



Maine EMS Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 8, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Zoom (Virtual Meeting)

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Froman. A quorum was established following roll call.

Committee Members Present: Joanne LeBrun, Aiden Koplovsky, Ben Zetterman, Mike Drinkwater, Thomas 'TW' Williamson, Paul Froman, Dennis Russell, AJ Gagnon, Leah Mitchell.

Committee Members Absent/Excused: Brian Chamberlin, Amy Drinkwater, Steve Smith.

Maine EMS Staff & Guests Present: Jason Oko, Marc Minkler, Ashley Moody, Don Sheets, Heather Sylvester, Eric Wellman.

2. Maine EMS Mission Statement

Paul Froman read the Maine EMS Mission Statement to the committee.

3. Public Comment

The floor was opened for public comment. Hearing none, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

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

- **Motion:** To approve the March minutes as written (TW Williamson).
- **Second:** AJ Gagnon.
- **Vote:** Passed via roll call vote. (Leah Mitchell and Ben Zetterman abstained as they were not present at the March meeting).

5. Changes to the Agenda

Paul Froman announced that Kathy Gosselin (Region 1 representative) has officially retired and resigned her seat on the education committee. Paul and Jason Oko will work on posting and filling the Region 1 vacancy.

6. State Update

General Staff Updates (Jason Oko):

- The Education Coordinator position has been posted on the website and included in the



weekly recap. Several applications have already been received.

- A new Region 4 Manager has been hired and starts April 27.
- A new licensing engagement position focused on EMD has been filled and starts May 4.
- Additional positions (EMS Licensing Agent, Office Administrator 2, and a CP position) are still open or actively being filled. Jason asked for patience from the committee and community as new staff members undergo orientation and get up to speed.

National Registry & Training (Marc Minkler):

Marc presented a comprehensive data review regarding 2025 CEHs and licensure classes:

- **CEHs:** ~1,838 CEH classes were approved in 2025, offering over 4,600 class hours. The first quarter of 2026 is on track to match these numbers.
- **Licensure Classes:** In 2025, there was 1 EMR class, 41 EMT classes, 11 AEMT classes, and 6 Paramedic classes. Marc highlighted regional discrepancies, noting that Region 1 had fewer initial licensure classes compared to its population size.
- **NREMT Pass Rates & Retention:** Maine's pass rates for AEMT and Paramedic programs consistently exceed the national average. However, EMR and EMT numbers fall short of the 70% retention and pass rate threshold dictated in current training center standards.
- **Discussion:** The committee had a robust conversation regarding entry-level (EMR/EMT) retention.
 - Dennis Russell, TW Williamson, and Mike Drinkwater advocated for casting a "wide net" at the entry level (especially in CTE programs), acknowledging that lower licensure rates are natural when younger students are exploring the career.
 - Leah Mitchell and Don Sheets countered that while exploration is valuable, licensure classes must maintain rigorous standards to ensure field-ready providers are produced and to prevent instructor burnout.
 - The committee agreed that future reporting and standards might need to reflect the nuance between adult licensure courses and high school CTE programs.

7. Old Business

Training Center Standards Review:

The committee reviewed current "pain points" and member feedback on the draft Training Center Standards document:

- **Line 261 (Regional Office Language):** Discussed whether to remove language defining regional offices as training centers. Joanne LeBrun suggested leaving it in temporarily while the new regional structure formalizes.
- **Eligibility Limitations:** Don Sheets clarified that language restricting certain entities to only teaching EMT/EMR courses was originally designed to align with CoAEMSP standards and the anticipated 2025 AEMT accreditation deadline.



- **Line 825 (Clinical Coordinator Qualifications):** Discussed if a clinical coordinator must be licensed at the level they are coordinating. Dennis Russell, Joanne LeBrun, and Don Sheets agreed this should remain a program-level decision, as the role is highly administrative.
- **Line 1092 (Safeguards / Invasive Procedures):** Discussed the liability and legality of students practicing invasive procedures (like IVs) on each other in class. Jason Oko read the current statute regarding "sick and injured" patients. AJ Gagnon noted the drafted safeguard language mirrors CoAEMSP safety standards. The committee agreed to proceed carefully to avoid unintended consequences for hospital clinicals.
- **Clinical Scheduling Platforms:** Paul Froman suggested mandating a unified clinical scheduling platform but retracted the suggestion after Dennis Russell, Eric Wellman, and Ashley Moody cautioned against dictating costly platforms that might conflict with strict hospital network requirements.
- **Next Steps:** Members are asked to submit final written comments and edits by May 1st to be discussed at the next meeting. Jason Oko noted that once finalized, these standards will need to be referenced appropriately in the Maine EMS Rules.

Clinical Capacity Workgroup:

Paul noted the ongoing survey is wrapping up, and data will be shared with the committee once compiled.

8. New Business

- **Legislative/Statute Updates:** Jason Oko reported that LD2132, which includes statutory definitions for "EMS Educator" and "EMS Training Center," has passed the legislature and been sent to the Governor for signature.
- **Attendance & Bylaws:** Jason Oko introduced a draft guidance document regarding excused absences for committee members actively teaching an EMS course. Because the document was just distributed, no vote was taken. Members will review it for the next meeting.
- **Community Paramedicine (CP):** Dennis Russell noted that as CP rules are developed, the Training Center Standards document will need to be updated to incorporate CP continuing education and program standards.

9. Adjournment

The meeting lost a quorum at 11:10 AM as several members had to log off. Because a quorum was no longer present, no formal motion to adjourn was required. Unfinished items will be pushed to the top of the agenda for the May meeting.

Meeting ended at 11:10 AM.

Next Anticipated Meeting: May 13, 2026, at 9:00 AM.