

AUGUST 2026

MAINE EMS STAFF UPDATE



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 Maine EMS,

The past month has been a storm of new initiatives, and non-stop challenges.

National Registry Site Visit:

At our July Medical Direction and Practices Board we were joined by Loran Coleman, our New England Region rep at the National Registry of EMTS, this was a semi-annual visit for stakeholder feedback, and we engaged in discussion around rural EMS and healthcare, and the future of EMS online training and hybrid programs, as well as national trends in Community Paramedicine.

DEA PPA-EMA:

The registration process for agencies to register for the DEA so they can directly order controlled substances has been open for several weeks now. There are a handful of agencies who have completed the process, and several (approx. 50) that are in the registration process currently. This change impacts all our Paramedic level services in Maine. There are administrative burdens and additional costs that agencies will have to absorb without the support they used to get from hospital pharmacies. We are working closely with the Maine Hospital Association to ensure agencies continue to be able to source these lifesaving medications as they transition to the new process.

Ebola Virus Readiness:

While we are not currently seeing a high risk for transmission of Ebola Virus, we continue to push agencies to be prepared. We have established foundational response capability and are working into the next phase of providing a set of "I-95 corridor" agencies that will be able to move patients safely from any outlying facility to Maine Med, our level 3 facility. We have clinical information about the virus at the ready and will distribute education if it becomes necessary. There are a set of trainings in late July and early August which are already filled, and we staged a table-top exercise earlier this month as a great opportunity to test and refine our capabilities. As with any potentially high consequence infection, our patient care reporting system is configured to provide bio surveillance and symptom cluster data to our CDC and public health partners if/when needed.

Post-Crash Road Safety PSAs:

We are working with Highway Safety, BlackFly Media and DOT on a set of 15 and 30s PSAs to highlight our work on last year's Maine EMS post-crash road safety project. EMS providers working in the roadway after responding to an initial vehicle accident are at high-risk for injury, and the more we can do to highlight our efforts and remind citizens of that risk the better.

-Wil



STABILIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Grant

231 Transporting and Non-Transporting EMS agencies participated in the 2nd phase of the Stabilization and Sustainability Grant Program.

155 Transporting EMS agencies and 76 Non-Transporting EMS agencies applied for the grant totaling \$9,955,023.97.

During the grant application phase, 9 of the 231 agencies did not request their full allocated amount. \$52,416.55 was unawarded.

All 231 recipients were granted the award. The total award for the Sustainability Phase was \$9,902,607.42.

The Sustainability Grant portion closed March 31, 2026.

A 3-month extension through June 30th, 2026, was approved for all 81 agencies requesting additional time.

Agencies that received the extension must have submitted their Final Reports and supporting documents no later than July 30th, 2026.

As of July 29th

- 69 agencies have submitted their final report and are in the process of being reviewed for close out, totaling \$3,271,510.18
- 128 agencies have closed out their grant program, totaling \$4,531,444.48
- 34 agencies are anticipated to submit Final Reports totaling \$2,099,652.76
- 2 agencies have returned their unspent grant funds totaling \$14,874.10

**This update encompasses Transporting and Non-Transporting EMS agencies; it does not include Training Center data.*

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE (CP)

The Off-Cycle Committee members continue to make progress on the review of Chapter 19 Rules, with members independently reviewing assigned sections and then collaborating as a group. The committee will officially meet again on September 10, after having August off. Committee members are also planning an innovation session to be held in October. Additionally, the application process for Community Paramedicine licenses is now live, and Maine EMS staff are actively reviewing and processing submitted applications.

EMS FOR CHILDREN (EMSC)

Highlights & Activities

1. Educational Webinar – “Measles”
 - On February 17, Maine EMSC organized and arranged a statewide townhall meeting with a panel of Maine CDC Director Dr. Puthiery VA, Dr. Matthew Sholl, Maine EMS Medical Director, Dr. Isaac Benowitz, Chief Medical Officer & State Epidemiologist, Department of Health and Human Services, and Rita Owsiak, Maine CDC Healthcare Associated Infections Coordinator
 - Over 100 attendees included regional medical directors, EMS leaders, and clinicians. Licensed EMS clinicians received EMS CEHs
 - The meeting was recorded and we hope to post on MEMSEd
2. Attended and supported various meetings and groups in the State, including
 - MDPB, Board, Region 1,2,3 and 4 meetings, Maine EMS Protocol Subcommittee
 - Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel
 - Spoke at joint session of Child Death & Serious Injury Review Panel and Maine Domestic Homicide Workgroup
 - Met with Togus VA ED management team for work on Pediatric Readiness
 - Chaired Perinatal Quality Collaborative for Maine meeting
 - Supported Maine Maternal, Fetal, & Infant Mortality Review Panel (MFIMR)
3. Attended and contributed to various national EMSC meetings, including
 - Eastern US Always Ready for Children planning group
 - Attended and spoke at several NEMSQA metric development meetings
 - Attended several HRSA EMSC town hall and planning meetings
 - Attended NASEMSO PEC Council officer meetings
 - Attended NASEMSO Rural EMS Committee
4. Worked on NASEMSO national meeting agenda planning for Pediatric Emergency Care Council
5. Assisted Massachusetts EMS with Birthing Center response planning
6. Finalizing Peditape education for MEMSEd and then will begin shipping peditapes to EMS agencies
7. Helped facilitate national FDA Class 1 recall of Broselow Tape due to errors
8. Other activities as assigned (including MDPB liaison, Maine EMS webmaster, manage Maine EMS social media, review and finalize draft of Maine EMS medication formulary)
9. Finalize plans for statewide survey of all hospital EDs for pediatric readiness, survey begins March 3, 2026

LD 841 - ISLAND EMS WORKGROUP

The LD841 completed our work and have submitted a final report through Director O’Neal to the Maine Legislature. The report can be found on the Maine EMS website on the [Data and Reports page](#) or by [clicking here](#). The group worked incredibly hard and special thanks to the workgroup members listed below. This project would not be successful without all of their contributions. Additionally, a number of regular stakeholders provided regular input and expertise, and they are listed in the report itself: John Dietter, Director, North Haven EMS; Sean Donaghue, Division Chief, Portland Fire Department; William Geary, Director, Multimodal Operations, Maine DOT; Tom Judge, Project Officer, LifeFlight of Maine (Chair); Marc Minkler, Program Manager, Maine EMS (Report Author); Ralph Munroe, Chief, Chebeague Island Fire & Rescue; Butch Russell, President, Maine Ambulance Association; and Marjorie Stratton, Town Manager, Vinalhaven.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Region One

Counties: Cumberland and York

Region One is currently awaiting final approval of an agreement that will satisfy the Regional Entity component of Chapters 15 and 27 of Maine EMS Rules. This represents the final requirement needed for filing their application for designation by the Maine EMS Board.

Region Two

Counties: Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset

The Region Two Council has entered into an agreement with the Hanley Center for Health Leadership and Education as our fiscal sponsor. The Hanley Center is a 501.C.3. nonprofit organization based in Region Two, with a mission to develop leaders through inspiration and education to meet today's health challenges. Following the Board's designation as the business entity in accordance with Chapter 15 of the Rules, the Council looks forward to applying for the available sustainability grant funds. To this end, the Council is busy preparing a comprehensive Regional Plan that provides for the organization and implementation of regional goals and strategies to provide support to Ambulance Services and Non-Transporting services, also in accordance with Chapter 15.

Region Three

Counties: Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo, and Washington

- Regional Council Governance: Moving toward finalized selection of a regional fiscal agent, currently evaluating two formal proposals for council consideration.
- Regulatory Guidance & Agency Support: Providing ongoing technical assistance to EMS agencies navigating compliance requirements, including PPAEMA updates and implementation.
- Municipal Transport Delivery Plans: Operationalizing statutory compliance under 30-A MRS §3171 & §3172 through statewide operational bulletins and a centralized data collection workspace for municipal delivery models.
- Quality Improvement (QI) Committee Support: Supporting the complete rewrite and modernization of the state Quality Assurance Manual.
- Education Committee & Workforce Development: Assisting with major revisions to the Training Center Standards document, including updated framework requirements for Community Paramedicine initial education.
- System Operations & User Support: Fielding technical support tickets, handling data requests, and assisting clinicians and agencies across MEFIRS, eLicensing, and MEMSED platforms.
- Legacy Automation Maintenance: Managing, maintaining, and troubleshooting critical automated workflows built by former staff to ensure system continuity.
- National Data Standardization (MOUD Program): Collaborating with ImageTrend and state EMS data leaders to build a standardized data set for EMS administration of Buprenorphine (for post-Naloxone or precipitated withdrawal), with the goal of submitting a fully developed framework to NEMSIS for national adoption.

Region Four

Aroostook County

The Region is continuing to make progress on several initiatives. A meeting regarding the Fiscal Agent is scheduled for August 20th. Work on the PPA/EMA transition is ongoing. Hospital to EMS Service communication is occurring and a region-wide roundtable will be organized to facilitate discussion and collaboration among services. The Region is also nearing completion of the Comprehensive Plan, with revisions underway and the first Regional QA Committee meeting is expected to take place soon, not that a committee chair has been named, and the first QA topic (Cardiac Arrest) has been identified.

MAINE EMS LICENSING TEAM STAFF UPDATE

New Employee – Richard Powell

The Maine EMS Licensing Team welcomes Richard Powell III as the new Emergency Medical Dispatch Focused Licensing Agent. Richard is currently working with our team to onboard and train. We appreciate the patience of the Maine EMS Community as we orient him to his new role.

The Case Review – New Maine EMS Periodical

The Maine EMS Licensing Team is developing a new periodical, The Case Review. This newsletter is intended to serve as an educational resource for stakeholders in our system, helping them stay informed about fully adjudicated cases that may interest the EMS community, and to increase visibility of the important work performed by the Maine Emergency Medical Services Licensing Board. The hope is that by providing this information to our stakeholders, it will not only connect them with this work, but provide education and discussion points regarding the practices, conduct, and behaviors that are adjudicated by the Emergency Medical Services Licensing Board. Please watch for this publication as part of the Weekly Recap released on Fridays. Board Staff are currently seeking feedback on potential improvements or ideas for inclusion; reach out to Jason.j.cooney@maine.gov.

Community Paramedicine Clinician Licensure Application

The Community Paramedicine Clinician licensure application officially went live on July 20, 2026. On July 21, 2026, the Office of Maine EMS processed and issued the state's first Community Paramedicine Affiliate License.

To date, the Office of Maine EMS has issued:

- 4 Community Paramedicine Affiliate Licenses
- 10 Community Paramedicine Technician Licenses

Instructor/Coordinator Page added to the Maine EMS Website

Maine EMS has added a page to the “Licensing” section of the Maine EMS Website. This section contains information on the currently approved pathways that can be used for initial EMS Instructor/Coordinator licensure, and information regarding the renewal of Instructor/Coordinator licenses. The Instructor/Coordinator page is available for your viewing convenience at <https://www.maine.gov/ems/licensing/emsinstructor>

MAINE EMS RULES SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF LIAISON UPDATE

Chapter 6 Repeal/Replace

At its regular meeting on June 15, 2026, the Maine EMS Rules Subcommittee voted to move a concept revision to Maine EMS's Rules regarding drugs and medications, to the Emergency Medical Services Board for consideration of public comment. This matter will be considered at the Emergency Medical Services' Board's meeting on August 5th. The next Rule Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2026. If there is interest in receiving updates for the Rule's Subcommittee's efforts regarding rulemaking, you may sign up as an interested party using the link on the Maine EMS Rules Subcommittee page of Maine EMS's Website, or <http://www.maine.gov/ems/boards-committees/rulescommittee>

2026-2027 Regulatory Agenda

Maine EMS's annual regulatory agenda is due August 7th, 2026. When published, this agenda is available through the Maine Legislature's website, located at <http://legislature.maine.gov/publicrulemaking/Public.aspx>



TRANSFER AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Transfer and Transport Committee have replaced two committee members that it lost due to relocation along with an empty Hospital Representative position, and Medical Director. They welcomed Eric Wellman of MaineHealth, Medical Director Jack Lewis, Ryan Maker of Machias Ambulance Service and Steve Kiesman of Biddeford FD. The committee is on the cusp of approving their Maine EMS IFT Scope of Practice and Critical Care Rules draft to introduce to the Rules Committee and EMS Board for final approval.



MAINE EMS AWARD CEREMONY

An Invitation to the Maine EMS Awards

Following the heartbreaking Searsmont explosion, Maine's EMS and Fire Departments have leaned on one another, found strength in shared grief, and displayed unbreakable resolve.

Now more than ever, it is a time to shine a light on the incredible spirit that defines Maine's Emergency Medical Services, Clinicians, and Partners.

This gathering is more than a ceremony; it is an opportunity to draw strength from our collective resilience and fiercely celebrate the exceptional clinicians, agencies, and partners who dedicate themselves to caring for the residents and visitors of Maine.

Please join us as we honor our peers and stakeholders, remember those we have lost, and reaffirm the amazing bond that keeps our Maine EMS community standing strong.

Memorial Ceremony Details

The Friends of EMS for Maine will host the annual Memorial and Remembrance Ceremony at the Maine EMS Memorial and Education Site, on the grounds of the State Capitol in Augusta, on Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 11:00 AM. Together, we will honor the individuals who helped lay the foundation of Maine's EMS system, recognize those who continue to keep the system running every day, and remember the EMS professionals who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Please join us as we gather in reflection, gratitude, and remembrance. For more information about the Friends of EMS for Maine, a non-profit organization, please visit FriendsOfEMSforMaine.org.

Award Ceremony Details

Join us live on August 27, 2026, at 1:00 PM in the Hall of Flags to honor these incredible leaders and applaud this year's winners. This annual ceremony is our chance to unite as a statewide community, reflect on our shared mission, and celebrate the extraordinary dedication of Maine's EMS professionals.

