

Kennebec Valley Region Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021

Members Present

Oliver MacKenzie, Tim Beals, Jeff Reny, George Demchak, Ronnie Rodriguez, Rick Sieberg, Jay Bradshaw, Kelly Meehan-Coussee, Patricia Rawson, Tim Pieh

Staff Present - Rick Petrie, Cyndie Dugans, Sally Taylor

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Kennebec Valley Region Advisory Council was called to order at 9:02 AM on September 9, 2021 by Sally Taylor as Brian Chamberlin was unavailable.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March meeting were reviewed as distributed. **Motion to approve minutes as presented. (O. Mackenzie / P. Rawson) All in favor.**

State Committees

Maine EMS Board (Tim Beals)

Grants: There is still a grant request out for Community Paramedicine but no guidelines have been seen as of yet. Additional funds have been obtained to secure more virtual education headsets and are available to use by services.

Community Paramedicine: Nothing new to update.

Coronavirus Updates: Nothing was directly discussed.

Rules Committee: Tim B. updated that the Board was consumed with the emergency meeting on vaccinations and that the committee will be recommending to the Board not to remove the vaccination rule and to let it expire with the Governor's mandate end date on Oct 1st. The topics of licensing of drivers and revisiting the age of which applicants can apply for licensing are still being discussed. The current age for EMT licensing is 16, with the requirement to be affiliated with a Jr EMS service. The current licensing age for Advanced EMT and Paramedic 18 years old. A waiver was received by the Board for a 17 yo applicant to license at the AEMT level. She had been allowed into the program by the Training Center and has successfully completed her training. The waiver was approved by the Board. Another rule being discussed is the additional vaccines for MMR, Varicella, etc. as a requirement for EMS providers as it is currently for other healthcare providers. The regional council representatives to the Maine EMS Board were informed by Sam that he had let the Governors office know that the MEMS Board would like be altering the number of EMS regions in the state within the next 1 – 2 years, so they made the decision to not reappoint any regional representative until such time as the Board completed their strategic planning process and made a decision about the regions. Even though their terms will expire (or are expired) they will maintain their seat on the Board until reappointment decisions are made.

Other: Sally shared that there are still several services that have not completed the Vaccination Reporting for their services and reminded them to make sure that their email is correct in eLicensing. The report is due on September 15th and the final

report due on September 30th even if there are no changes. Tim B shared that the Board's decisions on vaccinations does not alter the Governor's mandate or deadline. The board adopted their own emergency rule in the event there is a circumstance that requires disciplinary actions for licensed providers.

MDPB (Tim Pieh)

New Protocol Process Update: They are in the final stages of working with the with the Education Committee to develop the education for the new protocols. Protocols are still expected to go live on December 1st. Rick P. added the Protocol updates will be divided into 3 distinct sections, one being some stand-alone programs to be offered, an extensive head injury program, and a proposal to go before the Board to increase the scope of practice for EMT's.

Kelly Meehan-Coussee added that the Regional Medical Directors have volunteered to speak with any provider who is on the fence about the vaccinations and are looking for more information.

State Education/Exam Update

Rick P. shared that The Education Committee is working closely with MDPB members to match the protocol updates. Updates to the PIFT program continue. AVOC is also still being reviewed.

The Exam committee was canceled last month but continue to develop scenarios to align with EMT training.

State QA/QI Update

Sally shared that Steve continues to work with Dr. Pieh on education for the regions and that they are developing an audit worksheet on chest pain for each provider level. Dr. Pieh added that the worksheet is being compiled with the help of Oliver Mackenzie using the worksheet that Jeff Reny originally developed.

EMS-C Nothing to update.

Other No Other

Regional Initiatives

Legislative Update (MAA): Jay shared that that the Legislature is currently addressing emergency bills only in the next session. Jay reminded everyone that any service received more than \$10,000.00 is required to submit the PRF report by September 30th. He discussed several of the bills that have been passed, are still in review, and some that have not passed. LD2105 committee worked to develop recommendations and is still waiting on the final resolution. The Leadership Skills Series have been rescheduled to begin October 18th.

Regional QI: See above.

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. September is Suicide Awareness month. All encouraged to check in on one another and offer support. The Code Green campaign offers a tremendous number of resources.

Online Education: The online education series has begun this month with great attendance and will continue with monthly classes through June 2022.

Fall Conference: The EMS Conference has been rescheduled to the end of March. We will be developing a virtual conference to take place November 11 – 13th with classes available for CEU's. Information will be sent out soon.

Licensure Programs/KVCC: APEMS continues to work with KVCC through the workforce development to offer EMT classes. We are working with them on a Work While You Learn program as well. Oliver added that enrollment is lower for the ALS level courses. They have turned the AEMT course into a yearlong program. Dr. Pieh continues work to develop a hybrid EMR program.

Specialty Training: Trainings continue with a focus on the online educational CEH classes. In-person classes are service specific only during the pandemic. Anyone interested in hosting any specialty training classes should contact Sally.

APEMS Transition Check-in: Rick gave the Council a chance to weigh in on their thought of the transition. Everyone thought it was going well and had no comments.

Other: Dr. Pieh added to reach out to Chief Rodriguez regarding a proposal to incentivizing vaccinations to staff by paying them out of some of the federal town funds. Appreciation was given to Dr. Pieh for his education on the vaccination.

Region 3 QA Committee Member Recommendation: Steve Leach and Oliver Mackenzie are interested in the position of the Kennebec Valley Regional Representative for the QA Committee. Oliver spoke of his interest in QA for the region and his intentions to make things user friendly without sacrificing any data. Steve was not present at the meeting. **Motion to recommend Oliver Mackenzie as the QA Representative (Jeff Reny / Pat Rawson) Tim Pieh abstained due to conflict of interest in his positions in the region. Motion carries.** Sally will create the letter to be submitted to the Board.

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

Action to be done: None

Agenda for Next Meeting:

- Nothing to add

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.

Next meeting will be at 9:00 AM on December 9, 2021 via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Cyndie Dugans