

**Berks DES EMS Working Group  
March 7, 2023  
General Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 10:01

In Attendance:

Name	Representative(s)
Bally	
Bethel	
Boyertown	
Cetronia	
DES	Brian Gottschall, Christina Wood, Phil Salamone
Elverson	Matt Welch
Eastern PA EMS Council	Jason Smith
Ephrata Hospital, Good Sam and Well Span EMS	
First Aid and Safety	
Gilbertsville	
Goodwill Pottstown	
Hamburg	Leslie Herring
Healthcare Coalition	
Kutztown	Rodney Freeman
LGH	
Lower Alsace	Matt Stairiker
LVH/LVH Medevac	Taylor Boyce
Muhlenberg	Chris Murray, Jody Heckman
Myerstown	
Newmanstown	Matthew Sonnen
Northern Berks EMS	Stephen Bobella, Craig Huntsinger
Oley	Mike Geisinger
PEHSC	
Penn Star	
Penn State - Life Lion	John Shook
Penn State - Saint Joes	Duane Siberski, Bill Hafer
Reading Fire Department	
RHS School of Health Sciences	Russ Engle
Saint Luke's Hospitals	Jeff Yanochko
Topton Ambulance	Mike Richards
RHMC – Tower	Chelsie Ober, Brad Cosgrove, Bert Schiffer
Western Berks	Carrie Frey

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### General Meeting Minutes

#### Previous Minutes

Motion: Matthew Sonnen  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Stephen Bobella  
Motion Approved

#### DES Account

- New CAD system/Crew force
  - Testing is going well.
  - Timeline for deployment coming soon for the pilot company.

#### Task Force/Healthcare Coalition

- Not present

#### Eastern PA EMS Council

- Nothing to report

#### Tower Health System

- Current Med Changes/Shortages
  - Adenosine now in 6mg vials, no longer prefilled syringes
  - Ketamine shortage- anticipated resolution date 3/24
- Upcoming Con ed
  - ED resident virtual offering- End of March/Early April Date/Time TBD
  - April Dinner and Learn – April 19<sup>th</sup> 18:30 Start time, Location TBD Topic Stroke Jeopardy
- Safety & Security
  - Please be vigilant about weapons on your patients
  - No matter the ED destination, if the patient can walk, take them through the metal detector entrance.
- EMS Equipment
  - Please take your patient movement devices at the time of transfer of care, or check back in the dirty utility later to retrieve your stuff
  - Do not leave dirty linen in red bags
    - Remove them from the red bag and place in the appropriate receptacles
    - If you have a lot, see someone to take you in the back to place in the larger bins
- Transports
  - Thank you to everyone who is using D1 for their interfacility work, or appointments. I appreciate your assistance in decompressing the ED parking lot whenever possible
- Urgent Care
  - Transfer of care process
  - Chelsie is working to understand and communicate back on the process

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#### **Penn State Saint Joseph Medical Center**

- Badges are available for pickup in my office.
  - Please email/text me with a time/date to pick them up.
  - Must be an officer or above.
  - Once you have the keys cards for the truck and they are put in service the individual badges will be disabled. We ask that you return all employee individual badges.
- There will be some slight changes to the EMS Room snacks in the next few weeks. Budgetary restraints are causing us to remove some of the less eaten snacks from the room.

#### **Reading School of Health Sciences**

- **EMT Courses**
  - Summer: May 30-August 1, Monday to Thursday 8 am to 2 pm
  - Fall: August 31-December 12, Tuesdays, Thursdays 6 pm to 10 pm, plus one Saturday per month 8 am to 2 pm
- **AEMT Course (new format with live lectures) – now accepting application**
  - Summer: June 21-December 9, Wednesdays 8 am to 3 pm
- **Paramedic Courses – now accepting applications**
  - Reading Hospital: August-July, Monday-Thursday 8 am to 2 pm
  - Chestnut Hill Hospital: January to December, Tuesdays & Thursdays 6pm-10pm and select Saturdays
- For more information on any program or to apply, go to:  
<https://reading.towerhealth.org/health-sciences/>

#### **Lehigh Valley Health Network**

- EMI is having the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pediatric Symposium on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9-1430
- We are still wearing masks in all of our facilities; however, they are now only mandated in areas of patient care. That means you don't need a mask in the cafeteria, pharmacy, gift shops etc.
- If anyone needs Care Point Stickers or Access Badges for the hospital let me know and I can get them for you.

#### **St Luke's**

- Lifted restrictions on masks for employees
- Education
  - Check out Facebook page

#### **Hershey Medical Center**

- Nothing to report

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**Lancaster General Hospital**

- Not present

**Well Span**

- Not present

**Dr. Schiffer**

- Nothing to report

**Dr. Wilson**

- Not present

**Dr. Siberski**

- COVID
  - Now in comparison study with the flu
    - Flu decrease death rate
  - From a Swiss study
    - Whom 95% are all vaccinated
- PCC – Post Covid Condition
  - After covid increase in death rate
    - 51 is the average age
    - Little over half were female
    - Cardiovascular conditions
    - Pulmonary emboli
    - Asthma
    - Cardiac dysrhythmias
    - Respiratory compromise
- CDC scoreboard
  - 69% fully vaccinated
  - 16% boosted
- Decrease in new cases across the country
- Deaths are down
- COVID “most likely” came from a lab leak

**Dr. Stauffer**

- Not present

**Old Business**

- Nothing

**New Business**

- Nothing

**Next Meeting: April 4, 2023, at 10:00**

**Motion to close**

END: 10:17

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Motion: Mike Geisinger  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Matthew Sonnen