated in state and task force interoperability and KC-HIMS tests
- Submitted Regional Disaster Plan to BEMS as required by contract
- Assisted with planning and provided equipment for active shooter exercise at Conemaugh Hospital
- Met with Blair County EMS and director of Center for Independent Living to discuss active shooter preparedness and exercises for disabled persons
- Met with Huntingdon County EMA to discuss county-specific MCI plan prior to Creation Festival
- Staff attended annual SCMRTF symposium over two days in Blair County to receive updates and education on RTF programs, review incidents occurring in task force area and risk management
- Attended and supported active shooter drill at Frankstown school, Blair County

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

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
08/15/2018	1900	Council
10/17/2018	1900	Council
12/19/2018	1900	Council
03/06/2019	1900	Council
04/17/2019	1900	Council
05/18/2019	1700	Bavarian Aid Society
6/19/2019	1900	Council

**12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
06/13/2019	0900	Council
09/27/18	0900	Cancelled due to lack of quorum
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### 13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
11/01/2108	1000	Council
06/21/2019	1000	Council
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### 14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, SAEMS participated in several projects aimed to improve the EMS System.

- Executive Director served on the committee to revitalize the past annual report format to provide more useful data and information to EMS Stakeholders.
- Executive Director served on the Emergency Preparedness Committee to evaluate requests for projects and/or items purchased with Emergency Preparedness funds.
- Program Manager and EMS Specialist-Certification served on the Education task group to review and rewrite the Education Policy and Procedures. This document became effective on July 1, 2019.
- Coordinated an infection control training for Designated Officers in both SAEMS region and Eastern EMS Council region with funding through the Ebola program.

The SAEMS CISM Team which serves EMS/fire, police, dispatch, and others was recognized by the ICISF as an official CISM team. The team fills a need in the region for CISM care for our first responders. The team consists of over 50 peer members as well as mental health professionals available to provide CISM throughout the region as requested from one individual to large groups.

A web based EMS availability system was launched with the cooperation of the EMS agencies, county PSAPs, and the council as a means to provide more accurate data on agency's availability for dispatch and to provide quicker patient care. It is a tool to help with staffing and response plans for each agency/county.

As the coordinating council for the State Safety Initiative, SAEMS was active in the PEHSC State Conference, the AAP Conference, all regional council conferences and other large trainings to promote the initiative. A new safety survey was developed for conference attendees to gather information about the current safety programs and any suggestions or additional needs throughout the Commonwealth.

SAEMS hosted the Regional EMS Awards Banquet with over 200 providers and guests attending. Awards were presented for Outstanding EMS Leader, Outstanding EMS Educator, BLS Provider of the Year, ALS Provider of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, Cardiac Arrest Saves, and Stork

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Awards. The cost of this program and awards for recognition is completely supported through donations.

SAEMS sponsored and supported EMS Memorial Bike Ride from Flight 93 Memorial to Harrisburg and provided escort vehicle for first day of ride

Worked with Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Organizations (PANO) to provide Board of Directors workshop/education program on responsibilities of Board of Directors, working with staff to accomplish goals and best practices

Participated in meetings to develop Janice Keen-Livingston Memorial Park in Johnstown to honor fallen emergency services providers

Worked with accountant to transfer staff retirement program from SEP to 401(k) program

Completed Regional Inventory and Assessment and submitted to BEMS

Staff provided support to DOH at the State Farm Show, and instructed attendees in hands-only cpr and provided information on the Pennsylvania EMS system

Staff participated in PEHSC Education Task Force meetings and conference calls  
Staff attended funeral service for long-time EMS provider Bill Kelly, and EMT with Saxton Ambulance who passed at 92 years old. Mr. Kelly was recognized last year as being the oldest active EMS provider in the Commonwealth

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