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**Contact:** Chris Dietz, 717-319-1749, ccd277@gmail.com

**Municipalities in Northern Dauphin County to Hold Hearing and Joint Meetings June 16 as Next Step to Form Emergency Services Authority**

**Halifax, PA (May 22, 2026)** – Municipalities in northern Dauphin County will hold a hearing and joint special meetings at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 16 at Upper Dauphin Area Middle School at 5668 State Route 209 in Lykens as a next step toward forming a proposed regional municipal emergency services authority, a cooperative effort to build a better EMS system for residents, businesses and visitors.

A steering committee of Upper Dauphin Council of Government members began studying the EMS system in the region in 2024 and developed a framework for the proposed countywide municipal emergency services authority earlier this year.

The hearing and joint special meetings on June 16 will begin with a presentation about the state of EMS in the region and the proposed authority, followed by a public comment period. Each municipality's elected officials will then deliberate and vote on an ordinance to delegate the administration of emergency medical services to the proposed authority on a mutually agreeable date.

The aim of the proposed authority is to ensure that residents, businesses and visitors in northern Dauphin County have access to high-quality emergency services on a sustainable basis.

"EMS agencies serving northern Dauphin County are experiencing significant challenges including increasing call volumes, increasing costs to operate, declining voluntary subscriptions, and insurance reimbursements that are inadequate to cover the cost of service," said Christopher Dietz, Project Manager of the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments EMS Stakeholder Committee. "Additionally, the traditional volunteer EMS staffing model is no longer viable. In short, our local emergency services system is at serious risk, which endangers lives."

Ninety percent of EMS providers in the region report that financial stability is needed to continue to maintain services, according to a survey of EMS providers and municipal leaders commissioned by the Upper Dauphin Council of Governments in 2024. Eighty percent of EMS providers in the region report that a model emphasizing professional instead of volunteer staffing is needed to maintain services.

"Unless our region addresses this issue together, local EMS may not be available when you need it or you may experience a long life-threatening response time from an out-of-area EMS service," Dietz said.

The regional emergency services authority would be a municipal-led public entity that provides management, oversight and funding for the regional EMS system. As a municipal government organization, the authority's board meetings would be public meetings, providing transparency for planning, financial management and decision-making.

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## **About Upper Dauphin Council of Governments**

The [Upper Dauphin Council of Governments](#) (UDCOG) is a regional organization comprised of participating local governments in northern Dauphin County. UDCOG's mission is to provide a forum for regional cooperation and preparing for and handling issues of municipalities in Upper Dauphin County. UDCOG typically meets on the third Thursday evening of January, April, July, and November at various local government offices in northern Dauphin County. Municipalities that participate in the UDCOG include: The boroughs of Berrysburg, Elizabethville, Gratz, Halifax, Lykens, Millersburg, Pillow and Williamstown; and the townships of Halifax, Jackson, Jefferson, Lykens, Mifflin, Reed, Rush, Upper Paxton, Washington, Wayne, Wiconisco and Williams.