

**Bucks County Emergency Health Advisory Council**  
**Unapproved Council Minutes**  
**May 26, 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**Bucks County Health Services Building**  
**911 Freedom Way, Ivyland, PA 18974**

**Attendance:** Rob Race, Debra Myatt, Larry Loose, Gerald Wydro, Diane Marseglia, Ken Coluzzi, Scott Molle, Edward Crohe, Debra Myatt and Thomas Topley

Excused: Richard Goldsmtih

**2021 BCEHSAC MEETING DATES: 4th Wed/month: 2/24/21; 5/26/21; 9/22/21; 11/24/21**

1. The meeting was called to order by Robert Race @ 10:09am.
2. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the 2/24/2021 BCEHSAC meeting minutes.
3. **Dr Wydro:**
  - a. **Ketamine** - education and reinforce training agency wide, discussed treatment of patients with excited delirium, the ketamine assisted intubation no longer pilot effective sometime in the fall.
  - b. **ALS/BLS protocols**- out for public comment, they should be finalized by the state by July-Sept 21
  - c. **Diversion Status** – county and country wide problem. FAQ & confusion are being address with the hospitals and the squads. Reviewed reasons why hospitals go on divert, and the increase during the COVID pandemic. Bottom line, situational awareness for the providers.
  - d. **Paramedic Program** – options of region program discussed
  - e. **Work Force Concerns** – Concerns agency/county wide, constituents should more involved. Next 5 years will be interesting, as services will struggle with staffing. Individual agencies cannot afford to offer Paramedic Program, need Grant funding to offer to further education. Community College may be possibility to offer Paramedic program, Larry Loose will discuss later in depth.
  - f. **Medical Command Faculties**- refusal command calls, currently working on ED staff and command doctors’.

**4. Edward Crohe:**

- a. **Fund(s) for tuition reimbursement** - answers to this question will come post meeting with the community college. Larry will keep everyone updated. Dr. Wydro, 25% of the EMTs would not be able to successfully complete the Paramedic program, there is less interest in Paramedic programs, and lack of funds for EMS agencies to send staff to a Paramedic program. Cost can be up to \$20,000. Workforce concerns, the next 5 years outlook does not look good.

**5. Larry Loose:**

- a. Presentation reviewed in detail.

**6. Tom Topley:**

- a. PA legislators did not protect agencies like the NJ legislators did for their agencies, post Aetna policy changes. Average NJ ALS (bundled bill) charge is \$2200, and average PA ALS charges \$1500.

**7. Diane Marseglia:**

- a. Nothing new.
- b. Improving crisis health situation.
- c. Happy to help out in any way she can with the community college.
- d. Some funds may come available in the next 4 years to help with education, or to provide tutoring to students.

**8. Edward Crohe:**

- a. Discussed possibility of a county grant payout, and agencies to pay out  $\frac{1}{4}$  every year to the employee(s), or possibility to have agreements with providers.

**9. Rob Race:**

- a. There is a need for community support, pension programs to provide better quality of life to the providers.
- b. Agreements do not keep employees from going to other employers offering better benefits and pension.

**10. Tom Topley:**

- a. EMS is failing, need to focus on step 1, which is recruitment. Discussion about Tech School students, and overall less interest in becoming a paramedic.
- b. Recruitment efforts should increase for students that do their clinic time at agencies from the Paramedic programs.
- c. Larry Loose – EHS office pays for Tech Students to take the EMT test

**11. Rob Race:**

- a. Asked Diane Marseglia to provide a list of all the BCEHSAC and expiration dates.

**12. Diane Marseglia:**

- a. Treasurer, questions about access to the checkbook, account could not be accessed, and clarification at the bank about signatures. Rich Goldsmith aware and will be handling this.

**13. Scott Molle:**

- a. Nothing new from communication/radio room.

**14. Gerald Wydro:**

- a. Active911 divert Status no longer coming across via Active911, Jason confirmed the Chiefs complained about the texts coming across Active911. Scott Molle stated that dispatchers should be advising the providers of the divert status.
- b. Dr. Wydro asked that his concerns be on record that providers are not receiving divert status anymore via Active911

**15. Rob Race:**

- a. Asked Jason Diefenderfer when the RTF training will start back up. Topley asked for the dates to be put out there so he can have the instructors ready. Race also asked for the dates, has police officers that need the training. Jason advised will begin to work on this today, and will email Topley and Race to get things going and to confirm dates.

- 16.** Next meeting is **Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**, Rob Race asked about another Zoom meeting. Larry Loose advised looking to do an in person meeting for the next meeting. Diane Marseglia advised that she may have conflicts with the Wednesday meetings, but would be available for September's meeting.

**17. Adjournment: 11:48**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly Dicken

**The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 10:00am at the Bucks County Emergency Health Services Building.**