

## **Greetings ICMESA Stakeholders,**

On August 4, 2025, the ICMESA held its regular meeting. Quorum was established with only one member absent.

We were glad to welcome White Township Supervisor Sandi Gillette and Homer City Councilman Rob Walbech – two leaders on Citizens' Board. Their continued participation is both encouraged and appreciated. ICMESA meetings are open to the public, and we are grateful for every opportunity to engage in open dialogue as we work toward shared solutions.

## **Key Takeaways from 911 Executive Director Thomas Stutzman's Presentation**

- 1 Shrinking Local Coverage** - Once-robust EMS coverage across the county has eroded, with most providers now operating only 1–2 ambulances.
- 2 Unsustainable Burden** - Citizens' Ambulance is shouldering cross-county EMS coverage.
- 3 Lack of Real-Time Visibility** - 911 has no reliable system to track ambulance location, or QRS / IRP availability, delaying or complicating emergency response.
- 4 Public Safety at Risk** - Gaps in coverage and unclear readiness across the system pose a direct threat to timely, equitable care.
- 5 Fragmented Coordination** - EMS, fire, and dispatch are operating in silos, resulting in inefficiencies and missed opportunities for shared responses to major problems.
- 6 Resource and Workforce Barriers** - Equipment costs, staffing shortages, and recruitment struggles are hampering EMS sustainability.
- 7 Need for Contracted, Accountable Solutions** - Formal agreements are essential to ensure service reliability, performance expectations, and financial viability.

## **ICMESA Looking Forward**

This week's meeting underscored 3 things for me: EMS is a public safety function in distress; these challenges are shared system wide; & ICMESA is navigating successfully towards sustainable EMS solutions for Indiana County.

This month we will be seeking out facetime with our municipal leaders, community members and EMS providers. We want to stress through these relationships that more we are looking to the future while understanding the problems of the present, the more likely we are to succeed.

