



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
10 May 2023
0900-1130

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

Minutes

- Members Present:** Aiden Koplovsky, Sally Taylor, Ben Zetterman, Joanne Lebrun, Leah, Mitchell, Mike Drinkwater, Paul Froman, Amy Drinkwater, David Mejia, Stephanie Cordwell, Dennis Russell
- Members Absent:** Brian Chamberlin, Steve Smith, Cathy Gosselin
- Staff:** Chris Azevedo, Anna Massefski, Jason Cooney
- Stakeholders:** Eric Wellman, Fred Porter, Theresa Cousins, 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. Aiden Koplovsky and Sally Taylor call the meeting to order at 0905. Aiden Koplovsky makes introductions and does roll call. No quorum is present at this time. However, a quorum was present later in the meeting to approve motions made.

II. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of April 2023 minutes.
- i. There was no quorum present initially to approve the minutes. Upon gaining a quorum, approval of the minutes was revisited by the group at the end of the meeting but recorded here.
- ii. Motion made by Paul Froman and seconded by Amy Drinkwater to approve the April 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carries.

III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

- a. None

IV. State Update:

- a. Due to volume of agenda items, the state update was tabled until the June meeting. The meeting proceeds with Old Business.

V. Old Business:

- a. 2023 Training Center Standards revisions
 - i. Aiden Koplovsky discusses that the full package that was presented was unanimously approved by the EMS Board at yesterday's Board meeting.
 1. Leah Mitchell thanks the group for its work and all who did the presentation to the Board.
 - ii. Chris Azevedo advises the group of the following items for follow up:
 1. Chris Azevedo will work with Marc Minkler, who is the Office webmaster, to get all documents posted on Maine EMS website as soon as Marc is available to do so.
 2. Work remains on three items, which could be considered as goals for the next two years:
 - a. Amendment for CTE programs
 - b. Two appendices in the standards which are also covered in rules
 - i. IC standards
 - ii. CEH requirements
- b. EMT Portfolio outcome data
 - i. Chris Azevedo discusses EMT portfolio outcome data to be reported to the Board.
 1. Student outcome data for EMT portfolio courses is being submitted in the training center annual reports as they come in. The data being collected is the same data as what was being collected before the portfolio pilot.
 2. The current data points which are being collected are not sufficient by themselves to determine effectiveness or performance, specifically of the portfolio model. Additional data points are needed.
 3. However, training centers are not currently resourced to be able to collect any other data at this time.
 4. The suggestion is to develop a list of additional data points and bring it back to the committee and program directors for feedback and input regarding feasibility and appropriateness of any additional data points. The data points selected would be collected moving forward.
 - ii. Discussion by Aiden Koplovsky and the group.

- iii. Amy Drinkwater relates that the intent was to have a report to the Board for June and asks whether we are going to simply give a status report, or if we are going to wait until the Board’s August meeting and also include outcome data. Discussion.
 - 1. Joanne Lebrun suggests summarizing this issues which brought us to implementing the portfolio pilot, compare and contrast the two models, what we are seeing in this implementation, and what the next step is regarding evaluating the portfolios.
 - 2. Aiden Koplovsky adds, a summary of thoughts regarding why this is proving to be an effective replacement thus far, and have we met the objectives we had in doing the pilot.
 - 3. Aiden Koplovsky adds that the timeline doesn’t allow for being able to submit the report to the Board in June and that it first should come back to the committee for review and discussion in June. The Board would have it for their August meeting, as they are not meeting in July.
 - 4. Amy Drinkwater agrees that this is reasonable.
 - iv. Aiden Koplovsky asks that this topic be retained on the agenda for the next meeting under “Old Business.”
- c. Board request for committee items for strategic planning
- i. Aiden discusses.
 - 1. Aiden has compiled a list of items that were accomplished in the last two years, in accordance with the Board’s first ask.
 - a. AVOC program and policy revision
 - b. Training Center Standards Revision
 - c. Merging of Education and Examination Committees
 - d. Beginning of the EMT Portfolio project
 - 2. Goals for the next two years.
 - a. Revisions to the 2023 Training Center Standards, as per the recommendations approved by the Board
 - i. Appendix G – IC Guidelines
 - ii. Appendix H – Continuing Education
 - iii. Amendments for CTE programs
 - iv. Accreditation for AEMT programs
 - b. PIFT education
 - c. PSE continuation/re-entry
 - d. Roll-out of NCCP/CEH requirements
 - ii. Aiden Koplovsky queries the group for suggested other items that should be included in goals for the next two years.
 - 1. Joanne Lebrun adds and discusses
 - a. The committee should be involved in scope of practice discussions.

- b. The committee needs to be seen as a resource by Maine EMS on educational items. This should include protocols, protocol education, education that goes out on MEMSEd. Discussion.
- 2. Aiden summarizes that the Education Committee should continue to act in an advisory capacity towards many projects which have educational impact or are going to impact our ability to deliver education. So that when these changes or made, we can provide input regarding impact.
- 3. Joanne Lebrun adds that we should be on the front end and not the tail end.
- 4. Aiden Koplovsky discusses limitations of the committee and apprehension that the bulk of educational development work for any given project will fall to the committee. Discussion.
- iii. Amy Drinkwater asks if Aiden Koplovsky can send out his running list of goals to the group.
 - 1. Aiden agrees and he will work with Sally Taylor to draft the letter that will go out to the Board. The letter will be sent out to the group for comment prior to being sent to the Board. The goal is to develop a list and provide the priority for each.
- iv. Sally Taylor asks that proposed rule changes regarding AVOC training be put on the list for discussion. This should be a discussion item that could possibly turn into an action item. But it will be difficult to tell if action will be required until the discussion is had.
- v. Aiden Koplovsky asks the group to prioritize the top needs for the next 6 months. Discussion.
 - 1. PIFT
 - 2. Training Center Standards Appendices
- vi. In accordance with the Board's request, Aiden Koplovsky queries the group regarding what the needs from the office, for the committee, will be to accomplish tasks.
 - 1. Aiden Koplovsky asks Chris Azevedo regarding resources the office may need. Discussion.
 - 2. Rick Petrie summarizes that the goal is for the group to put together a list of accomplishments but also put together a list of goals they consider high priority. One of the issues is that a fair amount of this becomes about efficiency and prioritization. Each of the committees are presenting their own priorities to the Board. This is one of the things we're struggling with. There is a lot going on. Prioritization is a struggle – knowing what our focus is and making efficient use of our resources. It comes down to the Board deciding what their priorities are, based upon the feedback that they get from all the committees.

- d. PIFT
 - i. Aiden Koplovsky has reached out to Dr. Tilney to discuss the status of PIFT and to request documents. He has not received any requested documents. The meeting scheduled did not occur.
 - ii. Aiden will reach out again to schedule another meeting.
 - iii. The IFT committee appear to be at a point where they are finishing up their operational changes. This will be on the Board agenda for June.
 - iv. Paul Froman discusses with the group whether or not the Education Committee has anything to actually discuss yet, given that the ability to make any decision regarding education updates was mostly contingent upon the IFT committee work on structural and operational changes. Essentially, this committee cannot proceed on anything until IFT has finished its work.
 - 1. Discussion by the group. Joanne Lebrun asks about prioritization of this item in relation to other goals with action items.
- e. PSE continuation and candidate re-entry process
 - i. Aiden Koplovsky discusses and asks Chris Azevedo if there is anything to be updated on this.
 - ii. Chris Azevedo discusses NREMT requirements for psychomotor skills verification for re-entry process after the current AEMT and Paramedic PSEs are sunsetted.
 - 1. NREMT has stated that skills and competencies for re-entry will need to be both assessed by the coming new clinical performance online exam, and via attestation of skills competencies contained in portfolios which will be required after that time at both the AEMT and Paramedic levels.
 - iii. Aiden Koplovsky discusses and asks that this be continued at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

- a. AVOC
 - i. Chris Azevedo discusses a clarification of CEVO 4 program approval
 - 1. CEVO 4 approval is contingent upon the use of the “Ambulance Maneuvering Skills” course concurrently, to satisfy requirements.
 - 2. This requirement for concurrent practical skills course is not clear in the policy and needs to be clarified in the appendix.
 - 3. The CEVO 4 course is due to be updated to CEVO 5 in June or July 2023. This update will involve inclusion of the practical skills course, “Ambulance Maneuvering Skills” as part of the CEVO 5 course, and not a separate course. So, successful completion of the CEVO 5 course alone will then satisfy the NHTSA EVOC Ambulance standard.

4. Chris Azevedo will reach out to Coaching Systems LLC, which produces the CEVO 5 course and will inquire about any requirement for the instructor trainer course, for a practical skills evolution.
 5. Discussion by the group. Aiden Koplovsky summarizes the clarification to be made in the policy for the group. This will not require a motion from the committee.
- ii. Potential Rules changes
1. Aiden Koplovsky discusses that the Rules Committee has begun the process for drafting a rule which would eliminate the current 6-month grace period after hire in which ambulance drivers would have to have AVOC or equivalent education. Discussion by the group.
 - a. Leah Mitchell expresses concerns that if the grace period is eliminated, that the responsibility for providing AVOC training will fall onto the EMS training centers. Specifically, the onus would be put onto the EMS licensure courses themselves. Discussion.
 - b. Joanne Lebrun highlights that the proposal did not preclude employers from hiring employees without training, nor precluded them from driving an ambulance under non-emergency conditions or when there was no patient on board. There may be appeal in doing an online didactic option, such as afforded with a CEVO 4 type program and then having employees train with the service FTO.
 - c. Dennis Russell discusses that in the winter, the weather may mitigate the ability to deliver a practical skills session for a significant amount of time and should be considered. Eliminating the 6-month grace period may significantly impact the capability for some small service to get an ambulance out.
 - i. Discussion of service-level driver training and credentialling.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Agenda items
 - i. As noted above.
- b. Date and time: Wednesday, 14 Jun 2023.
 - i. Chris Azevedo will be out of state during the June meeting.
- c. At this time, there is a quorum present. The April minutes are approved at this point in the meeting and is noted above.

VIII. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Paul Froman and seconded by Dennis Russell.
Meeting adjourned at 1057 hrs.