



Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair

Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., Vice Chair

Joseph C. Gale, Commissioner

Thomas M. Sullivan, Director Department of Public Safety

David P. Brown, Deputy Director-EMS

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY EMS DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

**FISCAL YEAR (2019-2020) AMENDED 8-3-2020**

## 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 (five) Southeast PA EMS Council counties were 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 needs.

Montgomery County is 483 square miles and it contains urbanized centers such as Norristown & Pottstown, large suburban communities on the eastern end & extensive tracts of farms and woodlands to the west. With a population of over 835,000, 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) trailer 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)

- |    | <u>NAME</u>  |
|----|--|
| 1  | <u>Dr. Alvin Wang-Regional Medical Director</u>  |
| 2  | <u>Chief Michael Campeggio-Fire Liaison</u>  |
| 3  | <u>Chief Michael Pitkow-Police Liaison</u>   |
| 4  | <u>Albert Vagnozzi-Consumer-Elected<br/>Official Liaison</u>                                 |
| 5  | <u>Ms. Terry Ciccarone-Emergency Nurses<br/>Liaison</u>                                      |
| 6  | <u>Margaret McGoldrick-Hospital<br/>Administrators-Retired June 2020</u>                     |
| 7  | <u>Dr. Stephen Pulley-Emergency Physicians</u><br><u>Dr. Robert Jubelier-Trauma Surgeons</u> |
| 8  | <u>ACOS-Retired December 2019</u><br><u>Dr. Ehyal Shweiki -Pending Appointment</u>           |
| 9  | <u>Al Davey-Paramedic At Large</u>   |
| 10 | <u>Tim Hinchcliff-Montgomery County<br/>Ambulance Association</u>                            |

**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>Brian P. Pasquale</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	\$290,661.50	\$290,661.50
Consultant Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subcontracted Services	\$29,178.50	\$29,178.50
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>\$319,840.00</b>	<b>\$319,840.00</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	12
Public Education CPR Events	14
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	7
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	35

### *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 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 to the emergency. There are over 7,000 registered and nearly 4,000 CPR Alert citizen responders.

Bleeding Control and tourniquet training has expanded this year, as many organizations are interested in becoming trained and equipped. 63 people were trained including groups such as school nurses, security, and fire departments.

CPR training by staff and third-party instructors represented 353 courses, with 1,835 CPR cards issued.

MCEMS purchases 150 new AED units (Using County Funds) to replace all AED units positioned across the County at all County facilities including Parks, Heritage sites, Corrections, and Public Safety

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.

## 7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	48
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	19
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	3

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  
 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

The Ketamine for Sedation Assisted Intubation (SAI) pilot is continuing to provide data to determine usefulness. The study was scheduled to be completed in December of 2019, but was continued into 2020 to be considered for full implementation into the 2021 State EMS Treatment protocols

Two hospital systems are to be inspected for re-accreditation as Medical Command Facilities. These inspections were scheduled for Spring of 2020 and were ordered suspended during the pandemic.

Hospital Advisory-Status-MCEMS staff along with Emergency Management has developed an on-line divert-status web page that enables hospitals to log on and declare their facility status for readiness. Using a product called Virtual Emergency Operations Center Information (VEOCI) the hospital staff are enabled to log on and record the status of their facilities.

**9. Systems Operations**

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	0
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	0

Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	4
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	4
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	3
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	4
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	22
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	45
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	<b>5</b>
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	<b>101</b>
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	0
Certification Class Visits Conducted	15
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	0
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	4

*Systems Operations Narrative:*

MCEMS is the sole accredited EMS Training Institute (BLS and ALS) and conducts training programs from multiple sites. During this fiscal year the sites were visited to conduct student orientations and photo IDs as well as provide educational oversight for students and faculty.

November 2019-The Montgomery County EMS Training Institute was reaccredited as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Institute by The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). The reaccreditation is valid for five years.

There are fire and ambulance companies that are conducting third party educational training and have sought the regional EMS office assistance to advance the students to Pennsylvania Department of Health certification status. MCEMS has assisted in the coordination efforts as requested.

Spot and safety inspections were conducted upon the request of the Bureau to address specific issues concerning ambulance licensure related to equipment or personnel issues.

Staff assisted, Delaware County EHS Council with a large agency inspection at Chester Crozier Health Systems. Multiple staff from MCEMS assisted in the all-day process.

Priority One EMS Dispatch procedure remains operational policy sends the closest ambulance to selected priority one urgent calls by nature code. The system uses mobile data computers installed in most ambulances by selecting the closest EMS unit using GPS signals. The closest possible EMS

unit determined by their GPS position is alerted and sent towards the scene immediately, as well as alerting the proper zoned ambulance agency. One additional 9-1-1 Agency completed their installation of MDCs this fiscal year. Current MDC coverage is at 85% of the 9-1-1 EMS agencies.

Licensure inspections were halted at the direction of the Bureau for COVID19 safety concerns. MCEMS is restarting inspections at the direction of the Bureau by a virtual review of applications and necessary documents, and an in-person inspection of the vehicles and equipment following all applicable CDC guidelines for PPE and social distancing.

**10. Emergency Preparedness Activities**

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended <small>(only EMSOF funded staff attendance)</small>	36
Tabletop Exercises Attended / Conducted	4
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	2
Special Event Plans Submitted	3
Responses / Deployments	2
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, Emergency Response Workgroup and EMS Committee.

Montgomery County EMS maintains a close relationship with the County Emergency Management and County Office of Public Health and participated in the planning and operations for Medical Counter Measures Full Scale Exercise Frankenthrax in October of 2019

MCEMS staff serves as the vice chair of the SEPA Task Force EMS Committee and also serves as a member of the Emergency Response Work Group (ERWG). In this fiscal year there is also an ERWG exercise committee, MCEMS staff serve on this committee and assisted in the organization of a tabletop exercise scenario. MCEMS also assisted the third-party vendor in facilitating the tabletop exercise (TTX) in January 2020. The TTX was designed to be developed into a full-scale exercise (FSE) that has been rescheduled for Spring 2021.

Staff participated in two FSEs involving MS-1 hospitals and an EMS unit transporting a possible contaminated radiation patient to a hospital emergency department.

Staff participated with Emergency Management in a biennial full-scale exercise involving emergency conditions at the Limerick (Nuclear) Generating Station.

MCEMS staff coordinated with the EMS EP staff, the change out of equipment, complete roof repair (vendor managed) and return of equipment to the Casualty Collection Point trailer asset.

---

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.

---

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

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9-2-2019	1230-200	1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428
12-2-2019	1230-130	1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428
3-3-2020	1230-200	1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428
6-3-2020	1230-130	<b>VIRTUAL Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC</b>

**12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
11-20-2019	1000-1200	1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428
2-19-2020	1000-1200	1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428
5-27-2020	1000-1200	<b>VIRTUAL Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC</b>
		Click or tap here to enter text.

**13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting**

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
11-20-2019	900-1000	1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428
2-19-2020	900-1000	1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428
5-27-2020	900-1000	<b>VIRTUAL Online Meeting-Public Safety EOC</b>
		Click or tap here to enter text.

## **14. Regional Accomplishments:**

---

Narrative:

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.

Montgomery County EMS and the Montgomery County Ambulance Association worked closely on a recruitment project. A web page to recruit candidates and various recruiting materials were developed.

---

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 thousands of doses to all approved entities.

MCEMS collects and processes all Naloxone use data by police, EMS and other authorized agencies

MCEMS was selected to continue as the Central Coordinating Entity (CCE) under the PCCD program for the next two years. The listing of eligible organizations has also expanded

---

MCEMS staff responded to several Emergency Operations Center and Field Command Post incidents

Participated in the After-Action Review of a May 29, 2020 Upper Salford Township Storm that caused major damage to trees, electrical wires, damaged homes and no access to portions of the Township.

---

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

---

MCEMS sponsored a two-day educational seminar titled "Beyond The Streets" a Fitch and Associates course that teaches administrative, human resources, and other skills necessary to efficiently operate an EMS Agency.

---

MCEMS staff completed a 48-hour Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit organizations (PANO) course titled "Fire/EMS Administrative Officer Course" Train the Trainer.

---

### **Activities starting in January 2020 through June 2020**

Distributed multiple information bulletins and County specific memorandums

Participated in coordination and conference calls, virtual meetings with PA DOH, Bureau of EMS, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Response, PEMA, and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), to name just a few

Conducted a survey of EMS agency Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on hand as of February 28, 2020

Activated and operated in County emergency operation center after the first positive case in Montgomery County reported as of March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Developed a self-reporting form for first responders for possible exposures

Conducted multiple coordination calls with the Montgomery County Ambulance Association

---

---

Conducted focused coordination calls with affected first responder agencies within the first week of the outbreak and continued as needed for affected agencies

---

EMS Training and Certification activities after the first week of March 2020

Continued EMT training throughout the COVID 19 pandemic by moving the entire training program to an online platform.

The Training Institute has resumed in person skills sessions following all appropriate social distancing protocols.

Plans to resume the paramedic program are in place and the paramedic students will be returning soon to resume and complete current program.

---

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, and Specialized Medical Response Team Deployment.

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

EMS staff coordinated and assisted in the development of a plan to obtain voluntary donations of PPE at both the Eagleville and Conshohocken sites

MCEMS was involved in the following operations in whole or in part during the months of March, April, May and June of 2020

- Developed implemented and revised a 911 call screening process for Acute Febrile Respiratory Illness (AFRI) patients
  - March 13 Developed and operated an Emergency Testing site in a drive through model for sixty first responders believed to be exposed
  - Medical Surge Equipment Cache (MSEC) Trailer inventoried and prepared for deployment
  - Assisted with coordination of traceback incidents with COVID positive reports that assessed the positive patient by street address and the Computer Aided Dispatch System was noted to warn responders of Acute Febrile Respiratory Illness (AFRI) facilities.
  - SMART Hospital Deployment to Suburban Community Hospital-East Norriton Township
  - Biomedical Certification for 7 of 9 ventilator units. These portable ventilators were shipped to Georgia, serviced, certified and returned within 14 days.
  - Coordination and support to the Alternate Care Site Glen Mills, Delaware County
  - Developed PPE prioritization charts to determine priority needs based on available resources
  - Contact tracing for first responders including 7 day and 14-day call backs
  - Dr. Wang and several Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) physicians conducted a 2-hour informational continuing education session on COVID19 virtually, an intro by Dr. Kupas
  - Coordinated EMS units to standby at Community Based Testing Sites (CBTS)
  - Priority registration and testing for first responders at the Temple and MCCC (CBTS)
  - Fit testing for EMS squads and personnel working at (CBTS)
  - Coordinated issues brought forward by EMS Chiefs concerning SNF conditions and the need for Office of Public Health-Montgomery County involvement
-

- 
- April 15 EMS staff was on scene for nearly 12 hours assisting with the safe and orderly evacuation of 40 Nursing Home patients to better manage their care and safe isolation/quarantine at another facility
  - EMS Medical Surge plan
  - Deployed Emergency communications equipment to EMS surge agencies
  - June 3 power outage storm coordination to assist 35 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) without power to operate AC handlers. Coordination and response with AC units to SNF sites
  - Assisted with EMS Coordination during civil unrest situations involving local protests
  - Coordinated the licensing of an ALS Squad vehicle to function as a rapid response unit
  - Assisted with information on N-95 mask sterilization System deployed in Delaware County
  - Continued operations via a virtual platform to conduct meetings including but not limited to EMS Advisory Council, Overdose Task Force, and Helicopter five-year response plan review
  - Two MCEMS staff completed the Coursera Contact Tracing online program
-