

SEPTEMBER 2026

MAINE EMS STAFF UPDATE



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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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings Maine EMS,

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

Community Paramedicine:

We have recently opened licensure applications for Community Paramedicine (C/P) agencies and EMS providers at all three levels (EMT, AEMT and Paramedic) here in Maine. Providing definitions in statute, curriculum and standards, licensure, and oversight by the regulatory agency are crucial steps in getting CMS to recognize C/P for reimbursement. Our Maine EMS Community Paramedicine program will be working to distribute \$5.5m in RHCTP funding to enhance and expand C/P programs in Maine over the next year.

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 completed a set of trainings in late July and early August along with a table-top exercise to continue to test and refine our capabilities. We have offered an informational webinar in partnership w CDC for our EMS providers and have a second webinar scheduled for Aug 19th. 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.

EMS Suboxone and IV Ultrasound Pilots:

We have two exciting and ongoing pilots inside EMS agencies in Maine. The first is an ultrasound guided IV access study, to determine if field ultrasound use in EMS can increase IV success rates in critical patients, and a Suboxone Pilot at the Westbrook Fire Department. The Suboxone pilot helps us launch the next important phase of our work to reduce preventable opiate overdose deaths in Maine. In conjunction with our SUD and Public Safety partners, this new study builds on our success saving lives with Naloxone Leave Behind and provides in the moment treatment for addiction and withdrawal, as well as a connection to a broader treatment network.

New State EMS Medical Director:

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. John "Jack" Lewis to the position of State EMS Medical Director by the Maine EMS Board. This important role leads our clinical initiatives, develops and implements our treatment protocols and works as our liaison with the National Association of EMS Physicians, and leads our Medical Direction and Practices Board. Most recently Jack has been working in the Associate Medical Director role for Maine EMS, and has been a tireless advocate for our providers.



-Wil

STABILIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Grant

The Sustainability Grant Program has provided 231 Transporting and Non-Transporting EMS agencies upfront funding for equipment, training, wages, patient rural transport, regionalization and consolidation, as well as new projects for responder mental health and wellness. All these categories encompass specific visions for improving the Maine EMS system.

This was the 2nd phase of the Stabilization and Sustainability Grant Program. 155 Transporting and 76 Non-Transporting EMS agencies applied to the grant, and all 231 recipients were granted the award, totaling \$9,902,607.42.

During the grant application phase, 9 of the 231 agencies did not request their full allocated amount. \$52,416.55 was unawarded. Those funds will be rolled over into the next phase of the grant for subsequent funding.

The Sustainability Grant closed March 31, 2026. A 3-month extension through June 30th, 2026, was approved for 78 agencies requesting additional time, and 3 more needed a longer performance period to complete their projects due to delay in receiving the funding, or the funds have been encumbered for anticipated ambulances or advanced level certifications.

Both the Stabilization and Sustainability Grant Manager, Victoria Clyde, and Grant Specialist, Amber McCormick will be completing their contracts September 25th, 2026.

Any active Sustainability Grant recipients past September 25th, 2026, will be handed off to their assigned Regional Managers to ensure a smooth transition.

As of August 27th, 2026

174 Agencies Closed Out

\$5,077,009.78 Transporting- 123 Agencies

\$1,728,838.40 Non-Transporting - 51 Agencies

Total Funds Requested = \$6,820,848.18

52 Sustainability Grants In Review for Close Out

21 Non-Transporting Agencies = \$872,930.04

31 Transporting Agencies = \$ 1,983,141.72

Total Funds Remaining Open= \$2,856,071.76

3 Agencies Past Due/Noncompliance

Non-Transporting = 3

Total Funds =\$127,519.28

STABILIZATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Grant

2 Agencies with Extensions Remaining Open

\$48,168.20 Transporting = 1

\$50,000 Non-Transporting = 1

Total Funds = \$98,168.20

231 Requested/Awarded Grants

76 Non-Transporting = \$2,779,287.72

155 Transporting = \$7,123,319.70

Total Grant Funds Requested/Awarded = \$9,902,607.42

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

COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE (CP)

The Off-Cycle Committee made significant progress reviewing and developing proposed changes to the Chapter 19 rules. The next regular committee meeting is scheduled for September 11th.

Committee members are also planning a Community Paramedicine innovation session to be held in October.

Applications for Community Paramedicine service licenses continue to be submitted and reviewed.

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 Pediatape education for MEMSEd and then will begin shipping pediatapes 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

Designated Regional Council members met with a potential fiscal agent on August 20th. The potential fiscal agent has several internal questions to address and will provide a decision to the Regional Council in the near future.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Region Four

Aroostook County

A region-wide round table was held with multiple EMS service and hospital representatives participating to discuss PPA-EMA implementation and share information and resources.

The new Region Four QA Committee held its first workshop meeting to discuss committee logistics and priorities. The committee plans to hold its first public QA meeting soon.

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.

