

Southern Maine Regional Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2021

Present

Dan Masselli, Michael Bohanske, John Brady, Pete Holmquist, Brad Chicoine, John Gilboy, Griffin Bourassa, Paul Conley, Aaron Davis, Jennifer Thibodeau, Marc Minkler, Matt Duross, AnnMarie Lattanzi, Sean Donaghue, Jim Kenney, Justin Bragdon, Michael Schmitz, Rod Hooper, Mindy Gammon, Ashley Moody, Griffin Bourassa, Chris Pare, Jordon Gallo, Lisa Bennett, Rich Chipman, John Brady, Rich Kindelan

Staff Present

Rick Petrie, Cyndie Dugans, Sally Taylor

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Southern Maine Regional Advisory Council was called to order at 9:01 AM on September 22, 2021 by Brad Chicoine via Zoom. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Sawyer Coleman.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve minutes as submitted (M. Bohanske /B. Chicoine) AIF**

State and Board EMS Update

Maine EMS Board (Rick Petrie / Sally Taylor)

New Grant/Initiatives/Positions: MEMS was awarded a grant that will be used for hiring a Systems of Care manager that will focus on aspects of sepsis and cardiovascular care. The grant will cover for a 2-year term. The position will be posted soon.

Waiver Update: Nothing to update.

Interfacility Transport: The IFT Committee continues to look for new members.

Other: The Board held an emergency vaccination meeting staying in line with the Governor's mandate of October 29th. The Board went into executive session to discuss the RFP regarding reorganizing the regions. Marc Minkler added that the Rules Committee has been reinvigorated and are finalizing the rules around the emergency vaccination. Anyone with suggestions on rules changes should send them to Rich Kindelan. The Workforce Development Committee is looking to add members.

MDPB (Mike Bohanske)

Protocol Process Update: The Protocol review process is finalized. They are now working on the education content to align with the protocols. Virtual Train-the-Trainer classes that will be available starting in October. Dates will be available on the MEMS website. The Protocols are still scheduled to go live on December 1st. The pilot project in Portland has been live for a couple of months now. The Northeast Mobile Health Jackman project was preliminarily approved by MDPB and is nearing the final steps to go live soon. The hospitals in the region have been communicating around diversion. All encouraged to reach out to Dr. Bohanske if there are any issues around diversion status. They continue to improve communications through REMIS.

Other:

State Education/Exam (Rick Petrie/Sally Taylor)

Update: Rick shared that Ned Doughty has retired and stepped away SM representative to the State Education Committee and the position needs to be filled. Cathy Gosselin has shown interest in this position. The Education Committee continues to work with MDPB on the new protocols. The Protocols will roll out in 3 sections being, the Protocols themselves, the EPIC TBI program, and scope of practice changes primarily at the EMT level as some medication administrations, 12-lead acquisition, and CPAP will be added if approved by the Board. Sally updated that the Exam Committee is working on revising scenarios for PSEs to keep them updated. They continue to look at other skills and evaluation options. They will present a portfolio process to the Board for review. They continue to search for more State Evaluators for the PSE's.

State QA/QI (Ashley Moody)

Update: The QI Committee continues to meet. The Sepsis Newsletter will go out soon. They are working on a topic for the upcoming newsletter. Dan Masselli added that they are looking to review the purpose of the QI Committee and the topics of Narcan and overdoses and how data will assist on documentations. Brad Chicoine complimented that the Newsletters are very well done and received.

EMSC Update (As Needed) (Marc Minkler/Griffin Bourassa)

Marc shared that they are still offering VR education. Any departments interested in having the training in their service should contact Marc. Another EMSC survey will be sent out in January with more information to follow as it gets closer.

Other:

Regional Initiatives (APEMS Staff)

COVID Updates: Sally stated that the reporting of Staff Vaccination's final report is due by September 30th. All information needs to be reported on September 1st, 15th, and 30th even if no changes. The requests for PPE and BinaxNOW now need to be submitted to the CDC representative. BinaxNOW tests are available but in short supply so all can use the ones they have on hand. There was discussion amongst the group about BinaxNOW and antigen testing. Dr. Lattanzi and Dr. Bohanske explained that if a person is asymptomatic with exposure PCR testing is recommended. If the person has had exposure and is symptomatic then BinaxNOW is recommended. The question of training being available for Swab and Send with BinaxNOW and PCR kits and where to send the samples was brought up. A MEMS employee shared that there is training available, and they should contact Sam Hurley for more information. The group weighed in on the staffing challenges that will be faced come October 1st regarding the vaccination mandate. The question was raised regarding the CSM mandating that all staff are required to implement the flu vaccine. It was shared that some hospitals had begun implementing the flu vaccine last year. Letters of medical exemptions were also discussed. It was recommended that any questions around the letter be directed to Occupational Health.

Regional QI/QA Committee Development: Sally, Rick, Steve, and Dr. Bohanske are working together on the QI requirements of the Regional Contract. They are putting together a Regional QI Committee that will develop the education to allow services to create their own QI plans. The education that will be offered will be aligned to that of the State QI. The Regional QI will also meet the required two audits per year.

Legislative Update (MAA): Jay Bradshaw was unable to attend so Sally provided his update covering some of the bills being reviewed and some that have passed. Rich Kindelan offered his help to any that need help submitting the expense report that is due at the end of September. The next Leadership Skills training will be held on October 18th and November 12th. Details are available on the newsfeed of the MAA website. Rick added that there is a 4th round of funding with a webinar coming up to help offset any losses the services have experienced.

Medication Shortages (as appropriate): No new shortages to update.

Education Seminar Update: Due to the surge in Covid cases, APEMS will be postponing the Conference until March 22-27th. In the interim monthly online classes continue to be

offered and we will be hosting a Virtual Conference November 11-13th. More information will be available very soon.

Public Information/Education: All encouraged to continue to offer public outreach and education and to attend town meetings.

Maine EMS Board Position Update: Rich Kindelan updated that there are expired and expiring positions on the MEMS Board, but they have postponed filling any seats until there is a decision made regarding the regions being reduced to 4 or remaining at 6. Those that have been in the positions continue to maintain them. All encouraged to participate in the Board meetings.

Next Meeting – November 24th – Day Before Thanksgiving: It was decided to keep the meeting on November 24th at 9:00 AM.

Other: **Motion to nominate Cathy Gosselin to represent SM Council to the MEMS Committee (M. Schmitz / R. Petrie), all in favor.** Sally will compose the letter to send to MEMS. Dan Masselli reminded all that I-295 will be closed for a few days so transports should be planned according. He presented a link in the chat for the construction plan.

RMCC Discussion (Mike Bohanske)

Hospital Updates:

- **Mid-Coast Hospital:** Dr. Lattanzi shared that they have more educational opportunities being offered. Zoom links have gone out for all classes. Boarding continues to be a stressful situation. They have increased physician coverage in the ER. Transfers continue to be a challenge. Diversion challenges continue. Covid testing is still available, and first responder testing will be prioritized. Rapid PCR takes approximately 8 hours. On Nov 6th, the EMR will transfer over to EPIC.
- **Mercy:** Dr. Gallo shared that they are moving into the new hospital the first week of December. Walk throughs with EMS providers will be available. Mindy shared that Pyxis access for new staff should be done through her when new staff are employed. Her email address was shared for all.
- **Southern Maine Healthcare:** Dr. Schmitz updated that they are experiencing high patient volumes and need to practice safe patient hand offs. Emergent and non-emergent transfers. He shared that there is a PCR testing sites for providers. Covid volume is going up again, so he reminded all to be vigilant and use proper PPE. He also encouraged vaccinations for those that have not gotten it yet.

Transfers have been a factor at SM Healthcare as well. He thanked all for their hard work.

- **Maine Medical Center:** Chris Pare shared that they are finding a lot of asymptomatic patients and an uptick with EMS providers not wearing proper PPE. Pyxix will be changing, and a confidentiality statement is available for those utilizing the machine. Dr. Bohanske added that he is aware of the stress all are experiencing and reminded all to take care of themselves.
- **York Hospital:** Dr. Kenney shared that they have had an increase in volume and have had to go on diversion with difficulties finding places for patients. Drive through testing site remains open.

Questions, Concerns, Ideas from the Membership:

Actions To Be Done:

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 AM. (Brad Chicoine)

The next general meeting will be at 9:00 AM on November 24, 2021, via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Cyndie Dugans