



**BUCKS COUNTY
EMERGENCY
HEALTH
SERVICES**

**BUCKS COUNTY
EMERGENCY HEALTH
SERVICES
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)

Larry Loose
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REGIONAL SUMMARY:

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

- Bucks County Emergency Health Services is a single county regional council, we are part of the Bucks County Government, housed within the Emergency Services Division. In being a part of county government, our regional council is able to work as a team with our 911 Emergency Dispatch Center, county Emergency Management, municipal Emergency Managers and leaders, Bucks County Health Department, Bucks County General services for all of our equipment needs, Bucks County IT along with Bucks County Community College. We are part of a team in Bucks and having all of those people and departments on our team just makes us successful in providing assistance to all of our licensed agencies, certified providers, along with our residents and visitors.
- Bucks County is located in southern Pennsylvania, a contiguous county to the City of Philadelphia, Montgomery County, Lehigh County and Northampton County. The Delaware River runs the entire length of Bucks County with New Jersey bordering the other side.
- Population per 2020 census was 627,987
- Bucks County land area is 622 square miles with approximately 1035 residents per square mile
- Bucks County received \$253,159 in Bureau of EMS contract funds after the FRCO in September
- We have 5 Full time Regional Staff and 1 Part time staffer
- Bucks County pays for the Bucks County EHS Director's salary (except 1 hour) along with benefits.
- Bucks County pays approximately half of 4 staff member's salary and three quarters of the benefits, with the Bureau of EMS contract dollars funding the balance. The Bureau of EMS pays for approximately 90% of the part time staffer – no benefits for this position are incurred.
- Bucks County Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team is based out of our office. We provide the team training when we have funding. Our team consists of EMS providers, police officers, fire fighters, prison guards, 911 dispatchers, and more. We present using the discipline to discipline approach. Funding for the team comes sporadically, usually coming from SE PA Task Force Funds.
- Regional Data Collection system extended to 9-1-1 ambulance agencies free of charge. This includes the maintenance agreement and along with all upgrades. Saving agencies thousands of dollars each and providing our office with the opportunity of great raw data. Initially this project was 100% funded by the state grant. After the FRCO 40% was funded by the grant and Bucks County funded the remaining 60% expense
- In this 20/21 contract period, we had \$31,260.64 in our line item Prehospital Provider Services and Activities of our BEMS contract.
- Regional Bariatric project is funded by the state grant with our Prehospital Provider Services and Activities funds

- 53 Licensed agencies
- 215 Licensed Ambulances
- 24 Licensed QRS Units
- 1 Licensed Rescue Companies
- 6 Medical Command Facilities
- 115 Medical Command Physicians
- 44 Emergency Medical Responders
- 1,365 Emergency Medical Technicians
- 7 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians

- 291 Paramedics
- 49 Pre Hospital Register Nurse
- 0 Physician Extender
- 7 Pre-Hospital Physician
- Pre Hospital Physician Response Team
- 4 Mass Casualty Units (bread truck type) – 25 patients each
- 2 Mass Casualty Units (POD truck type) – 50 patients each
- 4 Mass Care PODs
- 3 POD trucks (to haul the PODS)
- 1 MSEC Trailer – housed at Pennel Middletown Rescue Squad – pulled by full size rescue truck
- 1 UTV – 6 passenger enclosed w/ 1 litter mount and stokes basket
- 1 16' enclosed trailer – hauls UTV
- 3 Five ton HVAC units
- 5 19 x 21 ZUMRO inflatable tent with floors and lighting
- 6 Trailer type generators – housed at our site owned by BC EMA – we utilize for EMS
- Highly Infectious Disease Ambulance- Bensalem EMS State Infectious Disease Transport Team- Purchased by Bucks County with CARES funds

1. Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers

President: Richard Goldsmith
Vice President: None
Treasurer: None
Secretary: Deb Myatt

(Please list all other members below)

- | | NAME |
|----|---|
| 1 | Rich Goldsmith, Pres. – Ambulance
Transport Agency |
| 2 | Scott Molle – Emergency 911
Communications |
| 3 | Bob Race – Public at Large |
| 4 | Chief Ken Coluzzi – Fraternal Order of
Police |
| 5 | Kathleen Fox – Nursing Home Association |
| 6 | Vacant – ER Nurses |
| 7 | Edward Crohe, III – Paramedic/Nurse |
| 8 | Mark Scholl – Squad Chief’s Assoc. |
| 9 | Deb Myatt – Emergency Medical
Technician |
| 10 | Tom Topley Public at Large |
| 11 | Earl Bruck- Public at Large |

Due to being a government based regional council our County Commissioners are the responsible party of the grant contract with BEMS, we then have our required Health Advisory Council.

The Bucks County Commissioners for the 2021 county fiscal year:

Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW, Chair
Robert Harvie Jr., Vice-Chair
Gene DiGirolamo

Our Health Council membership is comprised of 11 members who serve three year terms. All appointees are recommended by the County Commissioners who shall consider the following areas of membership:

Squad Chief's Association
Emergency Room Physicians
Emergency Room Nurses
CEO/Administrator of Hospitals
Emergency Medical Responder
Emergency Medical Technician
Paramedics/Health Professional
Chiefs and Firefighters Association
Police Association/FOP Lodge 53
American Heart Association
American Red Cross
Bucks County Emergency Management Agency
Bucks County Emergency 911 Communications
Nursing Home Association
Chambers of Commerce
Ambulance Transport Agencies
Public At Large.

All members are volunteers and receive no compensation nor reimbursement. We are scheduled to meet 4 times per year.

2. Regional EMS Council Staff:

Director

Larry Loose

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>EMS Quality Assurance Coordinator</u>	<u>Larry Loose/ Jason Diefenderfer 10/10/2020</u>
<u>EHS Field Representative</u>	<u>Jason Diefenderfer / Gentilina Miller 1/4/2021</u>
<u>Education Coordinator</u>	<u>Michele Rymdeika</u>
<u>Administrative Assistant/5</u>	<u>Deb Kates/ Kimberly Dicken 5/17/2021</u>
<u>CPR Education Coordinator</u>	<u>Deb Myatt</u>

3. Regional Medical Director(s)

NAME

1 Jefferson Health, Dr. Gerald Wydro

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

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$152,313.36	\$152,313.36
Consultant Services	\$20075.00	\$18,196.00
Subcontracted Services	\$56420.64	\$57,431.62
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$5000.00	\$2570.28
Travel	\$11,550.00	\$613.09
Other Costs	\$7800.00	\$1498.34
TOTALS	\$253,159.00	\$232,622.69

NOTE: THE AMOUNTS SHOWN ABOVE ARE PRELIMINARY END OF YEAR TOTALS AND NOT FINAL AUDIT AMOUNT
 Also, the above amounts do not show budget adjustments, as the budget adjustments are not reflected in our workbooks. This is the reason for under/overs in above line items for expenses.

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.

Regional Bariatric Regional Project	Amount: \$24,000.00
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Project Narrative:

Approximately 10 years ago we were awarded \$25,000.00 by BEMS to create this project. We found that providers were transporting bariatric patients in motorcycle trailers and rollbacks due to not fitting on a litter or in an ambulance. We deemed this to be very unsafe, applied and received funding. We had 2 agencies split the monies and set their trucks up to be able to transport these patients in a safe and humane way. At this point, we just fund this project enough to keep it going.

Regional Medication Vending Machine Maintenance	Amount: \$ 6,000.00
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Project Narrative:

A few years ago we purchased Medication Vending Machines utilizing BEMS contract dollars due to hospitals stating EMS was taking more supplies than one for one exchange. Each provider must have a passcode exclusively for them along with a patient name to be able to access supplies. This project gives the hospitals the ability to account for medications dispensed to EMS agencies. Further hospitals are able to account for the cost of the medication exchange program. The exchange program saves EMS agencies the expense of purchasing medication in stock. The medication machines total over \$35,000 of medications

Regional Data Collection System – Maintenance Contract	Amount: \$19,160.00
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Project Narrative:

We have had a regional data collection system since the early 1990's in Bucks County. Currently we are on our 3rd system, Image Trend. We offer this free of charge to all 911 ambulance agencies. This maintenance contract also includes upgrades so when NEMSIS mandated all data collections systems collect the same information on a patient chart, all of the updates were free. We are able to run data reports for trending,

municipalities, county and agencies. The agencies are able to run their own reports also, making this a regional system with local controls. In doing this, we save each of our agencies thousands of dollars. This also saves time for each agency since when something does not work with the program, they call our office and we work with the vendor, freeing up the agencies personnel to respond to 911 calls.

NREMT Testing Vouchers	Amount: \$ 5460.64	
<i>Project Narrative:</i>		
We started a voucher program for EMS students within Bucks County that needed financial assistance to be able to test out at the end of the classes. The majority of the vouchers go to students who are enrolled in the high school level of vocational schooling, Public Safety Course. The students would sit through the entire class and then were financially unable to test. This program affords this student the ability to take the test and be successful.		

6. Regional Activities/ Organizational Management

Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	Date 12-16 Last review 05-19
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	3
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	0-COVID
Public Education CPR Events	2
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	3
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	Over 50

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:

We routinely work with our municipalities and EMS agencies. We provide them with the best data available with regards to EMS related issues. We use the data from our Computer Aided Dispatch from our 911 Center or from our Regional Data Collection system. We also work well with our state and federal elected officials when requested.

7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	0
Accidents Involving Ambulances / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region	3
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	5

Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:

Our Regional QI Committee does not do any Clinical Case Review. The regional quality assurance coordinator performs the chart review as third party and identifies the regions strengths and opportunities to improve. The coordinator makes an effort to identify a root cause analysis to provide possible solutions to improve. The Regional Quality Assurance Coordinator reviews all of

the following incidents: Cardiac Arrests (527), Advance Airway (504) Sedation Assisted Intubations (33), Ketamine Admin (Excited Delirium) (18) Antibiotic Pilot (8). Stats from the regional review are reported to regional MAC, regional QI committee and regional operational leadership. We work with CARES registry to encourage organization entry of their data into the registry. During this contract cycle the Regional QI committee with the Regional MAC due to COVID-19 pandemic

8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	5
Accredited Level I Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level II Trauma Centers	1
Accredited Level III Trauma Centers	0
Accredited Level IV Trauma Centers	1
Accredited primary Stroke Centers	5
Comprehensive Stroke Centers	0
Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers	1
Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals	0

Medical Direction Narrative:

Due to our geographic location we have access to specialty centers just outside our regional borders. This includes: Three level II trauma centers (includes one in NJ), Two Level I Trauma centers, Two Comprehensive Stroke Center (includes one in NJ) Three Burns Centers. Regional MAC has reviewed our communication center’s “Emergency Medical Dispatch” cards and provided input. COVID-19- Trained thirty-five EMS providers to administer COVID-19 Vaccines. Set-up a vaccine site in collaboration with Bucks County Department of health utilizing EMS practitioners as vaccinators and support staff.

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	0
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	0

Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	2
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	14
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	0
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	7
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	46
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	7

Systems Operations Narrative:

Every effort has been made to fulfill these obligations to the best of our abilities and do it safely. The COVID-19 has derailed many of our normal routines. As we move forward we can make appropriate adjustments to better complete these task

*Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	0/5
Table Top Exercises Attended / Conducted	COVID
Full Scale / Functional Exercises Attended / Conducted	0/0/0
Special Event Plans Submitted	0 COVID
Responses / Deployments	0
Strike Team Agencies	5

Emergency Preparedness Narrative:

COVID-19 has complicate these planning activities. The silver lining of COVID is we have tested some of our plans and identified weaknesses in others. The transition from the old coalition to the new has been challenging. Continue work on the new relationship and change the way thing use to be done.

When it comes to STRIKE Teams in Bucks County we do it differently. We have designated agencies that will provide the drivers and trucks, then other agencies will send providers to staff them. We probably could say we have 10 teams, however we like to be conservative.

11. Board of Director \ Health Council Meetings

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9-23-20	1000	Bucks County EHS office-Cancelled
11-25-20	1000	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
2-24-21	1000	Webinar via ZOOM
5-26-21	1000	Webinar via ZOOM

12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
8-12-20	1000	State MAC Webinar
9-9-20	1000	Bucks County Webinar
11-11-20	1000	State MAC Webinar
11-18-20	1000	Bucks County Webinar
01-13-21	1000	Bucks County Webinar
01-20-21	1000	State MAC Webinar
03-10-21	1000	Bucks County Webinar
04-14-21	1000	State MAC , Webinar
05-12-21	1000	Bucks County Webinar

13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9-9-20	1000	Webinar via ZOOM with Medical Advisory Committee
11-18-20	1000	Webinar via ZOOM with Medical Advisory Committee
01-13-21	1000	Webinar via ZOOM with Medical Advisory Committee
05-12-21	1000	Webinar via ZOOM with Medical Advisory Committee

14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

COVID-19 Response

From the beginning of the pandemic, we assisted our EMS agencies with unmet needs through Bucks County Emergency Management. A cache of PPE was distributed to all of our EMS agencies.

- From the beginning of the pandemic, we assisted our EMS agencies with unmet needs through Bucks County Emergency Management. A cache of PPE was distributed to all of our EMS agencies.
- Configure our regional data collection system to account for suspected COVID-related calls. Identify PPE utilization by providers.
- Set up a beta vaccination site and trained thirty-five EMS providers to be vaccinators and support staff. The beta vaccination site was used as a proof of concept to use EMS providers to vaccinate emergency responders. The EMS providers vaccinated 50 emergency responders in one day. The process and the concept of utilizing paramedics as vaccinators was a success. The County department of health used our process for their county vaccination sites. By January 4, 2021, All EMS providers received an invite to a vaccination event. Created a process for Fire and EMS workers to request a vaccination.
- Assisted the Bucks County Department of Health with creating a process to vaccinate the homebound population.
- 1 Hospital Zone Meetings attended- Meetings have been off due to the workload at respected healthcare facilities
- Our EMS Naloxone Leave Behind project is continuing. We have had more agencies join our mission because they saw the success the other agencies were having utilizing this free service. We are able to continue this project because of our partnership with Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission. Our agencies have left behind Naloxone sixty-five times at an EMS encounter during this grant period.

Our office continues to work with Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission fighting the opioid crisis. We are the liaison between the commission our EMS and fire agencies with regards to providing naloxone to the responders. We attend all of the regional meetings/conferences giving EMS input, EMS scrubbed data, listening to other disciplines involved in this fight. In attending these meetings we have had the opportunity to see what others are doing or not doing, what works and what doesn't work and most of all we see there are a lot of people, agencies, businesses, and recovered patients with the same mission goal.

- Director sits on Occupational Advisory Committee for one of technical high schools Emergency Services class. The students in this program take the EMT certification class. Successful certification makes these students ready for employment upon graduation. Creates an opportunity for recruiting new EMS practitioners into traditional EMS work.

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- Our bariatric support units continue to be a successful project started twelve years ago. The goal of the project was to prevent injury to EMS practitioners and their patients. Also, to transport this patient population in a safe and dignified manner. During this contract period, the Regional Bariatric Units had 246 requests and 160 transports.
 - We continue to support the prehospital Mobile Stroke Unit pilot project. The unit is a partnership between Bensalem EMS and Jefferson Health Northeast. These types of units have been appearing in EMS systems throughout the country. Every system is trying to see how these specialized vehicles can enhance prehospital stroke care. During this contract period, the Mobile Stroke Unit had 373 dispatches and 161 transports.