



Emergency Medical Services Council

Health Services Building – MC L963
525 Portland Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1569

chd.ems@hennepin.us
www.hennepin.us/ems



Draft Summary HENNEPIN COUNTY EMS COUNCIL April 2, 2026 – 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Online at: [Emergency medical services regulation | Hennepin County](#)

1. Welcome and introductions. EMS Council Vice Chair, Dr. Peter Tanghe, called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

EMS Council membership attendance

Elected Officers of the EMS Council

1. Chairperson: Susan Long (Allina Health EMS) first term ends in April 2026 - Absent
2. Vice Chairperson – Peter Tanghe, MD (North Memorial Health Ambulance Service) - Present

EMS Council Executive Committee Chairpersons

3. EMS Medical Directors Committee Chair – Peter Tanghe, MD (North Memorial Health Ambulance)- Present
4. Medical Care and Standards Committee Chair – Nick Simpson, MD (Hennepin EMS) – Present- Proxy: Dr. Alec Bunting
5. Operations and System Communications Chairperson – Tony Martin (Hennepin County Sheriff's Office) - Present
6. Quality Standards Committee – Michael Morelock (North Memorial Health Ambulance) - Present
7. Ambulance Service Personnel Subcommittee of the EMS Medical Directors Committee - Vacant

Healthcare systems in Hennepin County that operate at least one 24-hour emergency department or stand-alone ED and operate a 9-1-1 EMS Provider with a Primary Service Area (PSA) in Hennepin County (one vote per system, with an emergency physician serving as either the regular or alternate representative; two-year rotation is optional, at the discretion of each healthcare system)

8. Allina Health Hospitals – Megan Elsenheimer Plutt, DO (reg.) - Present; and Wendy Baumgardt (alt.)
9. Hennepin Healthcare HCMC – Wendy Stulac-Motzel (reg.) – Present; and Gregg Jones, MD (alt.)

10. North Memorial Health Hospital – John Lyng, MD (reg.) – Present; and Elizabeth Robinson, MD (alt.)

Healthcare systems in Hennepin County that operate at least one 24-hour emergency department or stand-alone ED (one vote per system, with an emergency physician serving as either the regular or alternate representative; two-year rotation is optional, at the discretion of each healthcare system)

11. Children’s MN – Emma Fisher, MD (reg.) – Absent; and David Hirschmann, MD (alt.) - Present
12. MHealth Fairview – Nik Vuljaj, MD (reg.) – Absent; and (alt.) Robert Tanyoue, MD (alt.) Absent
13. HealthPartners Methodist Hospital – Jill Donofrio, DO (reg.) – Present; and Megan Grewe (alt.) – Dr. Elise Greenberg, proxy for Dr. Donofrio

Healthcare systems that operate at least one 24-hour emergency department or stand-alone ED outside of Hennepin County and operate a 9-1-1 EMS Provider with a PSA in Hennepin County (one vote per system, with an emergency physician serving as either the regular or alternate representative; two-year rotation is optional, at the discretion of each healthcare system)

14. Ridgeview Medical Center – Matt Herold, MD (reg.) – Absent; and Scott Joing, MD (alt.) - Absent

EMS Providers with a PSA in Hennepin County and licensed to operate 9-1-1 service

Two-year rotation is optional, at the discretion of each EMS Provider

Allina Health EMS

15. EMS Medical Director – Joey Duren, MD – Present
16. Administrator – Kevin Miller - Present

Edina Fire EMS

17. EMS Medical Director – Paul Nystrom, MD - Present
18. Administrator – Shaun White - Present

Hennepin EMS

19. EMS Medical Director – Nick Simpson, MD – Present – Proxy: Alec Bunting, MD
20. Administrator – Marty Scheerer - Present

North Memorial Health Ambulance Service

21. EMS Medical Director - Peter Tanghe, MD - Present
22. Administrator - Brent Custard - Present

Ridgeview Ambulance Service

23. EMS Medical Director – Autumn Ties, MD - Present

24. Administrator – Mark Anderson – Present

Additional Representatives

Two-year rotation is recommended for the following seats

25. Paramedic (employed at a licensed 9-1-1 EMS Provider with a PSA in Hennepin County)
Jeremiah Steele, EMT-P (Edina Fire EMS) - Absent

26. Paramedic (employed at a licensed 9-1-1 EMS Provider with a PSA in Hennepin County)
Angela Pesta, EMT-P (Hennepin EMS) - Absent

27. Ambulance Dispatch Center (at a licensed 9-1-1 EMS Provider with a PSA in Hennepin County)
Victoria Vadnais (Allina Health EMS) - Present

28. Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Hennepin County
Tony Martin (Hennepin County Sheriff's Office) first term ends April 2026 - Present

29. West Medical Resource Control Center (West MRCC)
Dan Klawitter - Absent

30. Hennepin County Chiefs of Police Association
Vacant

31. Hennepin County Fire Chiefs Association
Vacant

32. Public representative without EMS industry affiliation (either a resident of Hennepin County or an employee of a public health department in Hennepin County)
Cynthia Myntti (Hennepin County resident) - Present

33. A representative from organized labor representing hospital-based EMS
Vacant

34. A representative from organized labor representing firefighters
Sam Erickson (Hennepin County Assoc. of Paramedics and EMTs [HCAPE]) - Present

35. Hennepin County Director of Public Health Dept. (non-voting, ex-officio member)
Sara Hollie – Present – Stephanie Abel, proxy for Sara Hollie

Guests:

Marcee Shaughnessy (Hennepin County Public Health); David Schmoyer (North Memorial Health Hospital); Kevin Sipprell, MD (Ridgeview Ambulance Service); Joe DiBenedetto (Ridgeview Ambulance Service); Dylan Ferguson (Office of EMS); Greg Loppnow, MD (Veterans Affairs Medical Center); Michael Perlmutter, MD (Hennepin EMS)

Staff: Kristin Mellstrom (Hennepin County Public Health)

2. **Action:** Approval of today's agenda – **Approved**
3. **Action:** Approval of meeting summary from Oct. 2, 2025 – **Approved**
4. **Action:** Approval of EMS Council and committee nominations – **Approved**

Nominations- **All approved unanimously**

EMS Council

- Victoria Vadnais, Allina Health EMS for vacant seat representing an Ambulance Dispatch Center at a licensed 9-1-1 EMS Provider with a PSA in Hennepin County
- Autumn Ties, MD to replace Kevin Sipprell, MD as the ALS EMS Medical Director for Ridgeview Ambulance Service
- Proxies for today's meeting: Dr. Elise Greenberg for Dr. Jill Donofrio (HealthPartners Methodist Hospital) and Dr. Alec Bunting for Dr. Nick Simpson (Hennepin EMS)

EMS Medical Directors and Medical Care and Standards Committees

- Autumn Ties, MD to replace Kevin Sipprell, MD as ALS EMS Medical Director for Ridgeview Ambulance Service

5. Presentation: "2026 Legislative Updates from the Office of EMS" by Dylan Ferguson, Director of OEMS

- OEMS has been working on distribution of \$16.4 million in funds appropriated in the 2025 special session for the Ambulance Operating Deficit Grant Program and about \$8 million for the Rural Uncompensated Care Pool. Administration of funding distribution is going smoothly. Half of the funds from each program will be distributed in 2026 and the remaining half of the funds in 2027. Both programs focus on EMS care in rural areas.
- The Earn While You Learn Program is funded through June of 2029 to encourage entry into the field of EMS by hiring aspiring EMTs to earn wages and benefits while attending EMT training toward certification. The only requirement is that a minimum of 50% of the EMS Provider's staffing is comprised of EMTs or an EMT is on 50% of the Provider's responses. Health Partners in the metro received a grant of \$214,000. A new round of RFPs will start soon.
- East and West Metro Resource Communications Centers continue to be funded at current levels.
- Federal grant funding for EMSC (children's EMS) ended March 31, 2026; renewed funding has not been awarded yet.
- OEMS has been working on the OEMS annual report; a progress report on the Ambulance Operating Deficit Grants program; and Providers' updates on their use of awards from the 2024 Ambulance Aid package.
- Since 2022, OEMS has been looking for ways it can support EMS workforce recruitment and sustainability. Since 2022, there has been a 14% increase in credentialed EMTs and an

8% increase in credentialed paramedics in the state. In response to a question about credentialed providers and if those increases result in more providers in the field, Mr. Ferguson responded that in previous years, the numbers have tracked similarly when comparing the number of unique providers credentialed in the system to the number of unique providers appearing on patient care reports, so it has been a reasonable proxy measure. As to a request for regional level data on credentialed provider increases, that type of detailed data will be analyzed and ready in an upcoming report later this year.

- Note: EMS Week is May 17-May 23; awards will be presented by OEMS to EMS Providers in various categories; individual provider awards may also be added this year.

6. New Business

Discussion of Ambulance Service Personnel Subcommittee - Sam Erickson, HCAPE; EMS Council member

Sam Erickson requested that the Council renew its efforts to recruit members for the vacant Ambulance Personnel Subcommittee seats. Currently two of eight seats have been filled since the committee was re-initiated under the County Board's direction in Nov. 2025.

Sam and other EMS staff working in the field who are interested are invited to attend the next Executive Committee meeting on June 8 to engage in a more thorough discussion of the function and objectives of this committee, how it fits with other EMS Council committees' work, and if there are resources at each EMS Provider and at two hospital EDs in the county to have members who can fill the vacant seats. If not, the committee may look for alternative ways of including paramedics and EMTs more directly in topical discussions where they serve as technical experts and a process for introducing committee agenda items that relate specifically to concerns of providers in the field.

7. Old Business

None

8. Committee Reports

EMS Medical Directors Committee Report – Pete Tanghe, MD

- Now that the recommended cardiac arrest measures have been adopted by the EMS Council, the committee will look at CARES cardiac arrest data that the Quality Standards Committee collects and reports to determine how the EMS Medical Directors could support the Operations and Communications Committee in its public education project to promote bystander training on AEDs and CPR.
- Work has started to plan a regional discussion/education night that would focus on the topic of end-of life care, life-sustaining treatment, and managing DNR orders in the pre-hospital setting. The education event will be for all metro region EMS and hospital clinicians who have an interest in this topic or work with patients with end-of-life care plans.

Medical Care and Standards Committee Report

- The committee has not met since the last EMS Council meeting because it meets on an

as-needed basis.

Operations and Communications Committee Report – Tony Martin

- The hospital destination matrix was updated by metro EDs and is being circulated by West MRCC to EMS Providers to assist with disposition decisions for certain patient impressions.
- The committee completed a thorough review of the EMS Council Communications Policy; the attached flow chart section will be revised at the next meeting. The policy and flow chart will be brought to the EMS Council for approval at the Oct. 1, 2026 meeting. New updates include references to the metro adoption of Zipit notifications and patient information reports to West MRCC, medical control requests and required data for ePCRs, requests for a system medical director, and alignment of the policy with existing regional policies and procedures.
- This year's primary public education project will focus on the public's use of 9-1-1 for medical emergencies, how to prepare the environment for the most efficient EMS response on scene, and an assessment of available CPR/AED training compared to areas of high need based on CARES cardiac arrest data.
- Extensive work is underway to find funding to connect primary and secondary dispatch centers across Hennepin County with bidirectional CAD-to-CAD technology. This is expected to significantly increase efficiency for calls that are transferred from primary to secondary dispatch centers. It's estimated that this system could decrease phone call/radio delay times during these transfers from one to 1.5 minutes per call. Although the initial Safer Streets grant application was denied, it's being resubmitted, along with additional requests for state and federal funds.

Quality Standards Committee Report – Reported by Michael Morelock

- The committee continues to collect and analyze stroke and trauma scene time data. After the 2024-25 report was submitted to the County Board on these performance measures, the committee decided to add an analysis of raw data without any exclusion criteria for these measures beginning in Q2-2026.
- Data from each EMS Provider will be sent to Staff to aggregate and report. Reports will include aggregated data on the mean, median, percentage of responses that meet related OEMS performance metrics. Raw data and data to within 2 standard deviations will be run separately to determine how many outliers exist in the data; unusual cases may be reviewed more closely for improvement opportunities.
- There is still discussion of using MNSTAR data for these metrics, however, first steps for this committee would be to ensure that Providers' data follows NEMSIS data definitions so all data would be consistent across Providers. For now, this project is tabled due to the resources needed and current Provider capacity to contribute to the project.

- Cardiac arrest metrics were approved by the Council last fall, so the committee will begin to review CARES data for this new performance measure. The measures have not gone to the County Board for approval, but the committee will get started on this as a pilot project until it's on the Board agenda.

Ambulance Service Personnel Subcommittee – No report, the committee does not have membership to attain a quorum

Executive Committee Report – Susan Long, Chair

- The committee will continue the discussion of the Ambulance Service Personnel Subcommittee at its next meeting. Sam Erickson (HCAPE and EMS Council member) has been invited to the meeting as a technical expert on this topic. Other interested parties are welcome to attend and discuss. Please let Staff know if you'd like to be added to the meeting invitation.

9. **Staff Report** – Kristin Mellstrom

- **New member orientation will be online on April 23, 2026** at 9:30-10:00 am. A meeting invitation will be sent to all EMS Council members and interested parties. Members of the public are always welcome.
- **Ordinance 9 and Hennepin County Board of Commissioners' resolution** on 3/17/2026
On March 27, 2026, the Board adopted a resolution to continue the suspended staffing section (VII, subsection 1) of Ordinance 9 until no later than Dec. 31, 2027. In the interim, all 911 licensed EMS Providers in Hennepin County will continue to be regulated by Minn. Statute Chapter §144E.101.

The resolution also called for a study to be undertaken of Hennepin EMS (Hennepin County's ambulance service) governance and future sustainability. Details about the study will be provided when available.

- 10. **EMS Council Member Reports** -none
- 11. **EMS Partner Agency Reports** - none
- 12. **Interested Parties Reports** - none
- 13. **Action: Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

- Next EMS Council meeting: Thursday October 1, 2026; 3:00-4:00 p.m. (online; an in-person option may be added)
- EMS Council new member orientation session: April 23, 2026 at 9:30-10:00 am (online)

2026 Meeting Calendar

- a. **EMS Council** 3:00-4:30pm on 1st Thursday of April and Oct.
- b. **Executive Committee** 1:00-2:00pm on 2nd Monday of March-June-Sept.- Dec.

- c. **Quality Committee** 1:30-3:00 on 1st Tuesday of Feb.-May-Aug.-Nov.
- d. **Operations Committee** 9:30-10:30am on 2nd Tuesday of Jan.-April-July-Oct.
- e. **EMS Medical Directors** 9:30-10:30am on 4th Friday of each month
- f. **Medical Standards Committee before the EMS Medical Directors mtg** in March-June-Sept.-Dec.-tentative; the committee convenes when needed
- g. **Ambulance Service Personnel Subcommittee of the EMS Medical Directors Committee** – this committee will schedule meetings when it has a membership level to attain a quorum

2026 EMS Council Projects

1) Ordinance 9 (EMS Council; Staff)

- a) ~~Identify data needed by the Hennepin County Board to make final decision on Ordinance 9 by March 31, 2026 or a date to be determined by the County Board. Completed~~
- b) ~~Present final version approved by County Board of Commissioners to the Office of EMS for approval in 2026. Date to be determined by the Office of EMS. Redirected by County Board resolution to 2026 or 2027.~~

2) EMS Council Bylaws (Exec Committee; EMS Council; Staff)

- a) ~~Recommend revisions to Bylaws regarding EMS Council committees and/or membership seats to the EMS Council for approval (Exec Committee) by March 9, 2026, if changes are needed. No revisions needed at this time.~~
- b) ~~Move recommended revisions to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners (EMS Council Chair, Staff) after approval by the EMS Council. No revisions needed at this time.~~

3) Membership on Committees of the EMS Council (Executive Committee, EMS Council; Staff)

- a) Nominate candidates for vacant seats as needed.
- b) Continue to recruit paramedics and EMTs and emergency physicians for Ambulance Service Personnel Subcommittee.

4) MNStar Data Access (Quality Committee; Staff; County Attorney's Office)

- a) ~~Work with the Office of EMS to create reporting tools so quarterly performance data is available for committee work and reports. Tabled by the Quality Committee as of February, 2026.~~

5) Performance Standards (Quality Committee; HCPH; Staff)

- a) Collect and evaluate quarterly stroke and trauma performance measures data.
- b) Create performance data reporting tool to publish data on website and to community partners.
- c) ~~Provide stroke and trauma care performance report to Hennepin County Board of Commissioners annually. Submitted to the County Board of Commissioners in Jan. 2026.~~
- d) Begin evaluation of EMS out of hospital cardiac arrest performance measure data from CARES; provide OHCA performance report to Hennepin County Board of Commissioners as directed.

6) Data Sharing Project EMS and Hospitals (Quality Standards Committee; EMS Council; Staff)

- a) Support Office of EMS Hospital Hub project to increase data access between EMS and EDs in metro for patient follow up and EMS QA/QI projects. Encourage hospital participation in data sharing on Hospital Hub.

7) Hospital Closure/Ambulance Diversion Policy Changes (Medical Standards Committee)

- a) Review use of the policy in past two years to determine if it is being utilized as intended by each EMS Provider. Report at the end of 2026.

8) Review Patient Disposition Algorithm for Non-MCIs (EMS Medical Directors Committee; West MRCC; Staff)

- a) Review patient disposition data; continue discussion of creating a patient load leveling guideline both in regular and in large scale incidents.

9) Hospital Destination Matrix (Operations and Communications Committee; Staff)

- a) ~~Identify best method to continuously update and distribute current information to EMS.~~ Matrix updated and sent to EMS and hospitals by West MRCC in April 2026. West MRCC will manage this document.

10) EMS Council Medical Control Hospital Policy (Operations and Communications Committee; Staff)

- a) Send survey to hospitals to assess medical control system use of physician names vs. med control #s and the accuracy of the names entered in the ePCR.

11) Monthly Medical Control Radio Checks (West MRCC; Operations and Communications Committee; Staff)

- a) ~~Continue implementation of new monthly medical control hospital radio checks procedure with West MRCC.~~ Dan K. (West MRCC) has completed all monthly radio checks to date.
- b) ~~Develop Medical Control Radio Checks Log by Oct. 2025.~~
- c) ~~Follow up to ensure all medical control hospitals have functional radios and staff are trained to use radio to provide medical control consultation to EMS 24-7.~~ Dan K. (West MRCC) has provided assessments and training as needed.
- d) Assess the value of continuing radio checks, gaps in training that need to be remediated at any medical control hospitals after one year of radio checks, or at the end of each calendar year.

12) EMS Council Communications Policy (Operations and Comms Committee; Staff)

- a) ~~Revise policy to align with current patient reports and communications tools (Zipit, patient data at hand off) by end of Q1 2026.~~ Policy ready, flow chart needs revision. Will be presented at Oct. 1, 2026 EMS Council meeting.

13) Support use of Communication Tools and Data Sharing Platforms (EMS Council; Operations and Comms Committee)

- a) Assist with connecting, training, and utilizing existing tools for data sharing (e.g. Zipit, Beacon Mutual, Beacon ED; CAD to CAD). Dan K. (West MRCC) supports training and implementation across metro EMS, hospitals, dispatch, and MRCCs.

14) Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) Care Project (EMS Medical Directors Committee)

- a) Research best practices for OHCA care.
- b) Meet with regional partners to discuss different approaches to OHCA care.
- c) Document which technologies are used by metro First Responder agencies and types of care available at metro hospitals.
- d) Assess bystander CPR and AED use rates, public messages and training, audiences, explore potential partnership with Hennepin County Public Health.

15) Update Emerging/High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID) Plan (EMS Medical Directors; HCPH Epi; Staff)

- a) Develop travel-related infectious disease screening tools for PSAPs to be ready when needed.
- b) Review guidance and training for First Responder PPE for HCID.

- c) Develop a plan with HCPH Epi and/or MN Dept. of Health to identify patients who are in isolation or quarantine and notify First Responders and EMS before they arrive on scene.
- d) Review ED-EMS plans for ambulances transporting and transferring patients with suspected or confirmed HCID.
- e) Review process for EMS and First Responder HCID post-exposure notifications from EDs after patient transfers.

16) Public Education (Operations and Comms Committee; Staff)

- a) Hands only CPR trainings to community members.
- b) Internal PSAPs communication about transferring (internal education) calls and ensuring pre-arrival instructions are relayed to the caller.

17) EMS Council Updates for Community (Executive Committee, Staff)

- a) Choose metrics, stories, format and audience(s) for updates about EMS work in Hennepin County

18) Legislative topics (Executive Committee; EMS Medical Directors Committee; Medical Standards Committee; Staff)

- a) Review legislative actions to align EMS Council policies with legislative mandates.

19) EMS Website, Meeting Communications (Staff)

- a) Ensure Open Meeting Law requirements are followed.
- b) Update website to provide current information for members and the public.

20) Community Connection/Outreach (Staff)

- a) Coordinate with Minneapolis community interest group to identify opportunities for partnership to support increased resources for patient call processing and efficient use of ALS and BLS (triaged) responses, reduce siren noise when possible.
- b) When to call 9-1-1, other urgent care options, how to prepare for first responders' arrival

21) Protocols (EMS Medical Directors Committee)

- a) Share west metro region EMS Providers' protocols as requested.

22) Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders – Care/Treatment Needs Assessment (TBD; Staff) – Tabled

- a) Work with Hennepin County COPE staff to increase coordination and co-responses
- b) Review Hennepin County and regional resources for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders inpatient and outpatient treatment at discharge from ER
- c) Needs assessment/data collection from EMS Council System hospitals to identify patients' treatment needs
- d) Identify and partner with organizations that support efforts to improve efficient transition of patients to appropriate care in the community after initial assessment and stabilization

Updated with progress notes on 4-2-2026