

MARCH 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.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings From the Directors' Office,

My first six weeks here have been an absolute whirlwind of asking questions, meeting people, taking notes, attending meetings, and learning how much I will still need to learn. A very humbling and exciting place to be! Our office continues to make progress in reviewing the stabilization funding applications and getting contracts out to agencies.

We anticipate a large group of contracts going out this week, with more to follow. There are still agencies that would likely qualify for funding that have not applied. Our office and others have been working to contact these agencies as well. We want to hear what is keeping them from participating. Maine EMS staff are continuing to meet with agencies about their applications, and getting even more contracts moved to approval. We have hired the Grant Project Manager and completed interviews for the contract specialists. Most importantly, we have started work behind the scenes to prepare for the Sustainability phase of the Grant. We are taking a lot of the framework and lessons learned from our first phase and putting them into place for this next phase. This will take the form of more information and education preceding the application process opening, and a focus on examples from successful applications. As we think about what Sustainability will look like for Maine EMS, we want a clear focus on supporting, improving, and building systems that will last. One big difference as we move to the Sustainability phase will be the inclusion of training centers and regional councils. We are very excited to see the impact of the first round of funding and to start the pivot into seeing and reporting individual agency progress as we open up applications for Phase 2 later this year.

The EMS connectivity project continues to grow and has garnered strong support from our national partners at NASEMSO. With the addition of even more agencies and units this past week, it continues to be an excellent example of how Maine EMS is working to leverage modern technology and positions us prominently in the discussion on the importance of connectivity to the patient care continuum.

As we set out course for action items, and work together on the pieces of the 2035 Vision Plan and inputs from the Blue-Ribbon Commissioner and Legislature, we also need to mention that on a national level, EMS has a large agenda for EMS 2050. Our plans and improvements for EMS in Maine fit squarely into the six areas that the 2050 Agenda has identified: socially equitable, reliable and prepared, adaptable and innovative, sustainable and efficient, integrated and seamless, and inherently safe and effective. For EMS leadership at all levels, there is a sense of shared excitement about what the next 25 years of EMS will look like.

Thanks for everything you do to support EMS in Maine!

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The education committee met in February. Items for discussion included:

- Committee vacancies
- A status update on PIFT work – there was concern amongst the committee that PIFT continually gets bumped from discussion on the MDPB agenda
- Review of proposed changes to the committee proposal to the Board for a licensure Re-Entry course
- Progress of rulemaking regarding sunseting of PSEs

EXPLORER PROGRAMMING

In February, the EMS Explorers at North Haven Community School held a schoolwide training on CPR, First-Aid, and Stop-the-Bleed. They taught other students these important skills to save lives in their small island community, and spread the word about the EMS Explorer Program. The event was covered on WABI Channel 5, and in the Pen Bay Pilot.



WABI QR Code



Pen Bay Pilot QR Code

Van Buren Ambulance is no longer an Explorer Program pilot site. The Explorer Team is looking to establish another pilot site in Aroostook County.



SYSTEMS OF CARE

Pulse Point implementation continues both with AED input and PSAP integration. CARES data input and outcome continue, with the final report available in April. Trauma Advisory Committee and Maine Stroke Alliance have their quarterly meeting scheduled for April.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

The Community Paramedicine Committee met on February 8, 2024 as well as February 22, 2024 for an Off Cycle Meeting. At the regularly scheduled meeting, the committee discussed the MDPB's suggested changes to the scope of practice and conducted interviews for the three open positions. At the off-cycle meeting, the committee focused purely on the board's directive. They will next meet on March 14, 2024. At that meeting, they will continue a discussion of needs surrounding the growth of CP and complete interviews for the open committee positions. The MDPB again reviewed scopes of practice for the CP Technician (AEMT) and Affiliate (EMT) levels, with their suggested changes and approved the document. The office completed a contract with Bison Six Emergency Group to develop CP education standards and a template curriculum. They were introduced to the CP Committee and began introductions with other key stakeholders. They have drafted a survey and started planning for stakeholder interviews that will inform their work. The Community Paramedicine Coordinator attended the CAH and SHIP CEO Flex Network Meeting at the Maine Hospital Association Rural Hospital Conference to provide an update on CP work. The coordinator also completed grant reporting this month for the Health Disparities Grant monies.

SUD PROGRAMMING

On 2/14, Taylor and Rob drove up to the University of Maine in Orono to do an educational discussion for their University Volunteer Ambulance Corps (UVAC) about substance use disorder and the programs that Maine EMS is implementing to help combat the substance use crisis in Maine. Sarah Heald-Langevin joined them via Zoom to talk about the science of substance use, her lived experience, and the importance of eliminating stigma and bias from patient care when responding to a substance use call. The discussion was very productive, and individuals shared their experiences responding to substance use calls and asked a lot of great questions about substance use and the Maine EMS SUD programming. The team was invited back to speak in the Fall semester and is looking forward to meeting with them again!

ADULT VR TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

Want to practice treating an unresponsive patient, without the stress of a real-life call? Try out the Maine EMS Adult VR Training Program, with ALS and BLS scenarios built to Maine protocols. Enter a scenario with an unresponsive patient, identify the cause, and provide appropriate treatment. But be careful, just like in real life, if you provide the wrong treatment the patient may decompensate, and you might find yourself running a code instead!

Reach out to Anna Massefski at MEMS.VR@maine.gov to schedule a training and learn how to use Virtual Reality to practice decision-making for high-acuity calls.



2023 PROTOCOL UPDATE CYCLE

The Maine EMS Office conducted an event debrief/hotwash with Maine EMS staff and Drs. Sholl, Zimmerman, and Collamore. The purpose was to review this cycle's process, review participant statistics and determine best practices. The Q&A from each webinar, as well as questions from the MEMSEd course have been continually reviewed with answers to common questions being included in the 2023 Protocol FAQ.

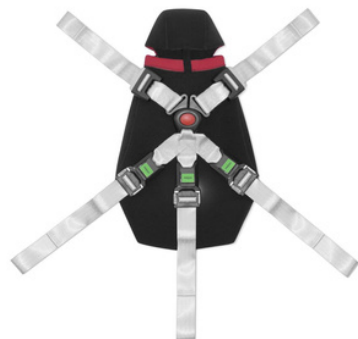
EMS FOR CHILDREN

The Maine EMS for Children program has completed the multi part education series on pediatric behavioral health and is now available on MEMSEd. This is an 8 part series that shares information to respond, care for, and transport pediatric patients experiencing a behavioral health emergency. CEH's will be given upon completion, and we encourage all to take the course. Through collaboration and generosity with Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine CDC, and Maine Medical Association, we are providing one neonatal transport device per ground transporting agency based in Maine. These have been shipped and should be reaching agencies soon. We were also pleased to learn that several agencies had already made strides to have these devices on ambulances. Kudos to Gorham Fire Department, Hollis Fire & Rescue, Memorial Ambulance and Waterboro Fire Department for their commitment to progressive safety transporting newborns. Education on using the KangooFix device is now available on MEMSEd for all EMS clinicians (under Obstetrics/Pediatric category). Thanks to Bath Fire Department for their assistance in pictures and videos for this education.

We are offering 2 Basic Life Support in Obstetrics (BLSO) courses (with more to come over the Spring & Summer) in Gardiner on March 18 and Portland on March 21. Info to register is on the Maine EMS website news page.

We continue our work with the state perinatal committees, and met with state child healthcare leaders at Maine Medical Association in Manchester. We provided case reviews of neonatal and maternal deaths to the Maine Fetal, Infant, and Maternal Review (MFIMR) Panel, a collaboration of stakeholders defined in statute to review deaths of this population, and develop QI analysis and recommendations for improvements in care while reducing mortality.

The EMSC program continues work with the Maine AAP regarding hospital pediatric readiness, and a variety of other pediatric topics. Finally, we continue our efforts at various performance measures as defined by the Federal HRSA grant, including efforts at disaster readiness, a pending EMS pediatric readiness recognition program, and other activities.



KangooFix Neonatal Transport Device



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

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