

MAY 2024

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Director's Message • P. 2
- Stabilization Grant Program, Education, VR Training • P. 3
- EMD, Community Paramedicine, Licensing, Explorer Programming • P. 4
- BLSO Training, EMS For Children • P. 5
- Legislative Update • P. 6



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings Maine EMS!

With Spring just around the corner, it is a very exciting time in our office. We have some big events coming soon with the 50th Anniversary of EMS Week, May 19th-25th, our own EMS Awards and our Remembrance Ceremony on Thursday May 23rd, and the upcoming May 2024 NASEMSO Conference. We were able to get a team member out at the IAED Navigator Conference, had multiple team members presenting for EMS-C, and we are even busier than usual with planning for this summer and travel prep.

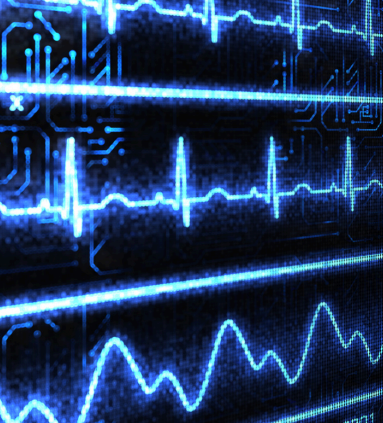
Now that Nalaxone Leave Behind has become the standard of care in Maine, we have opened our data set to begin the process of compliance reporting. As you are probably aware, this project has been ongoing for some time, and many of you have completed the required training, and been following the new protocol. It is imperative that we provide the best patient care to our communities that we can, and this protocol is no exception. If you have not yet completed your training or you have barriers to getting this done, it is past time to remedy this. If you need additional information or assistance getting things moving, please reach out to us. We are looking at this data closely and reporting it out. As of this past weekend, 3408 of our clinicians have completed the required training. We don't expect perfection in the normal course of 911 scene care, but this medication and this protocol is one of our strongest tools to prevent overdose deaths. We expect that you are staying current with training and treatment.

As we are prioritizing Phase 1 of the Stabilization and Sustainability Grant, I have not been out of the office as much as I would have liked, but I have already been out to meet some of the agency leadership and the EMS Education team across the state and have been hearing from many of you about your ideas and challenges. As we continue the work to draft the rules and application process for Phase 2, the Sustainability side of the grant, we are looking to leverage the tremendous amount learning we are doing through this first phase. I can commit that the application, review, and approval process will be much faster and easier for Phase 2. Now that our Grant Manager and Specialist have joined the team, they are also helping accelerate our efforts to get contracts out to the remaining applicants. We have robust examples of the required documents and can help anyone who has questions during the process.

There are big changes coming through the Summer and Fall, with the approval of the new Regional Coordinator positions and the transition to the State Supported 4 Region Model. We are working with the current Regional Coordinators and will be involving the Regional Medical Directors to facilitate that transition with a heavy focus on continuing the extensive support for QI, EMS Education, and training that they provide. We will work to provide consistent communication on this as we move through the transition. There is also a tremendous amount of work being done to complete the rules around Community Paramedicine. The team that has been guiding this for Maine is helping move us back to the forefront of the national conversation in EMS.

Lastly, I wanted to acknowledge the team here at Maine EMS. It is the three-month anniversary of my start here, without exception all the members of the team here (and really everyone I have met in Maine) have been kind, patient, willing to answer my million questions, and willing to talk honestly about the challenges ahead. It is an honor and a privilege to work with such a well-qualified and dedicated group. I can't thank them enough for helping me feel like part of the team.

-Wil



EMS STABILIZATION GRANT PROGRAM

The EMS Stabilization Grant Program team has been working with contacting agencies that have submitted grant applications over the past few weeks giving them updates on their status, as well as emailing each agency that has not yet applied as of April 17th offering them assistance if needed. Each agency was emailed information of how to apply along with their eligible approved allocation. So far, 4 agencies have reached out to the team for guidance.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met in April. The focus of the meeting was interview of candidates to fill two vacancies: Non-Municipal Training officer and At-Large Member. One candidate was selected from the interviews to fill the Non-Municipal Training Officer vacancy. However, the committee is awaiting confirmation of the appointment by the EMS Board Chair prior to notification of the selectee. The application period for the At-Large position remained open until April 21, 2024. The committee intends to interview any remaining candidates for the position and make the selection to fill the position at their May meeting.

Reminder that the NREMT will cease delivery of their current Psychomotor Skills Examinations (PSEs) for BOTH the AEMT and Paramedic level on July 1, 2024. The LAST PSEs for either certification levels will be on June 30, 2024. After July 1, 2024, candidates for NREMT certification at the AEMT and Paramedic levels will need to successfully complete the following to be eligible for NREMT certification

- Psychomotor skills portfolios and have their skills attested to by their Program Directors and/or Program Medical directors/Lead Instructors
- Complete the computer-based (AEMT) or computer-adaptive (Paramedic) cognitive exam
- Complete the computer-based clinical judgement exam

Please note that this change does NOT affect the current eligibility process for NREMT candidates at the EMR/EMT level.

The NASEMSO Education Council will begin work on developing a set of SMC standards guidelines for the EMT level. This work will parallel the work that has already been done at the state level in Maine, by Maine EMS and the EMS Education Committee in developing a psychomotor skills portfolio for the EMT level curriculum. This work will be part of an effort to develop set of national guidelines for states to use as part of their own state student minimum competencies. Many states, as well as the NREMT support the effort to transition from state PSEs to skills portfolios at the EMT level.

ADULT VR TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

There is a major update to the Maine EMS Adult Virtual Reality Training Program that required all headsets to be returned temporarily to Maine EMS. We anticipate the headsets returning to circulation soon!

Please reach out to Anna Massefski at MEMS.VR@maine.gov with any questions or concerns.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH

The EMD Committee meets on April 25, 2024 to review the Medical Director Authorization document for Version 14 of the Medical Priority Dispatch System (the EMD Protocols). Drs. Sholl & Zimmerman may consider the committee's recommendations when updating the Medical Director's Authorization for standard use of the EMD protocols.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

The Community Paramedicine Committee met on April 11, 2024. At the meeting, the committee discussed the June conference and the development of a survey for pediatric providers. This will help inform what needs there are regarding pediatric care and Community Paramedicine. The committee also received an update from Bison Six Emergency Group on their educational standards process. They are completing the stakeholder input portion of their work. They will next meet on April 24, 2024 for an off-cycle meeting to finish developing the survey. The rules committee began will continue reviewing Chapter 19 changes at their next meeting. The CP Coordinator completed quarterly reports for the Health Disparities grant and is working on supporting an application for a grant that, if received, could benefit rural agencies with Community Paramedicine. The CP Coordinator is also working on planning the Maine EMS conference June 11-12th, which will focus on Community Paramedicine, Systems of Care, and Substance Use Disorder.

LICENSING

We are updating the transporting vehicle and non-transporting service inspection forms and will have them on the website in early May. In April, we updated some application instructions and forms on the website and in eLicensing based on frequently asked questions or encountered issues with the application process.

EXPLORER PROGRAMMING

April and May are busy months for the Maine EMS Explorer Program. As schools wrap up the year, many hold career fairs or other events. The Explorer Team brought training equipment to Gorham Middle School's Try It Day, so that 6th grade students could get their hands on EMS tools and devices. Anna also went to Orono to hold a virtual reality training with the University of Maine Volunteer Ambulance Corps, getting members 1 hour of CEH credit and some simulated experience treating acutely ill patients.

The headsets were also part of Take ME to Work Day at the Department of Public Safety. Children and family members of Maine state employees checked a virtual patient's heart rate and pupils, listened to heart and lung sounds, and transferred to the ambulance. This was another example of how virtual reality is a great resource not just for licensed clinicians, but also for creating that initial spark that becomes a love for EMS!

In the next month, the Explorer Team will attend the Top O' Maine Trade Show in Madawaska, as well as Career Fairs at Eastern Maine Community College and Central Maine Community College. In mid-May, the Explorer Program Coordinator will attend the National Association of State EMS Officials' Annual Meeting, and present on the program. This is an exciting opportunity to share with the country the incredible work that Maine EMS agencies are doing.



BASIC LIFE SUPPORT IN OBSTETRICS (BLSO) COURSES

- May 8 – Southern Aroostook EMS (Houlton)
- June 4 – Northern Light Maine Costs Hospital (Ellsworth)
- June 25 – Northern Light CA Dean Hospital (Greenville)
- July 18 – Northern Light Sebasticook Valley Hospital (Pittsfield)
- August 22 – Calais Regional Hospital (Calais)
- September 9 – Howland Fire & EMS Department (Howland)
- TBD – Bridgton
- TBD – Augusta



EMS FOR CHILDREN

The Maine EMS for Children program has nearly finished dispersing the Ferno KangooFix newborn transport devices – we are awaiting 2 devices for 2 agencies (production delay at factory). Since delivery, we have had three 911 uses for a newborn transport. We are working on a survey tool to determine the experience of EMS clinicians and their use of the devices. Federal HRSA and the Maine CDC is also interested in learning more about our statewide implementation and is meeting with Maine EMS for a demonstration and presentation.

The Maine EMS for Children Program Manager will be attending the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) conference in May to collaborate with other states during the Pediatric Emergency Care Council meetings (Marc Minkler is the Chair of the national council), as well as the Safe Transport of Children Committee and Rural EMS Committee meetings.

We are continuing our efforts to establish an Always Ready for Children recognition program for EMS agencies, and are working with counterparts in all New England States, New York and New Jersey to develop consistent standards for a regional recognition program. Along with this, we will be recognizing Pen Bay Medical Center as the 2nd hospital in Maine to achieve recognition in the hospital Always Ready for Children program. We will be having a celebration and presentation at 11 am on May 7 (Pen Bay Medical Center, 6 Glen Cove Drive, Rockport, ME). Additionally, we are working with 5 other hospitals on their recognition efforts and applications.

Our grant year ended on March 31, and we are now in our 6th year of the program and continue to achieve improvements in pediatric goals. We will be completing an annual report and financial submission for HRSA, due at the end of July 2024.



The Maine EMS-C program presented lectures, practicals, and virtual reality experiences at an EMT class in Belgrade and an EMT class at Foster Career & Technical Education Center in Farmington.

RELATED LEGISLATION FROM THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE 131st LEGISLATURE

LD 1515: An Act to Fund Delivery of Emergency Medical Services

(Summary from Bill) This bill provides General Fund appropriations to the Department of Public Safety to support existing transportation costs of emergency medical services. These appropriations must be reduced to the maximum extent possible through the use of public and private Medicaid match programs.

Hearing Date: May 4, 2023

Work Session Date: Feb. 28, 2024

Committee Decision: Ought to Pass as Amended with Anticipated Divided Report

LD 1742: An Act to Enhance the Use of Critical Incident Stress Management Teams and to Require Peer Team Support

(Summary from Bill) This bill directs the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to provide critical incident stress management team services and peer team support services to all firefighters and employees or members of a public safety agency, fire department or organization involved in emergency care or response in the State by supporting the establishment of critical incident stress management teams; providing critical incident stress management team services; establishing a program for critical incident stress management training; providing educational, training and promotional programs and materials, including programs and materials related to trauma; providing access to behavioral health care services after a critical incident; and providing peer team support for providing behavioral health resources for issues not necessarily related to a critical incident. The bill also requires the director to designate a full-time employee of the Maine Emergency Management Agency to oversee implementation of these services. The bill also requires public safety agencies, fire departments and organizations involved in emergency care or response to have at least one person who has received critical incident stress management training and to provide education and access to ongoing behavioral health care services related to any post-traumatic stress resulting from a critical incident.

Hearing Date: May 2, 2023

Work Session Date: Jan. 10, 2024

Committee Decision: Ought to Pass as Amended

LD 2156: An Act to Authorize the Provision of Emergency Medical Treatment for Certain Dogs

(Summary from Bill) This bill establishes an exception to the laws governing the licensing of a person in the practice of veterinary medicine for emergency medical services persons providing emergency medical treatment to certain dogs in accordance with protocols adopted by the Medical Direction and Practices Board.

Hearing Date: Feb. 8, 2024

Work Session Date: Feb. 14, 2024

Committee Decision: Ought to Pass as Amended