

# Northeast Region EMS Council

## Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2021, via Zoom

### **Present via Zoom**

Eddie Moreside, Rob McGraw, Jay Bradshaw, Scott Bragdon, Alan Henschke, Dwayne Philbrick, Andrew Braley, John Lennon, Ken Clark, Jason Oko, Michael Rickard, Aiden Koplovsky, Erin Bell, Ed Moreshead, Pete Metcalf, Joe Kellner, Sonja Philbrook, Tom Malcolm, Dr. David Saquet, Tonya Brown

### **Staff Present**

Sally Taylor, Cyndie Dugans, Steve Smith

The regular meeting of the Northeast Region Advisory Council was called to order at 3:01 PM on September 8, 2021, via Zoom by Chair Rick Petrie.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve minutes as presented** (E. Moreside / A. Koplovsky). All in favor.

### **State EMS**

#### ***Maine EMS Board (Kellner)***

- ***Grants:*** MEMS is looking to secure grants for Community Paramedicine and Systems of Care. Another grant for Opiate Overdoses was also applied for to help with opiate overdose education in the community. The RFP for Strategic Planning is in development. The virtual reality goggles obtained by a grant is available for services to use once properly trained.
- ***Community Paramedicine:*** No Update
- ***Coronavirus/Vaccine Updates:*** Joe shared that there is discussion of vaccine mandates and he wanted to help clear any confusion between the CDC's mandates and MEMS' mandate. The Maine CDC put out a rule that specifically requires the Covid vaccine for all employees of EMS organizations unless they have a medical exemption. The Maine EMS Board followed with an emergency rule that specifically requires EMS providers and EMS students to be vaccinated, but they did remove dispatchers from the list. It also defines "continuous care" to be within 6 feet or less for 15 minutes or more with a patient and extends to non-licensed individuals employed by the service as well. Proof of receiving both vaccine doses by Oct 15<sup>th</sup> with October 29<sup>th</sup> being the new date for proving full vaccination including the 2-week period post last vaccination. There will need to

be hearings both from the CDC and the Maine EMS Board before the emergency rules become effective. All encouraged to make public comments which can be found on the Maine CDC and Maine EMS website. Reminder for all to be wearing masks and proper PPE. The recent guidance on masking from the CDC does not pertain to healthcare providers who still must wear masks when providing patient care. Maine EMS recommends that all healthcare providers continue to wear their mask while in their respective stations as well, but the final call is left to each individual service.

- Rules Committee: Planning to develop rules on registries, looking at data use, and getting outcome data from hospitals. There are new federal rules coming out concerning medications which will affect EMS agencies, potentially requiring them to register for DEA license numbers. More information will follow as it becomes available. Once the rules draft is completed and approved by the Board it will go out for public comments.
- Other: No other

#### ***MDPB (Saquet)***

- New Protocol Process Update: The Protocol updates are now posted for review. Work continues on the education rollout with the Education committee. The MDPB subcommittee should wrap up the review of the Jackman project soon.
- Other: No other

#### ***State Education/Exam Update (Koplovsky/Taylor)***

Update: The Education committee continues to work with MDPB to develop the educational piece to accompany the new protocols. Dates will be rolled out for virtual protocol delivery for each region.

No new updates from the Exam committee.

#### ***State QA/QI Update (Smith)***

Update: QA/QI did not meet last month. Work continues on the newsletter with sepsis as the focus.

#### ***State EMSC (Minkler)***

Update: No updates

***Other*** No other

## **Regional Initiatives**

- Legislative Update (MAA): Jay Bradshaw shared that this coming session will be for emergency bills only. He covered a few bills regarding billing and insurance carriers. The Leadership Skills training has been rescheduled due to the EMS Conference being rescheduled.
- COVID Update: See above
- Regional OI: Jason and Steve have been working on the non-traumatic cardiac chest pain regional initiative. Anyone wanting to set up any training should email Steve to set up a Zoom training or he can do in-person training as well.
- Public Information/Education: It is highly recommended that each department still attend their town council meetings and give regular reports to their citizens to make sure their communities are appropriately informed of what services are being provided to them, the types of calls they respond to, and the obstacles they face.
- Licensure Programs/EMCC: APEMS continues to work with EMCC during the transition process. The MCCS has hired an EMS Coordinator to oversee all of the EMS programs. A new EMCC EMS Director will be taking over EMS courses beginning in January 2022.
- Fall Conference Update: Sally updated that the Fall EMS Conference has been postponed due to the increase in Covid cases. The new dates are March 22- 27<sup>th</sup> at the Samoset Resort. In the meantime, we will be offering monthly online classes as well as a Virtual Conference to be held November 11-13<sup>th</sup>. More information to follow.
- APEMS Transition Follow Up: No updates at this time.
- Other: Sally reminded all that the vaccination reports are due on September 15<sup>th</sup> and again on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Jason added that correspondences are done by email and that all should update their email address in eLicensing. Sally reminded all services to be sure that proper PPE is being used on all calls as we are still in the midst of the pandemic. Front Line Warm Line is still available if anyone needs this service.

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

## **Action to be Done**

None

## **Agenda for Next Meeting**

- Nothing to add

## **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM by Rob McGraw. The next general meeting will be at 3:00 PM on December 8, 2021 via Zoom. **Motion to adjourn (E. Moreside / D. Saquet)**

Minutes submitted by: Cyndie Dugans