



## Meeting Summary

### Goal for Agenda

*To explore opportunities to create paths for career development and EMS oriented degrees*

### **Purpose of a Baccalaureate/Advanced Degree Pathway**

- Promote professionalization of EMS through academic degree credentialing. This parallels other healthcare professions.
- Promote retention of EMS professionals through diversification and specialization in career roles and development pathways beyond entry-level clinical practice. This also parallels other healthcare professions.

### **Existing EMS – Oriented Degree Pathways**

- Associate of Applied Science in Emergency Medical Services – Clinical degree
  - Certificate Paramedic with articulation agreement, with electives
  - Academic curriculum
- Bachelor of Science in EMS
  - None within Maine
  - Out of State
    - Anna Maria College (Massachusetts)
    - Multiple options possible with colleges nationwide (online/blended learning) via
      - Student transfer credits independent of articulation agreements; **OR**
      - Articulation agreements in place with current paramedic programs (none currently in place)
- Bachelor's Degree Non-EMS
  - Articulation agreements in Maine
    - University of Maine BA in University Studies and Leadership
    - University of Maine Augusta – Public Administration

### **Areas of Need**

- EMS Education/Simulation Specialists
- Leadership/Administration
- Finance/Business/Grants
- EMS Management
  - Quality Management
  - Compliance Specialist
  - Human Resources
  - Finance
- Research/Statistics/Data Analytics
- Operations management/Safety

## Points Discussed by the Group

- The current AAS in Paramedicine is viewed by many as a “terminal degree.” However, with regard to career path, it only gets clinicians to the “entry-level.”
- The current AAS in Paramedicine is strictly a clinical degree with regard to study in EMS.
- Lack of student movement from AAS to BS degree programs (or directly into BS programs) may be related to the lack of existence of EMS oriented BS programs in Maine.
- Academic students may view progression from an EMS oriented AAS program into a non-EMS BS program as convoluted and forfeit taking advantage in favor of other non-traditional pathways later in their careers.
- EMS students are given little, if any, training/education regarding possible career paths in their licensure courses. Many feel “stuck” when they reach the point in their careers where they’ve learned their trade, and are desiring to expand their career paths, but stay in EMS.
- There is a need for a path of education to produce EMS leaders, managers, and specialists for jobs beyond entry-level EMS clinician.
- Existing EMS baccalaureate programs are not within local reach, which may be a barrier to pursuit of academic degree study beyond the current AAS.
- Nationally, EMS career opportunities exist in the corporate world, Federal, State, and local municipal fields.

## Recommendations

- Value can be attached to Baccalaureate and advanced EMS degree programs with collaborative work between EMS system stakeholders, the Maine Community College System, and the University of Maine system
  - Better illustration of career opportunities in EMS prior to entry into EMS and during entry-level education/training
  - Better illustration of career pathways that can open with a baccalaureate or advanced degree
  - Better familiarity and greater perspective regarding EMS at the local, state, and national levels:
    - EMS systems development and planning, regulation, and support
    - Coordinated system response
    - Changes and trends in EMS education, operations, and clinical care
    - Advanced clinical care and care systems
- Getting there:
  - Planning
    - Needs
    - What should the EMS degree pathway look like? Entry-level > Baccalaureate > Advanced degree?
    - How do we get there?
  - How can we facilitate use and growth of EMS academic education pathways?
    - Education and information regarding EMS career pathways that are out there
    - Begin with certificated education that is within reach of both entry-level and experienced EMS clinicians. Collaboration between MCCS/UMaine education for credit eligibility will be needed.
    - Dedicated effort by MCCS to publicize college credit available for existing training.
    - MCCS system granting of prior learning credit where applicable. University system paralleling at applicable point in program development.
    - MCCS/UMaine collaboration to look at options for creating a baccalaureate pathway in Maine for EMS clinicians. Develop end goal and plan for program development. Maine EMS would work with MCCS/UMaine as they desire.
    - MCCS/UMaine/Maine EMS explore ways for EMS credentials to translate to college acceptable program credit

