

CONNECT EMS Resolutions

CONNECT Second Congress, 2010:

10-10 Whereas Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is an essential service provided in all 36 CONNECT communities; and whereas there are 17 EMS providers operating in CONNECT; and whereas 67% of CONNECT municipalities representing 86.7% of the population of CONNECT have in the past or are currently providing in-kind support to their EMS providers; and whereas the City Controller has issued the report "Critical Condition: The EMS Crisis in Pittsburgh and its Neighboring Communities" identifying:

- The short-term and long-term financial crisis for EMS providers in Pittsburgh and its neighboring communities
- The widely divergent levels of staffing, training and service provided by EMS providers in the 36 CONNECT communities
- The need for new partnerships between EMS providers, the municipalities, Allegheny County and our non-profit community to solve this crisis; and

Whereas all of the CONNECT EMS providers are in agreement that additional dedicated revenues are needed in order to sustain their organizations and that rigorous minimum standards supported by proper training, education and staffing levels would help to improve service. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT:**

- Accepts the report of the City Controller identifying the urgency of finding additional revenues and the need to establish minimum standards for EMS providers;
- Will charge the Executive Committee with initiating discussions with the EMS Council of Allegheny County;
- Will charge the Executive Committee with initiating discussions with the nonprofit community and Allegheny County;
- Will work with the EMS providers, the municipalities, Allegheny County and the non-profit community, will identify adequate revenues and minimum standards for EMS providers.

CONNECT Third Congress, 2011

11-08 Whereas Resolution 10-10 empowered the executive committee to work with the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers in CONNECT, the municipalities, Allegheny County and the non-profit community, to identify adequate revenues and minimum standards for EMS providers in CONNECT; and whereas CONNECT established an EMS policy working group that is co-chaired by City Controller Lamb and Ross Commissioner DeMarco who have initiated discussions with the nonprofit community and Allegheny County; and whereas the City Controller has issued a one year report card updating the report "Critical Condition: The EMS Crisis in Pittsburgh and its Neighboring Communities" identifying the growing financial crisis that is facing EMS providers serving CONNECT municipalities. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT:**

- Recognize the financial burden these providers face and will continue to provide financial and in-kind support to their EMS providers.
- Authorizes Controller Lamb and Commissioner DeMarco to negotiate with the potential funders on behalf of CONNECT to establish the funding pool for EMS providers operating in CONNECT.

11-09 Whereas Pennsylvania House Bill 160 (HB160) is an Act requiring insurers that approve claims for emergency services to directly reimburse organizations that provide such services; and whereas HB160 was referred to the Committee on Insurance on January 30, 2009 where it remains as of June 17, 2011; and whereas CONNECT has been working with EMS providers to identify adequate revenues for EMS providers in CONNECT; and whereas the passage of this bill would provide reimbursement fees directly to the EMS provider rather than the insured party thereby eliminating the possibility that the EMS provider will not receive the full reimbursement fee. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT endorses this legislation and requests that members of the Pennsylvania House Insurance Committee vote to send the bill to the House of Representatives for consideration.**

CONNECT Fourth Congress, 2012:

12-14 Endorses and supports the project entitled CONNECT Advanced Paramedic Program that will develop and test a shared “advance practice paramedic” service that would provide alternative care and transport to high-risk residents of CONNECT communities and develop a technical resource center to facilitate further consolidation of EMS agency operations; will continue to work to resolve the financial burden CONNECT EMS providers face and will continue to provide financial and in-kind support to their EMS providers.

CONNECT Fifth Congress, 2013:

13-13 Member communities are encouraged to pursue new, more efficient models of emergency medical service administration, oversight and funding that maintain our region’s high quality of care.

CONNECT Sixth Congress, 2015:

15-17 Endorses the process ACEMS is engaging in and will analyze the findings of the study and assist the EMS providers in implementing recommendations that will improve the quality of EMS provision of care in the CONNECT communities.

CONNECT Seventh Congress, 2016:

16-8 Endorses Allegheny County Health Department’s Live Well Allegheny initiative; encourages its member municipalities to become “Live Well Allegheny Communities” by indicating their intent to work with Allegheny County to accomplish the goals of the campaign and identifying action steps that they commit to taking to promote health in their municipality. CONNECT will compile a report to present at the 2017 Congress demonstrating participation and impact.

16-9 Endorse the results of the Agency Survey; recommits to working collaboratively with the ACEMS and other partners including UPMC's Center for Emergency Medicine to develop a strategy to address this funding crisis.; encourages its EMS agencies to consider utilizing the funding available through CONNECT to determine if consolidation would be beneficial for the long-term agency sustainability.

CONNECT Eighth Congress, 2017:

Resolution 17-09 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will continue to serve as an organizational partner with the CONNECT Community Paramedic Program and will identify new funding streams that will enable CCP to continue to operate and to expand to serve more patients throughout and potentially beyond Allegheny County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses the current centralized CCP model for Allegheny County, and discourages the creation of multiple regional community paramedic programs, as a centralized model will be able to provide more consistent, high quality service to patients throughout the County in cooperation with regional EMS agencies.