

Indiana County Municipal Emergency Services Authority

6PM at the Indiana County Emergency Management Agency (EMA)

Monday, September 8, 2025

Members in attendance: Augie Santini, Danny Sacco, John Kravetsky, Sandi Waldenville, Jeff Gromley, Terry Pierce, Jonathan Smith, Nick Brilhart

Members absent: Commissioner R. Mike Keith

Guests in attendance: Sandi Gillette, Rob Walbeck, Chris Anderson, Sherene Hess, Dr. Shannon, Jackie Bartolini, Ryan's Iphone

Consultant Representatives in attendance:

The Meeting was called to order by Jonathan Smith at 6:00 PM.

A Motion to appoint approve agenda was made by Danny Sacco and seconded by Augie Santini. **Motion** was unanimous. **Motion** carried.

A Motion to approve the August 4, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Danny Sacco and seconded by Terry Pierce. **Motion** was unanimous. **Motion** carried.

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Presentation & Discussion

Jonathan Smith informed the board that a decision needs to be made regarding the proposed fee that the authority will be charging. September 2025 was the original date to get this information to the residents of the participating municipalities.

Danny Sacco informed the board members that he had received information from IRMC and IUP requesting to give a presentation about the Authority. He also explained that Jim Sadler from the original steering committee that has ties to the Indiana County Career and Technology Center about programs at the facility. Punxsutawney High School has programs for EMT's in their school district. Mr. Sadler was to speak to the staff there to get information on their EMT program. Danny Sacco reminded the board that IUP was at the provider meeting, and they showed interest in the Authority mission.

Unfinished Business

Kim Houser, Attorney, was present to give a presentation to the board. Mr. Houser explained that he began his career in the Emergency Medical Service at the age of 15. He explained that his parents drove the ambulance, and he assisted them from that young age. He has a long history of involvement in Emergency Services. He is currently the Assistant Fire Chief in the city of Greensburg. He explained that he has been a solicitor from many municipalities and has ties to the Indiana Fire Academy and Mutual Aid Ambulance Service. Mr. Houser stated that he understands the mission of ICMESA and understands why it is important to solve a public safety issue. He stated that he is excited about the authority and is ready to help solve those challenges.

John Kravetsky questioned Mr. Houser if he sees any conflict of interest with Mutual Aid Ambulance? Houser explained that he had thought about it and didn't see any conflicts. He explained that he is not there on a day-to-day basis, he just does consulting for them. Danny Sacco questioned Mr. Houser if he represented any other ambulance providers, he explained that he is working with Patton Ambulance Company. Sacco also questioned if Houser represents any other

Authorities, Houser explained that he does represent a few municipal authorities. He then expressed his excitement about the process of ICMESA especially that it is being formed on this side of the state. He stated that Western Pennsylvania is losing population, kids are moving and not spending the old money here in Pennsylvania. He stated that EMS involvement in the Fire Service is beneficial, but also where are these people coming from? Police and Fire personnel are trained to use AED and administer Narcan, this saves lives until EMS arrives. He spoke on how important it is to celebrate wins to keep people interested. Empower the people to make a difference!

New Business

A Motion was made to proceed with contracting Attorney Kim Houser as ICMESA's Solicitor was made by Danny Sacco and seconded by Augie Santini. A Roll Call Vote 8-0. **Motion** was unanimous. **Motion** carried.

Dr. Shannon, the Chief Medical Director from Indiana Regional Medical Center was present to speak to the ICMESA board. Danny Sacco gave a brief history of Dr. Shannon background and ties to Indiana County. Dr. Shannon explained that his first job was with Life Stat Ambulance with John Kravetsky as his boss. He explained that he is 100 % behind the mission of ICMESA. Dr. Shannon gave a brief presentation on the responsibilities of the Medical Director regarding Ambulance Service. He explained that the Medical Director oversees the EMS providers, recommends training and working with the hospital staff before the patient arrives at the facility. He explained that he believes that the Paramedics in Indiana County are as good as they are anywhere, we need to start letting them function at the highest level under their Medical Director. He explained that Paramedics in the rural areas need higher training due to the distance to the nearest hospital facility. He said that more training for EMS personnel is needed in Indiana County. People of the county deserve better service! Dr. Shannon explained that he started free Paramedic Training in August of 2025 here in Indiana County. He did this in the city of Johnstown back in 2006 & 2007. This helped create a relationship between the Emergency Room and the EMS Service providers. Once people get to know each other, they realize that they need to work together. John Kravetsky questioned Dr. Shannon about how different Medical Directors were, he had questions regarding who can get into who ambulance. Kravetsky has been in situations where a BLS ambulance was sent to a call when an ALS ambulance was required. Kravetsky explained that the ambulance contained the ALS equipment but even with the required ALS personnel on the scene that the ambulance did not have the required equipment. Dr. Shannon explained that the State Regulates ambulance supplies, for example, IV's, Airways and Monitors. This is a problem all over the United States due to the training level of EMS personnel. Dr. Shannon also explained that billing may be an issue for ICMESA, but he does believe that it will work! Jon Kravetsky asked Dr. Shannon what the board should be looking for as far as Performance Standards. Dr Shannon explained that continuing education is important, years of experience, how many places someone has worked, and familiarity with certain skills, quality performance, stability and transportation, and times longer than 20 minutes on scene. Danny Sacco explains that this will help find service providers. He believes that EMS personnel want to provide more advanced services. Sandi Waldenville questioned why the service providers aren't already doing this, why is this the board's responsibility? Dr. Shannon explained that every agency is set up differently, every provider needs a doctor for approval of state's licensing. Dr. Shannon also explained that Medical Direction would be more of an administration rule. He/She would speak with service providers Medical Directors. Sandi expressed concern about how much burden ICMESA would be taking on. Dr. Shannon explained that he would have no problem being a liaison for ICMESA. Attorney Kim Houser stated it all comes down to risk management. Be careful, do it right, love the value added to the rural areas. Dr. Shannon believes a lot of good can happen with ICMESA! John Kravetsky added that ICMESA can be added to each service provider's Insurance Policy. Dr Shannon expressed that he would do anything to help out the people of Indiana County!

Executive Session

Chairman Jonathan Smith called an executive session to speak about legal matters. The regular meeting was called back to order at 9:22 pm. No other business was discussed.

The next scheduled meeting will be the workshop meeting held on September 22, 2025, and the business meeting will be held on October 6, 2025. Both meetings will begin at 6:00 pm.

A Motion to adjourn was made at 9:26 pm by Terry Pierce and seconded by Danny Sacco. Motion was unanimous. Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jeff Gromley
Secretary