

## Solutions to the Emergency Medical Services Crisis

**Our municipalities wrestle with a decline or outright lack of emergency services in many communities. Counties and the commonwealth are uniquely positioned to work together with our municipal partners to develop and implement EMS policy solutions that include securing sustainable resources and supporting systemic capacity building to meet the needs of our citizens.**

Emergency medical services (EMS) in Pennsylvania are in crisis, affirmed by findings of multiple studies and most prominently in the 2004 SR 60 report, and reaffirmed in the report of the legislature's SR 6 Commission, released in 2018. CCAP membership expressed a need to explore whether counties could help address the issues raised in these reports, including the lack of emergency services in many Pennsylvania communities. The mission for the CCAP EMS Task Force was to review the causes and issues and to make findings and commensurate recommendations, all in context of determining whether counties are positioned to play any role in assuring reliable provision of this vital public service.

The EMS Task Force developed a set of recommendations for each topic area, identified the related policy considerations, and noted opportunities for counties to contribute to the solution. Potential areas for county involvement and assistance include: retention and recruitment, reimbursement rates, funding, coverage, service models, risk reduction, EMS Act and regulations, technology support and training requirements.

The EMS Task Force will be continuing its work through 2020 with a focus on developing and implementing policy related to the recommendations presented in its November 2019 report. In particular, the Task Force will work to develop a toolbox that can assist each county in bringing together local stakeholders to review coverage needs, potentially including surveys, planning ideas, educational tools and data sources. Legislatively, the Task Force, working with CCAP's County Governance Committee, will seek to be an active partner with state policy makers in seeking policy and funding solutions to assist with this crisis in the coming year.

The full EMS Task Force report can be found at [www.pacounties.org](http://www.pacounties.org) by clicking Resources and Reports under the Government Relations tab.



### COUNTIES SUPPORT:

- Statutory authorization for county or multi-municipal authorities that would be capable of county-wide or regional EMS service delivery, including paid staffing, optimization of service deployment and service areas, and dedicated funding sources.
- Collaboration among state and federal agencies, the legislature and stakeholders to provide technology tools to municipalities, counties and EMS providers that enable them to better assess current strengths and vulnerabilities, improve dispatch efficiencies, and plan for current and future needs.
- Addressing system funding needs that support the variety of service models in operation in the commonwealth and provide sufficient resources to address community needs.

For more information on **solutions to the emergency medical services crisis**, contact **Ashley Lenker White** at (717) 736-4755 or [awhite@pacounties.org](mailto:awhite@pacounties.org).



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