

Kennebec Valley Region Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2021

Members Present

Jay Bradshaw, Oliver Mackenzie, Ginny Brockway, Tim Pieh, George Demchak, Griffin Bourassa, Jeff Reny, Tim Beals, Kevin Gurney,

Staff Present - Rick Petrie, Cyndie Dugans

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Kennebec Valley Region Advisory Council was called to order at 9:11 AM on June 10, 2021 by Rick Petrie as Brian Chamberlin was unavailable.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed as distributed. **Motion to approve minutes as presented. (G. Brockway / T. Pieh). All in favor.**

State Committees

Maine EMS Board (Tim Beals)

Grants: Sam Hurley has secured grants for Community Paramedicine and Systems of Care. Another grant for Opiate Overdoses was applied for as well to help with opiate overdose education in the community. The Board did not hold a meeting in June but will meet in July. The RFP that was sent out for an organization to develop a QI program that would be implemented state-wide received no proposals, so Maine Ems doesn't know what they are going to do. The other RFP was for the Regional contracts. APEMS has submitted for the four regions for which we currently have a contract. It's expected that the Board Committee will meet this week to make their selection. Random run reviews will no longer be required moving forward. Maine EMS Board Strategic planning will hopefully happen in the Fall to help with the direction of EMS. The Workforce Committee has met a few times and experienced some delays but are now back on track with getting a survey approved to be sent out. All are strongly encouraged to complete the survey which will include a companion document that will help prepare for the completion of the survey.

Every county in the state of Maine is receiving a sum of money from the COVID money received by the state. Rick has developed a proposal for recruiting Public Safety Personnel and has asked them to put 100,000.00 from each county fund the campaign.

Community Paramedicine: Nothing new to update.

Coronavirus Updates: The number of COVID cases are decreasing since vaccinations have become available, but we still need to be diligent. The CDC masking recommendations that went out does not pertain to healthcare providers. Universal masking is still required. Services are allowed to set their own policies for their staff regarding masking while in the station but are strongly recommended to follow universal masking as not all providers have been vaccinated.

Other: No Other

MDPB (Tim Pieh)

New Protocol Process Update: Protocols are now at the stage where most chapters are completed and the review of white papers is being drafted for the upcoming meeting. The group will be transitioning towards education for the new protocols and they are working closely with the Education Committee on this portion. Rick added that moving forward, EMT level training will need to be longer than one semester with the new protocols and scope of practice being considered.

State Education/Exam Update

The Education Committee met yesterday and continue working on the Training Center documents. They are also working with MDPB on educational pieces to match protocol updates. Updates to the PIFT program continue. AVOC is still being reviewed.

Nothing new to update with the Exam committee.

State QA/QI Update

Rick updated that they are continuing to work on the Newsletters. Behavioral Health went out in March and the next newsletter will focus on Trauma.

EMS-C

Maine EMS received funds to purchase VR goggles and software for use by EMS personnel for training. Once the State completes the beta testing, they will be available for providers to use.

Other

Two meetings from the Medical Control Committee have been held with great attendance by Zoom.

Regional Initiatives

Legislative Update (MAA): Jay shared that they are now back in-person at the State House. He discussed several of the bills that have been passed, still in review, and some that have not passed. LD2105 committee worked to develop recommendations and we are waiting on the final resolution. MAA is currently providing a series of management education leading up to the November EMS conference which will conclude the training with in-person sessions. MAA is looking for a new Executive Director as Jay will be retiring. The RFP is available on their website.

Maine EMS Council Contract Update:

Regional QI: Random run reviews are being completed for this contract period. Moving forward the regions will focus on helping services develop QI plans and education.

Public Information/Education – Stop the Bleed & Hands-only CPR and Council Meetings: Departments are strongly encouraged to attend their town meetings and provide regular reports on their activities including how Coronavirus is affecting their services. Discussion of issues surrounding billing and collections should be shared with the community as well. MAA offers a public education training that is free to all.

Online Education: The online education program will continue through June, and then will start up again in September.

Fall Conference: We are still moving forward to having an in-person conference to celebrate 40 years on November 10 – 14th at the Samoset. We have an exciting line up of traditional and new education.

Licensure Programs: KVCC will begin a new Paramedic program to start in September. EMS programming through the Community Colleges will be transitioning to a state-wide education approach. APEMS will assist in the transition at EMCC.

Specialty Training: Trainings continue with a focus on the online educational CEH classes. Anyone interested in hosting any specialty training classes should contact Sally.

KV Council Representative to the APEMS Board: Ginny Brockway's term is ending and she would like to step away. Oliver Mackenzie has expressed interest in assuming a Representative role to the APEMS Board. **Motion to elect Oliver Mackenzie as one of the three representatives to the APEMS Board (K. Gurney / G. Demchak) All in favor.**

APEMS Transition: Rick's term as the Executive Director will end on July 2nd but he will remain as an advisor to APEMS for another year. Sally Taylor has been placed as the interim Executive Director. Tim Pieh expressed his appreciation for all Rick has done and all that has been learned under his leadership.

Return to In-Person Meetings: The ability to attend by Zoom will continue but we will resume in-person meetings in September.

Other: Rick and Tim Pieh have been working on a proposal for a program that will create a path for Training Centers to develop a local Community Responder system by taking the existing EMR level training and remove the requirement of completing National Registry testing but keep course completion and skills in place to allow them to receive an EMR license. **Motion to have the Council official support this effort moving forward (T. Pieh / K. Gurney) All in favor**

Questions, Concerns, Ideas from the Membership: Nothing from the members.

Action to be done:

Agenda for Next Meeting:

- Nothing to add

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM.

Next meeting will be at 9:00 AM on September 9, 2021 in Winslow at the corporate office of Atlantic Partners EMS and via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Cyndie Dugans