



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

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, INC. ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2021-22

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)

John E. Campos, 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-two (122) 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) of those hospitals closed leaving a stand-alone emergency department in one of our rural counties while another hospital with an emergency department was opened in a different county.

We are very active in emergency preparedness, working with all public safety organizations, emergency management agencies, 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-six (66) accredited Continuing Education Sponsors.

Like almost all of our EMS services, hospitals, and government agencies, we have experienced a reduction in funding. We have lost five (5) staff positions since 2014 with one of these retiring during this fiscal year. The EMSNP Regional Council ended the fiscal year with three (3) full time employees, one (1) part-time (0.1 FTE) employee, and a Regional Medical Director.

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</u>
<u>EMS Education Coordinator</u>	<u>Robert M. Carpenter, NRP, CP-C</u>
<u>Admin. & Training Assistant</u>	<u>Kathryn Zongila</u>
<u>EMS Development Specialist</u>	<u>Wallace L. Boyle, EMT-P (Part Time 0.10 FTE)</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	\$313,647.39	\$310,179.97
Consultant Services	\$0.00	\$0.
Subcontracted Services	\$124,951.90	\$123,455.53
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$15,500	\$15,500
Travel	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Costs	\$344,356.62	\$341,356.62
TOTALS	\$798,455.91	\$790,492.12

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: \$65,735.34
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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).

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.

State Rescue: EMSNP receives all vehicle rescue student applications and processes all examinations in the Commonwealth for both the Department of Health and the State Fire Academy. This includes scoring all tests, issuing pass/fail letters, and distribution of patches and certificates of certification to successful candidates. This is for both Basic Vehicle Rescue and Special Vehicle Rescue. This includes maintaining the state rescue registry.

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

Click or tap here to enter text.

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

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6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

	Date
Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	6/2/2022
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings/Executive Meetings	1
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	6
Public Education CPR Events	19
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	3
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	3

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:

EMSNP continues to provide community CPR programs and have trained one hundred forty-one (141) people during this fiscal year. EMSNP also provided two (2) Adult First Aid classes training twenty-six (26) students. EMSNP supported the NAEMT/IAFC's First On The Scene (FOTS) program in Wyoming County training ten (10) 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 as well as the Alliance's First Responder Focus Group. 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.

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 three (3) National Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) courses in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, two (2) National CPST Renewal Courses in Luzerne County, and one (1) CPST Update Course 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.

Staff continues to actively participate in the Pennsylvania EMS for Children (EMSC) program as an active member of the EMSC Committee. Four (4) EMSC Committee meetings were attended. A total of three (3) Pediatric Safe Transport in Ground Ambulance trainings were provided in Lackawanna County, Wyoming County & virtually. Staff attended six (6) Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Workforce Collaborative sessions and two (2) EMS for Children Telehealth Collaborative sessions.

One (1) EMSNP staff member assisted with the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect for EMS program offered by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Division by presenting a total of two (2) programs in Bradford County and Wyoming County respectively.

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

- *Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act (Virtual)*
- *TEEX Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (Luzerne County)*
- *TEEX Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing Incidents (Luzerne County)*
- *Self-Contained Heater Trailer Training (Luzerne County)*
- *DEX-AR Workshop (Luzerne County)*
- *PPE Compliance Assurance for EMS Providers & Fit Testing TtT (Luzerne 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 eight (8) 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 continued participation in the committee to review and create documents for the BLS psychomotor exam process. Staff continues to support other regions as needed to include the training of two (2) new Regional EMS Education Coordinators from another region.

The Regional EMS Education Coordinator attended three (3) NREMT webinars related to the ALS exam redesign and program direction.

EMSNP remains active in the Concepts in Trauma & Critical Care Conference. A staff member is on the conference committee, assisted with coordinating the virtual conference, and has attended eighteen (18) 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.

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 two (2) trainings and three (3) meetings.

Naloxone training was provided to thirty (30) United States Federal Probation and Parole Officers for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and Naloxone was provided to each in coordination with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office.

EMSNP staff continues to serve in active membership on the Burn Prevention Network, Valley Preferred Spirit of Courage Selection Committee, Westside Vo-Tech Advisory Committee, GCMC Multidisciplinary Trauma 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 seventeen (17) group debriefings, one (1) defusing, and fifteen (15) individual 1:1 responses. The team offered two (2) Pre-Incident Educational opportunities and was placed on standby three (3) times. One hundred fifty-eight (158) individuals in total received assistance from this team. Multiple trainings were completed by CISM team members throughout the year as well.

Staff participated in two (2) provider funerals 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	146,752
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	12
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	4

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.

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

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.

Seven (7) ALS agencies within the region are currently participating in the Statewide Antibiotics for Open Fractures Pilot Program.

8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	3
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	3
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	7
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	1
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	0
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	1

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.

Four (4) Medical Command Facilities (MCF) were inspected and re-accredited. One (1) new MCF was inspected and received initial accreditation. We currently have a total of twelve (12) MCFs. We continued to review the medical command physicians for satisfying the certification and recertification requirements.

9. Systems Operations

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	1
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	8
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	5
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	0
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	

Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	0
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	0
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	10
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	12
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	222
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	3
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	52
Certification Class Visits Conducted	5
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	36
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	

Systems Operations Narrative:

EMSNP completed thirty-six (36) licensure inspections for renewal including twenty-three (23) QRS vehicles, thirty-eight (38) BLS Ambulances, twenty-two (22) ALS Ambulances, four (4) ALS squads, one (1) Critical Care Ambulance, and seven (7) Air Ambulances.

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-four (84) FARS Reports for PennDot.

EMSNP has entered twenty (20) CPR cards for providers, approved two thousand two-hundred thirty-one (2231) continuing education by endorsement submissions, and denied or sent five-hundred ten (510) applications back to the provider. Four hundred eighty-six (486) continuing education classes were approved, sixty-two (62) continuing education classes were either denied or sent back for further information, twenty-eight (28) certification classes were approved, and thirteen (13) certification classes were either denied or sent back for further information. Forty-seven (47) new courses were approved and fifteen (15) were denied or sent back for further information.

EMSNP started FY 2021-22 with seventy-nine (79) Continuing Education Sponsors and ended with sixty-six (66). Fourteen (14) renewals, three (3) reinstatement, and three (3) new continuing education sponsors were processed. We began FY 2021-22 with ten (10) EMS Educational Institutes and ended with ten (10). Four (4) EMS Educational Institute renewals and one (1) initial EMS Educational Institute were inspected, processed, and approved.

No EMR certification by endorsements were processed. We did process forty (40) EMT, two (2) AEMT, and nine (9) Paramedic certification by endorsement applications. Three (3) non-DOH EMR challenges successfully tested and were certified by the Department of Health.

At the beginning of FY 2021-22, EMSNP had one-hundred thirty-three (133) certified EMS instructors and ended with one-hundred thirty-five (135). Twenty (20) EMS Instructors were renewed, three (3) were reinstated, and eleven (11) were newly certified.

One-hundred eighty-nine (189) EMSVO applications were approved, seventy-four (74) applications were either denied or returned for further information, and eleven (11) EMSVO's were reinstated.

Five (5) PHRN candidates, no PHPE candidates, and two (2) PHP candidates were processed and certified. Fourteen (14) name changes were processed and twenty-five (25) replacement cards were mailed to providers.

Forty-three (43) identity verifications were completed using Skype and three (3) were completed in-person.

EMSNP has processed one thousand fifty-two (1052) total Vehicle Rescue examinations to include nine-hundred eight-two (982) Basic Vehicle Rescue Technician exams and seventy (70) Special Vehicle Rescue Technician exams.

10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended <small>(only EMSOF funded staff attendance)</small>	26
Table Top Exercises Attended / Conducted	0
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	2
Special Event Plans Submitted	2
Responses / Deployments	0
Strike Team Agencies	11

Emergency Preparedness Narrative:

EMSNP continues to support the COVID-19 vaccination initiative in Bradford, Pike, and Susquehanna Counties.

Three (3) staff members participated as the ESF-8 representatives for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Full Scale local and federal drills at Luzerne County EMA.

Staff continued to participate in COVID-19 coordination calls for the Northeast Healthcare Coalition, Central Region Healthcare Coalition, and Statewide Healthcare Coalition partners call, some on a weekly basis and others on a monthly basis depending on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff also attended the Department of Health's Consolidated Section calls.

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

- *Basic Public Information Officer Training*
- *Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (MGT-439)*

- COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) for Healthcare Employers
- Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing Incidents (MGT-348/PER-233)
- Access & Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities (MGT-403)
- COSTARS Webinar: Commonwealth of PA RESTOC Program for PPE Procurement

Staff participated in the Northeast Terrorism Task Force meetings.

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

EMSNP staff attended six (6) county EMS organization meetings and supported the Wayne County Fair by loaning Active Threat Bags and coordinating Naloxone to be on hand.

11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9/29/22	4:00 pm	Conference call

12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
		Click or tap here to enter text.
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13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9/28/2021	1600	Virtual
12/14/2021	1600	Virtual
2/8/2022	1600	Virtual
5/10/2022	1600	Virtual

14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

EMSNP coordinated and supported two (2) car seat checks in Lackawanna County, one (1) in Pike County, one (1) in Luzerne County, and one (1) in Bradford County as part of our Third Annual EMS for Children Day event during EMS Week.

A staff member presented “Human Trafficking and EMS” to the NEPA Taskforce Against Human Trafficking and at a law enforcement human trafficking conference.

A staff member received the Connection Through Compassion Peer Champion Award from St. Joseph’s University CARES Phoenix Program and was also recognized by Womens Resource Center of Lackawanna and Susquehanna County as the November Medical Provider of the Month.

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 atleast 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.

Staff attended the Geisinger Health System EMS Night and Awards Ceremony at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Railrider’s game.
