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

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DIRECTOR

## **Examination Committee**

**Tuesday**

**18 May 2021**

**0930-1130**

**De Champlain Conference Room, Augusta**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Sally Taylor, Amy Drinkwater, Jeremy Damren, Kelly Roderick, Rick Petrie, Cheri Volta, Joanne Lebrun,  
**Members Absent:** Ben Zetterman, David Mejia  
**Staff:** Chris Azevedo, Marc Minkler,  
**Stakeholders:** Eric Wellman, AJ Gagnon, Rick Smart, Michel Mullin

*“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 and online roll call by Sally Taylor.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of April 2021 minutes. Motion to approve the April minutes made by Kelly Roderick and seconded by Amy Drinkwater. No discussion. Motion is carried.

### **III. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

- a. None

### **IV. State Update**

- a. Chris Azevedo
  - i. EMS Board has agreed to extend use of COVID modified exam materials until 31 Dec 2021 of this year.
    1. The office will update its checklist memo regarding PSE operational plan requirements to be reflective of current guidelines. Training Centers should also subsequently update their operational plans to Maine EMS and submit them to the office.

- b. NREMT ALS Exam changes
  - i. Though Maine EMS has not been conducting ALS exams, it's important to consider the points of NREMT's revisions as they may be helpful in improving those skills evaluation sheets which are currently used in Maine EMS licensure examination and also in licensure programs for formative and summative skills evaluations at the BLS level.
    - 1. ALS psychomotor exam skill sheets have been changed to reduce critical fail criteria. NREMT has made a video for YouTube to help explain the changes. . A link to the video is included here. Link: <https://youtu.be/V-KfUnpyOnQ>
    - 2. The changes made to the skills sheets mainly consist of a reduction in the number of critical fail actions to those which would result in provider or patient harm.
  - ii. At the Static Cardiology station, interpretation and treatment have been decoupled as graded items. Candidates can now receive points for treatment, based upon the answer key, despite having an incorrect rhythm interpretation.
  - iii. With regard to cognitive testing for NREMT certification, Pearson VUE OnVue (home/secure) exams are slated to remain in use at this time and after the pandemic at the EMT/AEMT levels.
    - 1. There are no current plans for hosting EMR or Paramedic exams through OnVue, however.
- c. Funding for Scenario development
  - i. Discussed with Director Hurley. He's agreed that we should find a funding source and put the project out for RFP. Will be pursuing this process in the meantime.
- d. EMS-C
  - i. Advisory committee at 1 pm tomorrow virtually,
- e. Joanne Lebrun
  - i. It'd be good to look at the changes NREMT has made to their skills sheets to see what they've done. It may be helpful for our development.
  - ii. Sally shares the new skills sheets with the group.
    - 1. Asks for this to be an agenda item.
    - 2. Joanne asks that the video be viewed as a committee
    - 3. Sally points out that if the critical fail criteria are checked, it would require documentation by the Admins and require education for Admins.

## V. Old Business

- a. PSE Admin hiring process
  - i. Met with Joanne Lebrun on 29 Apr and discussed personnel qualifications. Additional meeting hopefully this month to continue discussion.
    1. Timeline- finished plan at next meeting, June.
- b. Scenario revisions (i.e. templates)
  1. Question of developing a template for current exam framework
    - a. Template for exam- Chris Azevedo, Cheri Volta
    - b. Template for Skills portfolio- TBD
  2. Eric Wellman from chat:
    - a. I would encourage you to make any scenario from the State perspective to be very cut and dry. Very defensible.
    - b. Discusses removal of subjectivity from the scenarios. This is not critical thinking at this point. Discusses the high-end elements of the scenarios. Make things obvious. This is summative and so that it satisfies the objectives.
    - c. Joanne Lebrun agrees with Eric Wellman's points.
    - d. Sally agrees as well.
    - e. Joanne Lebrun- summarizes that we need to have providers able to identify classic situations and be able to demonstrate that they know the basics.
    - f. Marc Minkler from chat
      - i. I agree with Eric - twists and challenges are important during class to understand that they do occur, but the exam is the evaluation and assurance of minimum, consistent standards.
  3. It is suggested in the discussion that the Committee should have a template and a timeline for doing this.
    - a. Amy Drinkwater and Jeremy Damren interested in assisting.
    - b. Michel Mullin asks
      - i. Because of time sensitivity, can we possibly revise some of the scenarios we have? Some are good, but just need a little revision, to make them better.
      - ii. Sally Taylor - yes, that is important.
      - iii. Chris Azevedo asks about dates. Will suggest dates and send out to the group, as there are multiple people who want to help.
- c. Request re: PSE orientation affirmation form
  - i. Sally suggests HS programs create their own parental forms.
  - ii. Joanne suggests those programs simply have the instructor add their own line just for their program.

- iii. Sally Taylor asks, do we want to allow instructors to add a parental signature line to this form, or create their own signature form?
- iv. Decision/guidance is that the language on the form should not be changed and we need the candidate signature. If an instructor is going to add the parent signature line, it should be made clear that this is NOT a parental permission form and the student must still sign form. May also create own form if they want actual permission, this must be a separate form.

d. PSE replacement

i. Joanne Lebrun

- 1. Difficult to define validity where it comes to practical exams going away from rote skills because it may not be reproducible.
- 2. If we decide to go down that pathway, we will need to establish a timeline regarding skills and process. Discussion among the group.
- 3. From chat: Joanne Lebrun asks Eric and Michel for recommendations as to approach.

ii. Eric Wellman

- 1. Discusses SMCC's progress with skills portfolios.
  - a. Micro scenarios
  - b. Macro scenarios

iii. Michel Mullin discusses the process she's involved in

- 1. Most pertinent issue is method of documentation of practice and evaluations.

iv. Sally Taylor asks, are we going to develop a process for PSP approval while the state looks into resources for scenarios?

- 1. Do we want to take some time to research this and come back to in June? Amy Drinkwater, Jeremy Damren and Joanne Lebrun agree.
- 2. Agenda for June- reviewing process for developing PSPs- outline for presentation. What will this process look like?

**VI. New Business**

- a. None

**VII. Next Meeting**

- a. Date and Time: 15 June 2021

**VIII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Joanne Lebrun and seconded by Cheri Volta. No discussion. Motion carried.**