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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

15 Sep 2020

0930-1130

De Champlain Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Members Present: Amy Drinkwater, Sally Taylor, Cheri Volta, Jeremy Damren, Ben Zetterman, Rick Petrie, Joanne Lebrun
Members Absent: Kelly Roderick (excused)
Staff: Chris Azevedo, Marc Minkler,
Stakeholders: David Mejia, Don Sheets, L'Easa Blaylock, Michel Mullin, AJ Gagnon

"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 – roll call attendance

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. There was no August meeting
- b. Approval of July Minutes
 - i. Discussion
 1. Time of meeting adjournment was actually 1115 hrs. This correction made to July minutes by Chris Azevedo
 - ii. Jeremy Damren makes the motion to accept the July minutes with time changes. Cheri Volta seconds the motion. No discussion. Motion carried.

III. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- a. None

IV. State Update

- a. Education
 - i. NREMT/Pearson Vue Updates
 1. Distributive education limits

- a. Distributive Education limits removed for the recertification cycle ending March 30, 2021 (EMT, AEMT, Paramedic) and September 30, 2021 (EMR)
 - b. Distribution Education limits will be restored for the recertification cycle ending March 30, 2022 (EMT, AEMT, Paramedic) and September 30, 2022 (EMR)
- 2. Items which have the potential to affect Maine EMS and training centers regarding licensure:
 - a. Course Eligibility and Examination Validity deadlines
 - i. All candidates with a course completion date between 1 Mar 2018 and 31 Aug 2020 will be set at 30 months (2.5 years). For example, a course completion date of July 2018 will be valid through January 2021.
 - b. New NREMT provisional certifications
 - i. The Board passed a motion (August) to cease issuing new provisional certifications after 12/31/2020. After that date, the National Registry will no longer issue new provisional certifications. EMS professionals with an existing provisional certification will have up until 12/31/2021 to convert their provisional certification to a full certification.
 - c. Converting from a provisional certification to a full certification
 - i. Currently requires successful completion of the psychomotor examination. The NREMT Board of Directors approved a motion to have **National Registry staff**, in concert with the Standards and Examinations Committee, **recommend standards to have a potential physician sign-off on active provisionally certified EMS professionals and/or suggest acceptable alternatives in lieu of completing the psychomotor examination to gain full certification.** The findings and recommendations will be provided to the Board in November 2020 for consideration and approval.
 - ii. Update on review and revision of online and other forms
 - 1. Reviewing, for revision, the following;
 - a. PSE Rosters
 - b. PSE reporting form
 - c. PSE Scheduling form
 - d. PSE Test Authorization form

- e. Payment reimbursement form
 - 2. Group input regarding the above
- iii. Update on review and revision of Training Center Standards
 - 1. The Education Committee has undertaken an aggressive nine-month effort to review and revise the Training Center Standards. This will be from October to July 2021.
 - a. Committee members and stakeholders were asked to review pp. 1-11, which are sections one and two, and cover the introduction and process overviews.
 - b. The need for doing this has been there, but this effort was promulgated by two events: discussion of the supervisory role of Instructor/Coordinators, and the need to approve three new EMS training centers.
 - c. A copy of the document will be sent to Committee members and all stakeholders. The 2015 CAAHEP standards should be reviewed as well, as the current standards were based on the 2005 CAAHEP standards, which are actually being updated for 2021, and are available from the CAAHEP website.
 - iv. TCAP proceedings
 - 1. One site visit completed. One next week. Last one to be scheduled.
 - b. EMS-C- no report
 - c. Licensing – no report
 - d. Data- no report

V. Old Business

- a. Psychomotor skills portfolios
 - i. Current status
 - 1. Comment made that the Committee should be pursuing this actively to start with Spinal motion restriction.
 - 2. Discussion of skills portfolio process. Don Sheets describes SMCC's continuation of the process since this topic was last discussed.
 - 3. Chris Azevedo states the Maine EMS office's position that it does not support the elimination of a psychomotor skills exam to be replaced solely by a psychomotor skills portfolio that would be signed off by the EMS training program to satisfy the requirement for licensure. The Maine EMS office would, however, support the use of a psychomotor skills portfolio in conjunction with a scenario-based practical skills evaluation to satisfy the requirement for licensure.
 - a. To provide clarification, it is not the elimination of a rote-skills evaluation model of exam that the EMS office is opposed to (which is the model the current Maine EMS

PSE is based on). It is the elimination of any type of PSE, regardless of the model it is build around, that the office is opposed to.

- b. Significant discussion of the Maine EMS position on the Exam Committee's proposed action ensues.
- 4. Rick Petrie asks the question
 - a. How does Maine EMS reconcile the PSE process given that they are proposing to remove skills from the recert requirements?
 - b. The Maine EMS office is asked to provide a written answer to the above question for the Committee.
- 5. Joanne Lebrun
 - a. Maine developed its own practical exam. Resources became strapped. And so, Maine tied itself to NREMT. Recommend we dive into how to evaluate methods of practical skills evaluation. And in interim, delve into psychomotor skills portfolios.
- 6.
- b. Development of a plan for physician route to NREMT certification and state licensure as EMS clinician. Discussion on this topic by the group.
 - i. ALS exams are out of Maine EMS' lane, as this is handled by NREMT.
 - ii. Group, as a whole, feels that state licensure for EMS is superfluous.
 - iii. Authorization to test form onus is on the individual. – Joanne.
 - iv. Liability insurance they personally carry is the only limiting factor- Rick
 - v. Don Sheets
 - 1. Historically, the Maine EMS perspective is that any physician that wants to respond on calls should establish a relationship with a service, but, does not need a license to practice as an EMS provider. There is a pathway by NREMT to get certified. Test authorization actually comes from the Registry, not the training center.

VI. New Business

- a. Training and qualifying PSE Administrators. Discussion regarding the two items below, which were proposed announcements for each position:
 - i. EMR/EMT Qualifications (Jul 2017)
 - 1. NREMT certified
 - 2. Maine licensed EMT or above
 - 3. I/C
 - 4. Experience with National EMS Education Standards
 - ii. AEMT/Paramedic (Jul 2017)
 - 1. NREMT certified
 - 2. Maine licensed Paramedic
 - 3. Current ACLS Instructor credentials

4. Experience with ITLS or PHTLS curricula
- iii. The above announcements never came out due to internal office turmoil.
- iv. Joanne Lebrun provides some historical perspective and discussion.
 1. One person was grandfathered due to experience. When exams were taken over by Maine EMS, it was decided to grandfather those who were already Administrators.
 2. Discussion regarding whether grandfathering still stands?
- v. Michel Mullin – Candidates need experience seeing the Administrator process. Even at the BLS level, candidate would benefit from doing the NREMT training.
- vi. Suggestion from the group that it would be beneficial for a candidate to submit a letter of interest. Also, personal characteristics are important-reliable, calm, cooperative, speaks well, well-organized, well-prepared, etc.
- vii. Sally Taylor
 1. Can we develop a process by which we can get someone cleared by December season? Educational experience should be requisite. Level of experience could trump being an I/C.
- viii. Jeremy Damren (from the chat)
 1. I think at the bare minimum, a PSE administrator should be licensed (grandfathered for the ones who are), an I/C, and preference will be given to someone who is already on the Exam or Education Committee.
- ix. Training pipeline for PSE Administrators is discussed.
- b. Joanne Lebrun asks for input regarding a NH candidate who would like to test in Maine.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Date and Time: 20 Oct 2020

VIII. **Adjournment:** Motion for adjournment made by Amy Drinkwater. Motion seconded by Joanne Lebrun. No discussion. Motion passed.

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1124 hrs