



# LTS EMS COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR July 2021 to June 2022

## 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)**

Carla Miller  
CMiller@Lyco.org

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>0</b>
<b>REGIONAL SUMMARY:</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS \ HEALTH COUNCIL OFFICERS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2. REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL STAFF:</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3. REGIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR(S)</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES:</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5. SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING:</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES/ ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>7. CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>8. MEDICAL DIRECTION</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>9. SYSTEMS OPERATIONS</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>10. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>11. BOARD OF DIRECTOR \ HEALTH COUNCIL MEETINGS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>12. MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>13. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>14. REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## **REGIONAL SUMMARY:**

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

### **MISSION:**

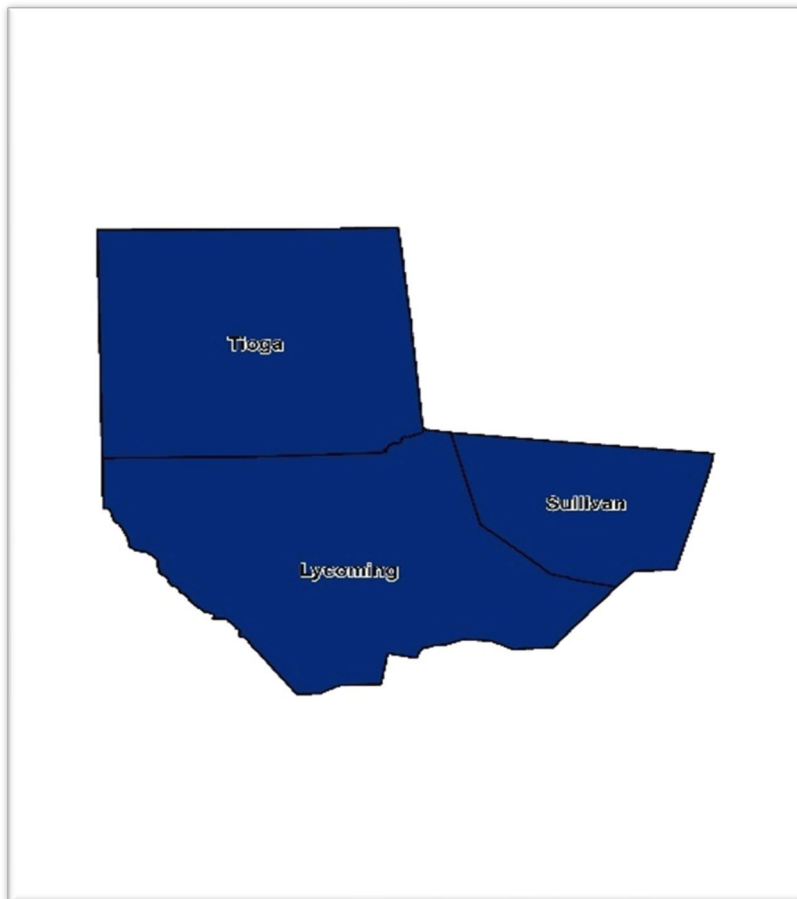
To coordinate, develop, improve and maintain a comprehensive and dynamic emergency medical services system to prevent and reduce premature death and disability. This system shall be integrated within the entire health care network. The emergency medical services system will ensure prompt, effective and unimpeded service to all residents and visitors of the Commonwealth.

### **SUMMARY:**

The LTS EMS Council is one of 14 Regional EMS Council's designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Health responsible for the management and operation of the EMS System in Lycoming, Tioga, and Sullivan Counties. The contract is held by the Lycoming County Commissioners and has been continuously renewed since 1973.

The Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from each of the three county EMS Councils that meet regularly. The Regional Advisory Council meets quarterly to vote on important EMS Operational and Funding issues. Membership to the county and Advisory Committee councils is open and falls under Federal Sunshine Laws.

Geographically, the LTS Region is in Northcentral Pennsylvania, whose northern tier borders the New York border. The region is primarily rural, with only one identifiable urban area, that of Williamsport, Lycoming County.



### **POPULATION BY COUNTY:**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>% Change 2018-2021</b>
<b>LYCOMING</b>	113,664	113,299	114,188	113,605	-0.05%
<b>TIOGA</b>	40,763	40,591	41,045	40,929	+0.4%
<b>SULLIVAN</b>	6,071	6,066	5,840	5,868	-3.3%

## **LYCOMING COUNTY:**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau Lycoming county has a total area of 1,244 square miles, of which 1,229 square miles is land and 15 square miles is water. Lycoming County is the largest county in Pennsylvania by land area and second largest by total area; it is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

Lycoming County is divided between the Appalachian Mountains in the south, the dissected Allegheny Plateau (which is mountainous) in the north and east, and the valley of the West Branch Susquehanna river between these.

The West Branch Susquehanna River enters Lycoming County from Clinton County just west of the borough of Jersey Shore. The river then flows generally east and a little north with some large curves for 15 miles to the City of Williamsport, followed by the borough of Montoursville as well as the boroughs of Duboistown and South Williamsport.

The river flows just north of Bald Eagle Mountain through much of its course in Lycoming County, but it passes the end of the mountain and turns south just before the borough of Muncy. It continues south past the borough of Montgomery and leaves Lycoming County, where it forms the border between Union and Northumberland Counties.

The major creeks of Lycoming county are all tributaries of the West Branch Susquehanna River. On the north bank of the river they are Pine Creek which the river receives just west of Jersey Shore; Larry's Creek, which the river receives about 4 miles south of Salladasburg; Lycoming Creek which the river receives in western Williamsport; Loyalsock Creek which the river receives between Williamsport and Montoursville; and Muncy Creek which the river receives just north of Muncy.

## **TIOGA COUNTY:**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Tioga County has a total area of 1,137 square miles, of which 1,134 square miles is land and 3.2 square miles is water. It is the fourth largest county in Pennsylvania by land area and fifth largest by total area.

There are three Pennsylvania State parks in Tioga County. Hills Creek State Park is several miles north of U.S. Route 6 between Wellsboro and Mansfield in Charleston Township. Colton Point State Park and Leonard Harrison State Park are both part of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon that is carved by Pine Creek.

## **SULLIVAN COUNTY:**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 452 square miles, of which 450 square miles is land and 2.6 square miles is water.

Elevation ranges from 2593 feet at North Mountain in Davidson Township to 779 feet on Loyalsock Creek at the Lycoming County line. The county is served by Pennsylvania Route 42, Pennsylvania Route 87, Pennsylvania Route 154, Pennsylvania Route 487, and U.S. Route 220. The major waterways in Sullivan County are Loyalsock Creek, Little Loyalsock Creek, Muncy Creek, and Fishing Creek. The majority of the land in Sullivan County is forest but there is some farmland, especially in the northern part of the county. There are numerous river valleys in the southern and western parts of the county.

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

President: Mark Trueman, Deputy Chief/Manager, Prehospital Care  
 Susquehanna Regional EMS (SREMS)  
 UPMC Williamsport, Lycoming County

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Vice President: Peter Lupkowski; Wellsboro Fireman’s Ambulance, Tioga County

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Treasurer: N/A

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Secretary: Suzanne Dively-Smith; Old Lycoming Township Ambulance, Lycoming  
 County

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(Please list all other members below)

<u>NAME</u>		<u>NAME</u>
1 Paul McKinley (Lycoming EMS President)	1	Wendy Hastings – Ex-Officio
2 Charles Kiessling	2	William Miller – Ex-Officio
3 Mike Minier	3	Abby Houseknecht – Ex-Officio
4 Genie Wines	4	Jeffrey Hutchins – Ex-Officio
5 Josh Dorman	5	Doug Wicks – Ex-Officio
6 Stephanie Tempesco	6	Joe Carpenter – Ex-Officio
7 Mark Hamilton	7	Dr. Jeffrey Myers – Ex-Officio
8 Peter Lupkowski	8	
9 Julia Meachem	9	
10 Denise Ayers	10	
11 Matt Russell	11	
12 Brian Huffman	12	
13 Vicki Peterman	13	
14 Terry Markee	14	
15 Debbie Peterman	15	
16 Mark Trueman - Alternate	16	
17 Greg Button - Alternate	17	
18 Marian Klopp – Alternate	18	
19 Mark Trueman - Alternate	19	
20	20	
21	21	
22	22	

**2. Regional EMS Council Staff:**

**Executive Director: Wendy Hastings**

<b>STAFF POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>
LTS EMS Council Director	Wendy Hastings
Regional EMS Training Coordinator	William Miller
Regional EMS Field Coordinator	Abby Houseknecht
Administrative Assistant	Jenifer Hope
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**3. Regional Medical Director(s)**

	<b>NAME</b>
1	Dr Gregory R. Frailey (Retired)/Dr. Jeffrey Myers
	Click or tap here to enter text.

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

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$165,409.91	\$158,464.47
Consultant Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontracted Services	\$33,894.12	\$31,000.00
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$35,387.20	\$10,113.15
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Costs	\$47,306.13	\$24,839.68
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$281,997.36</b>	<b>*\$57,580.06</b>

**\*This as of July 11, 2022 – Still some outstanding invoices**

**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.

National Registry Testing	Amount: \$5,000.00
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*Project Narrative:*

To make funds available to provide National Registry Cognitive Exam Testing to approximately 65 students who successfully complete the Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, or Paramedic training programs.

“Arrow® T-Pod Pelvic Splint” Council Project	Amount: \$15,967.00
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*Project Narrative:*

The Arrow® T-POD™ Pelvic Stabilization Device from Teleflex provides circumferential compression to the pelvis in patients with suspected pelvic fracture for pelvic stabilization, which may reduce blood loss and pain.

Pelvic ring injury is associated with a significant risk of mortality (28-50%) and requires urgent management. Clinical evidence indicates that pelvic stabilization devices like the Arrow® T-POD™ Device can improve pelvic fracture outcomes. When seconds count, immediate application of a correctly applied pelvic binder in hemodynamically unstable patients can be lifesaving.

Designated Infection Control Officer Class	Amount: \$6,375.00
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*Project Narrative:*

15 Students – 2 Day virtual Training

**6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management**

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date N/A
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	4
Public Outreach Events	5
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	0
Public Education CPR Events	0
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	10+
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	0

*Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:*

PennDOT Driver Safety Task Force  
 Lycoming County Fire Chief’s Advisory Board  
 Lycoming County EMS Council  
 Lycoming County Criminal Justice Advisory Board – Opioid Task Force  
 Penn College Paramedic Advisory Board  
 SafeKids Lycoming  
 Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition  
 Lycoming County Child Death Review Team  
 Sullivan County EMS Council  
 Sullivan County Health Partnership  
 Sullivan County Act 33/Child Fatality & Near Fatality Team  
 PEHSC EMS for Children Committee  
 WATCH Project Advisory Team

Staff regularly attends county EMS Council meeting for Lycoming and Sullivan Counties.

Staff is currently working with the County Commissioner’s Association of PA EMS Task Force’s (CCAP) rural Pilot Study in conjunction with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to evaluate the effectiveness of our current EMS System in Lycoming, Tioga, and Sullivan Counties.

**7. Continuous Quality Improvement**

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	0
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	2
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	4



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*Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:*

To facilitate greater participation in the Regional CQI process, its quarterly meetings have been incorporated into the Regional Council meeting and reported out in the minutes.

All licensed EMS Agencies are required to complete quarterly reports based on recommended criteria from the Committee (Patient Refusals, Cardiac Arrest/AED/Mechanical Compression Devices, Patient Assisted Medications, and Spinal Immobilization). In addition, agencies are required to submit data regarding emergency non-response. This data is compiled in a quarterly report by the EMS Field Coordinator for review by the Regional Medical Director and the Regional CQI Committee. Individual clinical cases are not reviewed by the Committee and are only reviewed by the Regional Medical Director in conjunction with the EMS Agency Medical Director.

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**8. Medical Direction**

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	0
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	1
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	2
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	0
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	0
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	2

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*Medical Direction Narrative:*

While no formal meetings occurred during this reporting period, members correspond and vote by email as concerns and projects that come to light.

During this reporting period no issues were raised significant to call a formal meeting of the LTS Regional MAC Committee. Information of interest is shared with all ALS and BLS Medical Direction on a regular basis and hold voting membership on their respective County EMS Councils.

All ALS EMS Agencies in the region are actively participating in the Antibiotic Pilot Project for Open Fractures, reporting data quarterly. Three of the Five ALS EMS Agencies are actively utilizing Etomidate for Sedation and reporting quarterly.

In September of 2021 UPMC Williamsport became a Trauma Level II Service.

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Geisinger Medical Center in Muncy had their Grand Opening January 10, 2022 and certified as a Pennsylvania Department of Health Medical Command Facility.



**9. Systems Operations**

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	0
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	0
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	3
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	0
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	22
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	4

Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	47
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	1
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	4
Certification Class Visits Conducted	0
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	33
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	0

*Systems Operations Narrative:*

Field Coordinator facilitated the Re-licensure process and on-site Inspection for:

- Muncy Township VFC (BLS) Lycoming County
- Ralston VFC (BLS) Lycoming County
- Jersey Shore Area EMS (ALS, ALS SQUAD, IALS, BLS, QRS) Lycoming County
- UPMC Susquehanna (CCT, ALS, ALS SQUAD, BLS) Lycoming County
- Millerton VFC (QRS) Tioga county
- Knoxville-Deerfield Fire (QRS) Tioga County
- Plunketts Creek Twp. Fire (BLS, QRS) Lycoming County
- Hughesville VFC (BLS, QRS) Lycoming County
- Picture Rocks VFC (BLS) Lycoming County
- Eagles Mere Ambulance Assoc. (BLS) Sullivan County
- Erway Ambulance Service (ALS) Elmira Heights, NY (Tioga County)
- Duboistown Ambulance (BLS, QRS) Lycoming County
- Nippenose Valley VFC (QRS) Lycoming County
- Tioga Vol. Firemen's Amb (BLS) Tioga County
- Liberty VFC (QRS) Tioga County
- Laporte VFC (BLS) Sullivan County
- Mildred Ambulance (BLS, QRS) Sullivan County
- Lairdsville Community VFC (BLS) Lycoming County
- Endless Winds VFC (QRS) Sullivan County
- Nelson VFC (BLS) Tioga County
- Blossburg VFD (BLS) Tioga County
- Lawrenceville Firemen's Amb (BLS) Tioga County
- Wellsboro Firemen's Amb (BLS, QRS) Tioga County
- Morris Firemen's Amb (BLS) Tioga County
- Geisinger LifeFlight (CCT AIR) Montour County (assisted 7 Mt's EMS)
- Goodwill EMS (ALS, ALS SQUAD, IALS, BLS, BLS SQUAD) Clinton County (assisted 7Mt's EMS)

Onsite inspection for new agency conducted for licensure:

- Clymer Twp. Hose (QRS) Tioga County

New vehicle inspections conducted at:

- EMTS (BLS) Snyder County (assisted 7 Mt's EMS)
- UPMC Susquehanna (ALS SQUAD) Lycoming County

- Loyalsock VFC (BLS) Lycoming County
  - UPMC Susquehanna (ALS) Lycoming County
- Onsite inspection for VRSR re-licensure conducted for:
- Millerton VFC (Machinery Level II) Tioga County
  - Williamsport Bureau Fire (Water Level II) Lycoming County

## 10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	4
Table Top Exercises Attended / Conducted	2
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	3
Special Event Plans Submitted	
Responses / Deployments	0
Strike Team Agencies (SREMS, JSAEMS, Mansfield, Old Lycoming, & Gale Hose)	5

### *Emergency Preparedness Narrative:*

Council Director serves as the Chair of Northcentral Task Force Health & Medical Committee as well as Chair of the NCTF Healthcare Coalition. Monthly meetings are conducted concurrently of these two entities with participation from Hospitals, EMS, EMA, Public Health, Coroners, Long-Term Care Facilities, and Home Health/Hospice.

During this reporting period, coordination was underway to merge the North Central and East Central Healthcare Coalitions together per the direction of the DOH Bureau of Emergency Preparedness & Response. The new coalition effective July 1, 2021 will be known as Central Region Healthcare Coalition and incorporate 14 Counties. CRCC is cochaired by Wendy Hastings, LTS EMS Council Director and Jeremy Reese, Geisinger Health System/Columbia County Coroner.

Council Director worked with the DOH, County Commissioners, the Sullivan County Medical Center, and local volunteers to coordinate 4 COVID-19 “stand-alone” vaccination clinics. Sullivan County was identified as 1 of 2 counties in PA without existing healthcare systems to support clinics, and as such, were issued vaccine through the DOH to support the clinic staffed solely with volunteers. In total, the clinics provided 850 vaccines to their most vulnerable populations. Director is active participant on Healthcare Coalition Council, actively seeking 501.c3 status to elevate the capabilities of Healthcare Coalitions in the Commonwealth.

## 11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
10/21/2021		Virtual – Zoom Platform
01/20/2022		Virtual – Zoom Platform
03/17/2022		Virtual – Zoom Platform
06/16/2022		Virtual – Zoom Platform

**12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
		Not Applicable

**13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
10/21/2021	1900hrs	Virtual – Zoom Platform
01/20/2022	1900hrs	Virtual – Zoom Platform
03/17/2022	1900hrs	Virtual – Zoom Platform
06/16/2022	1900hrs	Virtual – Zoom Platform

## **Regional Accomplishments:**

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### Narrative:

We have been doing more community outreach and public education. We Participated in the Duboistown Open House for Fire Prevention, a Bike Rodeo that was sponsored by the Trauma Team at UPMC Williamsport, and a Fall Festival at Hughesville Volunteer Fire Department.

### **LTS Regional EMS Advisory Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2021**

#### **Lycoming County:**

We have started the Lycoming County Commissioners' Tuition Reimbursement for our EMR and EMT training and that application is located at

<https://www.lyco.org/Portals/1/EmergencyMedicalServices/Documents/Lycoming%20County%20Training%20Scholarship%20Application%20Revised%20FINAL%201-10-2020.pdf>

#### **Tioga County:**

Continuing community outreach with Mansfield and the Boy Scouts of America; Explorer program.

#### **Sullivan County:**

Sullivan County has been having success with classes hosted by Eagles Mere (Splinting and ALS Assist Class). They also hosted a drive-thru flu shot clinic at the Sullivan County Elementary School.

The Council had purchased and distributed all the CO monitors for all three counties. The Council also purchased 27 blankets. It was suggested that we make them available to agencies with long transport times or strategically place them geographically to be available to multiple agencies. Decision was made to distribute blankets to all agencies in Sullivan and Tioga Counties (18 blankets total). The remaining 9 blankets to be distributed in Lycoming County based on transport time and with approval from Dr. Frailey.

UPMC Williamsport became an Adult Level II Trauma Center. The Council encouraged EMS Agencies to review the Trauma Protocols 180 and 190 as this will impact patient destinations.

An issue was discussed about emergency departments being overcrowded due to the COVID Delta Variant. The health system has been overtaxed. The reasoning they are overtaxed is COVID, emergency care, influenza, other viruses, and difficulties discharging patients to other facilities due to staffing shortages or facility quarantines are additional strains to the system.

### **LTS Regional EMS Advisory Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2022**

Moment of Silence was held to honor Paramedic, Brian TaraBori; Gail Thompson, EMT; Donnie Konkle of the Willing Hand Hose Company, Montoursville, PA; and Joseph Bergen, retired, long term President of the Wellsboro Fireman's Ambulance.

Lengthy discussion about EMS Agencies not responding and CQIs. After discussion on how to address the delinquencies, it was decided that William Miller will send a certified letter to the agencies failing to report CQI stressing that participation in the CQI process is part of the EMS Act and required by Dr. Frailey to provide Medical Direction. Their failure to participate could jeopardize the medical direction for their service.

2021 Certification class statistics were discussed. In 2021, there were fourteen certification classes conducted. Out of the 134 students enrolled, 98 completed their programs, 68 (69%) became certified. As of

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December 31, 2021, 38 providers certifications expired. Only a handful reached out to us to regain their certifications.

Etomidate usage data was requested by Dr. Frailey. There were 15 total etomidate uses. Susquehanna Regional EMS (SREMS) providers had 13, Loyalsock EMS had 2, and Jersey Shore EMS providers had none for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.

**Lycoming County:**

Howard Woodruff resigned, Pennsylvania College of Technology (PCT) Director of Paramedic Programs, Chris Boyer is leaving.

We held two psychomotor exams in September testing 25 candidates. All candidates passed the exams.

Lycoming County Public Safety Director, Jeff Hutchins, reported on the new policy approved by the Lycoming County EMS Council: Placement of BLS Units in a “fail” status as the result of a “Scratch” on an EMS Incident. Tioga County already has a similar process in place. Director Hutchins talked to Jason Dickinson, 9-1-1 Coordinator, Deputy Director for Sullivan County and sent out some clarification emails. The new process starts February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and will be reviewed at each Lycoming County EMS Council Meeting.

**Tioga County:**

Pete Lupkowski thanked those who helped with Brian TaraBori’s service, especially the SREMS providers who came up and responded to calls for our Tioga County ALS providers so they could participate in the services.

Wellsboro just started an EMT class through PCT for about 6 students.

**Sullivan County:**

Joe Carpenter reported they have 2 new EMTs in Eagles Mere and also a new ambulance. They are discussing another EMT class through the school district.

Heated blankets have been distributed to agencies agreed upon in last quarter’s meeting.

HB 2097 (Ambulance Staffing Waiver Legislation) was discussed. Joe Hamm brought forth this bill to make the COVID staffing waiver permanent for Class 5 through Class 8 counties. Three of our representatives have co-sponsored this bill; Tina Pickett, Clint Owlett, and Jeff Wheeland. It is currently in the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Geisinger Muncy Hospital has been inspected, everything is in order, and they are a Medical Command facility.

TXA Pilot Study proposal was discussed. Dr Jeff Myers presented it via PowerPoint. This would bring a new medication to ALS providers, but also re-engineer trauma treatment priorities to reflect recent research coming out of military and other private sectors. It follows the teachings of the “Stop the Bleed” programs. The proposal uses the March algorithm (massive hemorrhage control, airway control, respiratory support, and hypothermia mitigation) for any level of provider, adds fluid resuscitation guidelines for advanced level providers, and tranexamic acid (TXA) to maintain hemostasis (ALS providers only). Currently TXA is only approved for use in interfacility transports. TXA has the greatest benefit when used within the first hour of injury. This is collaborative effort for our region with ALS agencies and our Trauma Centers. Patient Care Records (PCRs) will be reviewed for compliance to the protocol by the service medical director or designee who will forward an abstracted report to the region. Patients who receive TXA in the field will be reported

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separately and followed for outcome and complications as part of a region-wide Pilot Project. It was accepted and submitted for TXA as well as some protocol changes including the CQI project. The Council will be sending the Proposal to BEMS and The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Service Council's (PEHSC) Medical Advisory Committee (MAC).

The Council has appointed a By-Law Committee. The by-laws have not been reviewed since 2018. Mark Trueman called for volunteers for this committee. Suzanne Dively-Smith and Dr. Jeff Myers volunteered. Wendy Hastings will be an ex-officio committee member. The committee will get together for a review of the by-laws and bring any needed revisions to our next meeting. Wendy Hastings sent out a copy of the by-laws with the minutes for review and comments.

Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF) – Tioga County EMS Council asked that the LTS EMS Council to contact Law Firm of Page, Wolfberg & Wirth to present two, 2-3 hour live webinars on Patient Refusals and the Healthcare Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The council paid the licensing fee to record the sessions for viewing by providers who could not attend the live viewing. Continuing education will be available only to providers in the LTS Region. Webinar dates are February 15 and March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The EMS Council is still working towards having a Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) class. We will need to approve funds for this.

President Mark Trueman added that we need to allocate 30% of our funds to education in our region. He would like to allocate \$1200 for ALS training, following the Seven Mountains EMS Council model for this. It was clarified that the ALS training candidate needs to be affiliated with an EMS agency in the LTS region.

The educational programs listed above were approved by the LTS EMS Council.

Dr. Frailey stated that there was a PEHSC Mac meeting. The Emergency Medical Service Institute (EMSI) has a process looking at Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) and Airway Management. It has been accepted with a lot of expected commentary and will move to step 2 recommendations, development of a pilot program.

A new pilot project being conducted by Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) for the use of levetiracetam in the treatment of status epilepticus has been approved and recommended by their region.

Dr. Frailey recommended that we should tie EMSOF funding to participation in CQI at the regional level.

The LTS EMS Council purchased a perpetual plaque recognizing the winners of the Kline A. DeWire Lifetime Achievement Award. It is hanging on the wall at Lycoming County Department of Public Safety. The council also purchased a large PA EMS flag for events and some smaller PA EMS flags to give to fallen EMS provider's families. Contact the Council office if you hear of a loss in our EMS community, and we will make a flag available to their family.



## LTS Regional EMS Advisory Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2022

### 2021 Certification Class Statistics:

TYPE	SCHOOL	ENROLLED	W/D	NEVER TEST	PASSED	FAILED	COMPLETED	CERTIFIED
EMR	HACC	11 (Nov 21)	2	2	6	1	82%	67%
EMT	Mansfield University	5 (Nov 21)	1	0	1	3	80%	25%
EMT	PCT- Wellsboro	6 (Jan 22)	1	0	4	1	83%	80%
EMT	PCT - Williamsport	17 (Jan 22)	3*	1	11	2	82%	79%

\*Academic Dismissal

Note: One student passed the cognitive test but failed to complete the post-course questionnaire, making them uncertified despite receiving their National Registry Card. William Miller contacted the candidate and they have completed the questionnaire and are not certified.

### Lycoming County:

Wendy Hastings welcomed our new Council Field Coordinator, Abby Houseknecht, who started on Monday. Abby introduced herself and gave a brief report on her experience, 14 years as an EMT and her gratitude for the opportunity to work with our providers in her new position.

The Council is preparing for the Little League World Series in August 2022. The council received a letter from Tony Bixby requesting volunteer ambulance crews to assist in transportation for the event.

Our Field Response and Transportation Committee met this week to go over the failed status data for Lycoming County.

We have reached out to the attorneys at Page, Wolfberg, & Wirth (PWW) for a formal review of the Scratch Policy. Their formal opinion is that it does not violate the Mars Ruling (<https://caselaw.findlaw.com/pa-commonwealth-court/1307176.html> )

Lycoming County Council presented our awards at the Lycoming County Commissioner's meeting in May.

Our winners for Lycoming County were:

EMT of the Year – Jody McKibben, Duboistown

Paramedic of the Year – Scott Tempesco, SREMS

Telecommunicator of the Year – Clinton Frackman

Instructor of the Year – Tim Weaver, SREMS

Emergency Physician of the Year – Dr. Gregory Frailey, LTS Regional Medical Director

Community Impact Award – Bruce Guintner, Brad Stine, and Ray Murphy, Plunketts Creek

Kline DeWire Lifetime Achievement Award – Joseph Hopple

### Tioga County:

Commissioner Mark Hamilton stated that the legislation concerning the staffing waiver is a hot topic. He also stated he received an email from a commissioner in the South-Western region of the state reporting that agencies have been put on probation for having a 5-10% scratch rate. Mark Hamilton asked Wendy Hastings if she was aware of this action. Wendy reported that she is not aware of anything coming from the Department of Health (DOH) at this time. However, after a meeting with the new DOH EMS Director, Aaron Rhone, she discovered that he is willing to hold EMS agencies accountable for their performance.

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**Sullivan County:**

To Kick off EMS Week there was a presentation at the Sullivan County Courthouse for EMS crew from Dushore, Station, 57, for a cardiac arrest save. The Ultramarathon is finished. Laporte and Eagles Mere provided stand-by EMS coverage and ran several emergencies. The Grinduro, a weekend-long bicycling event has finished and went very well. Sullivan County was chosen as one of only five places in the world to host the event this year. We had EMS crews on stand-by, there were no incidents.

HB2097 – Ambulance Staffing Waiver Legislation – Mark Hamilton reported that there is support for this Bill in the House and was amended in the Senate to extend the staffing waiver for 5 years. The Senate Appropriations Committee are reviewing it. The council members are urged to reach out to the Senators for support on this Bill.

TXA Pilot Study Proposal – Dr. Myers stated based on the abundance of data there was a unanimous recommendation from the PEHSC Medical Advisory Committee to incorporate the MARCH Protocol, as discussed in January’s meeting, into the 2023 Protocol updates instead of adopting it as a pilot study. Dr. Myers urged ALS agencies to talk to their Medical Directors to pre-plan the incorporation of TXA into their services. He is hoping the TXA addition will be as a standing order to facilitate timely administration. Dr. Myers also recognized Shane Newvine’s efforts to formulate the protocol, Dr. Jason Schauer, and Dr. Gregory Frailey for their collaboration and support.

Dr. Myers expressed appreciation for the EMS agencies who have returned their Medical Director agreements. There are still many agreements from Lycoming and Sullivan Counties that have not been returned yet.

Retirement of Medical Director Dr. Frailey – Mark Trueman reported that there was a banquet for him as part of SREMS. Multiple local, statewide, and national entities created a pre-recorded video message. He is doing well on retirement! Dr. Frailey attended ConEd two nights ago and is still interested in being involved. Dr. Myers added you may still see him in the emergency department working some shifts in July.

Wendy Hastings reported that the PHTLS for Lycoming and Tioga Counties were cancelled because of low enrollment. They have been rescheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> .

EMSOF money allocated to ALS Education in our region. The regional council provided \$1,100 to eight, currently enrolled, paramedic students from Lycoming, Tioga, and Sullivan Counties for a total of \$8,800.

The Director of Lycoming County Department of Public Safety, Jeff Hutchins, is looking into whether there is a system in place to dump the CAD call information into the Zoll EMS Charts, similar to the way the CAD system dumps calls into Emergency Reporting for fire and Spillman for Williamsport Bureau of Police.

Regional Bylaws being reviewed. Following the last meeting, our Bylaws were sent out for review and feedback. Mark Trueman went through the Bylaws and stated that Article II – Purposes/Authority should stay the same as they are driven by the EMS Act. Article III – Members, Section 1: Composition of Regional Council and Section 2: Selection of Members. Mark wants to ensure that representation is fair and asked for any changes. A motion to keep section 1 and 2 as written was made by Pete Lupkowski and seconded by Charles Kiessling. Motion carried with no opposition or abstentions. Section 3: Voting Privileges – Mark Trueman pointed out the “special voting by means of a telephone conference call or other electronic means, shall be permitted...” portion of this section and called on Suzanne to present her proposal to add a section to

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#### Article IV – Meetings:

Section 2: Regular Meetings. The Regional Council shall meet a minimum of THREE TIMES a year. These regular meetings will be scheduled in the months of March, June, and October. One meeting, annually, may be cancelled at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Meetings by telephone or live video conferencing: Members of the Council may participate in a meeting of members by means of a conference telephone, live video conference, or similar communications equipment by means of which all person participating in the meeting can hear each other in real time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting.

Dr. Myers agreed with this and would like to see something added about electronic voting during a meeting held in this fashion. Mark Trueman agreed and felt it is important to be able to use electronic means to do multiple things such as: announce meetings, conduct business using a virtual format such as ZOOM and to conduct polls during these electronic meetings without the advance notification required by Article III, Section 3.

In Article IV – Meetings, Section 1: Annual Meeting.

Wendy Hastings asked if we should keep this meeting on the fourth Thursday in January as written or change it to the third Thursday. Suzanne suggested it read as “at the scheduled January Meeting” ...Mark Trueman agreed that this would allow some leeway and he pointed out that the regular meetings in March, June, and October do not specify a specific date. Mark Trueman recommended we make this change and revisit it at the next meeting in October.

Wendy Hasting would like to have a mechanism to allow for time sensitive issues to be addressed with membership of the Advisory Council. She has done this by email obtaining and recording each representative’s vote on a roster sheet, then ratifying the action at the next meeting. Mark Trueman suggested adding a section 6 under Article IV to address this. The Council will address the suggested changes at the next meeting.

Wendy Hastings reported that this is her last meeting with the Council. She is retiring July 15, 2022. She thanked everyone for their support and is proud of everything we have accomplished in the last 30 years. Mark Trueman added a thank you fur her years of service, and stated that EMS in Lycoming, Tioga, and Sullivan Counties is better because of her presence.

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