



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 July 2023
0900-1130

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

Minutes

Members Present: Aiden Koplovsky, Mike Drinkwater, Leah Mitchell, Ben Zetterman, Paul Froman, Joanne Lebrun, Dennis Russell, Amy Drinkwater, Stephen Smith
Members Absent: Cathy Gosselin, Stephanie Cordwell, Sally Taylor, Brian Chamberlin,
Staff: Chris Azevedo, Marc Minkler, Jason Cooney, Jason Oko, Anna Masefski,
Stakeholders: AJ Gagnon, Theresa Cousins, Eric Wellman

“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 Amy Drinkwater at 0904.
- b. Introductions are made and roll is conducted by Amy Drinkwater.

II. Approval of Minutes:

- a. Approval of June 2023 minutes
 - i. Motion to approve the June 2023 minutes made by Amy Drinkwater and seconded by Joanne Lebrun. No discussion. Motion carried.

III. Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

- a. Pediatric assessment tapes will be added to the meeting as a discussion topic at the request of Marc Minkler.

IV. State Update:

- a. The State update from the Education Coordinator was written and distributed to committee members prior to the meeting via email, along with meeting agenda and minutes for approval (attached to minutes).

V. Old Business:

- a. EMS Board request for committee goals and objectives
 - i. Placeholder – tabled until addressed by EMS Board
 - ii. This will be addressed by the Board at their next meeting in August.
- b. PIFT
 - i. Placeholder
 - ii. This topic was partially addressed in State update
 - 1. Discussion by Leah Mitchell and Dennis Russel regarding potential liability of continuing to teach the PIFT curriculum as it currently exists.
 - 2. Aiden Koplovsky queries the group as to repercussions of not teaching the PIFT program as part of paramedic programs curricula. Discussion by the group.
 - a. Graduates would not have any PIFT education and service chiefs are not likely at this time to find PIFT courses being taught on an independent basis.
 - b. PIFT is not part of the National EMS Education standards for the paramedic level. PIFT is being taught by training centers as part of the paramedic curriculum at the request of service chiefs and EMS stakeholders, with endorsement from their Program Advisory Committees.
 - c. Aiden summarizes that that the impact would be large.
 - 3. Discussion amongst the group regarding the actual impact of PIFT training with regard to the current number of actual existing PIFT services. Are we talking about 4 or 5 services that actually depend on it? Is it time to make the stand that no more courses will be taught – make a position statement.
 - a. Aiden comments that for EMCC's paramedic program, the majority of graduates are employed by a service that does PIFT. The same is true for SMCC and United Ambulance Training Center.
 - 4. Discussion by the group regarding the actual amount of flexibility allowed by the PIFT curriculum.
 - a. Marc Minkler adds the following excerpt to the chat, from the PIFT Course Instructor Manual:
 - i. "There are Power Point presentations available from Maine EMS for instructors to use in teaching the PIFT class, however, instructors should feel free to decide if they wish to use them or not. This course is designed to meet the specific needs of individual services and as such, should be customized on a service-by - service basis. Minimum objectives must be met, but many aspects may be specifically

tailored to the service where the program is being taught.

Note: If instructors wish to develop their own visual aids (power points), MEMS would ask that they be submitted to the MEMS Education Coordinator for review as part of the PIFT course application packet."

- b. Rick Petrie
 - i. PIFT is considered to be a standard of care.
 - ii. Rick Petrie discusses aspects of this, and that the foundation of the curriculum is what must be taught.
 - c. Aiden suggest advising the Board of the effects of not teaching PIFT. Would like to take that step. Hopefully that will garner some attention to the subject.
 - d. Paul Froman
 - i. Browsing through the PIFT manual, is it to the point that we should be looking at where medics are today versus where they were when PIFT came out? It's likely that today's graduates already have the majority of this information.
- c. PSE continuation and Re-entry testing process
- i. Chris Azevedo discusses suggested pathways for accommodating re-entry candidates.
 - 1. Designing a "re-entry course"
 - a. Meeting with TC/Program Directors
 - b. Assess resources
 - c. Develop standards
 - d. Committee review and endorsement
 - e. Board approval
 - f. Interested TCs may develop programs
 - ii. Aiden Koplovsky asks what happens if training centers are unable to do such a course?
 - 1. Discussion
 - a. Chris Azevedo replies that we would be in a holding pattern and would have to resort to not accommodating re-entry candidates.
 - b. Aiden Koplovsky advises it may be more financially feasible to direct that candidates take another EMT course.
 - c. Chris Azevedo discusses that in cases of AEMT and Paramedic, re-taking the course may not be as feasible and option. In the absence of a re-entry course, in that case, we again may have to resort to not supporting re-entry.

- d. Paul Froman highlights that putting resources into a re-entry course may not be justifiable if we don't have the sufficient applicant pool.
 - e. Rick Petrie advises that, at this point in the understaffing crisis, it would not be adventitious not to support re-entry candidates.
 - f. Aiden Koplovsky reminds the group that there are no statutes or regulations mandating that Maine EMS support candidates for licensure via a re-entry pathway.
2. Discussion of various models for certification/licensure candidate re-entry.
 3. Aiden Koplovsky asks for the group to determine a direction in which to proceed. Options:
 - a. Make a recommendation to the Board to not support a pathway for re-entry licensure
 - b. Develop a set of standards for those training centers desiring to develop a re-entry course to follow.
 4. Discussion
 - a. Joanne Lebrun suggests there may be grant funding to hire an entity to write standards for a re-entry curriculum.
 - b. Aiden Koplovsky summarizes that while there is no opposition to having standards in place, we are resource starved. Most training centers, however, cannot support such a course due to resource limitations.
 - c. If we are to write course standards, what does our process for writing those standards look like? If we are going to write them, we have to know who will write them and what the standard are going to look like.
 - d. Rick Petrie suggests reaching out to other entities who may have the resources and be willing to write a set of standards. Perhaps such an organization could be contracted.
- d. Committee position vacancies
- i. Aiden discusses David Mejia's resignation and position vacancy for Non-Municipal Training Officer. We will begin accepting applications for that position.
 - ii. Aiden discusses the potential "At Large" position vacancy.
 1. There have been several persons who have expressed interest in this position. At this point, this position is not vacant, nor is there sufficient cause for removing the person from the position
 - a. No written letter of resignation
 - b. Has met attendance policy
 - c. Cannot justify "cause"

2. The Board Chair's recommendation in this case is to wait for either a resignation letter or violation of attendance policy per bylaws.
 3. We are going to go through the process of filling that position once the position is actually vacant. We are going to follow Board policy which requires resignation, lack of attendance.
- e. AEMT Student Minimum Competencies
- i. Chris Azevedo discusses the coming requirement for AEMT programs to include student minimum competencies (psychomotor skills portfolios).
 1. Though the NREMT Board of Directors have approved the SMCs in May 2023, the resolution is still out for public comment until 8 Aug 2023.
 2. These will be required for graduate eligibility after 1 July 2024
 3. Discussion of a deadline for review and approval.
- f. EMT Portfolio outcome data
- i. Chris Azevedo leads a discussion with the group regarding collection of outcome data and subsequent report to the EMS Board regarding findings and recommendations.

VI. New Business

- a. Marc Minkler discusses the latest efforts in pediatric education
 - i. BLSO course
 1. The last lot of grant funded BLSO courses has recently been completed.
 2. Looking at creating a joint New England BLSO course with input and support from New Hampshire and Yale, in Connecticut.
 - ii. Working with an organization which is developing some pediatric behavioral emergencies training. These would be 5-6 short, 20-minute modules on behavioral emergencies in pediatrics, specifically in the teenage years. They would also focus on both the 911 aspect and the interfacility transport aspect.
- b. Marc Minkler discusses the "Pediatape," which is a tape used for assessing and selecting various appropriate treatment interventions for children, based upon height and weight.
 - i. Marc Minkler shares his screen and discusses the aid.

VII. Next Meeting

- a. Date and time: Wednesday, 13 Sep 2023 at 0900 hrs.
- b. Agenda items for September
 - i. None put forward by the group.

VIII. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Leah Mitchell and seconded by Amy Drinkwater.

b. Meeting is adjourned at 1045 hrs.