



Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair

Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., Vice Chair

Joseph C. Gale, Commissioner

Thomas M. Sullivan / Michael O. Vest, Director Department of Public Safety

David P. Brown, Deputy Director-EMS

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMS DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR (2020-2021)

## 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)**

David Paul Brown  
DBrown2@montcopa.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>2</b>
<b>2. REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL STAFF:</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3. REGIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR(S)</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES:</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5. SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING:</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>6. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES/ ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>7. CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>8. MEDICAL DIRECTION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>9. SYSTEMS OPERATIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>10. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>11. BOARD OF DIRECTOR \ HEALTH COUNCIL MEETINGS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>12. MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>13. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>14. REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:</b> .....	<b>10</b>

## **REGIONAL SUMMARY:**

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

The Montgomery County Regional EMS Council was organized in 1988, after the original Southeast PA EMS Council was dissolved to give each of the five counties a more direct role in providing EMS programs for their residents and visitors. It was very important to ensure that policies for providing EMS services, training and equipping personnel were tailored to each county's specific dynamic needs.

Montgomery County is 483 square miles, and it contains urbanized centers such as Norristown & Pottstown, large suburban communities to the east and extensive tracts of farms and woodlands to the west. With a population of over 845,000, Montgomery County has a higher population than four individual states. It contains a complex array of highways including many miles of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, the largest shopping mall in America, a national park, a casino, and the Limerick (Nuclear) Generating station. There are also eight acute care hospitals, including two trauma centers.

Montgomery County EMS works very closely with our partners in adjoining counties and have cooperated for decades on civil defense and emergency management issues. More recently since the tragedies in 2001, the five county EMS offices have worked closely with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Task Force on regional planning, preparedness and EMS issues.

Our professional staff ensure that all EMS personnel, agencies and ambulances are adequately equipped and prepared to provide the best out-of-hospital emergency care possible. We are responsible for inspecting ambulances, providing education and technical assistance, and administering certification exams. We also conduct investigations, provide clinical expertise with our Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) and coordinate with our hospitals to ensure quality care. We work closely with our elected municipal officials to conduct planning and coordination to improve our EMS system, including special events planning and emergency operation center activations during natural and man-made disasters. Clinical excellence is fostered by the Montgomery County Medical Advisory Committee (MAC). Other programs established to strengthen our capabilities include careful coordination and training with 9-1-1 telecommunicators, emergency managers, hospitals and public health. Our in-county emergency assets include a Medical Surge Equipment Cache (MSEC), a Casualty Collection Point (CCP) trailers and multiple resources to respond to mass-casualty incidents.

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

President: James Smale-EMT At Large

Vice President: Brian Kuklinski-Montgomery County Ambulance Association

Treasurer: Montgomery County

Secretary: Montgomery County-Susan Schulberger EMS Administrative Assistant

(Please list all other members below)

**NAME**

- 1 Dr. Alvin Wang-Regional EMS Medical Director, County Chief Medical Officer
- 2 Chief Michael Campeggio-Fire Liaison
- 3 Chief Michael Pitkow-Police Liaison
- 4 Albert Vagnozzi-Consumer-Elected Official Liaison
- 5 Ms. Terry Ciccarone-Emergency Nurses Liaison
- 6 Vacant-Hospital Administrators
- 7 Dr. Stephen Pulley-Emergency Physicians
- 8 Dr. Ehyal Shweiki -Trauma Surgeons ACOS
- 9 Al Davey-Paramedic At Large
- 10 Tim Hinchcliff-Montgomery County Ambulance Association

**2. Regional EMS Council Staff:**

**Executive Director      David Paul Brown**

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>Assistant Training Coordinator</u>	<u>Margaret L. DeShon</u>
<u>Pre-Hospital Systems Coordinator</u>	<u>Timothy P. Dunigan, III</u>
<u>Field Specialist</u>	<u>Edward J. Martin</u>
<u>Training Coordinator</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	<u>Susan Schulberger</u>

**3. Regional Medical Director(s)**

	<u>NAME</u>
1	<u>Dr. Alvin Wang</u>

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

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$251,762.96	\$251,762.96
Consultant Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontracted Services	\$30,000.04	\$29,859.70
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$281,763.00</b>	<b>\$281,622.66</b>

**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.

(Project Name Here)	Amount: \$0.00
(Project Name Here)	Amount: \$0.00
(Project Name Here)	Amount: \$0.00

## 6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

	Date
Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	4
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	1
Public Education CPR Events	0
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	4
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	55

### *Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:*

Montgomery County operates the PulsePoint alerting app for CPR calls, this system directly alerts citizen first responders. The registered CPR ready persons who have signed up for phone alerts will be activated if they are within one quarter mile of someone needing CPR. There is also a crowd sourcing app titled Automated External Defibrillator (AED) registry that enables citizens to register AED sites, they are validated by the EMS staff and the CPR needed responders are notified where the nearest AED is located in an emergency. There were 51 businesses that added 108 AEDs and all these were added to the PulsePoint database. There are over 8,000 registered users in PulsePoint and nearly 5,000 are logged into the CPR Alert for citizen responders.

Nearly all public education events were suspended this fiscal year. See regional activities.

CPR training continued third-party independent instructors-Regional EMS Office represents an American Heart Association Training site and issues credentials to students who complete training. 228 courses with 1,239 e-cards issued.

MCEMS continues its work with EMS Agencies and municipal leaders to ensure that response areas are properly defined and aligned for rapid response and to maximize patient care. Staff worked with ambulance agencies, municipalities, and the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications center to revise and refine emergency response zones across the county in various municipalities.

Many of the elected official inquiries come from our municipalities as they continue to work to monitor and improve EMS system coverage in their corresponding areas.

## 7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	48
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	12
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	4

MCEMS files all Fatal Accident Report Study (FARS) cases as requested

MCEMS assists agencies and State POC with CARES data reporting and analysis of cardiac arrest outcomes

Etomidate and Ketamine reports from EMS Agencies are reviewed and reported to the Bureau of EMS

---

Metrics on Air Medical flights are collected and evaluated for protocol compliance

MCEMS provides municipalities with 911 data concerning response times and crew status (available/no crew) in their jurisdictions as requested.

---

## 8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	4
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	2
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	0
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	4
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	1
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	2
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	7

---

*Medical Direction Narrative:*

EMS staff and our Regional Medical Director attend and participate in all State MAC meetings

A pilot program to evaluate Ketamine for Sedation Assisted Intubation (KSAI) was completed with report to the Bureau and the protocol will be included in the 2021 State Treatment Protocol manual.

Two hospital systems inspections for re-accreditation were deferred and will be completed in the next fiscal year cycle.

Pilot program providing field antibiotics by EMS for open fractures was instituted in October, 2020

Hospital divert status is tracked using VEOCI software to report hospital diversion for transporting ambulances.

---

## 9. Systems Operations

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	0
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	0
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	0



Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	2
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	2
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	0
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	0
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	61
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	0
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	0
Certification Class Visits Conducted	3
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	0
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	1

*Systems Operations Narrative:*

There are three accredited EMS Training Institutes (2-BLS and 1-BLS & ALS) that conduct training programs from multiple locations. During this fiscal year the sites were visited for initial inspections after receipt of a completed application.

Staff assisted, Delaware County EHS Council with a large agency inspection at Keystone Quality Ambulance Agency using COVID precautions. Multiple staff from MCEMS assisted in the all-day process.

Priority One ONLY policy implemented for QRS Agencies that requested a change in their agency dispatch policy. Two agencies have made the requested change.

The Montgomery County Department of Public Safety-EMS has been licensed at the Advanced Life Support Squad level by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. An independent inspection of the ALS Squad requirements was conducted by the Bucks County EHS office staff.

Licensure inspections were halted at the direction of the Bureau for COVID19 safety concerns. MCEMS is restarting inspections at the direction of the Bureau following all safety guidelines.

## 10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	18
Tabletop Exercises Attended / Conducted	0
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	0
Special Event Plans Submitted	0
Responses / Deployments	3
Strike Team Agencies	3

*Emergency Preparedness Narrative:*

MCEMS is very active in regional planning and coordination for emergency preparedness. Planning and participation with groups including, Health Care Coalition and monthly Hospital Zone meetings (By County), Southeastern PA Task Force, Task Force Emergency Response Workgroup and EMS Committee.

MCEMS staff have served on the SEPA SMART-SMAT Governance Group as well as involved in the SEPA SMART-SMAT reformation in accordance with the Task Force Board orders.

Montgomery County EMS works side by side with Public Safety peers including Emergency Management and Montgomery County Office of Public Health.

MCEMS staff serves as the chair of the SEPA Task Force EMS Committee and also serves as a member of the Emergency Response Work Group (ERWG). There were plans for a Full Scale Exercise (FSE) to be conducted and it has been deferred until the Summer of 2022.

MCEMS staff coordinated with the EMS EP staff, the change out of equipment, received six powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPR) and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for emergency response. MCEMS adopted twenty-seven (PAPRs) from the SEPA SMART cache

MCEMS continues to support three Strike Team EMS Agencies as well as Emergency Response assets including: Medical Surge Equipment Cache and a Casualty Collection Point mobile trailers.

MCEMS maintains five mass casualty care asset caches using SEPA Task Force resources.

MCEMS staff along with Public Safety staff collected requests, coordinated supplies and delivery of numerous shipments of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies for EMS Agencies. These were received, stored, and delivered using County Public Safety warehouse personnel, and transportation assets, and included MCEMS staff.

MCEMS assisted in deploying EMS treatment trailer and supplies for a special event in June of 2021 in Pottstown Borough.

**11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9-2-2020	1230-1315	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
12-2-2020	1230-1300	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
3-3-2021	1230-1330	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
6-2-2021	1230-1315	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC

**12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
08-26-2020	1000-1200	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
11-18-2020	1000-1200	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
02-24-2021	1000-1200	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
05-12-2021	900-1000	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC

**13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
08-26-2020	900-1000	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
11-18-2020	900-1000	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
02-24-2021	900-1000	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC
05-12-2021	900-1000	<b>VIRTUAL</b> Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC

#### **14. Regional Accomplishments:**

---

- ***MCEMS – Licensure Data – July 2020 to June 2021***
    - *42 Ambulance Agencies had some type of Licensure Inspection completed*
    - *119 – Vehicles inspected during the past year*
      - *55 – ALS Ambulances*
      - *56 – BLS Ambulances*
      - *8 - QRS Units*
    - *1 – Base/Station inspection for the Delaware County EMS Office*
    - *1 – Philadelphia EMS Office assisted with QRS inspection*
  
  - ***MCEMS processed all FARS reports received from PennDOT***
    - *25 – FARS received*
  
  - ***MCEMS assisted over 150 EMS Providers with Con-Ed and or DOH registry issues***
  
  - ***MCEMS assisted approximately 45 – Medical Command Physicians with TRAIN & DOH registry issues***
  
  - ***MCEMS assisted approximately 50 “Expired” providers in completing the requirements as per EMSIB 2020-05 for “Reregistration as EMS Providers”***
  
  - **MCEMS staff participates in all Montgomery County Ambulance Association meetings and activities to work closely together on mutually beneficial projects and improve the EMS System.**
  - 
  - **MCEMS and the Montgomery County Ambulance Association continue to work together to address a critical personnel shortage. The Ambulance Association continues to operate a recruitment web page and applicants can file a collective job application accessible to all EMS Agencies participating.**
  - **MCEMS continues to participate in several Overdose Program initiatives:**
  - **As the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) grant Central Coordinating Entity, we have distributed hundreds of doses to all approved entities.**
  - **MCEMS collects and processes all Naloxone use data by police, EMS and other authorized agencies**
- 

**EMS staff worked in various positions for multiple hours in the following areas of the emergency operation center: logistics, EMS operations, communications, Alternate Care Sites Coordination, testing centers, mass vaccination clinics, mobile vaccination clinics, special circumstance clinics, and homebound vaccination clinics.**

**MCEMS Training staff operated under our continuity of operations plan and noncritical staff were assigned to work virtually from their homes**

**EMS staff assisted with planning, logistics and implementation of the first COVID vaccines to EMS providers in SEPA with a Moderna clinic held at the Montgomery County Public Safety Campus on December 28, 2020.**

**Since that first clinic the MCEMS staff and newly created Mobile Integrated Health County staff along with the Chief Medical Officer and team has completed nearly 9,000 vaccines to priority groups.**

---

---

**EMS staff coordinated licensed ambulance standbys at multiple mass vaccination clinic sites**

**Participated with input in the After-Action Review covering the response by the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Part I covered the time from outbreak (March 7) through testing covering about 6 months. Part II awaiting publication covered the pandemic from vaccines available until current time at the end of the fiscal year.**

**MCEMS staff trained two telecommunicator classes in the APCO Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols to be used for 9-1-1 emergencies utilizing dispatch and emergency telephone instructions.**

**EMS Training and Certification activities continued training throughout the COVID 19 pandemic by moving the entire training program to an online hybrid platform.**

**EMS staff coordinated and assisted in the distribution of information to our EMS Agencies on grant opportunities from both County, state and federal sources.**

**EMS worked with County Public Safety and County Administration to apply for and receive CARES grant funding for EMS projects, including the following, PPE, High Fidelity training manikins, emergency ambulance with upfit for highly infectious disease situations, video laryngoscopes and other projects still pending.**

---