



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, 12 Apr 2023  
0900-1130

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

**Minutes**

- Members Present:** Amy Drinkwater, Leah Mitchell, Dennis Russel, Joanne Lebrun, Stephanie Cordwell, Ben Zetterman, Sally Taylor, Cathy Gosselin, Aiden Koplovsky
- Members Absent:** David Mejia, Mike Drinkwater, Paul Froman, Brian Chamberlin, Steve Smith
- Staff:** Chris Azevedo, Sam Hurley, Marc Minkler, Anna Masefski, Jason Oko, Soliana Goldrich
- Stakeholders:** Eric Wellman, Theresa Cousins, Steve Almquist, Fred Porter, Don Sheets, Rick Petrie

*“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. Meeting called to order by Sally Taylor at 0904 hrs. Sally Taylor makes Introductions and takes roll.
  
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** Due to limited time, the meeting minutes were addressed after the item regarding Training Center Standards Revisions.
  - a. Approval of March 2023 minutes. Motion to accept the minutes made by Amy Drinkwater and seconded by Dennis Russel. Motion is carried.
  
- III. **Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**
  - a. None.

- IV. **State Update:** Due to limited time, the state update was done after the item regarding Training Center Standards Revisions.
- a. Education – Chris Azevedo
    - i. The NREMT has distributed 10 documents reflecting research that has been conducted on various topics, mostly relating to licensure program and workforce attrition. The papers are available for distribution upon request. However, they are summarized for the committee as follows.
      - 1. AEMT accreditation
        - a. The NREMT has collected AEMT program information nationwide 2019-2021. This information was collected for purposes of developing a structure for accreditation of AEMT programs in the future. The conclusions drawn from the data are summarized as follows.
          - i. Number of AEMT programs is increasing
          - ii. First time pass rate similar to EMT at 55.3%
          - iii. Only 33% of AEMT programs are affiliated with paramedic programs and are familiar with accreditation process.
        - b. A gap analysis needed for work towards accreditation
      - 2. Reasons and rates for attrition in paramedic programs
        - a. Objective – to describe extent and drivers of paramedic program attrition
        - b. Cross section of attrition data from 2019 CoAEMSP Annual Reports. Programs enrolled >5 students
        - c. Most common
          - i. Academic – grades (32%)
          - ii. Non-academic – Medical or personal issues/unknown
          - iii. Longer programs had higher attrition rates
        - d. Recommendation – additional research should be directed towards emphasizing how to better academically support students before and during program.
      - 3. Evaluation of Workforce Pipeline from Enrollment to Agency Affiliation
        - a. Conducted in Virginia using cohort numbers from 2018 and 2019
        - b. Milestones
          - i. Enrollment
          - ii. Program completion – largest point of attrition.
          - iii. NREMT certification
          - iv. Workforce entry

ii. CoAEMSP

1. Annual Report distributed. Available upon request.
  - a. Strategic Goal #3 – Explore expanding the scope of QA/QI activities to EMT and AEMT
  - b. Cited adaptations they affected that were also made by many programs and states
    - i. Virtual accreditation workshops
    - ii. Virtual site visits
    - iii. Waivers for patient encounters and other adaptations of policies/procedures
    - iv. Virtual office hours
  - c. Map of accredited programs and programs with Letters of Recommendation (LoR) 2020 and 2022
    - i. Maine – 5 accredited programs
    - ii. Some states showed increases in accredited programs
  - d. Activity statistics, including site visits, webinars, workshops.
    - i. Perhaps in the future, there is potential for development of similar, Maine-oriented instructor and program director workshops

iii. ALS Representative to the MDPB

1. Colin Ayer was selected by MDPB and confirmed by the Board at the April meeting.

iv. Scope of Practice Document

1. Chris Azevedo discusses the development of a Maine EMS Scope of Practice document.
  - a. Rick Petrie relates that the EMS Board has already approved the 2019 National EMS Scope of Practice Model as the state EMS Scope of Practice.
    - i. Discussion by Chris Azevedo and Director Hurley.
    - ii. Director Hurley summarizes that, while there is a scope of EMS practice in Maine, and the National Scope of Practice document is an excellent basis for what the Board defines as scope of practice, there is a need to refine and clarify what that scope of practice is regarding different areas of practice.
2. Rick Petrie asks regarding the status of the resolution proposed by the NREMT Board of Directors to change the requirement regarding CAAHEP accreditation for Paramedic programs. The change would be that paramedic programs would only need to be approved by the state office, instead of CAAHEP.
  - a. Chris Azevedo and Director Hurley relate that the NREMT Board of Directors did not approve that motion and voted

to retain the requirement for Paramedic program accreditation by CAAHEP. This happened at their June 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

- v. 2023 Protocol update
  - 1. Pink section to be finished this month
  - 2. Purple, Brown, Black, Grey, sections left
  - 3. Planning meeting 5 May to discuss change sheets and education roll-out.
  
- vi. EMS-C – Marc Minkler
  - 1. The Maine EMS-C grant renewed for four years.
    - a. The program will have new metrics to follow. Awaiting updates from Congress and the federal government.
    - b. Focus will be on decreasing pediatric mortality and improving pediatric care.
    - c. Will continue with VR training and QI initiatives as well as with the mid-wives association for some training for EMS clinicians regarding what they do and working with them.
  - 2. BLS-O courses
    - a. Shares screen and discusses the courses that have been presented thus far.
  - 3. Poses question to the group, how can we educate EMS clinicians more? BLS-O is only one moderm. However, local, and regional education has value as well. Discusses.
  - 4. Dennis Russel relates that his service would be happy to help augment efforts in the Bridgton area. Discusses.

**V. Old Business:**

- a. Training Center Standards 2023 Revisions
  - i. Eric Wellman and Chris Azevedo discuss the revisions to date.
    - 1. There was one email with feedback on the revisions from Maine EMS staff and one from a committee member.
    - 2. Eric Wellman reviews some of the changes incorporated into the standards.
    - 3. Eric Wellman opens up the floor for questions
      - a. Dennis Russell asks if the AAGs office will review the document for legal aspects. Chris Azevedo replies that the assumption is that AAG would be part of their approval process. However, we should likely ask if they would like it to be done.
    - 4. Discussion by the group regarding the submission packet.
    - 5. Leah Mitchell makes the motion to approve the revisions and packet and to submit the packet to the EMS Board. Motion is seconded by Dennis Russell. No discussion. Motion is carried.

6. Director Hurley recommends the chairs compose a memo outlining the process and what was done. The office will do likewise. This will give the Board some feedback material to digest, so that they will have more than just the documents upon which to base their decision on.
  7. Director Hurley asks that the memos be submitted by 24 April 2023.
- b. EMT Portfolio Outcome Data
- i. Chris Azevedo discusses the EMS Board requirement for portfolio pilot outcome data.
    1. Dennis Russell regarding for reporting metrics, if training centers will have to submit data, and timeline.
      - a. Chris Azevedo discusses
        - i. Looking to show
          1. Numbers avg for contacts/exposures
          2. Attempts at skills verifications
          3. Summative evaluation attempts
          4. Course pass/fail rates
          5. Student eval trends
          6. Employer evaluation trends
        - ii. Ideally, would like to have data for June.
          1. Discussion.
        - iii. Aiden Koplovsky adds that it's likely training centers would need at least 45 days to provide the data.

## VI. New Business

- a. Board request for committee items for strategic planning
  - i. Sally Taylor discusses the request from Board Chair Libby that each committee provide to the Board the following, by the end of May:
    1. Summary and progress report of the items the committee has completed or is working on over the past two years. This should include an approximation of committee member time allocated to the project, if applicable.
    2. List of short- and long-term goals for the next two years, along with articulated objectives with measurable outcomes.
    3. List of resources it is anticipated will be needed from the Board and Maine EMS staff to ensure the success and advancement of the committee's goals and objectives.
  - ii. The Maine EMS office is working on locating the original charge for each committee at the time they were formed. Doing so may be challenging as some committees are long standing. However, the intent is to articulate each committee's roles, responsibilities, goals, objectives, measures, and work products clearly.

- iii. The best way to do this is to send out to the group an email with each question asked to members and stakeholders. We could put this on the agenda for the May meeting. Sally will formulate the email and send to all committee members by end of day.
- iv. Joanne Lebrun comments that this will be helpful and will assist in outlining how this aligns with strategic planning. Notes that the Education Committee has been part of scope of practice planning in the past.

#### **VII. Next Meeting**

- a. Aiden Koplovsky asks the group for items for next month's agenda.
  - i. Sally Taylor asks that AVOC be put on next agenda
  - ii. Dennis Russell asks for status of PIFT. Asks if there is a timeline, because what is being taught is not up to par. Emphasizes the need to get something out there that is appropriate.
  - iii. Cathy Gosselin asks to see more discussion on the EMS Explorer program. If we make this a certificate program (vs license), then, the departments can take ownership and work this locally. Aiden advises that there was a presentation on Explorers at a previous meeting and that Anna Masefski might be open to your feedback.
- b. Sally Taylor advises that Dr. Tilney is working hard on what logistic and operational movement regarding PIFT. There is forward movement on PIFT that will hopefully come to the Education Committee shortly.
- c. Next meeting date and time: 10 May 2023, at 0900 hrs.

#### **VIII. Adjournment:**

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Dennis Russell and seconded by Leah Mitchell. Meeting adjourned at 1009 hrs.