



***Emergency Medical Services
of Northeastern Pennsylvania***

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC. ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

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)

Robert M. Carpenter, Interim Executive Vice-President

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REGIONAL SUMMARY:

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

Emergency Medical Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. (EMSNP) is the designated Regional EMS Council serving seven (7) counties in the Northeastern corner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Incorporated in 1976 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving five (5) counties. In 2012 the two (2) counties previously served by the Bradford Susquehanna Regional EMS Council joined EMSNP. The region now serves the counties of Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming. With a population of approximately seven hundred eighty thousand (780,000) people, the region covers four thousand nine hundred eight-seven (4,987) square miles and includes both a mix of urban areas and very rural areas. Much of the rural population also has mountain terrain creating challenges to our EMS agencies. There are one hundred twenty-four (124) EMS agencies serving our population, both volunteer and paid. We began our fiscal year with fourteen (14) hospitals that had a licensed emergency department. One (1) urban emergency department closed during the year leaving thirteen (13) hospitals with licensed emergency departments. Two (2) rural counties within our region do not have access to a hospital or emergency department within the county.

We are very active in emergency preparedness, working with all public safety organizations, emergency management agencies, the emergency preparedness coordinator, as well as our EMS partners. Our organization maintains considerable assets to assist local, county, and state agencies in times of disaster such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and pandemics. One of two (2) mobile kitchens in the Commonwealth is maintained by the region.

EMSNP has ten (10) accredited EMS Educational Institutes within the region. Five (5) of the EMS Educational Institutes provide BLS certification programs only, three (3) provide BLS and AEMT certification programs, and one (1) provides both BLS and Paramedic certification programs. An additional EMS Educational Institute is accredited through this region for purposes of using Pennsylvania EMS agencies and hospitals as clinical sites. EMSNP also supports sixty-one (61) accredited Continuing Education Sponsors.

1. Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers

President: Timothy Rowland, EMT-P, Coroner

Vice President: William Goldsworthy

Treasurer: Carol Berry, RN

Secretary: Patricia Mohn, EMT-P

(Please list all other members below)

<u>NAME</u>		<u>NAME</u>	
1	<u>Michael Newmark, DC, EMT – 2nd Vice President</u>	25	<u>G. Richard Garman</u>
2	<u>John E. Campos, Executive Vice President</u>	26	<u>Daniel Goldman</u>
3	<u>James BenKinney, MD – Medical Director</u>	27	<u>Derrick P. Hall, NRP</u>
4	<u>Joseph Albert</u>	28	<u>David Grasso, MD</u>
5	<u>Wendy Allen-Smith, EMT-P</u>	29	<u>Howard J. Grossman</u>
6	<u>John Andrzejewski</u>	30	<u>Kirk Hinkley, MD, PHP</u>
7	<u>Lance Benedict, Sheriff</u>	31	<u>Stacy Huber, Mayor</u>
8	<u>George Bieber</u>	32	<u>Joseph Hull, RN</u>
9	<u>Candace Burcheri, RN, PHRN</u>	33	<u>Al Kearney</u>
10	<u>Bart Burne, EMT</u>	34	<u>Judy Kraft-Mead</u>
11	<u>Thomas Carman, Coroner</u>	35	<u>Lisa LaRock, RN, PHRN</u>
12	<u>Deborah Clark, RN, CEN</u>	36	<u>John J. Lasky, EMT-P</u>
13	<u>Anthony Conarton, Coroner</u>	37	<u>Sander Levinson, MD</u>
14	<u>Daniel Corallo, NREMT</u>	38	<u>Allen Lucas, Fire Chief</u>
15	<u>MaryLou Corbett, EMT</u>	39	<u>Cheryl MacDonald-Sweet, RN, CEN</u>
16	<u>Christopher DeNaples, NRP</u>	40	<u>David Magliacane, EMT</u>
17	<u>James Pettinato, RN, PHRN</u>	41	<u>James Mould, EMT</u>
18	<u>Philip Price, EMT</u>	42	<u>Terry Osborne</u>
19	<u>Brian Saracino, DO, PHP</u>	43	<u>Stanton Pratt, EMC</u>
20	<u>Jill Shaw, EMT</u>	44	<u>Fred Rosencrans</u>
21	<u>Richard Wilbur, Commissioner</u>	45	<u>Anthony Sauter, MD</u>
22	<u>Fred J. Suljic</u>	46	<u>Jude C. Spellman, EMT-P</u>
23	<u>Edward Szafran, NRP</u>	47	<u>Ann Marie Stevens, RN</u>
24	<u>Ronald Tezzano, EMT-P</u>	48	

2. Regional EMS Council Staff:

Executive Director John E. Campos

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>EMS Field Specialist</u>	<u>Edwin J. Quinn, EMT (Resigned November 2022)</u>
<u>EMS Education Coordinator</u>	<u>Robert M. Carpenter, NRP, CP-C</u>
<u>EMS Development Specialist (Part Time 0.10 FTE)</u>	<u>Wallace L. Boyle, EMT-P (Moved to a full time position in November 2022)</u>
<u>EMS Field Specialist</u>	<u>Wallace L. Boyle, EMT-P (Started November 2022)</u>
<u>Regional EMS Coordinator</u>	<u>Eugene Lesneski, EMT-P (Started April 2023)</u>

3. Regional Medical Director(s)

	<u>NAME</u>
1	<u>James BenKinney, MD – Medical Director</u>

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

	Final Budget	Expended**
Personnel Services	\$458,221.14	\$305,744.34
Consultant Services	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Prehospital Provider Services & Activities	\$85,205.36	\$184,332.49
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$16,000.00	\$15,519.09
Supplies	\$9,291.43	\$5,450.46
Travel	\$2,280.00	\$2,280.00
Other Costs	\$341,463.46	\$366,713.36
TOTALS	\$917,461.39	\$880,039.94

** = These figures have been projected and an updated report will be posted with accurate figures at a future date

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.

EMS Testing, Certification, & Licensure	Amount: \$75,000.00
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Project Narrative:

EMS Testing: EMSNP receives invoices and pays/reimburses the other Regional Councils for the cost of all advanced level psychomotor exams (AEMT & Paramedic) excluding National Registry Representatives.

State Certification & Licensure: EMSNP serves as the purchasing and distribution point for all certification and licensure materials to include patches, blank cards, printer ribbons, licensure decals, date bars, and out of service vehicle decals. This includes scoring all rescue exams, issuing pass/fail rescue letters, and distribution of rescue patches and certificates of certification to successful candidates.

State Rescue	Amount: \$0.00
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Project Narrative:

EMSNP receives all vehicle rescue student applications and processes all examinations in the Commonwealth for the Department of Health and the State Fire Academy Joint Rescue Program. This is for both Basic Vehicle Rescue and Special Vehicle Rescue. This includes maintaining the state rescue registry.

6. **Regional Activities/ Organizational Management**

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date 6/1/2023
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings/Executive Meetings	2
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	5
Public Education CPR Events	32
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	1
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	8

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:

EMSNP continues to provide community CPR programs and have trained two hundred forty-one (241) people during this fiscal year. EMSNP also provided three (3) Adult First Aid classes training forty-seven (47) students. EMSNP supported three (3) of the NAEMT/IAFC's First On The Scene (FOTS) programs in Wyoming County, Lackawanna County, and Susquehanna County training thirty (30) community members on how to respond in an emergency.

Stop-the-Bleed Events continue to be held in cooperation with Geisinger Community Medical Center (GCMC). The number above includes events whereas a staff member was present but does not include total events provided by the program.

EMSNP staff remains actively involved in many injury prevention initiatives. One (1) staff member participates in the Lackawanna County Suicide Prevention Alliance and the Susquehanna County Suicide Awareness Initiative. One (1) staff member also participates in the Northeast Pennsylvania Taskforce Against Human Trafficking, Women's Resource Center's Lackawanna County & Susquehanna County Medical Advocacy Taskforces, Crisis Intervention Team of NEPA Advisory Committee, and the Wyoming County STOP Coordinating Team.

Staff has also been working with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) in regards to EMS Education for Domestic Violence Brain Injuries and attended a collaboration meeting with PCADV and all regional domestic violence centers.

A staff member was one of three (3) speakers at an Annual Crime Victims Rally in Luzerne County.

Staff attended a Health Fair in Luzerne County and an Emergency Services Open House in Bradford County.

EMSNP has a staff member on the Northeast Pennsylvania Child Passenger Safety Taskforce. In collaboration with the Pennsylvania Traffic Injury Prevention Program (PA-TIPP), Northeast Highway Safety Program, Lackawanna County Community Traffic Safety Program, Pennsylvania State Police, PennDot, and regional EMS Agencies, EMSNP has participated in nine (9) car seat checks. One (1) staff member assisted with instruction of four (4) National Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) courses in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties, two (2) National CPST Renewal Courses with one (1) in Bradford County & one (1) in Luzerne County. Two (2) Child Passenger Safety Taskforce meetings were attended. EMSNP continues to be a car seat loan program providing car seats to caregivers in need to assure that children in our region ride safe on the roadways.

Child Passenger Safety skills were verified for three (3) certified EMS Agency technicians.

Staff continues to actively participate in the Pennsylvania EMS for Children (EMSC) program as an active member of the EMSC Committee. Two (2) EMSC Committee meetings were attended. A Pediatric Safe Transport in Ground Ambulance trainings was provided in Carbon County and one virtually for the Statewide Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators.

One (1) EMSNP staff member is a Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect for EMS instructor through the American Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Division.

EMSNP also coordinated the following continuing education/training programs for the region:

- *PPE Compliance Assurance for EMS Providers & Fit Testing TrT (Bradford County, Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, Pike County, & Wayne County)*
- *Human Trafficking for EMS (Luzerne County)*
- *Domestic Violence for EMS (Luzerne County & Wyoming County)*
- *Vicarious Trauma for EMS (Wyoming County)*
- *Roles and Responsibilities of the Coroner's Office & Crime Scene Preservation (Susquehanna County)*
- *Grant Writing A to Z (Luzerne County)*
- *Autism and Mental Health De-Escalation Training (Lackawanna County)*

Staff continues to participate as the EMS Liaison for the Luzerne County Child Death Review Team (CDRT), the Susquehanna and Wyoming County CDRT, and the Wayne County CDRT. A staff member is one of the Co-Chairs for the Luzerne County CDRT and the Susquehanna and Wyoming County CDRT. EMSNP staff has attended a total of five (5) CDRT meetings and one (1) training webinar.

EMSNP remains actively involved in all Regional EMS Education Coordinator activities. Our Education Coordinator continues to keep the CPR Guide up-to-date and participated on the workgroup for updating the EMS Educational Institution requirement checklists.

The Regional EMS Education Coordinator attended two (2) NREMT webinars.

A mandatory meeting was held at the EMS Council with all of the Regional EMS Educational Institutes and the Bureau of EMS.

EMSNP remains active with the Concepts in Trauma & Critical Care Conference. A staff member is on the conference committee, assisted with coordinating the in-person conference, and has attended eight (8) committee meetings.

Staff attended the virtual Pennsylvania Statewide EMS Conference and also assisted with operations and presented at the Seven Mountains EMS Council Spring EMS Conference and the Practice, Partnerships, and Prevention: Connecting Social Determinants of Health with Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking Conference.

Staff continues to serve as an active member of the Northeastern Pennsylvania POLST Workgroup to promote the use of the POLST form by health care institutions. One (1) staff member is a POLST trainer.

One (1) staff member participates as a member of the First Responder Addiction and Connection to Treatment (FR-ACT) Advisory Council and has attended three (3) trainings and one (1) meeting.

EMSNP staff continues to serve in active membership on the Burn Prevention Network, Valley Preferred Spirit of Courage Selection Committee, GCMC Multidisciplinary Trauma Committee, the Geisinger Wyoming Valley (GWV) Trauma Performance Improvement Committee, and the GCMC Trauma Performance Improvement Committee.

EMSNP continues to operate an active Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team. The team has responded to fifteen (15) group debriefings, one (1) defusing, and nine (9) individual 1:1 responses. The team offered two (2) Pre-Incident Educational opportunities and was placed on standby three (3) times. Two hundred eight (208) individuals in total received assistance from this team. Multiple trainings were completed by CISM team members throughout the year as well.

Staff participated in one (1) provider Line Of Duty Death funeral along with presentation of the EMS flag for their service to our EMS system.

EMSNP continues to support candidates for EMS certification by offering ninety (90) day access to the MedicTests.com test preparation website and offering financial support to EMS Agencies for the cost of certification examinations. These programs are available for all certification levels.

EMSNP continues to loan equipment to EMS Agencies to support Emergency Vehicle Driver Training (EVDT) programs, car seat checks, and other EMS training programs.

7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	43,000
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	5
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	3

Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:

EMSNP continues to do 100% Quality Improvement review on all Ketamine administration documentation. Four (4) ALS agencies are currently participating in the Ketamine program for delirium with agitated behavior and pain management.

Six (6) ALS agencies are currently participating in the Antibiotics for Open Fractures program. Our Quality Improvement committee continues to review all of these cases.

All PCR data is being reviewed for the following elements using a “dashboard” to show trending data compared to established benchmarks:

- Lights and Sirens Use
 - Trauma Criteria & Pre-Arrival Alerts or Activations
 - Altered Mental Status & Stroke Symptoms for BGL assessment, Stroke Scales, & Pre-Arrival Alerts or Activations
 - Cardiac Arrests for ROSC, CPR Quality, & Field Terminations
 - ETCO₂ for all Advanced Airways
 - ST-Elevation MI for 12-Lead EKGs
-

- Cervical Collar Placement vs. Full Immobilization
- Use of Pediatric Safe Transport devices in patient's less than 18-years-old
- Medications for Respiratory Complaints
- Pain Management and Antiemetics

Data submitted by EMS Agencies and Medical Command Facilities is reviewed for clinical and operational issues. QI is reviewed and discussed at each Medical Command Facility accreditation visit as well.

8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	0
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	2
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	3
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	8
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	1
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	0
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	0

Medical Direction Narrative:

EMSNP staff continues to support and assist the hospitals and healthcare systems within the region as it relates to Emergency Medical Services. Staff periodically reviews the stroke center lists to assure that certified facilities have submitted the appropriate documentation to be included on the Bureau of EMS listing.

Three (3) Medical Command Facilities (MCF) were inspected and re-accredited. We currently have a total of twelve (12) MCFs. We continued to review the medical command physicians for satisfying the certification and recertification requirements.

Three (3) staff members participated in Biospatial training.

9. Systems Operations

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	3
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	1
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	16

Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	0
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	0
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	6
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	28
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	116
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	11
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	219
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	3
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	38
Certification Class Visits Conducted	10
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	62
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	0

Systems Operations Narrative:

EMSNP completed sixty-two (62) licensure inspections for renewal including fifteen (15) QRS vehicles, eighty-nine (89) BLS Ambulances, thirty-six (36) ALS Ambulances, twenty-two (22) ALS squads, two (2) Critical Care Ambulance, and one (1) Air Ambulance.

Inspection was completed on twenty-three (23) BLS Ambulances, twelve (12) ALS Ambulances, one (1) IALS Ambulance, eight (8) ALS Squads, and one (1) QRS as replacements or additions to a current agency.

Staff investigated eight-two (82) FARS Reports for PennDot.

EMSNP has entered six (6) CPR cards for providers, approved one thousand five hundred twenty-eight (1528) continuing education by endorsement submissions, and denied or sent three hundred twenty-seven (327) applications back to the provider. Five hundred and one (501) continuing education classes were approved, fifty seven (57) continuing education classes were either denied or sent back for further information, twenty-five (25) certification classes were approved, and thirteen (13) certification classes were either denied or sent back for further information. Sixty-five (65) new courses were approved and twenty-eight (28) were denied or sent back for further information.

EMSNP started FY 2022-23 with sixty-six (66) Continuing Education Sponsors and ended with sixty-one (61). Nine (9) renewals, two (2) reinstatement, and two (2) new continuing education sponsors were processed. We began FY 2022-23 with ten (10) EMS Educational Institutes and ended with ten (10). Five (5) EMS Educational Institute renewals were inspected, processed, and approved.

We processed one (1) EMR, thirty-four (34) EMT, and eighteen (18) Paramedic certification by endorsement applications. No AEMT certifications by endorsement were processed. Six (6) non-DOH EMR challenges successfully tested and were certified by the Department of Health.

At the beginning of FY 2022-23, EMSNP had one-hundred thirty-five (135) certified EMS instructors and ended with one-hundred forty (140). Thirty-five (35) EMS Instructors were renewed, three (3) were reinstated, and eleven (11) were newly certified.

Two hundred twenty-four (224) EMSVO applications were approved, sixty-eight (68) applications were either denied or returned for further information, and ten (10) EMSVO's were reinstated.

Fifteen (15) PHRN candidates, no PHPE candidates, and three (3) PHP candidates were processed and certified. Nine (9) name changes were processed and ten (10) replacement cards were mailed to providers.

Forty-two (42) identity verifications were completed using Skype.

EMSNP has processed one thousand one hundred twenty (1120) total Vehicle Rescue examinations to include one thousand fifty-four (1054) Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician exams and sixty-six (66) Special Vehicle Rescue Technician exams.

10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	16
Table Top Exercises Attended / Conducted	3
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	3
Special Event Plans Submitted	3
Responses / Deployments	0
Strike Team Agencies	11

Emergency Preparedness Narrative:

Two (2) staff members participated as the ESF-8 representatives for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Full Scale local and federal drills at Luzerne County EMA. One (1) staff member participated in several trainings and a certification drill for the Wyoming County EMA Coordinator.

Staff attended numerous regional, state, and national preparedness educational opportunities which include but not limited to:

- *ICS-300: Intermediate Review for Expanding Incidents*
- *VFIS UTV/ATV/Trailer Instructor Class*
- *AWR-232 Mass Fatalities Planning & Response for Rural Communities*
- *Management of Aggressive Behavior Instructor Program*
- *International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Fighting for Change*

Staff participated in the Northeast Terrorism Task Force meetings. Staff actively participates on the Northeast Healthcare Coalition and Central Regional Healthcare Coalition and both respective EMS workgroups. One (1) staff member co-chairs a healthcare coalition zone and sits on the Healthcare Coalition board.

EMSNP continues to support the EMS Agencies with availability of several Aeroclave devices for ambulance decontamination.

Two (2) staff members have attended Juvare Training and one (1) attended the Juvare HVA eICS Training.

Staff participated in the planning process for the Pennsylvania Asset Review (PAR) Expo held in Bethlehem. Two (2) staff members were present at an EMS Council informational table during the event.

EMSNP staff attended five (5) county EMS organization meetings and supported the Wayne County Fair by loaning Active Threat Bags and coordinating Naloxone to be on hand.

Staff had attended COVID-19 and Monkey Pox education for situational awareness, Statewide Healthcare Coalition calls, and continues to participate in Bureau of EMS and Healthcare Coalition Radio Checks.

11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
6/7/2023	12 NOON	Virtual via Zoom
6/28/2023	12 NOON	EMS of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. (Blended)

12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
		None Held

13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
8/23/2022	4 PM	Virtual via Zoom
11/8/2022	4 PM	Virtual via Zoom
3/22/2023	4 PM	Virtual via Zoom

14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

EMSNP coordinated and/or supported five (5) car seat checks as part of our Fourth Annual EMS for Children Day event during EMS Week. There was one (1) car seat check in Lackawanna County, two (2) in Luzerne County, one (1) in Pike County, and one (1) in Wyoming County

One (1) staff member received the 2023 Amanda Wertz Memorial EMS for Children Award presented by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council. A regional provider was also awarded the 2023 BLS Practitioner of the Year Award.

One (1) staff member also received the Jack Lasky Lifetime Achievement in EMS Award presented by the Geisinger Health System.

One (1) staff member received the County Staff – Basic Certification granted by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

The initiative to support NEMSIS data collection for all Regional EMS Agencies who wish to participate was continued.

The Region has considerable assets for emergency preparedness to include:

1. MESS Trailer (Mobile Kitchen)
2. MSEC Trailer (2)
3. CCP Trailer
4. Strike Team Trailer
5. Six-Wheel UTV & Trailer
6. 80KW Generator
7. Light Tower & Generator
8. MSS (3)
9. Fast Shelter with floors (2)
10. Other equipment and supplies to support the MESS, MSEC, CCP, & MSS.

EMSNP sent at least two (2) reregistration reminders out by mail each quarter for those providers who were expiring and also posted regular social media announcements.

All publicly available certification classes and continuing education classes registered in the region are posted both on our website and on social media.
