



JANET T MILLS
GOVERNOR

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

17 Mar 2020

0930-1130

Held On-line Due to COVID-19

MINUTES

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

Members Absent:

Staff: Chris Azevedo, Marc Minkler

Stakeholders: Don Sheets, Debbie Morgan, Dennis Russell

“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

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of minutes for February
 - i. Motion made by Joanne to approve the minutes for February. Motion seconded by Cheri Volta. There was no discussion. Motion is carried.

III. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- a. Don Sheets asks for discussion regarding whether or not MEMS has discussed letting candidates who have not tested yet function as licensed providers in a provisional status.
 - i. Chris Azevedo states that while there is emergency legislation put to the Governor, that is not specifically one of the inclusion items. There are contingencies being taken by NREMT and Pearson Vue regarding re-scheduling exams.
- b. Marc Minkler adds additional info regarding the specific legislation items.
- c. Dennis Russell adds that one of his students whose written exam was cancelled sometime this week has been able to reschedule but is getting charged a fee to do so.

- d. Discussion regarding cancellation of exams ensued with multiple recommendations for action from the Committee:
 - i. Sally Taylor suggested we should reach out to NREMT and ask if this is going to be SOP. Express concerns.
 - ii. EMS Director Sam Hurley should be advised that this is happening.
 - iii. Joanne Lebrun suggests that students are entitled to relief from paying fees to re-schedule exam that were not cancelled by themselves. EMS board should also know, for pursuit of compensation for those students.
 - 1. Chris Azevedo has checked the NREMT website and has verified they have stated on their website that all fees paid for exams that have been cancelled will be refunded.

IV. State Update

- a. Staffing
 - i. New Licensing Agent – Griffin Bourassa has begun as the new licensing agent.
- b. EMS-C- meetings have been cancelled.
- c. COVID-19 crisis effects on EMS training programs and testing
 - i. PSE suspended until after April tentatively
 - ii. Pearson Vue sites closed as of today.

V. Old Business

- a. Skills portfolios
 - i. Guidance to EMS training programs
 - 1. Guidance information packet should be compiled and sent to the Training Centers, the Education Committee, and also the Exam Committee
 - a. Example submitted by SMCC regarding seated and supine skills as guidance to the other training centers and is to be distributed to all training centers
 - ii. Programs that have been approved
 - 1. SMCC is the only program.
 - iii. The Exam Committee wishes to develop a plan for a transition to a state certification model wherein a full psychomotor skills portfolio will entirely replace a standard PSE, as the model currently exists.
 - 1. Outline for development process
 - a. Selection of skills for inclusion in portfolio
 - i. The suggestion was made to create skills categories
 - 1. Examples
 - a. Bleeding management,
 - b. Airway management
 - c. CPR/AED

- d. Assessment- medical, Trauma
 - e. Lifting and Moving
 - i. Stretcher ops, etc.
 - f. Documentation
2. System isn't set up to leave skills for service credentialing. Evaluation will need to focus on turnkey competency.
 - a. The What
 - b. The When
 3. Rote skills should be evaluated in the program.
 - a. EMR- currently has five skills evaluated in exam
 - b. EMT- currently has 10 skills
- ii. Rules for selection of skills
 1. Selected skills should align with National EMS Education standards in addition to Maine state standards
 - iii. The suggestion was made to have committee sub-group derive groups/themes for skills to be evaluated. Ideas developed should be submitted to the Committee Chair and/or Maine EMS Representative by 3 Apr 2020.
- b. Portfolio requirements
 - i. Meets objectives
 - c. Submission and approval by training programs- Tabled
 - d. Review and revision of the process-Tabled

VI. New Business

- a. Training of new and future PSE Administrators
 - i. What does it take to do ALS testing in Maine?
 1. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that Rick Petrie could work with Dennis Russell, Sally Taylor, and Joanne Lebrun to come up with a list of issues regarding this, and what it would cost to bring ALS PSEs back to Maine, as opposed to sending ALS candidates to New Hampshire for testing, as is now the practice.
 - ii. It is the goal of the Exam Committee to totally replace the current psychomotor skills exam with a program "in-house" psychomotor skills portfolio.
 - iii. Amy Drinkwater and Ben Zetterman have volunteered to be trained as PSE Administrators. Marc Minkler asks - what has the reach out been to train additional PSE Administrators?

- iv. The Committee would like to compile a list of current PSE administrators and which level they can test for.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Date and Time: 21 April 2020

VIII. Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn by Joanne Lebrun and seconded by Cheri Volta. There was no discussion and the motion was carried.