



Maine EMS Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Paul Froman (Chair) at approximately 9:08 AM.

Roll Call

Members Present:

- Paul Froman (Chair)
- Joanne Lebrun
- Brian Chamberlin
- Amy Drinkwater
- Mike Drinkwater
- Thomas "TW" Williamson
- Dennis Russell
- AJ Gagnon
- Leah Mitchell

Non-Members/State Staff Present:

- Jason Oko (Maine EMS)
- Marc Minkler (Maine EMS)
- Don Sheets
- Eric Wellman
- Tim Beals

Quorum Status: Quorum established 9 members present.

2. Maine EMS Mission Statement

Paul Froman read the Maine EMS Mission Statement.

3. Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 11, 2026, meeting.

- **Motion:** Leah Mitchell moved to approve the minutes as presented.



- **Second:** AJ Gagnon.
- **Vote:** Motion passed. (Abstentions from Dennis Russell and Amy Drinkwater as they were not present at the February meeting).

5. Changes to the Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

6. State Update

- **Education Coordinator Position:** Jason Oko reported that the position has not yet been posted. Internal shifts in the state's PRISM time management system have moved the hiring manager responsibilities to Director O'Neill.
- **CEH Bulletin:** The clarified language/footnote regarding CEHs has been sent out. No further concerns were raised.
- **Registry & Training:** Marc Minkler (State Registry Liaison) reported:
 - Working with National Registry to resolve regional representative issues.
 - Two new classes approved for standardized CEH: **Op Canine** (Dr. Zimmerman) and **BLSO** (Basic Life Support and Obstetrics).
 - Regional Managers remain the primary point of contact for Training Center inquiries until an Education Coordinator is hired.

7. Old Business

- **Meeting Time Change:** Jason Oko presented survey results (9 responses). The majority favored maintaining the current day and current start time (9:00 AM).
 - **Result:** No motion was made to change the time. Meetings will remain on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM.
- **Training Center Standards Review:** Paul Froman noted that progress has stalled due to the vacancy in the state education coordinator role and pending clinical capacity data.
 - **Discussion:** Jason Oko advised against tabling the review entirely, suggesting the committee tackle the document in "smaller, chewable chunks."
 - **Action:** Members are asked to identify specific "pain points" or chapters for review and send them to Paul and Jason one week prior to the next meeting.
- **Clinical Capacity Workgroup:** Paul Froman reported on two meetings held by the subcommittee.
 - **Findings:** Data suggests that Training Centers often create their own bottlenecks by starting programs simultaneously, overwhelming hospital and field sites at the same time.
 - **Update:** Eric Wellman noted that MaineHealth is conducting its own system capacity study and requested that Training Centers respond to his recent outreach emails regarding clinical needs.

8. New Business



- **Legislative Update (LD2132):** Jason Oko provided an update. The bill adds a formal definition for "EMS Educator" (a lead instructor in an EMS licensure program) and "EMS Training Center" to Maine statute. Don Sheets clarified that this enables the Attorney General to intervene if unauthorized entities claim to be Maine-approved training centers.
- **Community Paramedicine (CP):** Dennis Russell and Don Sheets emphasized that Training Center standards should eventually include specific language for CP education to ensure consistency and avoid silos.
- **Attendance & Bylaws:** Jason Oko reminded the committee of the 75% attendance requirement.
 - **Discussion:** The committee discussed a "collegial agreement" to excuse members who are unable to attend because they are actively teaching an EMS course during meeting hours.
 - **Action:** Jason Oko will draft language for a committee-specific guidance document/bylaw to formalize these excused absences for instructors.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 AM.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2026, at 9:00 AM.

Summary of Action Items

Action Item	Assigned To	Deadline
Submit specific Training Center Standard chapters/edits for review to Paul & Jason	All Members	April 1, 2026
Draft committee-specific bylaw language regarding teaching-related absences	Jason Oko	April 8, 2026
Post future Clinical Capacity Workgroup meeting dates to the public website	Jason Oko	Ongoing