



Maine EMS Education Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 10, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 10:11 AM

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

1. Call to Order & Introductions

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Froman at 9:00 AM.
- **Quorum:** Quorum was officially established at 9:18 AM upon the arrival of Benjamin Zetterman and Leah Mitchell.
- **Attendance Roll Call:**
 - **Committee Members Present:**
 - Paul Froman (Chair), AJ Gagnon, Stephen Smith, Mike Drinkwater (*attending via Amy Drinkwater's station*), TW, Joanne Lebrun, Benjamin Zetterman (*joined at 9:18 AM*), Leah Mitchell (*joined at 9:19 AM*), Aiden Koplovsky (*joined at 9:21 AM*)
 - **Committee Members Absent / Excused:**
 - Amy Drinkwater (*excused*), Brian Chamberlain, Dennis Russell
 - **Maine EMS Staff Present:**
 - Jason Oko, Marc Minkler
 - **Guests / Observers:**
 - None recorded.

2. Maine EMS Mission Statement

- Chair Paul Froman read the Maine EMS Mission Statement: *"The mission of Maine EMS is to promote and provide for a comprehensive and effective Emergency Medical Services system to ensure optimum patient care with standards for all clinicians. All members of this board [committee] should strive to promote the core values of excellence, support, collaboration, and integrity. In serving on this board, we commit to serve the respective clinicians, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent."*

3. Public Comment

- Chair Froman opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were offered.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting.
- **Motion:** Motion made by Leah Mitchell, seconded by TW, to accept the previous meeting minutes as distributed.
- **Roll Call Vote:**
 - TW: Yes, Mike Drinkwater: Yes, Joanne Lebrun: Yes, AJ Gagnon: Yes, Stephen Smith: Abstain, Leah Mitchell: Yes, Benjamin Zetterman: Yes



○ *(Aiden Koplovsky entered the meeting as voting concluded).*

- **Outcome:** Motion passed (6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention).

5. Changes to the Agenda

- Chair Froman noted that items would be addressed efficiently to respect members' schedules and ensure adjournment by 10:30 AM.
- Agenda topics were reordered slightly to accommodate personal announcements and prioritize the National Registry data presentation.

6. Catch-up & Old Business

A. SMCC Program Update & Condolences (Dave Tauber)

- Chair Froman reported on the unexpected passing of Dave Tauber over the preceding weekend. Dave was the long-time EMS Program Director at Southern Maine Community College (SMCC). Paul Froman has assumed the role of SMCC EMS Program Director.
- Marc Minkler offered sincere condolences on behalf of Maine EMS and the EMS community, highlighting Dave's decades of contributions to EMS education in Maine (including serving as Dr. Kate Zimmerman's paramedic instructor).
- Chair Froman expressed appreciation to Marc Minkler and Jason Oko for assisting with administrative and registry transitions to ensure SMCC students and CTE graduates experienced no interruptions in course clearances or testing approvals.

B. Unfinished Business: Training Center Standards

- Chair Froman noted that no new written comments or change requests were submitted prior to the May 1 deadline.
- General consensus from prior reviews indicates that current revisions are focused on modernizing language, updating references, and maintaining currency rather than substantive structural overhauls. Committee leadership and staff will continue drafting updates for review.

C. Meeting Duration Policy

- Chair Froman addressed member concerns regarding "meeting time creep," where sessions previously ran up to three hours.
- **Chair Directive:** Standard monthly meetings will target a maximum duration of 1.5 hours (90 minutes). If a specific workshop or deep-dive working session is required, advance notice will be provided so members can plan accordingly.

7. State Update

A. Maine EMS Staffing & Personnel (Jason Oko)

- **Education Coordinator:** One application was received. The position is slated to be reposted to build a broader candidate pool prior to conducting formal interviews.
- **Licensing Staff:** Richard Powell was hired as an EMD Licensing Agent (funded through the Emergency Services Communication Bureau / ESCB). He is undergoing EMD, EFD, and 911 telecommunicator training, as well as general clinician licensing cross-training. One licensing agent



position remains vacant.

- **Office Positions:** Searches remain open for the Office Administrator 2 and Community Paramedicine Support positions.
- **Region 4 Manager:** Ryan Hall is actively onboarding and conducting an outreach tour across Aroostook County.
- **Data Preparedness Coordinator:** Darren Davis departed Maine EMS on June 5, 2026; recruitment for the data position will commence shortly.

B. State Medical Direction Transition (Marc Minkler)

- State Medical Director Dr. Matthew Sholl will retire effective July 1, 2026, concluding more than 20 years of dedicated service to Maine EMS. Director O'Neill is convening an interview committee for the position.
- Associate State Medical Director Dr. Jack Lewis will assume medical director responsibilities per statute and rule to prevent any gap in coverage.
- The Medical Direction and Practices Board (MDPB) meeting on June 17, 2026, will mark Dr. Sholl's final meeting as chair, where he will receive formal recognition from the Maine EMS Board.

C. System Communications (Jason Oko)

- Staff emphasized the importance of clinician communications distributed via GovDelivery. Bulletins currently average approximately a 50% open rate. Committee members were asked to remind their peers and service personnel to open and review state email bulletins promptly, especially regarding emerging public health and preparedness advisories (e.g., Ebola readiness guidance).

8. Training Center Updates

A. New Training Center Applications (Marc Minkler)

- Two applications are currently under active review:
 1. An existing agency is applying to deliver EMT courses.
 2. The National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) is applying to operate a seasonal wilderness EMT program in Maine beginning in Summer 2027. NOLS currently operates 23 EMT programs across three western states.

B. Instructor Coordinator (IC) Licensure Guidance (Marc Minkler / Leah Mitchell)

- Maine EMS staff (Marc Minkler, Jason Cooney, and Melissa Adams) are developing clear, written guidance regarding IC licensing pathways.
- Staff noted that by Maine EMS rule, an individual is not required to be a licensed Maine clinician to hold a Maine IC license, provided they maintain National Registry certification and meet IC qualifications.
- Proposed guidance will be presented to EDCOM for review. Leah Mitchell commended staff for addressing long-standing ambiguities and inconsistencies in the IC licensing process.

9. National Registry & Examination Update (Marc Minkler)

Marc Minkler presented a comprehensive data review of Maine National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) examination performance covering January 1, 2023, through June 8, 2026:



- **Current Active Credentials (Maine Residents):**
 - EMR: 12
 - EMT: 1,400+
 - AEMT: 452
 - Paramedic: 792
 - *Note:* Slightly under 50% of licensed Maine EMS clinicians currently maintain active NREMT certification.
- **Examination Pass Rates by Level:**
 - **EMR (15 candidates):** Maine pass rates tied or exceeded national averages across all attempts.
 - **EMT (~1,400 candidates):** First-time pass rate was 1% below national average; cumulative pass rate was 1–2% below national average. Longitudinal data (2011–2026) shows Maine first-time EMT pass rates consistently sit slightly below Vermont and New Hampshire. However, total candidate numbers have steadily increased since 2021.
 - **AEMT (462 candidates):** Maine significantly outperformed national averages (first attempt: 10% higher; cumulative: 9% higher).
 - **Paramedic (252 candidates):** First-attempt pass rate was 81% (vs. 72% nationally); cumulative pass rate was ~4% above the national average. Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC) achieved a 100% pass rate by attempt #2 for all cohorts since 2023.
- **Analysis of Unsuccessful / Expired ("Lost") Candidates:**
 - Across the reporting period, 106 EMT candidates and 5 Paramedic candidates exhausted their eligibility window without passing; 133 EMTs and 9 Paramedics remain currently eligible.
 - **Discussion Factors:**
 - *Cohort Size:* Larger training cohorts experienced higher absolute numbers of non-testing students, whereas smaller cohorts maintained higher direct follow-through.
 - *Dual-Border Students:* AJ Gagnon noted northern border programs train Canadian students who sit for Canadian provincial licensure rather than NREMT.
 - *Pre-Med / Non-Practicing Students:* An increasing proportion of EMT and Paramedic students take courses for medical school prerequisites or academic exploration without intending to practice in EMS.
 - *Administrative Pre-Registration:* Leah Mitchell explained that programs often pre-register entire cohorts 3–4 weeks prior to graduation to facilitate immediate approvals upon course completion; students who drop out or decide not to test remain listed as open candidates in the NREMT portal.
- **Financial Impact of Retesting:**
 - Repeat testing fees (\$104 for EMT/AEMT; \$175 for Paramedic) create significant financial burdens on students, with multiple attempts costing individual students between \$208 and \$1,050.
- **Support Initiatives & Next Steps:**
 - Aiden Koplovsky announced plans to coordinate regional study and review sessions for EMT and AEMT candidates preparing for the exam.
 - **Committee Recommendation:** The committee agreed that an annual NREMT performance review should be formally scheduled each winter/spring (February/March).

10. New Business



- No new business was raised.
- Jason Oko reminded all members to review the Training Center Standards draft in SharePoint and submit written feedback.

11. Adjournment

- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for **July 8, 2026, at 9:00 AM** via Zoom.
- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Stephen Smith. Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM.