

DECEMBER 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 DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ANTHONY ROBERTS, BS. EMT-P

At the end of November, my thoughts continue to be with the EMS clinicians, emergency medical dispatchers, ambulance operators, law enforcement officers, all the responders' families, and the people of Maine still dealing with the tragedy in Lewiston.

The Maine Office of EMS wants to reinforce that we are here to continue to support the EMS system and all the responders. And please continue reaching out to the office if there is anything we can do to help you, your teammates, and your families.

The initial round of interviews has been completed in the search for a new Director, and the second round will continue in December.

The Blue Ribbon Commission has one final meeting in December, and the Commission's work will be completed with the recommendations. I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to my fellow members of the Blue Ribbon Commission for their hard work and dedication to the EMS community.

I wish to extend a thank you to all the agency directors and chiefs, EMS clinicians, law enforcement officers, community leaders, Commissioner Sauschuck, Maine State Police Office, Maine State Fire Marshals Office, community members, and Maine Office of EMS team members who have welcomed and been so kind to me since I assumed this position seven months ago.

On behalf of the Maine Office of EMS, I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. We are exceedingly thankful for the unbelievable work that EMS professionals provide each day, especially during the holiday season. We would also like to extend an earnest thank you to the families of EMS clinicians who may be unable to be with them on the holiday because they are working a shift, or being paged out to care for others. The State of Maine appreciates their sacrifices and service to ensure the well-being of our communities.

November has been especially hectic for the Maine Office of EMS team, and I want to extend my most genuine gratitude for all your hard work for the EMS system.



RULES COMMITTEE

The Maine EMS Rules Committee's next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2023 starting at 9 am. Chapter 21 was adopted by the Board of EMS and has been sent to the AAG's office for form and legality review. Public hearings on Chapter 15, Maine EMS Regions and Regional Councils, were held between November 13th through November 17th, in each region. Public comment on Chapter 15 closed on November 27th. The Maine EMS Board received approximately 21 comments on the proposed rule prior to the closure of the comment period in a combination of written submissions and testimony collected during the public hearings.

EXPLORER PROGRAMMING

The Explorer Team has now held Service and Mentor trainings at all five initial Explorer sites. One site has begun conducting Explorer activities, teaching CPR and First Aid to students at their local school. Of 23 eligible students at this school, 10 have signed up for the program. The team is very excited about this, and will provide more details in the coming weeks, as activity at more initial sites picks up.

The team has also begun preparations for creating a MEMSEd version of the Explorer Service and Mentor trainings. The MEMSEd training will be more accessible, feasible, and convenient for services than trying to schedule a mandatory 4-hour in-person training for all members. The Explorer Team will remain available and able to assist with questions even after this training is published.

JMG's Learning Management System team has been doing incredible work with the Explorer Team to build the online trainings for Explorers. We are happy to share that the trainings are mostly done, and will be available to students before the end of 2023. This is a huge step toward bringing the Explorer Program to life, and we are very excited to be able to share the trainings soon.

Four schools statewide have expressed interest in participating in the second phase of rollout. The team is working with them to help streamline the process. Phase 2 is expected to begin in spring of 2024.

E-LICENSING

We have completed our work with Image Trend on mapping our current CEH hours in the eLicensing system to NCCP topic hours. Where we could determine the most appropriate mapping of the topics from the current Maine EMS topic hours to NCCP topic hours - we mapped them 1 for 1. We did take the education components of the public portal down during the last week of October to perform the update. The site was back up and running on November 1, 2023.

We did do an additional mapping project with courses that EMS clinicians self-entered into the CEH system. This was completed the week after Thanksgiving.



ADULT VR TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

In late October, VRpatients released a massive update to their platform that saw an overhaul of the medication administration and IV systems, as well as many other feature improvements. Maine EMS is excited for users to become familiar with the capabilities of the update, to take advantage of more complicated treatment options. Reach out to Anna Massefski at MEMS.VR@maine.gov to schedule a training and learn how to use these exciting educational tools!

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

The Community Paramedicine Committee met on November 2, 2023. At the meeting, the committee completed work on the Technician and Affiliate-level community paramedicine scopes of practice. They motioned for these documents to move for review by the MDPB and the Board. These documents are aligned with the Clinician scope where they don't have additional skills, but they identify what skills the two other provider types may provide. They will next meet on December 14, 2023. At that meeting, they will review the committee makeup and discuss the transition to the Community Health Module for patient care reports. The office accepted submissions for RFP# 202309204 through November 27, 2023. This RFP will support with CP education standards development as well as a template curriculum.

The Community Paramedicine Coordinator attended the APEMS conference and provided a presentation on the history of Community Paramedicine as well as a workshop for agencies interested in getting a Community Paramedicine Designation. This month the office has received two new applications for Community Paramedicine designations that are being reviewed.

MEFIRS

Outcome Data: We are happy to report that we have begun to receive some outcome data back into the MEFIRS system. This is still a work in progress and we are actively testing this along with our colleagues at Heath Info Net.

NEMSIS 3.5: A Change notice will be going out to update all EMS agencies to NEMSIS 3.5 on January 3, 3034. The notice of change will include an announcement of a training opportunity on MEMSEd. We hosted MEFIRS Open Forums from July 18, 2023, every Tuesday through November 28, 2023. We had 501 attendees attend these open forums.



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Quality Improvement Newsletter
EMS Transport Safety
To view, use the QR code/hyperlink



MAINE EMS CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

From Newcom Global, there have been 20 agencies that have taken advantage of the Maine EMS connectivity project to date, with another 25 signed MOUs. We will resend the announcement of the connectivity project bulletin..

SUD PROGRAMMING

In November, the SUD team attended the APEMS conference, presented for a full pre-conference day, and presented four times throughout the rest of the week. Last year, the SUD team had one conference session, so it was very exciting to be able to talk in greater detail about current and upcoming programming. The Naloxone Leave Behind protocol went live on December 1st.

Since the conference, we have seen an uptick in interest in our OPTIONS Referral program. The Request for Procurement for the MOUD Program closed in late November, and we are looking forward to obtaining medical direction for this program.

EMS FOR CHILDREN

The Maine EMS for Children Advisory Committee will hold its quarterly meeting on December 14, 2023 at 0930.

We continue work on the national aims for EMSC and how to incorporate into Maine EMS efforts. Marc continues as Chair as the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Pediatric Emergency Care Council and national efforts around safe pediatric transport, and a variety of national goals and work projects. We attended the Maternal Fetal & Infant Mortality Review (MFIMR) Panel in-person retreat, aiming to improve CQI efforts around tragic events and improvements in education, processes and care for pregnant people and newborns. We are also meeting with the Maine State Perinatal Quality Collaborative, which aims to optimize perinatal health outcomes and experiences for all Maine families through collaboration, education, and continuous quality improvement. Efforts are aimed primarily at pregnant people and newborns.

We are working on finalizing work with 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 have identified Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) at 27 of the 35 Maine Emergency Departments and are grateful for the continuing help of the Maine AAP and Dr. Rosie Davis in these efforts.

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.