



# Emergency Medical Services Council



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**Executive Committee**  
**Monday, Dec. 10, 2024, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**  
**online**

<https://www.hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/ems-planning-reg>

**Draft Summary**

Present	Absent
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Susan Long, NRP,</b> EMS Council Chair</li> <li>2. <b>Peter Tanghe, MD,</b> EMS Council Vice Chair and EMS Medical Directors Committee Chair</li> <li>3. <b>Tony Martin,</b> Operations Committee Chair</li> <li>4. <b>Nick Simpson, MD,</b> Medical Standards Committee Chair</li> <li>5. <b>Mike Morelock,</b> Quality Standards Committee Chair</li> </ol>	
Guests	Staff
Sara Hollie, Director, Hennepin County Public Health	Kristin Mellstrom, Hennepin County Public Health

1. The meeting was called to order by EMS Council Chair Susan Long at 1:10 p.m., with a quorum assembled.
2. The Sept. 9 and Sept. 30, 2024 meeting summary and today’s agenda were approved.

3. There were no new nominations to or resignations from the EMS Council since the Oct. 3, 2024 EMS Council meeting. Nominations will be requested for the new seats added to the EMS Council Bylaws passed by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners in Nov. 2024.
4. **New Business**
  - A. **Action:** Review 2024 EMS Council Bylaws passed by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners on Nov. 19, 2024.

Staff (Kristin) gave an overview of recent discussions with two commissioners' policy aides who coordinated the process of editing the Council bylaws to reflect the commissioners' decision to add several new seats to the EMS Council, with an emphasis on giving more representation to non-supervisory paramedic staff and labor representatives.

The Public Health Authority/Hennepin County Public Health requested clarification about the purpose and scope of these additions and provided detailed feedback about the implications of each of these new seats regarding 1) overall representation across the council membership-these new seats would effectively provide additional dedicated seats for labor-represented paramedics (Hennepin EMS, Edina Fire EMS, and Allina EMS) and exclude non-labor paramedics (North Memorial Health Ambulance and Ridgeview Ambulance Service); 2) determining the scope of work for the new subcommittee; and 3) the difficulty of finding volunteer representatives-especially at the paramedic level-to consistently attend meetings to meet quorum requirements due to a change in the of work for the previous Ambulance Service Personnel Subcommittee (ASP Subcommittee) after semi-annual EMS Council protocol books were discontinued.

While this committee had several concerns about the changes to the council membership and scope of work that was added by reinstating the ASP Subcommittee, the unanimous decision was to adopt the bylaws changes for the upcoming year and provide feedback to the commissioners by the end of 2025, along with data on performance measures that were also adopted by the County Board on Nov. 19, 2024. Additionally, it was noted that the County Board's suspension of staffing requirements in Ordinance 9 (Section VII, Subsection I) will end on Dec. 31, 2025, so the EMS Council Bylaws, stroke and trauma performance measures data, and Ordinance 9 could be moved to the Board for consideration in Quarter 4 of 2025.

The following changes to the EMS Council bylaws were adopted by the County Board:

EMS Council – New seats added

- [One additional] Paramedic from [a] 9-1-1 EMS Providers in HC, to be rotated every two years; one vote;
- A representative from organized labor representing hospital-based emergency medical service providers: one vote;
- A representative from organized labor representing firefighters: one vote; .

Operations and Communications Committee – New seat added

- A representative social worker who works in Hennepin County: one vote

Ambulance Service Personnel Subcommittee of the EMS Medical Directors Committee  
– New committee/former committee reinstated

a. The committee will identify and discuss issues affecting ambulance service personnel within Hennepin County, to include:

- Review and make recommendations on training and retraining standards for ambulance service personnel; and
- Identification of potential issues affecting pre-hospital care, offer input on innovation and clinical best practice, special studies, new procedures and technologies; and
- Examine EMS workforce concerns, including but not limited to EMS provider mental health, wellness, clinical standards and safety concerns;

b. The Subcommittee will include the following members:

- Medical control hospital emergency physician
- Ambulance medical director
- Non-supervisory ambulance service personnel from each ambulance service providing unscheduled pre-hospital care within Hennepin County, one of whom is a member of the Medical Standards Committee; and
- One labor representative.

B. 2025 EMS Council Workplan-laid over until the next meeting

C. Speakers for October and April 2025 EMS Council meetings

Kristin confirmed with Dylan Ferguson that he would be willing to provide an Office of EMS (formerly EMSRB) legislative update at the April meeting. Other possible speakers for the meetings may include an update on MNTrac, Beacon products, the cross-departmental pilot projects with social workers at dispatch centers, or other topics of interest. The committee members were asked send ideas to Staff.

5. **Old Business**

A. None

6. **Committee Chair Updates**

A. EMS Medical Directors – Dr. Pete Tanghe

The committee continues to discuss different options in pre-hospital cardiac arrest care, how differences affect patient care hand-off in the field from Fire EMS to Ambulance Services, and choosing some performance measures for quality assurance and improvement.

B. Medical Standards – Dr. Nick Simpson

The committee has not met in the last quarter.

C. Operations and Communications Committee – Tony Martin

The committee is working with hospital partners to update the hospital destination matrix, which is often requested by medics when seeking appropriate dispositions for

patients. There are also projects underway to integrate several communications systems, and, as noted in the earlier discussion, a continuation of pilot projects to add social workers into the dispatch process so they can also speak to 9-1-1 callers who need behavioral health assistance.

D. **Quality Standards Committee – Mike Morelock**

The committee is collecting stroke and trauma performance data based on the metrics approved at the April 11, 2024 EMS Council meeting and now approved by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. The committee will continue to discuss performance score cards or reports that could be sent to partners to provide updates about EMS performance in the County after at least one year of data is collected. These data will also be presented to the County Board, as requested.

The committee continues to work on finding one or more statewide data sources that could be used to download performance data rather than collected data from each EMS provider. Concerns about data accuracy in MNStar are a longstanding concern of EMS Providers so more work will be required to determine if that is a reliable and accurate data source.

7. **EMS Council and Committees Standing Meetings**

Exec. Committee meetings - online

Second Mondays 1:00-2:30p.m. in March, June, Sept. and Dec.

EMS Council meetings - online

Second Thursday 3:00-4:30 p.m. in April and October

8. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m

