



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 and Examinations Committee

Wednesday, 8 Mar 2023
0900-1130

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

Minutes

- Members Present:** Sally Taylor, Paul Froman, Stephanie Cordwell, Brian Chamberlin, Cathy Gosselin, Joanne Lebrun, Aiden Koplovsky, Dennis Russell, Leah Mitchell, Mike Drinkwater, Amy Drinkwater
- Members Absent:** Ben Zetterman, David Mejia, Steve Smith
- Staff:** Jason Oko, Marc Minkler, Sam Hurley, Chris Azevedo, Melissa Adams
- Stakeholders:** Jeremy Ogden, Theresa Cousins, AJ Gagnon, Matt Beil, Fred Porter, Rick Petrie, 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:**
 - a. Introductions and roll call by Aiden Koplovsky

- II. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. Approval of February 2023 minutes.
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes made by Cathy Gosselin and seconded by Leah Mitchell. No discussion. Motion is carried.

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

- IV. **State Update:**
 - a. Education – Chris Azevedo
 - i. Stakeholder Protocol Changes Forum – Tomorrow 9 Mar 2023, at noon
 - ii. ALS Representative to MDPB
 1. Five candidates to be interviewed in second round. Interviews on 14 Mar 2023, with selection hopefully brought to March MDPB meeting.

- iii. Strategic planning
 - 1. Criminal Justice and Public Safety committee work session on LD-244 this morning.
- b. Director Hurley
 - i. Director Hurley thanks the committee and all who have worked on the Training Center Standards revisions.
 - ii. The first round of interviews for Deputy Director has been completed. There were nine candidates interviewed. There are four candidates to be interviewed for round 2 in-person on 14 March.
 - iii. The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Programming team are in the process of bringing on a second SUD Coordinator. This job is being posted and is open.
 - iv. The SUD team has received funding from DHHS to bring on six SUD Ambassadors. They will be working until August and will receive a stipend. They will work with EMS and fire services and discuss “stigma” around SUD in patients. Maine EMS will bring on as many ambassadors as the grant funding will allow.
- c. EMS-C
 - i. Marc Minkler
 - 1. EMS-C education survey continues. There’s been a 75% response rate so far. We will be pushing out reminders to services to complete the surveys. Will provide feedback once EMS-C has had a change to collect survey data and analyze it.
 - 2. Continuing the BLS-O course effort. This is an effort directed at rural areas with limited OB/PED capability. Seven courses conducted so far, across the state. Five more class sessions are in the works for Houlton/Presque Isle area, the Greenville/Jackman area, Skowhegan, Bridgeton/Norway area and Buxton area.
 - 3. Marc shares his screen a map depicting hospitals and facilities with OB capabilities across the state.
 - 4. Dennis Russell advises that Bridgton Hospital has a room where a BLS-O course may be held. Discussion.
- d. Licensing/EMD
 - i. Melissa Adams
 - 1. Discusses some frequently asked questions which Maine EMS gets asks by applicants when applying for a new license. If Licensure course instructors can put this information out to their students before they graduate their courses, it may help them to streamline their licensure application processes.
 - a. How long does it take to process a licensure application?
 - i. New license – Once a complete application is received, 7-10 business days. Average 5 business days if the following are turned in at the start:
 - 1. Online new license application

2. Out of state background check – if applicable
3. Verification of previous licensure in another state – if applicable
- b. Renewal application is not currently available due transition of the form to the NCCP model. There are few expirations prior to November 2023 due to 18-month extension granted by the Board .
 - i. For reciprocity applicants who expire, they should reach out to a Licensing Agent and the current renewal application can be added to their eLicensing portal.
- c. We get many questions from providers wanting to link Maine EMS license to NREMT certification. We hope to be able to facilitate this by September 2023.
- d. Instructor Coordinator licensure applications
 - i. We get many questions from clinicians who fire instructors are, or EMS instructors from elsewhere and had taken their instructor courses more than two years ago. The Rules only cover instructor courses taken within the last two years.
 - ii. Maine EMS has developed a portfolio model for reciprocity that recognizes initial training and includes documentation of continual instruction and instructor training
 1. Documentation of qualifying initial instructor training
 2. Letter of endorsement from a training center or an accredited institution
 3. Continuing education, including instruction performance

V. Old Business:

- a. Explorer Program – Anna Massefski
 - i. Anna Massefski shares her screen and discusses overview of the EMS Explorer program she is building.
 1. Leah Mitchell expresses some concerns regarding who is going to deliver the training to students and also regarding infection control training.
 - a. Anna Massefski
 - i. We are working with JMG to develop and deliver education on these topics. The goal is to have the training available to anyone who wants to take the class. Their current EMS liaison is Adrian Stone,

who is a paramedic and will be taking care of delivery of that education. Will also be enlisting CPR and Stop the Bleed instructors. We don't currently have specific names for other instructors at this time because the training is currently being developed.

2. Mike Drinkwater relates that his CTE program is one of the few programs that still puts students into the field for training. Will the immunization requirements for Explorers interfere with the ability of the CTE students to obtain clinical experience?
 - a. Anna Massefski
 - i. The Explorer program doesn't want to detract from the CTE programs. We see Explorers as a feeder to CTE programs and will be a feeder program for them.
 - ii. Explorers will need to meet all current regulatory requirements, including immunization requirements. Melissa Adams concurs.
 - iii. Background checks will be needed in order to be licensed.
3. Paul Froman asks from chat: Is this connected the Boy Scouts of America explorer program?
 - a. Anna Messefski – no
4. Marc Minkler expresses concerns that JMG may do other training, but they don't have the subject matter expertise to do EMS training. The Training Center authorization process is rigorous and when the word "license" is involved, what happens to these standards? There might be a better way of incorporating these training requirements into existing pathways.
5. Leah Mitchell from chat:
 - a. We may also want to think about EMR over EMT for explorers.
6. Cathy Gosselin – Fire explorer had a committee that would handle the training requirements and they'd become junior members of the department. You really need to have sponsorship support to make programs like this work. Suggests that instead of pointing explorers toward EMT licensure, it may be better to point them towards EMR, due to a lack of desire to expend the required hours towards EMT.
7. Anna Massefski discusses Mentorship training for explorers.
 - a. MEMSEd course
 - b. JMG will not be providing this training.
 - c. IC license not required for mentors
8. Anna Massefski discusses Expectations and Appropriate Conduct

- a. Discussion by the group.
 - 9. Mentor training
 - 10. Sponsoring agency training
 - a. Discussion by the group.
 - b. The Explorer training must be taught and/or overseen by an IC. The training for sponsoring agencies does not have to be taught by an IC.
- b. NCCP CEH entry/ImageTrend – Jason Oko, Chris Azevedo
 - i. Chris Azevedo addresses that this topic, from the February meeting should be revisited at this month’s meeting in case anyone should have any questions regarding the NCCP process or transition to that model.
 - ii. Joanne Lebrun
 - 1. Last month there was a question whether CEH training has to be CAPCE approved, or state approved or can programs from other organizations be applied. The answer is that it can be applied for Maine EMS licensure renewal.
 - 2. Chris Azevedo reviews CEH approval requirements and recommends the office put up guidance for CEH approval on the Maine EMS website.
 - 3. Aiden Koplovsky discusses how NCCP training is to be conducted and asks if training for this will be geared towards different audiences.
 - a. Specific training presentations will be geared towards ICs and also towards Medical Directors and Service Chiefs.
- c. 2023 Training Center Standards Revisions documents
 - i. Aiden Koplovsky discusses.
 - 1. The “final” drafts have been distributed to the committee for final review over the month of March.
 - a. DRAFT Training Center Standards
 - b. DRAFT Companion Guidelines to the Standards
 - c. DRAFT Recommendations to the Education committee for actions by the Board
 - d. DRAFT Summary of 2023 Changes to the Training Center Standards
 - 2. Comments and feedback submitted to Chris, Eric, Aiden, Sally, via email. Loop closed quickly. Compile list of questions/feedback for the April meeting. Feedback emails due by 9 April.
- d. Continuation of PSE discussion (continuing agenda item).
 - i. Aiden Koplovsky comments that this topic is focused around progress of the transition to portfolios and how we can maintain conduction of PSEs until they are sunsetted. Today, we should discuss how we may continue conducting PSEs and why we may need to continue offering them.

1. Chris Azevedo discusses that he has spoken to training center program directors regarding the lift required to both transition to EMT portfolios and also continuing to conduct a PSE.
 - a. Joann Lebrun had offered last month that perhaps the office might contract with a training center to provide PSEs. The limitation there if any is likely funding, both for the contract and for the PSE Administrators.
2. Discussion of an idea to create a “course” geared towards re-entry candidates, that would be essentially a portfolio skills course and conducted by training centers who might elect to run them.
 - a. Options for course curricula
 - i. Maine EMS could write a course curriculum
 - ii. Maine EMS could write a standard which training centers could write their courses around
 - b. The candidates would be charged for the course
 - c. The course would be offered on a regular, periodic basis, but not necessarily every semester – perhaps once or twice a year. It would not be mandatory for each training center to run such a course.
 - i. Joanne Lebrun asks from the chat: would the Board need to agree that this would be equivalent to the approved licensing exam?
 - ii. Chris Azevedo – Yes, the Board would have to approve any primary or alternate method of verifying psychomotor skills.
 - d. Joanne Lebrun
 - i. It seems there are two issues we need to find solutions for
 1. Students who completed licensure courses prior to adoption of portfolios and need to test or re-test.
 2. Re-entry candidates who need to satisfy verification of psychomotor skills.
 3. Chris Azevedo discusses.
- ii. Dennis Russell advises the group that NH candidates are calling United Ambulance Training Center for PSE opportunities, because NH exams are not available.
 1. Discussion.
 2. Aiden Koplovsky suggests the best method to pursue a curriculum for such a course is for Maine EMS to develop a standard for such a course that training centers may use.

- iii. Mike Drinkwater from chat:
 - 1. Suggests a "bridge" course with a modified portfolio to hit protocol advances for re-entry candidates.
- iv. Joanne Lebrun
 - 1. Suggests that a stand-alone course that could be offered by training centers would be useful and might have other applications.
 - 2. Creating a "course" and getting that approved as a practical exam equivalent will take time. And would be good to do. In the interim, is it possible that among training centers we could agree to offer one this spring. I am willing to participate.
- v. Leah Mitchell – Asks Chris Azevedo to reach out directly to TC Directors to find out how many they have who potentially need to test.
 - 1. Deadline to get numbers and feedback to the group for April meeting.
- vi. Joanne Lebrun summarizes that a pathway for PSE candidates seems clear. However, the remaining pathway for re-entry candidates will need to be focused upon. There may be a need for a course in the future, similar to that proposed for re-entry candidates, to assist licensed clinicians with refreshing their own skills. These clinicians may be unaffiliated with a service or who affiliate with a service that has very low call volumes.
- vii. Melissa Adams relates that Maine EMS receives numerous calls from EMTs looking for refresher courses. Such a course may be valuable for both re-entry candidates, as well as for CEHs for re-licensure.

VI. New Business

- a. None

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Date and time: Wednesday, 12 Apr 2023.

VIII. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn by Dennis Russell and seconded by Paul Froman. Meeting adjourned at 1101 hrs.