



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

11 Aug 2021

0900-1130

**Online via Zoom platform due to COVID-19**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** Joanne Lebrun, Aiden Koplovsky, Stephanie Cordwell, Mike Drinkwater, Amy Drinkwater, Dennis Russel, Steve Smith, Ben Zetterman  
**Members Absent:** (excused), Brian Chamberlin (excused), Leah Mitchell (excused), Paul Froman (excused), David Mejia  
**Staff:** Chris Azevedo, Sam Hurley, Marc Minkler, Jason Oko,  
**Stakeholders:** Eric Wellman, Scott Smith, Steve Almquist, Matt Biel, AJ Gagnon, L'Easa Blaylock, Rick Petrie

*“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: 0910 hrs**

- a. Introductions and roll call. There is no quorum present at start of the meeting. Decision by Co-Chair Koplovsky to proceed with material that does not require a vote. Upon acquisition of a quorum, meeting will revisit items requiring action by vote.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. Approval of Jun 2021 Minutes. No meeting in July.
  - i. Tabled initially due to lack quorum. Quorum obtained later in the meeting and motion for approval of Jun minutes was proposed by Amy Drinkwater. Mike Drinkwater seconds the motion. No discussion. Motion carried.

**III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

- a. None

**IV. State Update:**

- a. Education
  - i. NREMT

1. NREMT is officially retiring all EMR/EMT PSE materials and removing them from their website and removing public access to them.
  - a. User Guides
  - b. Skills sheets
- ii. Rules
  1. IC revision suggestions
    - a. License should align with standards of training
    - b. Cover reciprocity and equivalency
    - c. License levels should be tiered to allow development of experience by instructors and to facilitate easier acquisition of instructor training in a graduated manner which increases in training level and responsibility as it progresses.
    - d. Develop IC training pipeline
    - e. Put more of lead instructor development and qualifications into TC standards
    - f. Working on a draft to be shared with committee members.
  - b. No reports from other Maine EMS staff members.
  - c. Rick Petrie asks if rules process is opening up and if this applies for all rules.
    - i. Sam Hurley replies that yes, Maine EMS is working on the process and many of the rules will be touched by some of the content the office is working on (i.e., AED). Committee will be open to receiving ideas.
    - ii. Rick Petrie ask if Director Hurley is saying that the only rules proposal that will be considered are those by the office? Director Hurley replies that he is certainly welcome to submit anything, but there's no guarantee that all submissions will be considered.

## V. Old Business:

- a. MCCS Program Changes
  - i. Eric Wellman
    1. Gives synopsis of EMS program re-alignment for all EMS programs covered under the Maine Community College System.
    2. New position created for coordination of all programs. Eric will be taking up that position and his program director position will be filled soon. Programs will not be consolidated, but many facets will be in alignment and will be better supported.
    3. Rick Petrie thanks Eric Wellman for his work. This has been worked for and desired for some time and will improve the system.

- b. 2021 Protocol Update Education materials
  - i. Chris Azevedo
    - 1. Thanks the committee member for their work. He has received materials and is reviewing them all at this time.
    - 2. Education materials still needed: Blue, Red, Orange, Gold
    - 3. Separation of material for protocol update and service level/CEH training
    - 4. Will be reaching out to each group to discuss this so we can put it in the deployment plan.
    - 5. This month, it will be necessary to devote most of my time to protocol update education. We are a bit behind on the timeline, and I estimate about a month.
  - ii. Director Hurley discusses accountability and timelines for the education work with the group.
- c. PIFT
  - i. Status and plan
    - 1. Rick Petrie
      - a. Summer months have made scheduling difficult. Sent out a doodle poll.
      - b. PIFT Subcommittee- create an updated PIFT program relevant to current patient population and material taught is adequate and current, and pertinent. Both Drs. Tilney and Dr. Sholl are included. Peripheral connection to IFT committee. But work is independent. Work is two separate projects. IFT committee is looking at other issues than education.
- d. 12-Lead acquisition training for the EMT level
  - i. Mark King files
    - 1. Stephanie says she has a new faculty person and can look into this.
  - ii. There is material out there.
    - 1. Rick Petrie states that he knows Mark and will reach out to him.
    - 2. Steve Almquist states that he has materials for this that may be useful.

## VI. New Business

- a. Resignation of Region 1 Representative
  - i. Sally- Region 1 RAC is aware and has this on their agenda to address.
  - ii. Maine EMS should put this out as well.
- b. Committee Chair and Co-Chair positions
  - i. Previous discussion by Brian Chamberlin regarding his stepping down as Committee Chair and into Co-Chair position. Aiden Koplovsky would step into the Chair position with Brian available to mentor and assist him as needed. Dennis Russell motions to accept Brian Chamberlin's proposal for

Aiden Koplovsky to chair and Brian Chamberlin to Co-Chair. Joanne Lebrun seconds the motion. Discussion.

1. Motion is carried.
- c. AVOC sunset
  - i. Sunset date moved to 30 Jul 2022 to give services time to plan and budget
  - ii. DRAFT AVOC policy
- d. EMR Proposal
  - i. Rick Petrie discusses a proposal for an effort to attract public entry into EMS system by modifying licensure process at the EMR level. Discussion ensues among the group.
    1. Melissa Adams points out statutory requirements for Board-approved practical requirements for licensure.
    2. Rick Petrie states, it's clear that the Board of EMS could approve the final exams for the EMR course as the practical exam.
    3. Dennis Russell expresses concerns that EMS has worked hard to be recognized as professionals. Would hate to see the system take a step backward.
    4. Rick Petrie
      - a. That's a great point, and why we'd never consider asking for that at any of the other levels. But we also recognize the desperate need for solution to attract people into the field.
    5. Eric Wellman
      - a. Concerns lie that this is a license level that crosses states. Potential that if we give providers a license in this manner, it will create issues with reciprocity with other states. Discusses data showing paid responders are more numerous. Might be some middle ground to be found.
    6. Joanne Lebrun
      - a. There are concerns with EMRs, those in non-transporting services might be facing increasing responsibilities as time goes on and response/arrival times get longer. Potential exists for them to be alone on the scene for a significant time. Can we harness resources to have statewide tutoring sessions to enhance confidence?
    7. Steve Almquist
      - a. Not every provider is National Registry. If reciprocity is a concern, what's the difference? I understand those rural communities deserve an educated responder as much as those more populous.
    8. Aiden Koplovsky
      - a. The biggest item this brings to the table is how big this issue is. I have a lot of concerns about removing a practical

- end test that echo others that have already been stated.  
Discusses potential of licensed ambulance driver.
9. More discussion among the group. "Community responder" concept is discussed.

**VII. Next Meeting**

- a. Date and time: 8 Sep 2021

**VIII. Adjournment: Motion by Steve Smith Second by Ben Zetterman. Adjourned at 1102 hrs.**