

Berks DES EMS Workgroup

Special Meeting: The Center for Excellence in Local Government (CLEG)

Emergency Medical Provider (EMP) Initiative

February 6, 2024

Attendance: John Shook, Herbert Schiffer, Anthony Tucci, Matthew Welch, Jody Heckman, Michael Sninsky, Brian Gottschall, Phillip Salamone, Topton, Leslie Herring, James Boyer, Michael Geisinger, Mike Groff, Unnamed female Bally EMS, Brad Cosgrove, Matthew Stairiker, Matthew Smith, Christina Wood, Craig Huntsinger Jr., Chelsie Ober (DES EMS Workgroup Scribe)

Guests: Paul Jansen, Chip Bilger & Highschool shadow student

Minutes: Recap of history of initiative and who CLEG is. Draft report review of the CLEG initiative for presentation to elected officials.

Review Document:

Executive Summary- **no changes voiced.**

Background- **EMS bureau leadership changes should be noted, previous lack of stability & rule book being rewritten due to changes. Discussion ensued regarding definition of upheaval of BEMS leadership/EMS Councils, condensed summary of events. Statistics of providers not renewing certification. Statistics of EMS needs 10 years ago versus today may be better added in another section.**

Funding Sources- **discussion of Medicare/Medicaid, reimbursements, and cost of readiness. No purchasing power/negotiation power. Hospital based versus private ambulance versus municipal. Treat no transport big issue, such as cardiac arrest for use of resources/capital. Legislation for payment was for commercial insurers but a majority do not. We cannot itemize bill in Pennsylvania. Municipal subscription fee discussion. How many municipalizes are doing subscriptions for EMS (around 30). List of in-kind provisions provided by municipality such as fuel, locations, repairs etc.** Discussion of treat no transport costs.

Local Organizational Models For EMS Organizations- **Not-for-profit health systems w/Ems Agencies.**

Local Operational Model Considerations- **coverage, system status management, dispatching levels, IALS**

Specific Challenges-

Capital Funding- **No discussion**

Personnel- **system design+ needs for services + county input for standards of response (i.e. 10 mins for ALS, 30 mins for BLS type of response) and who pays for capital expenses that would surround this model. How do we get and keep employees + pay them a living wage so that they want to stay in the profession.**

Workforce development- **costs of current certification levels versus years ago, average career length is reported to be 5 years (verify?).**

Unit Depletion- **unit use discussion, PD/Fire municipal response to downed trees. Example of accident unk. And fire chief cancelling assignment without input of EMS for eval of patient. EMS being used as social services, super users taxing services due to need for more than medical care. EMS has become provider of last resort.**

Reporting and Municipal Assistance- **No discussion**

Interagency relationships- **on scene, better collaboration between agencies. In other realms not so much.**

Conclusions- **worth discussing countywide systems.**

Review of appendices: **no discussion**

CELG Dinner Registration Link:

[16th Annual Municipal Officials Dinner – Albright College](#)