



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



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

Education Committee

Wednesday
10 Mar 2021
0900-1130

DeChamplain Conference Room

Minutes

Members Present: Brian Chamberlin, Amy Drinkwater, Stephanie Cordwell, Aiden Koplovsky, Mike Drinkwater, Joanne Lebrun, Ben Zetterman
Members Absent: Leah Mitchell (excused), David Mejia (excused)
Staff: Chris Azevedo, Melissa Adams, Marc Minkler
Stakeholders: Eric Wellman, Scott Smith, Sally Taylor, Rick Petrie, Edward Doughty, Debbie Morgan, L'Easa Blaylock

“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 February meeting minutes.
 - i. Dennis Russell makes a motion to accept the February minutes, Amy Drinkwater seconds. No discussion. Joanne Lebrun abstains due to not being at last meeting.

III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

- a. 2021 Protocol Updates- Brian Chamberlin
 - i. Some changes are more of an education within the protocol wherein education is being written into the protocol itself. I've expressed that the education should be done in separate protocol education, and not written into the protocol itself that has to be read at 2am in the middle of a call.
 - ii. I'd like to compile a list of such items in all the sections.
 - iii. I'd like to establish that the protocols are not a teaching document. This makes them cluttered.
 - iv. Dennis Russell comments.

1. This changes the concept of PEARLS and changes the game, which the MDPB is not likely to accept.
2. Brian Chamberlin- Pearls are fine, but not when they're adding pages of nothing but educational materials to protocols.
3. Joanne Lebrun- This is a very cyclical item and this may be an appropriate time to remind MDPB that they should rely on the education end for these items.
 - a. MDPB had discussed having a companion education document to the protocols.
 - b. Perhaps this is time to have that discussion again.
4. Rick Petrie
 - a. At one point in the past, MDPB did make the decision that the protocols were not a teaching document.
5. Joanne Lebrun
 - a. The Level of additional training that falls beyond a protocol update is concerning.
6. Dennis Russell
 - a. Anything regarding further education has always been pushed back to the service, historically. Brian Chamberlin adds that we're going to have to make that clear.
7. Joanne Lebrun
 - a. Once we've looked at sections, do the recommendations go straight to MDPB, or go to EdComm?
 - b. Brian Chamberlin- The recommendations should go to MDPB and also brought back to the group. I envision in the May, each section will give a synopsis of their material for the Committee.

IV. State Update:

- a. Education – Chris Azevedo
 - i. Member attendance
 1. Steve Merrill's email address has been updated, and both he and Paul Froman were sent meeting invitations.
 - ii. NREMT
 1. Looking into doing away with criminal background checks, as most states already do them for state licensure. They are actively looking for state feedback on the topic. Current measures rely solely on applicant self-disclosure of criminal convictions.
 2. Webinar for Program directors today at 2 pm. Link and invite to webinar was forwarded to all training center directors on 19 Feb.
 - a. Agenda Items:
 - i. Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - ii. Recertification Update - 2021
 - iii. Updated Certification Schemes

- iv. National EMS ALS Practice Analysis
- v. Updates to the ALS Psychomotor Exam
- vi. ADA Accommodations for Examinations

3. "Inactive Status"

- a. NREMT will now mirror their inactive status for EMT/AEMT/Paramedic with EMR.
- b. "Inactive Status" maintains the requirement for CEHs but removes the requirement for competency sign-off. This is useful for clinicians who are not currently affiliated with a service or must be inactive for other reasons but wish to maintain license.
- c. Doesn't work well for states who require service affiliation. But, as Maine does not, it may be useful here (under a set of guidelines for use), in light of the change to NCCR, where clinicians will need to have competency verified.

iii. MEMSEd

- 1. Vaccine training course for the J&J vaccine was put up on MEMSEd. Going well.
- 2. Participation in the other vaccine training, including RCV continues and appears to be going well.
- 3. Anticipate putting up the MMC Pediatrics for Clinicians webinar that was done on 5 Mar. Working with Marc Minkler and others involved in the original seminar to do that.
- 4. Several pediatric courses also pending that Marc is working on.
- 5. Working on a new contract with the Muskie School to provide site maintenance and upgrades, as well as some course maintenance.
- 6. A recent Image Trend update has made it so that MEMSEd passwords will no longer be related to MEFIRS/eLicensing. This update has also affected the password recovery link on the page. We are working with Muskie to develop a new password recovery link that uses the MOODLE default. Until then, any issues with password recovery can be referred to the Maine EMS office, and we can walk folks through the process – which we've been doing, especially for folks who haven't used MEMSEd recently.
 - a. SEND OUT EMAIL, ETC. FOR THE PASSWORD STUFF

iv. Licensure

- 1. Melissa Adams
- 2. Working with licensing on a licensure matrix that involves updating some of the rules for reciprocity and establishing re-entry pathways to licensure. We are having Ron Guay look at it and hope to bring it to EdComm for review and input next month.

v. Protocol Updates

1. Documents for the following sections have been posted to the MEMS website: Committees > MDPB > Resources
 - a. Change documents: Brown, Grey, Purple, Blue, Green, & Yellow
 - b. Draft protocols: Brown, Grey, Purple, Blue, Gold, Green, Yellow
2. All documents may be downloaded and reviewed by the EdComm co-authors. I've asked the MDPB section authors to collaborate and contact their EdComm teammates for collaboration. They seem open to it, and I've found it worked extremely well for the 2019 updates. They've also offered their PPT materials for use in education development.
3. In addition to those of the Education Committee, I have also expressed concern over the lift it will be to provide some of the education for these updates, especially where scope of practice expansions are concerned. I don't think many MDPB members really understand this, and I encourage our EdComm teams to work with those MDPB section authors to make their plans for deciding what goes into protocol update education, and what will be left to licensure and CEH programs to accomplish. Unless we wish to have another 5-hour protocol update roll out, I think it's important to impress upon the physicians that this is a consideration and involve them in the process so that they may actually see what this takes.

b. EMS-C Marc Minkler

- i. Maine Medical Center Pediatric Emergencies program course will be going up on MEMSEd. Work to be done on breaking the seminar down into smaller sections.
- ii. BRUE course from APEMS also going up on MEMSEd
- iii. EMS-C survey for EMS Service peds education is continuing
- iv. No RFP bidders for Peds education \$\$\$. However, MEMS office is working on grant money for purchase of VR simulation education equipment for various program use.

c. Licensing

i. Melissa Adams

1. Discusses operationalization of several items resulting from the Rules updates.
2. Creating NCCR type flow chart for use in education as Maine EMS changes CEH models.

3. Concerns with licensure process regarding pathways to licensure. Created a matrix for this. Two situations which Rules don't address. Shares screen and matrix.
- ii. Brian Chamberlin suggests placeholder on agenda for this topic for updates and discussion, etc.
- d. Data/QI – Jason Oko
 - i. Discusses vaccine workload, QI newsletter- behavioral health data in MEFIRS
 - ii. ET3 moving forward.
 - iii. Data Committee meets after QI next Wednesday 0930- 1700
 - iv. Working on Rules items that will operationalize changes contained therein.

V. Old Business:

- a. Committee bylaws (placeholder)
- b. PIFT
 - i. Rick
 1. Scott Smith has been making good progress on this. The subcommittee has several documents reviewed that Scott has done. If all works well, the goal is to have a document to present to the group at April meeting.
- c. AVOC
 - i. Aiden
 1. Discusses working documents sent out to the group regarding equivalent courses, and recommendations moving forward.
 2. Brian Chamberlin - I think there's been enough discussion over the past several months to do a quick review of the recommendation document here and discuss it today.
 3. Shares recommendation document with the group and goes over it.
 - ii. Dennis Russell
 1. I would like to move forward with this, as it's been discussed at length in the past.
 - iii. Brian Chamberlin
 1. Regarding the group working on this with you, have they all seen this?
 - a. Aiden- It was only Fred Porter, and I don't think he's seen the whole document put together. But he's worked a great deal on each portion of it.
 2. I have concerns with doing away with the MEMS program, as a whole. But, looking at this, I do feel this is the best way to go, as it removes the burden of program maintenance, which we haven't done well with, in the past.
 3. The checklist facilitates equivalency approval.
 4. Mike Drinkwater adds from the chat:

- a. JB Learning has an AVOC specific equivalent ... is this on there or is it easy to add later?
 - b. Dennis Russell - the J&B course is actually the NAEMT EVOS program, which is included in this proposal.
 - iv. Dennis Russell motions to move this forward to the Board for review after Aiden makes the changes he's suggested. Aiden Koplovsky would do the Board presentation. Motion is seconded by Mike Drinkwater. Discussion. Motion carried.
- d. Standards for IC training and licensure
 - i. Working with MFSI to review Fire & Emergency Services Instructor curriculum with their Topsham/Westbrook course, beginning 27 March. Melissa Adams is also enrolled in the course.
 - ii. Discussed this topic with State education offices of the other New England states.
 - 1. Their processes align more with the Maine process from 2002. More are looking at NAEMSE course acceptance but are keeping a teaching requirement in their licensing standards.
 - 2. Their processes for equivalency/lateral entry are more comprehensive than ours.
 - 3. Their education framework is different than ours, however, especially NH. They have joint centralized fire/ems education, with different mechanisms of program maintenance and approval which are under public safety, but outside the EMS office.
 - iii. Discussion of current purpose of IC Licensure
 - 1. Dennis Russell
 - a. No longer applicable for what we're doing now
 - 2. Eric Wellman
 - a. Unless outcomes are measured, there's no point in doing anything, let alone licensing. It's about accountability.
 - 3. Brian Chamberlin
 - a. Eric, when you say standards, are you saying that these need to find a home in Training Center Standards? Eric Wellman - yes.
 - 4. Eric Wellman
 - a. The EMS Board has a tendency to waive the problems and not fix them.
 - 5. Steve Almquist
 - a. What about CEH's for re-licensing your IC? They're really relaxed. Many available CEHs may not be applicable.
 - i. Brian leads a discussion.
 - 6. Rick Petrie
 - a. Separate CEH from licensure
 - 7. Joanne Lebrun

- a. The original instructor programs were developed in conjunction with what is now known as our Community College System, long before EMS had instructor guidelines and training. Central Maine Community College and Kennebec Valley were highly involved. The concept was to actually prepare instructors, as our program were held thru our CC system at that time.
- 8. Eric Wellman
 - a. If you do have the outcomes, you do have the instrument to measure by.
- 9. Discussion of instructor accountability versus training center accountability.
- 10. Chris Pare
 - a. We can mitigate instructor issues by holding instructors bonded to the TC.
- 11. Melissa Adams posts various accountability items, existing in Rules, in the chat
 - a. 24. Acting negligently or neglectfully in conducting a Maine EMS continuing education program or licensure program.
 - 25. Altering or falsifying documents used or intended to be used to obtain a course card or certificate.
 - 29. Willfully making a false statement in an application for a license or renewal of a license, or in any activity or documents intended to be used to satisfy a requirement for licensure.
 - b. 39. Providing instruction at a level for which a person is not licensed.
 - c. "Any course (not including continuing education hour programs) leading to certification for EMS provider licensure must be supervised by an instructor/coordinator licensed by Maine EMS for that particular level and must be approved by a Maine EMS Training Center."
- 12. Eric Wellman suggests we mandate an IC for the course, and then remove the IC presence element. Emphasizes outcomes requirements versus daily supervision.
- 13. Brian Chamberlin- suggests for next month, let's draft language that would give us something to discuss at the next month and lead us into where we need to go with the supervision argument. Eric Wellman and Chris Azevedo are to work on this.

- e. Training Center Standards review (this topic was tabled due to time)
 - i. Continuing Subsection 2, D. Resources
 - ii. Additional meetings for document review work

VI. **New Business**

- a. Psychomotor skills portfolio (this is a placeholder for the topic and was tabled due to time).

VII. **Next Meeting**

- a. Date and time: 13 Apr 2021, at 0900.

- VIII. **Adjournment:** Dennis Russell makes a motion to adjourn, with Amy Drinkwater seconding. Meeting adjourned at 1128 hrs.