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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, 20 Apr 2021

0930-1130

De Champlain Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Members Present: Sally Taylor, Rick Petrie, Amy Drinkwater, Cheri Volta, Jeremy Damren, Joanne Lebrun, Kelly Roderick
Members Absent: Ben Zetterman (Excused), David Mejia
Staff: Chris Azevedo, Sam Hurley
Stakeholders: 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. Meeting called to order at 0935. Roll call taken by Sally Taylor.

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of January 2021 meeting minutes. There were no meetings in February or March.
 - i. Motion to approve January minutes made by Amy Drinkwater. The motion is seconded by Joanne Lebrun. No discussion. Motion carried.

III. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

- a. Request by Committee Chair, Sally Taylor, to move discussion of North Carolina's Technical Scope of Practice (TSOP) exam to the first item up, due to time limited availability of Director Sam Hurley and Rick Petrie, who are due to attend legislative hearings.

IV. State Update

- a. EMS Education Coordinator- Chris Azevedo
 - i. In the process of researching opinions and feedback from states who do not have a state level psychomotor examination for state licensure/certification purposes, a meeting was conducted in January

2021, by Chris Azevedo and Director Sam Hurley, with officials from the North Carolina Office of EMS (NC OEMS). This meeting included the Director of NC OEMS. The intent of the meeting was to obtain their feedback on the efficacy of the process they use for verifying skills competencies for their state licensure candidates, and to ask recommendations for similar processes. A summary of their points:

1. Traditional PSE was eliminated to save money, and responsibility for verification of psychomotor skills was left to the individual training centers. About 95% of EMT training programs are community college based.
 2. The opinion of the NC OEMS is that the overall effect of the change is that the quality of new graduate entry-level skills has significantly decreased. This has been reinforced by the actions of many EMS jurisdictions feeling the need to establish “EMS Bootcamps” for skills-building and credentialing of new hires, because their skills are so poor. Some of these are several months in length.
 3. NC OEMS listed several issues contributing to the poor performance of this change:
 - a. Conflicts of interest between evaluators and evaluatees
 - b. Complacencies in the way the exams are administrated
 - c. College administration influencing program testing pass/fail policy such that candidates who should not pass the evaluation process are passed.
 - d. Lack of reliable participation and curriculum review from training program medical directors.
 - e. Absence and/or resistance to regulatory standards/measures due to cost incurred to the training centers. This has resulted in political intervention at the state level, on the part of the training centers, which has not resulted in improvement of student graduate proficiency.
- ii. Rick Petrie
1. Everything said about NC has been said about Maine. It’s not specific to NC, but its human nature.
 2. We still have people who pass who don’t have any business being providers.
 3. Also, others have not passed the exam, but would otherwise be good providers.
- iii. Discussion
1. Joanne Lebrun
 - a. I’d like to address the standardized training that Sam mentioned. We had that in the past. No matter what we

do, we are under resourced. We've had that, but then funding gets withdrawn, we lose our exam coordinator, etc. The same exam conversations that are going on now, have been going on since the 1970s.

b. I do believe a practical examination is, for some part, in our future. However, we need resources for evaluator training, equipment, and development of scenarios, etc., so that people can shadow examiners and learn the process.

b. No other reports from Maine EMS staff.

V. **Old Business**

a. PSE skills sheet for EMR

i. Sally discusses updates to the EMR PSE skill sheets. Changes were made to the sheets that mirrored those done at the EMT level.

b. PSE scenario re-formatting

i. Cheri Volta

1. Reviewed many of them and added small items. There were a few different format options to use for revisions, but the same format that had been used was retained. Perhaps we'd like to revisit and revise these scenarios to incorporate various elements which could serve to clarify the direction of the scenario. Describes multiple examples.

2. Sally Taylor echoes the same thoughts.

3. Amy Drinkwater

a. Advises she is willing to help.

4. Joanne Lebrun

a. Scenarios really need that dispatch detail. We need to decide what we really want EMR/EMTs to know at entry level.

b. Writing cognitive knowledge doesn't serve to validate skills performance.

5. Jeremy Damren

a. A few of the scenarios contain information that would lead the candidate to some critical thinking. However, I think more information could be added to help do make the situation more obtainable for the candidate.

6. Sally Taylor

a. We can distribute current scenarios to individuals willing and look for deadline dates for re-submission.

- b. Joanne Lebrun
 - i. Again here, one of the issues is resources. Perhaps Chris Azevedo could speak with Sam Hurley to look into a grant or other funder to have someone else do the writing.
 - ii. Cheri Volta motions to ask the EMS office to look into financial resources for writing scenarios.
Motion is seconded by Kelly Roderick
 - 1. Joanne Lebrun asks that the committee be included in review and acceptance of any scenarios.
 - 2. Chris Azevedo adds that he has already discussed this as an option with Director Hurley and would be happy to discuss it again for the group.
 - 3. Motion carries.
- c. PSE replacement options
 - i. Chris Azevedo
 - 1. Psychomotor skills portfolios (placeholder)
 - a. Brought up at EdComm.
 - b. Reminder that programs are responsible for developing PSP for seated/spinal skills.
- d. COVID modification to PSE
 - 1. Current exam modifications for accommodation of COVID conditions will expire at the end of June. Does the Committee want to ask the Board to approve another extension? Several committee members express that this should be done. No discussion in opposition.
- e. 2021 Rules Changes and licensure exams
 - i. Chris Azevedo
 - 1. The office was asked to look into this. I can find no rules changes for 2021 that affect the licensure exam process.
 - a. There are none.
- f. Hiring new PSE Administrators
 - i. Chris Azevedo
 - 1. Interest from numerous candidates.
 - a. L'Easa Blaylock
 - b. Amy Drinkwater
 - c. Cheri Volta
 - d. Dave Mejia
 - 2. Holding until a process is outlined and approved.

- 3. Researching this. May involve public notice.
 - a. Contracted position.
 - i. Create a LCSC for each EMS Professional
 - ii. With this option you will have a clear scope of work for each professional
 - iii. Recommended especially for PSEAs using their own vehicles for travel.
 - 4. Working with Sam to get the Maine EMS end of this clarified.
- ii. Joanne Lebrun
 - 1. Need a handle on a training process, criteria,
 - a. How do we get people to apply?
 - i. LOI with references, experience, etc.
 - b. Don't think this will take long to do, but what does the process look like from a state perspective.
 - 2. Sally Taylor asks if we can we have this down by the next meeting on 18 May?
 - 3. Joanne Lebrun agrees it is possible.
 - 4. Sally Taylor asks that this topic be put on next month's meeting agenda.
- g. Processes for EMS clinician re-entry, lateral entry, and reciprocity
 - i. The Board has approved a licensing waiver for those EMS clinicians who are dual licensed in Maine and in states which use NREMT's CEH/recertification process, but do not require NREMT certification. This waiver allows Maine EMS to accept the 2-year licensing cycle and CEHs from clinicians in those states to satisfy re-licensure requirements for a 2-year license renewal in accordance with acceptance of an NREMT recertification, however without the requirement for the certification. This is applicable only for Maine licensed providers and is directed primarily to accommodate Maine licensees who are also licensed in Mass.
 - ii. The office has developed a matrix that we intend to bring to Ops meeting. Afterward, will be brought to the committees
 - iii. Currently under review by Ron Guay.

VI. New Business

- a. 2021 Rules updates affecting licensure examinations
 - i. Addressed above
- b. No new business.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Date and Time: 18 May 2021
- b. Motion to adjourn made by Joanne Lebrun and seconded by Cheri Volta. Motion carried.

VIII. Adjournment: 1052 hrs