



**Peninsulas Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.**

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**PEMS EMS Operations Committee Meeting Minutes**

A PEMS Council Standing Committee

**Meeting Date: 07-11-2023**

**Meeting Location: In-person and MS Teams**

**Chaired By: Melissa Doak**

**Begin Time: 2:00 p.m.**

**End Time: 2:55 p.m.**

**Minutes Submitted By: Steve Pincus**

**Draft: X Approved Date:**

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Members Absent:</b>	<b>Staff:</b>	<b>Others:</b>
Ashe, Ryan (TC)	Baylous, Denise	Ashe, Amy	Glover, Julia (PEMS Pres BOD) (TC)
Balderson, Calvin (TC)	Bell, Chris	Brophy, Kevin	Phillips, Brian (Williamsburg Fire) (TC)
Barton, Valerie (TC)	Brown, Ronald	Pincus, Stephen (TC)	
Breitbeil, Tom (TC)	Byrd, Blake	Veach, Travis (TC)	
Davenport, John (TC)	Buchanan, Chris		
Doak, Melissa (C)(TC)	Cease, William		
Fenske, Ciera (TC)	Dougherty, Jason		
Paulette, Mitch (VC) (TC)	Griffiths, Daryll		
Quinerly, Nikosha (TC)	Hunter, Greg		
Reaves, Stacy (TC)	Jensen, Matthew		
Samuels, Gary (TC)	Kerns, Lewis		
Sink, Betsy (TC)	Lefever, Jeremy		
Smith, Matt (TC)_	Louka, Amir		
Tucker, John (TC)	Main, Cody		
	McDaniel, Nick		
	Payne, Christopher		
	Prata, Anthony		
	Reinhardt, Joey		
	Rodman, Jason		
	Vest, Ellen		
	Young, Chris		
	Young, John		

Item	Discussion	Action Required	By Whom/When
1. Call to Order	The chair, Mellissa Doak called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.		
2. Introductions	Members present introduced themselves and gave the organization that they were affiliated with.	Record Attendance	Steve
3. Approval of Minutes 04-04-2023*	Melissa Doak asked whether there were any changes needed in the previous meeting minutes. There were not any. Tom Breitbeil made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Calvin Balderson provided the second to the motion. There was no discussion. Vote was taken and passed.	Change Minutes from 04-04-23 from draft to final and submit	Steve
4. Membership/Appointments	<p>a. <u>Matthews County Reps.</u> Steve Pincus reported that he had received an email from Matthews County Administrator appointing Scott Bergman as the main rep for the EMS Ops Committee and Chris Buchanan as the alternate. Motion was made by John Davenport and a second was provided by Ryan Ashe to accept these as members on the committee. Motion Carried.</p> <p>b. <u>Matt Smith's Term on BOD.</u> Steve Pincus reported that Matt Smith's term as the representative for Northern Neck Agencies to the BOD was up and that Matt stated he was willing to continue to serve. Mitch Paulette made a motion for Matt to serve another term. Motion seconded by Jon Davenport. There was no discussion. Motion carried.</p> <p>c. <u>Chris Bell Retired.</u> Steve Pincus reported that Chris Bell retired from Williamsburg Fire Department which left a vacancy for the peninsula agency representative to the BOD. After opening up suggestions to the floor, Melissa Doak stated that she had spoken with Betsy Sink from JCCFD and she stated she was interested in serving. Ryan Ashe stated that he had also spoken with Betsy and confirmed her interest in serving. Since John Tucker did not have voice communication, Steve Pincus sent John Tucker a text to inquire whether he was interested. He replied that he already had too many commitments. Mitch Paulette made a motion to appoint Betsy Sink as the Peninsula Agencies' representative to the BOD. Tom Breitbeil provided the second. Motion Carried</p> <p>d. <u>Jon Davenport</u> reported that he was leaving Lancaster County and so there would need to be an alternate appointed to serve in his place on the EMS Operations Committee. He stated that he spoke with Matt Smith and they would be submitting a name to serve as the alternate for Lancaster County.</p>	<p>Update roster to add Scott Bergman as Matthews County Rep</p> <p>Report to BOD of Matt Smith's reappointment to the BOD at the September 2023 BOD Meeting</p> <p>Report to BOD of Betsy Sink's appointment to the BOD at the September 2023 BOD Meeting</p>	<p>Kevin</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>Steve</p>
5. PEMS Staff Reports	<p>a. Amy Ashe – Amy reported that she has been working with a Peer Team Group who wants to re-engage after covid. They are trying to build a resource list and an easier way to communicate with each other.</p> <p>The MIH networking group meets every month. They have demoed some software. This is a way for them to talk through ideas and issues that they have had.</p> <p>b. Greg Bever – Greg was not at the meeting. Steve Pincus reported that PEMS is in the process of building a new website. Currently Greg, Kevin Brophy, Chief Player and Steve Pincus are working with the vendor to get the new site up and running.</p> <p>c. Seth Craig – Seth was not at the meeting. Travis Veach reported that he spoke with Seth and that he is continuously updating the protocols for the new rollout. He just did an emergency update</p>		

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	<p>because of the Solumedrol shortage in which the MAC along with De. Louka and Dr. Justis found a substitute drug (Dexamethasone) will be put in the PEMS medication kits if Solumedrol is not available.</p> <p>Steve Pincus reported for Seth that the PPP Committee is working on combining both the Pediatric and Adult protocols to lessen confusion for providers. This should take place in the 2024 protocol rollout.</p> <p>d. Joann King – Joann was not present at the meeting</p> <p>e. Debbie Thomas. – Travis Veach reported for Debbie that she continues to pull data for committees. The stroke committee meets on Thursday [July 13<sup>th</sup>].</p> <p>f. Travis Veach – Travis repeated that PICO committee is meeting on Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup>. The main topic for the meeting is the new Pulsera App that will be given to all agencies and hospital systems in the PEMS and TEMS Region. Travis stated that he is setting up a meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and it will be hosted at Riverside which will be both virtual and in-person. A rep from Pulsera will be presenting it. This app is both for day-to-day operations and it can also be used in MCI incidents.</p> <p>Travis also discussed the Solumedrol shortage and what took place.</p> <p>g. Steve Pincus – Steve reported that we received a federal grant for the Pulsera app. However, he stated that the state still has not received the money so it has not been accepted and allocated yet. This impacts the timetable of when the project will actually roll out.</p> <p>Steve also reported that PEMS is working on doing a CE offering. He is working with Seth and Joann. This is still in the infancy state so there will hopefully be more to report on by the next meeting.</p>		
6. PEMS Committee Reports	<p>a. Pharmacy Committee - Travis Veach stated that he gave his report during staff reports (see above). The MIRs that PEMS has been receiving seem to be with newer employees and mainly relate to not getting signatures for controlled substances.</p> <p>b. PICO – Travis Veach stated that the agencies along with the ERs need to sign the re-stocking agreements and turn them in. He went on to say that these are reviewed annually but are re-signed every two years.</p> <p><u>Replacement of Jon Davenport on PICO*</u>  Jon Davenport asked whether there should be a nomination to replace him on PICO since he is leaving Lancaster. Melissa Doak asked Travis to provide a brief overview on the PICO Committee. The floor was then opened to have someone serve in that capacity.</p>		

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	<p>John Tucker volunteered to serve.</p> <p>Jon Davenport made a motion to have John Tucker replace him as the EMS Ops representative to the PICO Committee. Tom Breitbeil seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p> <p>c. MAC – Travis Veach reported that the MAC was responsible for finding the medication substitute for the Solumedrol shortage.</p> <p>d. BOD – No report</p> <p>e. PPP - Steve Pincus reported that Peds and Adults will be placed on the same page.</p> <p>f. STEMI – Travis Veach stated that this committee would be meeting on Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup> and that the report would be given after that meeting.</p> <p>g. PCC – No report</p>	<p>Add John Tucker on PICO roster as the EMS Ops Rep to PICO</p>	<p>Kevin</p>
<p>7. Old Business</p>	<p>a. CSRs and Board of Pharmacy</p> <p>Steve Pincus reported that the DEA still has not released the rules and regulations. However, in the state especially in the Western region, there is a hospital system that no longer will support that regions medication kit program. At the moment this does not affect the PEMS region. Steve reported that PEMS has developed a working group in order to monitor any related developments and to try to be able to disseminate real time information. Also, it was reported that the hospital systems in the PEMS Region have agreed to continue to supply medications.</p> <p>One of the things that has happened in the Board of Pharmacy and OEMS was that it was noted that the agencies really need to make certain that they are in compliance and have the appropriate CSRs. Beginning with the Peninsula, PEMS is looking to assist agencies in obtaining their CSRs to make certain they meet regulatory standards. This is especially important if the agencies are storing regulated items outside of the ambulances.</p> <p>Travis Veach reported that the PEMS drug box program is actually expanding. Both VCU – New Kent and VCU Children’s Hospital along with Riverside Behavioral Health Hospital ED will now carry the PEMS drug boxes in their pharmacies so that the exchange can take place at those respective facilities.</p> <p>Melissa Doak stated that there are several people on the CSR workgroup who would like the Board of Pharmacy to develop a “check list” of things that are</p>		

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	<p>required when completing the application and preparing for the facility inspection in order to receive a CSR. She stated that it is very difficult for agencies to wade through the regulations and terminology to see exactly what must be done to be a successful applicant. For example: 1. What constitutes a proper alarm system? 2. What constitutes security? 3. What constitutes restricted access?</p> <p>b. Solumedrol Shortage – Dexamethasone Temporary Substitute</p> <p>Travis Veach reported on this in Item 5. No further discussion.</p>		
8. New Business	<p>a. Pulsara App – Grant Approved – Nothing further was reported as this topic was discussed in Item 5.</p> <p>b. Hearing Impaired Patients and ADA Requirements</p> <p>Steve Pincus reported that HHS is requiring EMS providers to have a sign language interpreter available when treating the hearing impaired. He stated that, “Pen and paper along with pointing to pictures is no longer acceptable.” There are apps that can provide this service. A list of those apps will be sent out to the agencies.</p> <p>c. MIRs – Travis Veach reported on this in Item 5.</p> <p>d. Regional EMS Awards Winners to Gov Awards Nominees</p> <p>Steve Pincus that PEMS staff is in the process of readying the nominations for the Governor’s EMS Awards. These will be given out at the EMS Symposium in the November.</p> <p>e. NEW EMS Regulations</p> <p>It was announced that the Revised Section 32 EMS Regulations went into effect.</p> <p>f. APOT/Patient Turnover Wait Times</p> <p>Steve Pincus reported that while wait times for patient turnover in our region is not problematic as it is in other areas. The Office of EMS and the Board of Health are aware of this and they are trying to develop some terminology so that there are common definitions on what constitutes an “overly-burdensome wait.”</p> <p>Gary Samuels stated that the Governor’s Advisory Board is aware of this. Their next meeting is at the beginning of August and there should be more to come on this topic.</p>		

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	<p>g. Data Compliance</p> <p>Steve Pincus reported that as agencies are uploading their patient care reports into the State system, there have been a number of “failed reports” in the export. These are not captured in the QC process and have not counted against the agencies.</p> <p>Chief Paulette reported that he picked up in viewing his department’s data there was a discrepancy with the failure rate versus the compliance rate. He went on to say that the failed submitted records were not being counted towards the compliance review. Also, within ESO the data quality did not necessarily match what the states requirements were so it took extra time to drill into those calls to find the validation requirements.</p> <p>h. NEMSIS Data Dictionary</p> <p>Steve Pincus reported that the new Data Dictionary will go into effect in August and that this should hopefully address some of the data validation compliance issues.</p> <p>Melissa Doak stated that there really is not a good training system for data validation compliance. She stated that she consulted with Jesse Hodges from the state and he was helpful. She requested that with some of the training that PEMS will offer that perhaps this can be a topic for those in leadership who are responsible for agency data.</p>		
9. Good of the Order	No discussion		
10. Important Dates	<p>Melissa Doak went over the dates listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. July 25, 2023, State-wide Regional PI Coordinators Meeting</li> <li>b. July 31 – August 2, 2023, State EMS Advisory Board Meetings</li> <li>c. August 1, 2023 New NEMSIS Data Set Goes into Effect</li> <li>d. August 16, 2023 PEMS Board of Directors Executive Committee</li> <li>e. September 4, 2023, Labor Day, PEMS Office Closed</li> <li>f. September 20, 2023, Board of Directors Executive Committee</li> <li>g. September 26, 2023, State-wide Regional PI Coordinators Meeting</li> <li>h. November 8-12, 2023, 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia EMS Symposium, Norfolk, VA</li> </ul>		
11. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn was made by Mitch Paulette. Meeting ended at 2: 55 p.m.		