

APRIL 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
- Systems of Care, EMS Team Update • P. 3
- EMD, Community Paramedicine, Licensing, VR Training • P. 4
- Explorer Programming, E-Licensing, MEFIRS, Biospatial • P. 5
- BLSO Training, EMS For Children • P. 6
- Legislative Update • P. 8



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings Maine EMS Teammates,

Time for another set of updates already!?

As you are aware, there has been a tremendous amount of work done around our state-wide SUD and Naloxone Leave Behind programs. With the move into protocols, this is now the established standard of care. Behind the scenes, we have set up daily compliance reports to gauge the impact and efficacy of this change. We know a lot of work and training are behind this roll-out, and we are seeing great compliance with the protocol by agencies state-wide. Now that daily reporting has been activated, we will be taking steps in the coming weeks to address and educate agencies and providers that are still behind on getting this new standard of care in place. If you need literature or have other questions about this protocol, please reach out to us, and we will connect you with the appropriate team member to help.

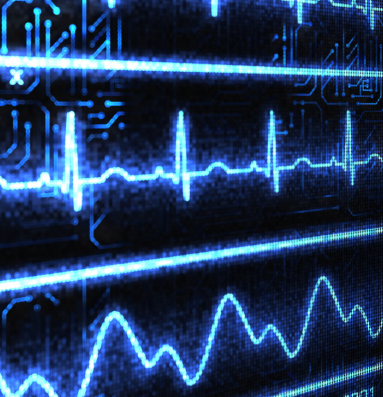
The OPTIONS referral program is now live system-wide. If you haven't completed your training for this exciting new program, please do so ASAP. In our first month live, we saw over 22 referrals - a great start! This program will be an amazing way to connect EMS patients to resources they need, outside of traditional patient care.

If you haven't made time to watch the documentary screenings of *PTSD 911*, I highly recommend it for anyone who works in or around Public Safety, and think it would be especially useful if you are in EMS leadership or education. This was a good film, poignant, and painful. It tells a very personal story that most of us know all too well and discusses some of the powerful new tools for change. It reminded me how many of these challenges around stigma and poor health still affect our teams. There will be a significant focus on clinical provider mental health and building cultures of wellness inside EMS agencies over the coming year.

With the extension of the Stabilization Grant Applications to 5/1/2024 we are already getting questions about the upcoming Sustainability Phase. While we are reviewing the existing applications, getting information back, and contracts out, we have been working diligently to get the background work done for rolling the next phase out this summer, including pulling our lessons learned from Phase 1 into the build. One of the big things we have been doing as we work to set the parameters is asking questions, reading assessments, and interviewing stakeholders, and then bringing all that back to a focus on SUSTAINABILITY; we want the changes we make to be improvements that last. We will release more info about the next phase soon. If you have already applied but haven't heard from us, please be patient! Our reviewer team is working hard to connect with all the applicants but has also felt the pain of the most recent waves of Norovirus and Flu. We also received over 40 new applications in the span of two days, which has taken some time to get on top of.

And finally, the upcoming Solar Eclipse event is a great time for agencies to work collaboratively, update operational plans, and ask questions about how prepared we are for large scale events. It's also a great opportunity to connect with our schools and communities and to get outside for a minute and see something amazing! Please be safe out there, and don't forget to wear your special glasses!

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SYSTEMS OF CARE

The Statewide Pulse Point implementation continues both with AED input and PSAP integration. Currently, 650 AEDs have been logged into the system! As always, CARES input continues, and the State patiently awaits the CARES National Report release in May. The Trauma Advisory Committee and Maine Stroke Alliance have their quarterly meeting scheduled for April.

UPDATES TO THE MAINE EMS TEAM

VICTORIA CLYDE, GRANT MANAGER

Victoria Clyde is our new grant manager for the EMS Stabilization and Sustainability program. Victoria has over 20 years of experience working in emergency services as a first responder in remote Alaska, with many hours in medivacs and on search and rescues, to the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Emergency Manager, to career Fire Chief for a nonprofit combination fire department covering 33 sq. miles. She has been a member of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association, Chair to the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and Board President to Fairbanks Citizen Corps-Volunteers in Policing.

Victoria has managed a multitude of grants from local to federal level all focusing on emergency preparedness, responder wellness, and recruitment and retention. She has continuously worked with Alaska state legislature to pass House Bills to support emergency responders and the mission to save lives and property.

ALEX GIBSON, GRANT SPECIALIST

Alex Gibson is the newest member of our team, and is a Grant Specialist for the EMS Stabilization and Sustainability Grant.

His background in Public Safety started in 2017 where he spent 5 years as a Firefighter as well as finishing EMT-B training. His time with the Department of Public Safety started in 2019 as a Communication Specialist for a short amount of time, where he received his EMD and EFD. He most recently worked with the Department of Health and Human Services on their Accounts Payable team in their Service Center.

His education was primarily focused in the business and political science arena. In the fall of 2021 he graduated with a BS in Business Administration, and then in the fall of 2022 he graduated from Thomas College with a Masters in Business Administration and hopes to continue his education into Public Policy.

He is dedicated to ensuring our EMS departments are well funded, well educated, and well equipped to provide the highest quality of care to those around us, and looks forward to the work we will accomplish together.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH

207 students have completed the online training in MEMSEd to facilitate the transfer of 911 callers to 988 (the Maine Crisis Line) in appropriate circumstances. Nine (9) of Maine's 25 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) have adopted a policy to support their staff in these transfers. Between January 1 and March 18, there were 26 transfers. For each transfer, the call taker is asked to complete a survey of their experience for quality improvement; as of March 18, there were seven (7) responses. We have limited data to evaluate the program but will continue to engage with users for this purpose.

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

The Community Paramedicine Committee met on March 14, 2024. At the meeting, the committee completed interviews for their three open positions and made motions to fill all open positions. With these motions, the committee will be full. The committee also received an update from Bison Six Emergency Group on their educational standards process and continued to discuss pediatrics. They will next meet on April 11, 2024 and continue discussing pediatrics and maternal care in CP. The rules committee began reviewing potential changes to Chapter 19 with representatives from the CP committee present. The Community Paramedicine Coordinator attended the MIH Summit in Nashville and presented on Developing an Ethics Driven Community Paramedicine Program Using a Social Work Lens. The CP coordinator continues to work with the agencies that were awarded monies through the two RFA rounds to ensure they are on track with their budget by the end of the contract period.

LICENSING

We had nearly 50 unique participants in the weekly open forums held by Zoom every Friday through October and November to demonstrate the service renewal application and process. The licensing team is working with Jason Oko to review the service renewal application and process to make identified improvements for the 2024 renewal, including combining the application for ground ambulance services that have an affiliated restricted response air ambulance service license, adding service designations (PIFT and Community Paramedicine) to the printable license document, and attaching an itemized receipt to the outgoing renewal confirmation email.

ADULT VR TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

Has it been a while since you've used the Anxiolysis in CPAP protocol? Do you want to refresh your skills with a simulated virtual scenario? Ask about the Maine EMS Adult VR Training Program, with ALS and BLS scenarios built to Maine protocols. Enter a scenario with a patient experiencing respiratory distress, and use your skills to stabilize and comfort them. Make sure you follow your protocol and call OLMC when needed!

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.





E-LICENSING

Over the next several months, we will be working to implement two application pathways for EMS clinician license renewal:

- a. I want to renew my Maine EMS license using my NREMT certification.
- b. I want to renew my Maine EMS license using my continuing education hours.

These new applications will allow EMS clinicians to progress through the renewal process and take advantage of the automated renewal process, thereby shortening their wait time to receive their renewed Maine EMS license.

EXPLORER PROGRAMMING

The Maine EMS Explorer Program has set out its goals for the rest of 2024. With the initial pilot sites well on their way, it is almost time to onboard a new group of Explorer services. Before that happens, the team will make changes and improvements based on feedback from the initial rollout. We will draft formal policies based on the experiences of current sites, and create template activity resources for use statewide. These documents will be compiled into an Implementation Guide, which will become a tool for all agencies to start up their own Explorer Programs. The second rollout is expected to begin in May, 2024.

We are also pleased to announce that the EMS Explorer Program was selected for a mini-presentation at NASEMSO's Annual Meeting this May. We plan to present a brief overview, with a focus on how this new, exciting program can be implemented in other states.

MEFIRS

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. On January 17, 2024, the Maine EMS Data Team began transitioning EMS agencies to the NEMSIS 3.5 data set.

BIOSPATIAL

Many updates have been made to the Biospatial platform over the last year.

- a. The fields for administering medications and performing procedures are now available.
- b. A Utstein dashboard is now available. The Utstein Dashboard provides a Cardiac Arrest-focused view of the underlying EMS data. The dashboard search parameters filter the results displayed on the dashboard and the results in a generated Utstein report.
- c. To generate a Utstein report in the format suggested in the 2015 update from the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation, select the download button in the top right of the dashboard. This will include a form to complete the population served and a report description (optional). Upon submitting the form, a PDF report will be downloaded.

If your agency wants to learn more about Biospatial, please email Jason Oko at jason.a.oko@maine.gov.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT IN OBSTETRICS (BLSO)

Maine EMS-C co-sponsored the delivery of 2 Basic Life Support in Obstetrics (BLSO) courses at Gardiner Fire Department on March 18 and Portland Fire Department on March 21. 8 more classes will be offered over the next 6 months (registrations info will be posted on the Maine EMS website soon) including

- 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 completed a number of activities to improve pediatric care in Maine including:

- Purchase and delivery of KangooFix newborn Transport devices to every transporting EMS agency in Maine. This was a collaborative effort with significant funding support from the Maine DHHS-CDC. We are pleased to report that since delivery, 2 agencies have already used the device for field deliveries.
- Creation of a 1 hour education course on the Ferno KangooFix, now available on MEMSEd 24/7 for all EMS clinicians.
- The new 8 part series on pediatric behavioral emergencies is now available on MEMSEd 24/7 for all EMS clinicians.

Maine EMS-C was a Gold sponsor of the annual American Academy of Pediatrics – Maine Chapter. We staffed an information booth on EMS-C and pediatric care in Maine, and had lots of interest in emergency care for pediatric patients. Brian Richardson, senior director of Emergency Preparedness at Maine Health and the Maine EMS-C Family Advisory Network member and Marc Minkler, EMS-C Program Manager presented on Readiness for pediatric emergencies and disaster readiness. We hosted the keynote speaker, Dr. Marc Auerbach, who is a pediatric ED physician at Yale, professor of pediatrics at Yale Medical School, and Director of the Yale Medical School Simulation Center. Dr. Auerbach spoke on pediatric readiness, and also conducted a workshop on pediatric simulation in EDs, pediatrician offices, and EMS agencies. He also facilitated a panel discussion on pediatric readiness and continuum of care, and the panel consisted of

- Dr. Sean Barnett, MD, Section Head of Pediatric Surgery, Vice Chief of Surgery, and President Elect of the Medical Staff at Eastern Maine Medical Center. He is board certified in both Adult and Pediatric Surgery
- Dr. Rosie Davis, MD, Pediatric Hospitalist at Central Maine Medical Center
- Ashley Moody, MSN, FNP-C, EMT-P, Paramedic Captain with Bath Fire & Rescue and a Nurse Practitioner
- Dr. William Stephenson, MD, Pediatrician at PenBay Pediatrics
- Dr. Rachel Williams, MD, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician, Medical Director for the Pediatric ED at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center, Medical Director for the Maine EMS for Children program, Maine EMS MDPB member, and the Assistant Program Director for the Emergency Medicine Residency Program at Maine Medical Center.



EMS FOR CHILDREN CONTINUED

The EMS-C program will also be assisting with initial pediatric education at two EMT courses at Foster CTE (Farmington) and in Belgrade.

The national survey of EMS agencies and pediatric care begins May 1, 2024. The survey, the Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) is a survey of all 911 EMS agencies in the United States and will aim to gain a better understanding of local readiness and efforts to improve pediatric care, and identify possible gaps in care and resources. 259 agencies in Maine will be surveyed.

We have identified/recruited Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators at 30 of Maine's 35 Emergency Departments, and are working towards a meeting to share resources and improve communication & collaboration.

Finally, we continue our work with the state perinatal committees, and presented to the State DHHS pediatric leadership team on EMS-C activities. We base all of our activities on 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.

For more information, contact Marc Minkler at Marc.a.Minkler@maine.gov



Participants practice skills in Basic Life Support in Obstetrics (BLSO) training.

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