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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
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MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK  
COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY  
DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 2019  
9:30 AM  
DE CHAMPLAIN CONFERENCE ROOM  
MINUTES (FINAL)

Members Present: Joe Kellner (Chair), Brent Libby (Chair-elect), Tim Beals, Joe Conley, Laura Downing, Amy Drinkwater, Judy Gerrish, Rich Kindelan (phone), John Martel, MD, Dennis Russell, Steve Smith, Nate Allen, Scott Susi, Matt Sholl, MD (ex-officio)

Staff: Commissioner Sauschuck, Janet Joyeux, Chris Azevedo, Jay Bradshaw, Sam Hurley, Marc Minkler

Office of the Attorney General: Katie Johnson, AAG

Stakeholders: Ben Zetterman, Joanne Lebrun, Craig Shane

- 1) Introductions – Those present, including new EMS Director Sam Hurley introduced themselves and were welcomed by the Chair.
- 2) Disclosure of any conflicts of interest – None
- 3) Public comments – Chief Craig Shane, Dedham Fire Dept., expressed concern regarding the length of time it takes to process an application if the applicant indicates they have a past criminal conviction. He gave the example of a new firefighter who was hired earlier this year with the provision that he complete EMT training and become licensed before September 1. The applicant completed the training and submitted his application in August, but because of a conviction that was more than 10 years old and the meeting schedule of the Investigations Committee, that application has not been processed. Chief Shane requested that the Board consider implementing a mechanism for the EMS Licensing Agents to take action in a timelier manner.

4) Minutes -

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the October 2, 2019, meeting as amended. (Beals; second by Russell) Unanimous**

- 5) Investigations Committee – There is nothing to report. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2019.
- 6) Executive Director’s report – Sam reported that interviews for the vacant Data and Preparedness Coordinator will be taking place on November 15. The process is underway to create a second data position being funded by an Opiate Data to Action (OD2A)

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federal grant. This federal grant is to DHHS with Maine EMS is a subgrantee.

Melissa Adams has been hired to fill the vacant Licensing Agent position and will begin on November 12. Melissa is an experienced paramedic in the Tri County region and currently works as a dispatch supervisor at the Oxford County Emergency Communications Center

There are several legislative bill titles that may affect EMS. MEMS will be monitoring as the bill text becomes available and provide updates.

There was a meeting with DAFS Financial Analysts, DPS Administration, and Maine EMS to review the MEMS budget and financial projections. The bottom line is that MEMS is on track with historic expenses, but there will need to be some internal adjustments made to be sure that expenses are appropriately categorized.

There have been some technical issues with MEMSEd and production challenges with the 2019 Protocol Rollout, but it appears those have been resolved and the update should be online later today.

- 7) Medical Director report – Dr. Sholl reported that the regional Train-the-Trainer rollouts were completed on October 29. He thanked Chris Azevedo and the MEMS staff for their work on the program.

The MDPB developed device requirements for mechanical CPR (mCPR) devices that may be used after December 1, provided the required training has been completed.

A subgroup met to discuss implementing ET3 in the event that any Maine services are selected to participate. At the first meeting of the work group, Dr. Jonnnathan Busko demonstrated nurse triage software that may have the potential to be modified for EMS and telemedicine use. The next meeting of this work group will be in December to review 5-6 protocols for potential inclusion with this software.

Quality Improvement – The committee has produced reports on opioids and stroke, and hopes to have a report on cardiac arrest in the coming months.

Research – there are several research projects which the Board approved that are nearing publication and will be ready for presentation at an upcoming Board meeting. Those include: pediatric airway management, use of ondansetron in pediatrics, and opioid related cardiac arrests.

Biospatial – Maine EMS data has been uploaded to the Biospatial platform. Initial training for MEMS staff and medical directors will be held soon and a roll out plan developed after discussing the results from other states who have been through this. Biospatial is also working with the Maine State Police to incorporate crash records into this system.

- 8) Old Business
  - a. EMS Rules hearings – Joe Kellner reported that there has been a very low turnout to hearings held in Portland, Presque Isle, Lewiston, and Bangor. MEMS will be sending out a reminder that written comments may be submitted up until 5:00 on November 19, 2019.

Sam commented that following this process will be a good opportunity to review the internal workings of the rulemaking process and develop a plan to improve upon it going forward.

Board comments included considering ways to incorporate Zoom and other technology, and the timing of the hearings.

- b. Code of Ethics and Bylaws – Jay reviewed the changes made to the draft document distributed in October.

**MOTION: To approve the Bylaws with the edits suggested by the Board and AAG (Beals; second by Russell) Unanimous**

**MOTION: To table the Code of Ethics until the next meeting to allow for suggested revisions to be incorporated. (Russell; second by Libby) Unanimous**

9) New Business

- a. Regional contract reports – Joe Kellner noted that the first quarter reports were all received in a timely manner and distributed to Board members in a separate mailing from Sam.

Joanne commented that Jason Oko has been a tremendous help in developing QI tools and helping the regions better understand how to use these for future activities and reports.

Ben said that Aroostook EMS is excited with the possibilities of this new resource.

Joe reminded the Board that while these are public reports, as they come to Maine EMS from the regions they may contain identifying information and as such should be treated as confidential within the protection afforded to Board-approved QI activities.

- b. Waiver request. The Maine EMS staff requested consideration of a waiver to the rule adopted in July that will require Community Paramedicine services to reapply by November 30.

However, before going through the regulatory requirements for reviewing and acting upon the request, there was discussion about whether a quorum would exist after Board members whose services were impacted recused themselves, and the number of voting members to grant a waiver.

Following this discussion, Sam requested that the waiver request be withdrawn and that the office would work with the affected services on the renewal process.

10) Other

- a. Items for next meeting –
  - i. Addressing concerns raised by the public regarding handling applications from those with past criminal convictions. The Investigations Committee will be meeting on November 25 and the revised matrices for handling

convictions that will come back to the Board following the committee's action may help address this issue.

- ii. Meeting schedule – it was noted that the monthly Board meeting schedule has impacted the ability of the Investigations Committee to meet.
- iii. Strategic Planning – MEMS will be exploring the possibility of Maine participating in a NHTSA-supported evaluation of the NASEMSO strategic planning process. The Board would like to consider doing this in February but will wait to hear an update from Sam at the next meeting.
- iv. Upcoming Board meeting schedules – the January meeting day falls on New Year's Day, so a meeting placeholder has been set for January 2 @ 9:30, which will be revisited at the December meeting.

11) Closing comments – Joe Kellner:

- a. Thanks to all those who have worked on the protocol rollout process and the feedback that has been provided. Looking forward to seeing the program on MEMSEd.
- b. This will be Jay's last meeting as a MEMS staff member. Thanks to him for his extensive help during the interim and transition phases.
- c. Heartfelt welcome to Sam as the new EMS Director.
- d. Thanks to those who have participated in the rulemaking process and hope that many more will do so this week and in written testimony – and thanks to Jason for his work in pulling together the supporting documents and coordinating the rulemaking process.

12) Next meeting will be December 4, 2019 at 9:00 AM – Note the earlier starting time to allow adequate time for the rulemaking process.

13) Adjourn at 11:10 (Libby; second by Conley) Unanimous.