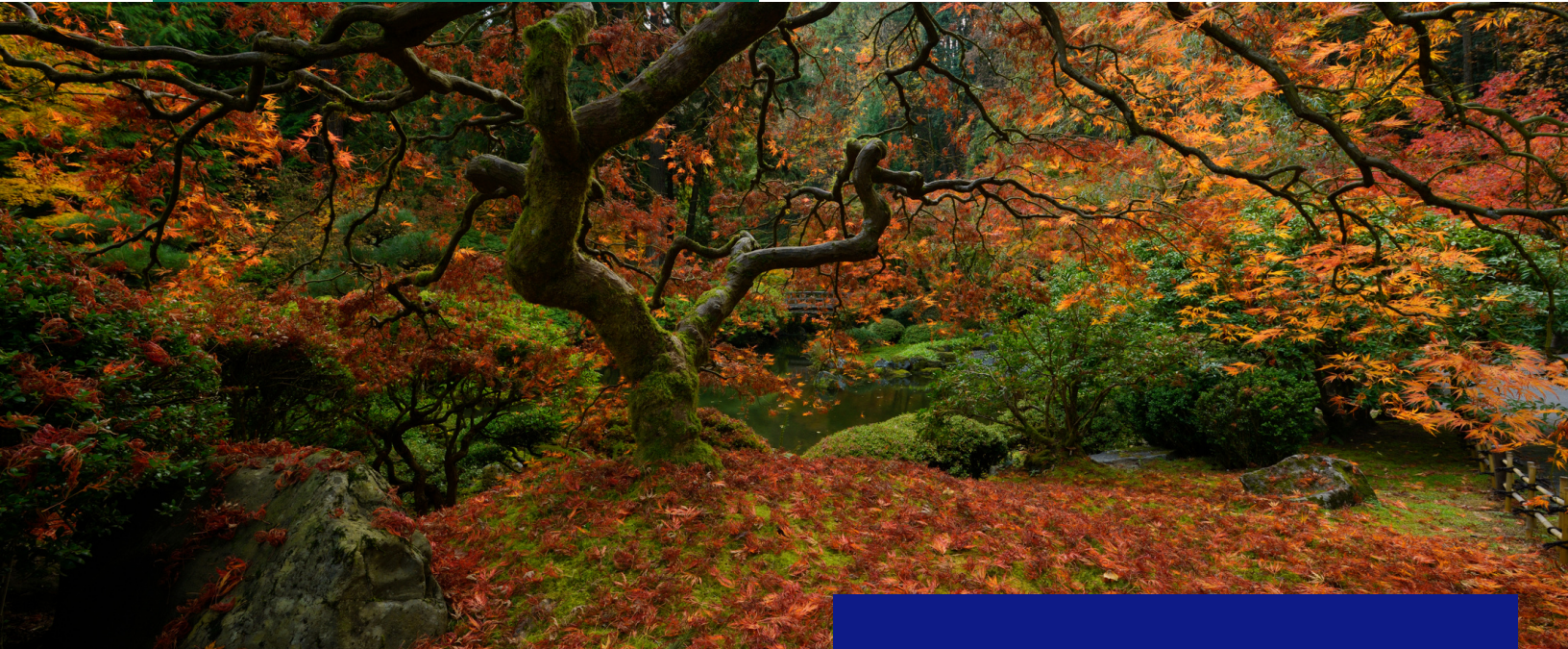


OCTOBER 2023

STAFF UPDATE

MAINE EMS



OVERVIEW

This publication is intended to provide members of the Board and interested parties insight into the work of the Maine Bureau of Emergency Medical Services office in the previous month. This publication is not anticipated to be exhaustive, but instead a high-level overview of the work that has taken place.

It should serve as a jumping point for conversations and questions from the Board regarding the ongoing work that is being performed throughout the state.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

J. SAM HURLEY, MPH, EMPS, NRP

Maine EMS is excited to announce the Maine EMS Connectivity Project. This is a federally-grant funded program through the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety that will help to equip ambulances throughout the state with advanced technology that can alert other motorists via smart phone applications, integrated automotive technologies, and roadway signage of emergency vehicles approaching them or stopped on the roadway (See Figure 1). As an added benefit, but equally exciting, the installation includes high-speed internet access as well as GPS technology that is capable of being integrated into CAD and dispatch systems across the State of Maine. Maine EMS hosted its first information session on Sept. 26, 2023 and we look forward to onboarding EMS agencies across the state as soon as mid-Oct.

Over the past few months, Maine EMS has also been working extensively to develop the Maine EMS Stabilization Program. This is the programmatic arm that will assist in the distribution, management, and oversight of the stabilization component of the 131st Legislature's \$31M investment in the State of Maine's EMS infrastructure. Maine EMS will be presenting the program overview to the Maine EMS Board at the October Board meeting and will also be reaching out to the Department of Health and Human Services as required by the statute. The "stabilization" component of the funding accounts for approximately 40% of the total allocation.

Lastly, Maine EMS has been working diligently to finalize the two-year action plan to present to the Board that will operationalize the *Plan for a Sustainable EMS System in the State of Maine: A Vision for 2035*. We are excited about the prospect of submitting this plan to the Board for adoption in the next month.

Please know that Maine EMS remains committed to the health and well-being of all EMS and EMD professionals involved with the system. We acknowledge that this work is stressful and takes a heavy toll on everyone. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the Maine FrontLine WarmLine as it continues to operate as a resource for EMS and EMD professionals throughout the State of Maine.

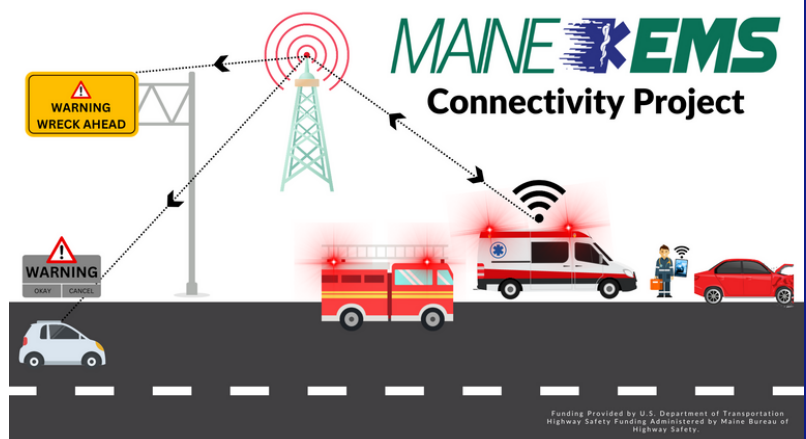


Figure 1: Maine EMS Connectivity Project



SYSTEMS OF CARE

Ashley continues to work with EMD Program Coordinator Melissa Adams to begin the Statewide Pulse Point AED rollout. The office is currently working on verifying current AEDs and obtaining marketing and social media information to distribute around the State. A Plavix blog was released for the Maine Stroke Alliance highlighting the difference between anti-thrombotic medications related to Stroke management. The office continues to work with Dr. Zimmerman in filling the remaining vacancies on the Trauma Advisory Committee and the Maine Stroke Alliance, and as always continue to review and input out-of-hospital cardiac arrest data.

EXPLORER PROGRAMMING

The Explorer Team is happy to announce our remaining two initial trial sites. They are:

- Bethel Ambulance, in Oxford County
- Vinalhaven Ambulance & North Haven EMS, in Knox County

Along with Passamaquoddy, Van Buren, and Shapleigh, these two services make up our initial cohort for the Explorer Program. Initial sites are currently working on individual Action Plans that describe their structure, capacity, and partnerships.

The Explorer Team continues to work on trainings for Explorers and Mentors. In the next month and a half, we will be traveling to each initial site to hold in-person service and Mentor trainings. The goal of these trainings is to ensure that all EMS clinicians are comfortable with the expectations of the Explorer Program and aware of youth protection measures. Mentor training will also include strategies to engage with students, the program's support structures, and more. Both trainings will emphasize Explorer safety.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

The Community Paramedicine Committee met on September 14, 2023. At the meeting, the committee continued the review and discussion of a draft concept rules document where the committee envisioned what concepts they would potentially like to see in future rules for CP. These concepts will align with all prior work that has been done within the committee. They will continue this discussion at their upcoming meeting on October 13, 2023. RFA#202306130, the Healthcare Disparities Funding for Community Paramedicine RFA received all applications on July 26, 2023. Nine agencies were conditionally awarded based on this RFA. Contracts will be allowed to be signed starting September 25, 2023 and the selection package materials are live on the procurement website. The office has drafted an RFP to support with CP education standards development which is anticipated to go live in October with an expected contracting begin date in November. The office continues its work with the Cutler Institute to support with cost avoidance analysis.

ADULT VR TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

The Adult VR Training Program is hitting the road again this fall. We will be holding train-the-trainers at Eastern Maine Community College, Mount Desert Island, and the Atlantic Partners EMS conference. Those who complete these train-the-trainers will be able to borrow the Maine EMS headsets and conduct their own trainings using the VR software. Reach out to Anna Massefski at MEMS.VR@maine.gov to schedule a training!



MEFIRS

We are working with several agencies to begin using the NEMSIS 3.5 run form so they can provide feedback to the Maine EMS Data Team. Work continues on an education course about the NEMSIS 3.5 transition. We have shared the training with an EMS agency, and they are providing end-user feedback on the course, which will be added to MEMSEd when it has been fully completed. We have added some updates to the Maine EMS website for stakeholders interested in learning more about MEFIRS.

We are hosting weekly MEFIRS Open Forums to assist EMS agency leaders in transitioning to NEMSIS 3.5. The Open Forums will occur every week on Tuesday, until Nov 28, 2023, at 1400. Scan this QR code to add the meeting series to your calendar



We have posted the recordings of our previous open forums on the Maine EMS YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/maineems>

Image Trend and Health InfoNet are actively testing the process that will be used to send outcome data back to EMS clinicians within MEFIRS. We are still early in the testing process.

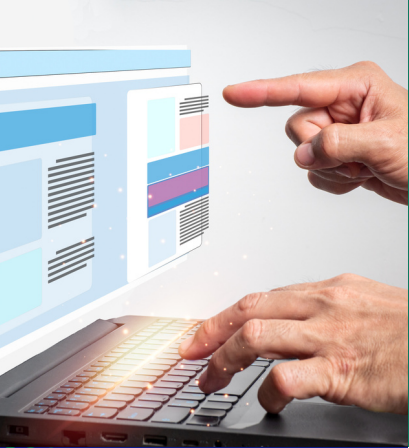
QUALITY ASSURANCE & IMPROVEMENT

The Quality Improvement Committee met in September and continued the review of the pediatric-themed newsletter. The committee has chosen our next newsletter to revisit our cardiac arrest newsletter, last published in 2019, and a newsletter regarding patient refusals.



Vol. 4/Issue 1 | Winter 2023
Quality Improvement Newsletter
EMS Transport Safety
To view, use the QR code/hyperlink





E-LICENSING

Service Renewal applications opened on October 2, 2023. Influenza and COVID-19 Reporting workflow is built into the service renewal application. A component has also been added to learn more about EMS agencies' bariatric patient handling capabilities. We are working with Image Trend on mapping our current CEH hours in the eLicensing system to NCCP topic hours, where we can determine the most appropriate mapping of the topics from the current Maine EMS topic hours to NCCP topic hours.

SUD PROGRAMMING

The SUD team has wrapped up the Ambassador outreach program as of 8/31 and are working on a summary document of the program to look towards building another Ambassador outreach program next year. Our Ambassadors met with 25 unique EMS departments, which includes 105 clinicians. Our intention is continue on with the Ambassador programming to continue outreach and education efforts for SUD programming.

The Naloxone Leave Behind program was supported by Ambassador efforts, as well outreach and education efforts by our SUD team. The Naloxone Leave Behind Dispensation will become a standard practice of care protocol December 1, 2023. At the beginning of 2023, our program has seen slow growth of EMS agencies adopting the NLB programming but since the Ambassador and SUD team outreach we have seen much greater growth in NLB adoption. 35% of Maine EMS agencies are now participating in the program, and our SUD team continues to provide support to agencies throughout the process leading towards the Dec. 1 timeline.

The OPTIONS Referral Program pilot continues forward with establishing additional pilot sites in diverse locations throughout Maine. Our initial pilot site continues to see a lack of referrals but maintain strong partnerships with their OPTIONS liaison and local behavioral health resources. Our team is in process of onboarding our next pilot sites in central, southern and western Maine, as well as working with training and onboarding for additional sites in Northern Maine. Our team partners closely with the Office of Behavioral Health and the OPTIONS program during this pilot phase and planning for future expansion.

The Medication for Opioid Use Disorder, MOUD program RFP will be re-posted this week on the State of Maine Procurement site. The first RFP round did not yield a sufficient amount of applicants so the RFP is going back out for proposal submissions. This RFP is to bring on the Medical Direction Support that is integral to our program design and development. Our team will provide additional updates as we move through the RFP process.

Our SUD team will also be making presentations at the Atlantic Partners Conference in November to provide overview of our programs as well as detailed reviews of specific programs, stigma and substance use.

LICENSURE

The first MOPR pilot project service license was issued to Kennebec Valley EMA's MD-3 agency. Dr. Pieh and a cadre of familiar physicians will be available to respond to emergency calls with several EMS agencies in Kennebec County that have entered into an MOU with the agency. KVMD-3 staff will be documenting calls for service in MEFIRS with a newly developed ePCR for MOPR agencies.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH (EMD)

On September 21, PSAP leadership from around the state attended a presentation for implementing the 911-988 Transfer Policy that provides a pathway for a warm hand-off of callers in specific mental and behavioral health circumstances with 988 as the most appropriate resource. A "quick transfer" icon will be added to the 911 screen in all PSAPs on October 12, giving Centers time to adopt the policy, upgrade their Medical Priority Dispatch Software (MPDS) and quality assurance software, update software settings to match the Medical Director Authorization for MPDS version 14.0, and for staff to complete the 1-hour training available now in MEMSEd.

EDUCATION

- The Education and Examinations Committee met in September. Discussions included:
 - AEMT Student Minimum Competencies - this effectively changes the AEMT curriculum to include the use of psychomotor skills portfolios, as is done with the paramedic and (Maine) EMT programs.
 - There are potentially 2 vacancies to be filled: At-Large Educator and Non-Municipal Training Officer
 - Discussion centered around applicant qualifications for the positions, as there are currently none written
 - PIFT curriculum - There is a significant amount of pressure from the field to continue including the PIFT curriculum as part of the paramedic program. Significant discussion regarding programs continuing to teach an outdated program.
- Pilot Transition to EMT Psychomotor Skills Portfolios
 - This item was tabled at the last Board meeting.
 - Please see the report from the Maine EMS Education Coordinator in the materials for the Oct 2023 Board meeting
- EMS Licensure Re-Entry Candidate Support
 - Discussion of development of a course. Such a course could be developed, but development resources are limited, as are Training Center resources necessary to deliver such a program.



2023 PROTOCOL UPDATE

The protocol “go-live” date has been pushed back to Jan 31, 2023 by the MDPB in order to give EMS clinicians and other stakeholders time to complete protocol update education. Work is progressing with the MDPB with creating educational materials for the update.

EMS FOR CHILDREN

The Maine EMS for Children Advisory Committee will hold its quarterly meeting on October 27, 2023 at 0900. This is a change from the original September date.

We continue work on the national aims for EMSC and how to incorporate into Maine EMS efforts. Amongst all of the efforts and projects we undertake, from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2027, the Maine EMS for Children program aims to:

- Expand Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Departments through the Maine “Always Ready for Children” program by 10% annually, designating Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) in EDs, and helping to ensure hospital EDs weigh and record children’s weight in kilograms. We would love to see more hospitals consider this - it is voluntary and free, and is customized for each individual hospital to develop strategies to improve care for those under 18. It is designed to be at a comfortable and confidential method for EDs. Contact Marc Minkler at marc.a.minkler@maine.gov for more info.
- Improve Pediatric Readiness in Maine EMS Agencies through a pediatric readiness recognition program for EMS agencies; increasing Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) in EMS agencies; and increasing the number of EMS agencies that have a process for pediatric skills-check on the use of pediatric equipment. Similar to hospitals, we aim to help EMS agencies develop strategies for education, planning, equipment use, and family considerations when responding to emergencies throughout the state.
- Increase pediatric disaster readiness in hospital EDs and EMS agencies by helping to ensure that disaster plans address the needs of children. We have found many agencies have not regularly updated their disaster plans, or may not even have one. The EMSC Program can help!
- Prioritize and advance family partnership and leadership in efforts to improve pediatric emergency systems of care by including and engaging family representatives who can speak to the emergency care needs of children in their community. We have all learned that when caring for a pediatric patient, we must include family and guardians. We aim to improve skills in effective communication with the entire family.

EMS FOR CHILDREN CONTINUED

We continue to work MCD Global on developing a multipart education series (for MEMSEd) on responding to, assessing, and transporting pediatric patients with behavioral health emergencies and underlying conditions. This program will offer education from clinicians, family members, and various subject matter experts and will include CEH hours upon completion. We are assisting the Department of Education on proposed rules for CPR instruction in schools, bus accidents, and other school emergencies. We are also meeting with the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, examining data on seatbelt usage in pregnant mothers and injuries from lack of use. We aim to provide statewide education to reduce injuries and deaths from lack of seatbelt use during pregnancy. The EMSC program continues work with the Maine State Perinatal Committee, the Maine AAP regarding hospital pediatric readiness, and a variety of other pediatric topics.

EMSC ALL GRANTEE CONFERENCE

The EMSC Program Manager Marc Minkler and the Family Advisory Network member Brian Richardson attended the required national EMSC All Grantee conference from Sept 10-14 in Austin, TX and worked with state and national partners in improving our state and local efforts at improving pediatric care. We meet and heard presentations on family centric care, grant metrics, and requirements. Presentations included national leaders who spoke on the American College of Surgeons Trauma Center verification process, pediatric pandemic network, disaster planning, children with special healthcare needs, and a host of other topics. Additionally, Marc Minkler was an invited presenter at EMS World Expo in New Orleans, and presented on pediatric Brief Resolved Unexplained Events (BRUE) emergencies, as well as attended meetings with NHTSA, NASEMSO, Ferno, Stryker and other manufacturers on child restraint testing standards and processes. Marc also met with the executive director of CAPCE to discuss opportunities to improve importing credits from CAPCE directly into MEMS licensing, as well as national EMSC course credits.



The audience attending Marc Minkler's BRUE Presentation at the EMSC All Grantee Conference in Austin, TX