

**Berks DES EMS Working Group  
December 5, 2023  
General Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 10:00

**In Attendance:**

| Name   | Representative(s)  |
|--|--|
| Bally  | Mike Groff   |
| Bethel                                       | Not present  |
| Boyertown                                    | Jim Boyer  |
| Cetronia                                     | Not Present  |
| DES  | Phil Salamone, Matt Stairiker, Christina Wood, Michael Smith, Brian Gottschall |
| Elverson                                     | Matt Welch   |
| Eastern PA EMS Council                       | John Kloss   |
| Ephrata Hospital, Good Sam and Well Span EMS | Not Present  |
| First Aid and Safety                         | Not Present  |
| Gilbertsville                                | Not Present  |
| Goodwill Pottstown                           | Not Present  |
| Hamburg                                      | Leslie Herring   |
| Healthcare Coalition                         | Anthony Tucci  |
| LGH  | Not Present  |
| Lower Alsace                                 | Phil Salamone, Matt Stairiker  |
| LVH/LVH Medevac                              | Taylor Boyce   |
| Muhlenberg                                   | C Murray,  |
| Myerstown                                    | Not Present  |
| Newmanstown                                  | Not Present  |
| Northern Berks EMS                           | S. Bobella   |
| Oley   | Mike Geisinger   |
| PEHSC  | Not Present  |
| Penn Star                                    | Not Present  |
| Penn State - Life Lion                       | John Shook   |
| Penn State - Saint Joes                      | Dr. Siberski, Bill Hafer   |
| Reading Fire Department                      | Not Present  |
| RHS School of Health Sciences                | Matthew Small  |
| Saint Luke's Hospitals                       | Jeff Yanochko  |
| Topton Ambulance                             | Not Present  |
| TowerDIRECT                                  | Brad Cosgrove, Herbert Schiffer,   |
| RHMC – Tower                                 | Chelsie Ober, Tom Stauffer   |
| Western Berks                                | Anthony Tucci  |

# Berks DES EMS Working Group

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### General Meeting Minutes

#### Previous Minutes

Motion: Welch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Bobella

Motion Approved

**DES Account-** Chip and Paul asked to reiterate thanks for time spent meeting previously about EMS in Berks County, very educational for all in attendance. They are formulating a strategy to get info out without violating sunshine laws. Hopefully moving to next steps and would like to meet again in January to provide update. Nothing from Michael, Christina – Crew force added 3 agencies and battery issues being presented about battery life on iPad and app due to use (Lower Alsace reported issue, Life Lion reported issue as well), Brian Gottschall suggested looking at charger to ensure correct equipment being used.

**Task Force/Healthcare Coalition-** Trainings coming 2024, Plum case available for internet issues

**Eastern PA EMS Council-** ALS providers due to expire at end of year 122 Berks area providers still need to reup, AED cases available with alarm

**Tower Health System-** Upcoming Trauma conference Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, any provider with a Tower Medical Director can receive free admission. See Chelsie for details if you didn't yet receive.

**Penn State Saint Joseph Medical Center-** Mask your respiratory patients

**Reading School of Health Sciences-** 01/16 Preceptor Class for LVHN, LGH and RSHS programs Gail Knauer is point of contact, Summer EMT class in May, Fall EMT in August, Spring course is full. No longer have satellite campus at Chestnut Hill. New campus is Phoenixville and is part time. Upcoming program discovery day this Saturday 12/9.

**Lehigh Valley Health Network-** Nothing to report.

**St Luke's-** Classes upcoming posted to socials

**Hershey Medical Center-** nothing

**Lancaster General Hospital-** not present

**Well Span-** not present

**Dr. Schiffer-** respiratory illnesses increasing including RSV, impacting very young and very old.

**Dr. Wilson-** not present

**Dr. Siberski-** Covid admissions trending upwards but not crazy, new variant to keep eye on but not acting as expected, new China illness just respiratory illness just keep an eye on, long vax syndrome – numbness, neuropathy, fearful, anxiety, depression, exercise fatigue. Looking at proning- not effective

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with ECMO. Kids- inflammatory syndrome with elevated troponin can have rhythm abnormalities. PCP providers asking if patients have had “annual covid shot.” Vaccine news- two approved malaria vaccines with rise in malaria cases due to climate change.

**Dr. Stauffer-** Nothing to report

**Old Business-**

**Radio Nomenclature-** Unit identification – adding squad name to front of designator, concern is sound alike. County DES is open to solutions provided by EMS agencies if clear designation and unit ID that is part of the CAD transaction but can't be “Muhlenberg Bus 2” as it doesn't fit CAD criteria. “Lively” conversation ensued.

**New Business-** K9 Tactical Field Care Course for Pre-Hospital Providers- looking to get course in Berks to partner with local law enforcement agencies to hold program. Tony putting together proposal.

**TowerDIRECT-** restructuring that happened yesterday, CCT decreased to 5 providers, no change in continuity of care.

**Next Meeting: January 2, at 10:00**

**Motion to close**

END: 10:53

Motion: Welch

2<sup>nd</sup>: Bobella