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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
152 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK  
COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY  
DIRECTOR

### **Examination Committee**

Tuesday, 19 Jan 2021

**0930-1130**

**Online via ZOOM**

### **Minutes**

**Members Present:** Sally Taylor, David Mejia, Joanne Lebrun, Rick Petrie, Cheri Volta, Kelly Roderick, Amy Drinkwater, Ben Zetterman, Jeremy Damren

**Members Absent:**

**Staff:** Chris Azevedo, Melissa Adams, Marc Minkler

**Stakeholders:** AJ Gagnon, L'Easa Blaylock, Debbie Morgan,

*“The mission of Maine EMS is to promote and provide for a comprehensive and effective Emergency Medical Services system to ensure optimum patient care with standards for all providers. All members of this board/committee should strive to promote the core values of excellence, support, collaboration, and integrity. In serving on this Board/Committee, we commit to serve the respective providers, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent.”*

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. Introductions and roll call.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of October 2020 minutes. There were no meetings in November 2020 or December 2020. Motion made to accept minutes by Kelly Roderick and seconded by Rick Petrie. Discussion. Motion passed.

#### **III. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

- i. None

#### **IV. State Update**

- a. Education Coordinator
  - i. Brief regarding office workloads during the pandemic
    1. Push for vaccination training has made shifting some work priorities necessary. Unfortunately, committee work has had to take a lower priority. I am at a point where I can push to catch up on it and move forward with item progress. Please know that the office workload is over and above what the system supports (as, I have no doubt is that of the Regions and all else at this time). Please know that while progress has necessarily slowed down on

some items, it is still progressing. I thank all for their patience, dedication and hard work.

ii. EMS Board decisions

1. The following proposals to the EMS Board by the EMS Education Committee were approved at the October 2020 meeting of the Board:
  - a. David Mejia to fill vacant Member at Large position
  - b. Extended use of COVID modified PSE materials to 30 Jun 2021

iii. PSE forms

1. Skills sheets have been revised with new date range, sent to PSE Admins and TC Directors in email, and updated on the Maine EMS website.

iv. NREMT

1. Quarterly webinars
  - a. Planning to hold these for Program Directors and agencies beginning sometime in 2021. No schedule out yet.
2. Provisional certifications
  - a. Will continue to issue until 30 Jun 2021 as a result of feedback. Does not affect Maine EMS at this time. However, licensing continues to get phone calls from students regarding these for licensure, and the occasional application for licensure as well.
3. NREMT Link to an email regarding PSEs with some information that may be helpful: <https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=f983eec4e3f2ea8e5bf9f7d95&id=c102198c05>

v. COVID Concerns

1. Discussion of how PSEs are going at this time with the group regarding the following topics:
  - a. Wants/needs
  - b. PSE Admin concerns
  - c. Other concerns
2. Continued conduction of PSEs
  - a. Outbreaks are beginning to become not so unheard of.
  - b. Ask that PSE Admins and TC staff/faculty be vigilant.
  - c. Not aware of any PSE related outbreaks or exposures.

a. EMS-C

i. Marc Minkler

1. Rules updates submitted to secretary of state
2. RFP put out through EMS-C for education. No bidders on that. Will likely lose about \$17K from that.

- b. Joanne Lebrun asks, should we be looking at new rules updates with regard to exam to ensure nothing applicable? Sally agrees we should and bring it back as an agenda item in February. Marc will check with Jason Oko regarding status, etc.
- c. Melissa
  - i. Addresses re-entry of clinicians. Demand for re-entry re-licensing and need to put this down in writing as a policy.
  - ii. Did reach out to NH and Massachusetts for their policies.
  - iii. Massachusetts has it all written out.
  - iv. Would like to get this written down and put this to Exam Committee.
  - v. Sally Taylor suggests making this an agenda item for future meeting.
  - vi. Joanne Lebrun highlights possibility of need for change as EMS is one of few healthcare professions requiring redoing of initial program after license expiration.

## V. Old Business

- a. Training PSE Administrators
  - i. Would like to re-engage in active pursuit of hiring and training more PSE Admins
    - 1. Joanne Lebrun had suggested a defined group to review applicant LOI and credentials
    - 2. Training process
      - a. Review of existing materials and OJT with Admins
    - 3. I will have an outline for a process (training, evaluation, credentials, process of PSE Admin candidate review) for next month)
  - ii. David Mejia, Ben Zetterman and Amy Drinkwater express interest in being a PSEA
  - iii. Sally Taylor asks any interested party to send letter of interest (LOI) emails to Maine EMS office.
  - iv. Joanne Lebrun expresses desire to work with office on this.
    - 1. Sally adds her interest as well.
  - v. Marc Minkler offers caution that this should be advertised to the public. Make sure we know proper process and check with Joe Kellner and Sam for paid positions such as this.
- b. Psychomotor Skills Portfolios (PSP) for Spinal Immobilization and other skills
  - i. These need to be sent to Maine EMS
  - ii. Dave Mejia volunteers to reach out to his contacts in Florida regarding what that state does for licensure examination process and skills verification.
- c. PSEs and alternatives for verifying candidate performance for state EMS licensure.
  - i. Four states currently don't use NREMT for initial EMT licensure
    - 1. MT, NC, NY, and Alaska

2. Illinois is transitioning to NREMT 2019-2020
- ii. Some states contract out exam testing, others do it in a manner similar to Maine, others have a state cadre with trained, credentialed evaluators.
- iii. Engaging New England State EMS Education group for discussion of their policies, procedures and evaluations of their processes.
- iv. Chris Azevedo recommends that the Exam proceed with pursuit of skills portfolios as part of licensure process, in collaboration with the Education Committee
  1. Need a group to look at setting state standard for skills
  2. Eric Wellman has a good package put together of skills that can be taught.

## VI. New Business

- a. Joanne Lebrun
  - i. PSE scenarios need to be updated.
  - ii. Instructions to evaluator emphasize communication of scenario to candidate.
  - iii. Scenarios are bare boned and don't answer the questions that a candidate might have. There is a need something more comprehensive.
  - iv. I think it will be a while before we move off station level PSEs but we could do better with a scenario or two. Suggest we could enhance the scenario formats.
  - v. Sally Taylor suggests committee members who are interested in working on scenarios should get in touch with Chris Azevedo, and he could assign two to each member and put on February agenda. This should be made a high priority.
  - vi. Joanne Lebrun adds that the Committee shouldn't be creating new scenarios but put current scenarios into a template and embellishments them.
    1. Cannot compromise student exam. Do not circulate these.
    2. This must be restricted to Committee members and MEMS staff.
    3. Joanne Lebrun suggests one scenario per person.
    4. Dave Mejia, AJ Gagnon, and Cheri Volta each volunteer to take one scenario each.
- b. AJ Gagnon
  - i. Would it be valuable to do a literature review to see what most effective way to evaluate students? Discussion
  - ii. Joanne Lebrun suggests herself and Eric Wellman can work with AJ Gagnon on literature review. Sally Taylor volunteers to read this as well.

**VII. Next Meeting: 0930 Tuesday, 16 Feb 2021**

**VIII. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Ben Zetterman and seconded by Cheri Volta. No Discussion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1051 hrs.

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**EMS Education Coordinator Items**

- A. Items for carryover to next month's agenda**
  - a. Old Business**
    - i. PSE Scenario re-formatting**
    - ii. PSE – discussion with NC state office group**
    - iii. New PSE Administrators**
    - iv. PSE skills sheets for EMR are in the process of being updated with COVID modifications.**
    - v. Process for EMS clinician re-entry, lateral entry, and reciprocity**
  - b. New Business**
    - i. Examination of Jan 2021 Rules updates for changes affecting Licensure Exams.**
- B. Action items for EMS Education Coordinator**
  - a. Check for Rules changes that affect Exams**
  - b. PSE Admin Process**
    - i. Email to David M, Ben Z and Amy D requesting LOI for PSE Administrators**
    - ii. Research hiring process for this**
      - 1. Public notice**
    - iii. Joanne and Sally for group examining criteria for selection**
  - c. I CAN SEND ERIC'S WORK TO THE COMMITTEE FOR SUGGESTED ITEMS for PSPs**
  - d.**

**Summary for report to the EMS Board**