



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
13 Apr 2022
0900-1130

Online via ZOOM platform: <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/82789080665>

Minutes

Members Present: Cathy Gosselin, Amy Drinkwater, David Mejia, Paul Froman, Joanne Lebrun, Mike Drinkwater, Leah Mitchell, Dennis Russell, Stephanie Cordwell, Steve Smith, Aiden Kolplovsky

Members Absent: Brian Chamberlin, Ben Zetterman

Staff: Chris Azevedo, Melissa Adams, Ashley Moody, Marc Minkler

Stakeholders: Scott Smith, Eric Wellman, Chip Getchell, AJ Gagnon, Chase Labbe, Sally Taylor, Rick Petrie, Theresa Benner-Cousins, Steve Almquist

“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: 0902

- a. Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of March 2022 meeting minutes. Motion made by Paul Froman and seconded by Joanne Lebrun to approve the minutes. No discussion. Motion is carried.

III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

- a. Suggestion made to take Scott Smith’s new business item first.

IV. State Update:

- a. Education- Chris Azevedo
 - i. Protocol Update Completion data
 - 1. Working with Jason Oko to reconcile data
 - ii. Training Center Standards revision work continues
 - iii. PIFT Education group met. Agenda item to be discussed later in the meeting.

- iv. NCCP transition presentation developed and given. Agenda item for late in the meeting.
- b. Melissa Adams
 - i. Nothing to report
- c. Jason Oko
 - i. Discusses protocol completion data and challenges in reconciling data and addressing data skew.

V. Old Business:

- a. PIFT education update
 - i. Rick Petrie
 - 1. PIFT subcommittee has been meeting for over a year. The program has not been updated in 16 years.
 - 2. Discusses challenges with teaching the current outdated curriculum.
 - 3. Sub-committee recognizes that Maine EMS does not have the resources to support this curriculum.
 - 4. Therefore, sub-committee has recommended that the Education Committee recommend to the Board that the current educational program be discontinued and, in its place, a commercially available program that is standardized be adopted.
 - ii. Discussion amongst the group
 - 1. Dennis Russell
 - a. There are certain programs that only 2 places can teach.
 - b. With national education standards, most all PIFT items are now covered under paramedic education. So, the PIFT education course, technically, may not be needed anymore.
 - c. Some of the commercially available classes, such as CCEMTP, are much greater than what we are doing in PIFT. Most of those classes are critical care, and critical care is not PIFT.
 - d. If Maine EMS says we need to have “stability” pieces, that’s fine.
 - 2. Rick Petrie
 - a. One issue is that PIFT is written into the Rules. I’ve advocated discontinuing PIFT, and it’s been turned down multiple times.
 - b. Another issue is that Maine EMS has no authority over hospitals, and hospitals don’t want to be involved in many aspects of PIFT.
 - c. There are other options out there.

- d. One of the recommendations was for Maine EMS to revitalize their IFT committee.
- 3. Steve Almquist
 - a. Inquires about and discusses IVST vs CCEMT-P.
 - b. Rick Petrie
 - i. That would be in the list, to include what you're talking about.
 - c. The verbiage should be "certification" and not denote "program."
- 4. Paul Froman
 - a. It's a hard line to separate operations from education. Discussion on the point.
- 5. Dennis Russell
 - a. By saying "certification" it implies providers are going to have to maintain that certification. This requires cost.
 - b. The question of the meaning is of concern.
 - c. The system is stressed right now, and this would definitely add to it.
- 6. Rick Petrie
 - a. The subcommittee identified the lack of continuing education/certification maintenance as a fault in the program.
 - b. Everyone would have to re-take the program and also do con-ed, if the PIFT education got updated and continued.
- 7. Joanne Lebrun
 - a. Interested in exploring more, the "AVOC" model.
 - b. I also know that creates a lot of work.
 - c. Are we not already incorporating these (PIFT) elements into a paramedic curriculum? If not, it's up to the Education Committee to identify those points and move on that.
 - d. When IFT came out of MDPB, there was a question of whether or not PIFT should become part of the protocol.
- 8. Aiden Koplovsky
 - a. If this is the direction, if not implemented correctly, it has the potential to impede the transportation of patients throughout our state.
- 9. Rick Petrie
 - a. That is a concern, and we understand that.
 - b. Whatever happens, there will be a change requiring every medic to take the program. That will result in the risk that you are talking about, Aiden.

- c. There is also a concern that these transports are really not for new paramedics. And issues have resulted. Discusses this point.

10. Marc Minkler, from chat:

- a. There are 51 PIFT services in Maine. Last year, 28 services did less than 10 PIFT calls (and 12 did none). How do we ensure competency with this? A regular CEH and course/exam is one method to help. We don't even know how many PIFT paramedics exist in the state.

11. Steve Smith from chat

- a. This is a good discussion. I agree PIFT is outdated. I think it should be up to PIFT service and their medical director to decide what that service is capable of.

12. Joanne Lebrun cautions against boxing ourselves in.

13. Aiden Koplovsky

- a. We need to develop something to put to the Board:
 - i. Where we are
 - ii. What the next step is.
- b. Would like to develop an item for the Board agenda- a letter to be approved by the committee to send to the Board.
- c. Joanne Lebrun from chat:
 - i. Maybe something such as - The PIFT education has lost its utility. It cannot be updated. Need direction from the Board of how to proceed.

b. Training Center Standards revisions

i. Eric Wellman

1. Reminds all of pertinent documents which were distributed to the group via email.
2. Discusses the documents.
 - a. Tried to update existing alignment with CAAHEP.
 - b. Pulled from 2021 updates from CAAHEP/CoAEMSP
 - c. There are variations between these processes and state processes that must be considered.
3. Dennis Russell
 - a. Questions about lack of accommodation for EMS services being able to be a Training Center without agreements.
 - b. Eric asks to add timeline into the standard.
4. Program Resources.
 - a. Discusses each specific standard covered in the document.
 - b. Dennis Russell asks about terminal competency verification for AEMTs.
5. Comments should be addressed to Maine EMS.

- a. Dennis Russell emphasizes that it's important that the training centers who are not captured by CAAHEP be able to understand and ask questions regarding this, because we don't want to cripple the state.
- 6. Eric Wellman discusses the next group of standards to be forwarded next month.
- 7. Aiden Koplovsky
 - a. Asks about point in timeline.
 - b. Eric Wellman advises that it is intended that the next sections should be for next meeting.
- 8. Aiden
 - a. Plan
 - i. Review the 4 documents emailed and reviewed today
 - ii. Next month, review feedback. And receive the next 4 documents.

VI. New Business

- a. Rules Proposal for Distributive Learning and Synchronous/Asynchronous Learning Methodologies - Scott Smith. Discusses
 - i. No way outside of a CAPCE approved CEH provider to provide approved asynchronous education.
 - ii. Mention is in a cursory way in TC standards and rule.
 - iii. Ask is to draft some rules addressing this.
 - iv. Discussion amongst the group
 - 1. Joanne Lebrun
 - a. We should think about what we want to do with continuing education.
 - 2. Marc Minkler
 - a. This is more of a TC internal policy or something that should be pulled out of TC standards.
 - b. Discusses standardizing a program and limits of doing so
 - i. Can't change it for 3 years
 - ii. Shares current TC standard (2014)
 - 3. Eric Wellman
 - a. What we're looking at regarding training centers is probably a requirement for more defined policies.
- b. Maine EMS CEH model transition for EMS license renewal (NCCP)
 - i. Tabled until May meeting.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Date and time: 11 May 2022, at 0900 hrs.

VIII. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Dennis Russell and seconded by Paul Froman.
Meeting adjourned at 1123 hrs.