



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
152 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK
COMMISSIONER

SAM HURLEY
DIRECTOR

Education Committee

Wednesday
13 Jul 2022
0900-1130

Online Via Zoom: <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/82789080665>

Minutes

Members Present: Aiden Koplovsky, Mike Drinkwater, Amy Drinkwater, Ben Zetterman, Joanne Lebrun, Leah Mitchell, Dave Mejia, Steve Smith, Dennis Russell
Members Absent: Stephanie Cordwell, Cathy Gosselin, Brian Chamberlin, Paul Froman (excused)
Staff: Chris Azevedo, Melissa Adams, Jason Cooney, Dave Davies, Marc Minkler,
Stakeholders: Sally Taylor, Rick Petrie, Eric Wellman, AJ Gagnon, Steve Almquist, Chris Pare, Theresa Cousins

“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:**
 - a. Introductions and roll call

- II. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of June 2022 minutes. Motion made to approve the June minutes by Amy Drinkwater and seconded by Joanne Lebrun. No discussion. Motion is carried.

- III. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**
 - a. None.

- IV. **State Update:**
 - a. Education – Chris Azevedo
 - i. The next Protocol Update Forum tomorrow at noon. This will be online only, with tentative discussion about the Gold section and Yellow section proposed changes.
 - ii. Work continues on the following:
 1. Protocol education for Gold section

2. NCCP process. Currently working with Jason Oko and Licensing to develop the user interface in ImageTrend.
- iii. NREMT decision
 1. NREMT's Board of Directors decided at their June meeting to change Paramedic candidate eligibility for NREMT certification. This is an agenda item to be discussed later in the meeting.
- iv. Strategic planning
 1. The strategic planning process continues with the EMS Board. This is a good time for all stakeholders to reflect and ask themselves how EMS education should look in the future. Specific items to think about, include:
 - a. CEH- delivery, support
 - b. ICS- licensure, standards, support for
 - c. EMS leadership and management
- b. EMS-C – Marc Minkler
 - i. Pediatric group continues efforts around VR education for pediatrics
 - ii. Attended NASEMSO meeting in Charleston
 1. Continued with efforts at pediatric skills and pediatric education
 2. Marc Minkler began term as Chair of National NASEMSO Pediatric Council and became a member of the Executive Board of NASEMSO.
 - a. Discusses NASEMSO reaction to NREMT Board decision. The NASEMSO Board SUPPORTS maintaining program accreditation, as well as opening up their Board meetings for transparency.
 - iii. IFT Committee continues to meet, met Monday. Meeting schedule is on the calendar.
 - iv. EMS Rules updates still available for comment
 - v. EMS Board meeting for August is an in-person meeting only. There will be no ZOOM option due to this meeting being a work-group meeting for strategic planning.
- c. Licensing – Melissa Adams
 - i. Continuing work with Jason Oko and Chris Azevedo on NCCP transition. We have until November of 2023 to roll that out.
- d. Dave Davies
 - i. Work on scope of practice for community paramedics.
 - ii. Community Paramedicine committee developed a scope of practice, which was shared with MaineCare to verify it was reimbursable. They asked us to work on a specific scope of practice list.

V. Old Business:

- a. PIFT Education Update
 - i. Rick Petrie gives an update

1. Unfortunately, the recording of the last PIFT Education Sub-Committee meeting only captured the first 30 seconds. The chat file was saved and examined. There was some good discussion during the meeting, but we were unable to capture it.
 2. A Doodle poll will be sent out to committee members to continue the discussion and come up with a recommendation for the Board by their September meeting. September will be the next time they will be doing business.
- b. Training Center Standards Revisions
- i. Eric Wellman and Chris Azevedo lead the discussion on training standards revisions. The last meeting stopped during Interpretation #3. Discussion continues for this meeting at that point.
 - ii. Aiden Koplovsky advises that time for discussion will be limited due to the need to discuss the NREMT's recent decision regarding Paramedic candidate eligibility for NREMT certification.
 - iii. Interpretation #3 is covered, with discussion throughout and changed recorded on the document for later distribution to the committee.
 - iv. Discussion stopped at the end of Interpretation #3, due to time. Next month, discussion will begin with Interpretation #4.
 - v. Aiden discusses additional meetings for standards reviews. Asks for thoughts.
 1. Suggests beginning additional meetings in September, October, and November. The group agrees.
 2. Aiden will work with Chris Azevedo and Marc Minkler to get the dates put out.
 3. Regarding the extra meetings, Joanne Lebrun asks if there will have to be a quorum, and if members cannot make the extra meetings, will that be held against them in terms of committee attendance and participation, and lastly, will time be allotted during regular Education Committee meetings for limited discussion of some of the concepts.
 - a. Dennis Russel suggests having a quorum for the meetings so that it can be voted on and cautions that if discussion on those same items will be rehashed during regular meetings, that might be a waste of time.
 - b. Joanne Lebrun suggests proposing a schedule and doing a poll to assess member availability for additional meetings.
 - c. Aiden Koplovsky agrees this might be doable, for the 4th Wednesday of the month. Also, inability to attend the additional meetings should not be held against members.
- c. Five-minute break taken before coming back to address new business.

VI. New Business

- a. NREMT's recent decision regarding Paramedic candidate eligibility for NREMT certification.
 - i. Chris Azevedo discusses the decision of the NREMT Board of Directors to, not only change candidate eligibility requirements for NREMT certification, but to effectively drop the requirement candidates for Paramedic certification to have graduated from a CAAHEP accredited program. This requirement would be replaced by requiring only "state approval" for the program. Shares his screen with the group, to show the actual NREMT resolution.
 1. The NREMT defines "state approval" as being approval of the paramedic education program by the state EMS office via the same mechanism by which EMR/EMT and AEMT programs are currently approved by. This is not a mandate that states create their own "accreditation" process, per se, along similar lines of national accreditation.
 2. This appears to have been driven by a few states who are organized differently from others and/or are geographically large states and have threatened to leave NREMT if they are required to continue to have CAAHEP accreditation for their programs for Registry licensure.
 3. Chris Azevedo shares the website page to show the link for public comment. Public comment ends in August, and that is when the Registry will begin action as far as putting into effect this change or reconsidering.
 4. Dennis Russell comments that this is not a final decision and final action has not yet been effected.
 5. Neither CoAEMSP, NASEMSO or NAEMSE are in support of that decision.
 6. Aiden Koplovsky asks if the Maine EMS office has taken a perspective or decided to provide commentary or feedback. Chris Azevedo replies that the office is in the process of drafting a public comment to submit to the NREMT. The Office is not in favor of this decision. Discussions in the office revolve around developing alternative action plans should this decision be maintained by the NREMT.
 7. Dennis Russell comments that while he supports the state's perspective, it is also important to realize that, if an organization is not a collegiate institution, the accreditation process is very long and drawn out. This process is specifically geared towards academic institutions. So, I can understand other perspectives which may not be in favor of CAAHEP accreditation. It is also important to realize that the CAAHEP process that CoAEMSP

facilitates is known among colleges to be more difficult than accreditation for other disciplines.

8. Joanne Lebrun agrees with Dennis's comments. The accreditation process should take a comprehensive look at what their requirements are and perhaps take an opportunity to modernize their standards and some of their costs.
 9. Leah Mitchell comments that while the process is not in need of some improvements, we should also be careful about what our message regarding our stance on this is. We have brought a bar of professionalism and standardization to our programs -which was very much needed. Despite things like staffing shortages, etc., which affect the profession, we still need to be mindful that if we don't maintain standards, then it will further collapse the system. The accreditation process at least gives us a set of standards that levels the playing field. To think that the state EMS office is capable of developing and maintaining what the accreditation process that is in place does, is not realistic. We need to make sure how we go forward and not setting our education system backwards.
 10. Dennis Russell advises that if you put the standard out there, everybody needs to be assessed to that standard the same way.
 11. Eric Wellman agrees with Dennis Russell's perspective, and encourages all to comment on the decision.
 12. Aiden Koplovsky summarizes that the group is in favor of maintaining the accreditation standard but notes that the accreditation process has become cumbersome. Asks that the group be kept up on the progression of events by the state office.
- b. Aiden asks Chris Azevedo when the EMS Board might discuss this decision and asks him to provide the committee an update after the NREMT decision is made final or reconsidered in August.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Date and time: Wednesday, 10 Aug 2023, 0900 hrs.

VIII. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Dennis Russell and seconded by Steve Smith.

IX. Adjourned at 1102 hrs.