



**BUCKS COUNTY
EMERGENCY
HEALTH
SERVICES**

**BUCKS COUNTY
EMERGENCY HEALTH
SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR (2019/2020)**

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)

Larry Loose
ljloose@buckscounty.org

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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 2010 census was 625,249 with the 2019 estimate being 628,270
- Bucks County land area is 604.31 square miles with approximately 1035 residents per square mile
- Bucks County received \$287,371.00 in Bureau of EMS contract funds
- 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 911 ambulance agencies free of charge. This includes the maintenance agreement (paid for with BEMS contract dollars) along with all upgrades. Saving agencies thousands of dollars each and providing our office with the opportunity of great raw data.
- In this 19/20 contract period, we had \$38,318.64 in our line item Prehospital Provider Services and Activities of our BEMS contract.
- Regional Bariatric project is funded by our office. In doing this not every agency needs to purchase their own equipment, winches and bariatric truck, they just call for a specialized truck and it is dispatched.
- Our office is also responsible for skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, hospitals, and urgent care centers, during emergencies. We are charged with monitoring these facilities regarding power failures, air conditioning and heating failures, water failures, generator failures etc. Our main mission is to keep the residents in the facilities providing for the facility needs. In Bucks County, evacuation is our last option.
- 67 Licensed agencies
- 148 Licensed Ambulances
- 78 Licensed QRS Units
- 2 Licensed Rescue Companies
- 6 Medical Command Facilities
- 134 Medical Command Physicians

- 63 Emergency Medical Responders
- 1,318 Emergency Medical Technicians
- 2 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians
- 280 Paramedics
- 49 Pre Hospital Register Nurse
- 1 Physician Extender
- 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 Penndel 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

1. Board of Directors \ Health Council Officers

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

(Please list all other members below)

	<u>NAME</u>		<u>NAME</u>
1	<u>Rich Goldsmith, Pres. – Ambulance Transport Agency</u>	19	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
2	<u>Scott Molle – Emergency 911 Communications</u>	20	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
3	<u>Bob Race – Public at Large</u>	21	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
4	<u>Chief Ken Coluzzi – Fraternal Order of Police</u>	22	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
5	<u>Kathleen Fox – Nursing Home Association</u>	23	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
6	<u>Lisa Goldsmith – ER Nurses</u>	24	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
7	<u>Jackie Howenstein – Hospital Administrator</u>	25	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
8	<u>Mark Scholl – Squad Chief’s Assoc.</u>	26	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
9	<u>Deb Myatt – Emergency Medical Technician</u>	27	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
10	<u>Open – term expired June 1, 2019</u>	28	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
11	<u>Open – term expired June 1, 2019</u>	29	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>
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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 2020 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

Jeryl L. DeGideo

<u>STAFF POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
<u>EMS Quality Assurance Coordinator</u>	<u>Larry Loose</u>
<u>EHS Field Representative</u>	<u>Jason Diefenderfer</u>
<u>Education Coordinator</u>	<u>Michele Rymdeika</u>
<u>Administrative Assistant/5</u>	<u>Deb Kates</u>
<u>CPR Education Coordinator</u>	<u>Deb Myatt</u>
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3. Regional Medical Director(s)

	<u>NAME</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>Jefferson Health, Dr. Gerald Wydro</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Click or tap here to enter text.</u>

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

	Final Budget	Expended
Personnel Services	\$152,332.36	\$152,332.36
Consultant Services	20,611.25	\$18,196.00
Subcontracted Services	\$89,363.39	\$89,252.26
Patient Services	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$7,210.00	\$7610.11
Travel	\$11,390.00	\$6277.28
Other Costs	\$6464.00	\$5739.65
TOTALS	\$287,371.00	\$279,407.66

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
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
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 Paramedic Skill Verification	Amount: \$ 2910.00
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
Agency Medical Directors are required to perform skill assessments on each paramedic on their licensure paperwork. In PA, most paramedics work multiple jobs therefore are required to perform for each of their employer's medical directors. Our MAC has agreed that if an agency's medical director participates in our Skill Verification, the doctors will accept the sign off of another medical directors signatures. Our office coordinates the dates, locations, medical directors, and staffing along with writing a written test on protocols. Our office then compiles the data and sends the results to each medical director so they have the opportunity to sign off or re-educate.	
Regional Medication Vending Machine Maintenance	Amount: \$6,000.00
<i>Project Narrative:</i>	
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. In doing this, the providers only receive what they used on this patient and hospitals have told us this has saved them tens of thousands of dollars each. The providers have also had a positive with this project, they no longer have to get a staff person of the hospital to unlock things to get their supplies.	

Regional Rescue Task Force (Active Shooter)	Amount: \$10,000.00
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Project Narrative:

We started training and providing helmets and vests to providers so they are prepared for an active shooter event. We have spent mostly SE PA Task Force dollars doing this project, however this year we did utilize some of these monies to extend the ability to train more providers. This is a very successful project in Bucks County.

Regional Data Collection System – Maintenance Contract	Amount: \$45,044.75
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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: \$ 4,000.00
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Project Narrative:

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
Date of the current Comprehensive Regional EMS System Plan	12-16 Last review 05-19
Number of Board of Director Meetings \ Health Council meetings	2
Public Education Stop-the- Bleed Events	0
Public Education CPR Events	5
Number of Legislative Inquiries or Contacts	3
Technical Assistance Request (local entities and elected officials)	Over 50

Regional Activities/ Organizational Management Project Narrative:

We continuously work with our municipalities answering their questions on response area, response times etc. We provide reports with the data from either/both 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. Being government based drives the municipal leaders to us.

7. Continuous Quality Improvement

	Quantity
Number of Clinical Cases Reviewed by Regional QI Committee	0
Accidents Involving Ambulances(2) / EMS Personnel Reported in the Region(1)	3
Number of Times the Regional QI Committee Met	4

Continuous Quality Improvement Narrative:

Our Regional QI Committee does not do any Clinical Case Review as we have been told not to do this by 2 past BEMS Directors (not current Director). Our Regional Quality Assurance Coordinator reviews all Cardiac Arrests (427), Advance Airway Attempts (including Sedation Assisted Intubations) (435), Ketamine Admin (Excited Delirium) (18). 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. The March 2020 meeting was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The May 2020 meeting was a joint meeting our regional

8. Medical Direction

	Quantity
Regional Medical Advisory Committee meetings	4
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	6
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). Our regional medical advisory committee continues to lead our regional skills verification process to assist EMS agency medical director meet the regulatory require to assess their providers at or above the AEMT certification.

9. Systems Operations

	Quantity
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Agencies	0*
Spot inspections conducted – EMS Vehicles	23**
Spot inspections conducted – Continuing Education Sponsors	0*
Spot inspections conducted – Education Institutes	0*
Spot inspections conducted – Medical Command Facilities	9
Number of Safety Inspections Conducted	7**
Number of Vehicles Inspected During Safety Inspection	58
Photo & Signatures Added to Certification Cards	20
BLS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	7
Number of BLS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested.	170
ALS Psychomotor Examinations Conducted	0
Number of ALS Psychomotor Exam Candidates Tested	0
Certification Class Visits Conducted	10
Number of EMS Agency Re-Inspections Conducted	15 ***
Number of Authorized Inquiry Reports Filed with the Bureau	1

Systems Operations Narrative:

We work diligently on the operations portion of our contract. The above are where the safety for our patients starts. Knowing the candidates were instructed, tested and certified, knowing photos have been added to certification cards for identification at any time asked, knowing inspections are being completed on trucks for licensure, knowing spot and safety inspections are being completed knowing our patients are being cared for by competent providers, in stocked licensed trucks that have been inspected and deemed safe. All of this means our providers and patients are safe.

*There is no statewide objective process to successfully complete this task

**Need a clear definitions on these two items. I believe there are used

interchangeably. ***We did not track this data point. In the future it will be tracked.

10. Emergency Preparedness Activities

	Quantity
Coalition / Task Force Meetings Attended (only EMSOF funded staff attendance)	6/9
Table Top Exercises Attended / Conducted	2/4
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:

Our office is very connected, we believe it is due to being county based. All municipalities and agencies come to us for guidance, evaluation, along with financial. We are included in their drills, we provide the moulage (makeup of wounds) making their drills more realistic. 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
9-25-19	1000	Bucks County EHS office-Cancelled
11-27-19	1000	Bucks County EHS office
2-26-20	1000	Bucks County EHS office
5-27-19	1000	Bucks County EHS office- Cancelled due to COVID

12. Medical Advisory Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
7-10-19 Cancelled	1000	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
8-14-19	1000	State MAC Webinar
9-11-19	1000	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
10-02-19	1400	Special MAC Meeting-Webinar
11-6-19	1000	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
11-13-19	1000	State MAC , Mechanicsburg, PA
01-15-20	1000	State MAC conference call
01-22-20	1000	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
03-11-20	1000	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center-Canceled COVID 19 ramp up
04-22-20	1000	State MAC , Webinar
05-20-20	1000	Webinar via ZOOM

13. Quality Improvement Committee Meeting

DATE:	TIME	LOCATION
9-11-19	0900	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
11-06-19	0900	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
1-22-20	0900	Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
5-20-20	10000	Webinar via ZOOM with Medical Advisory Committee

14. Regional Accomplishments:

Narrative:

- 3 Paramedic Skill sessions completed. Five sessions had to be canceled due to the COVID epidemic.
- 3 Hospital Zone Meetings attended
- 3 EMS Chief's meetings attended- Two meetings canceled due to COVID
- 2 Bucks County Level 1 RTF training classes hosted (4 hours all classroom)
- 2 Bucks County Level 2 RTF training classes hosted (3 hours classroom 1 hour walk through)
- 3 Bucks County Level 3 RTF training classes hosted (2 hours classroom 6 full scale RTF) This endeavor is multi discipline as we utilize police officers for the Level 3 training to make the actual training more realistic. Currently we are working with the vendor to write a training modular that is specific for fire. We plan to utilize fire as our litter bearers, transportation officers and with those EMS certified we will utilize them for assisting in treatment/triage outside of the building in the cold area. EMSOF funding was used to continue the training.
- We were able to secure funding for an additional HVAC unit
- 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 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 missions 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 trying to make sense of all of this. These meetings give us ideas and make us all think out of the box. Out of the box thinking is what we need to do more of.

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- BC EHS Director is a Board of Director with Bucks County Hero Scholarship Fund. This fund enables the children of any emergency services personnel in Bucks County not to have to bare the financial load of higher education. We raise funds so we can pay for their tuition, books, housing and any other expense they may incur. We are the fund of last resort for them, as the Commonwealth of PA also takes care of these children if they attend PA state funded school or a community college.
 - Our QA coordinator continues to sit 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.
 - We supported a prehospital Mobile Stroke Unit pilot project. The unit is a partnership between Bensalem EMS and Jefferson Health Northeast. This type of unit have been appearing in EMS systems throughout the country. Every system is trying see how these specialized vehicles can enhance prehospital stroke care.
