

To: Maine Emergency Medical Services Board

Cc: Soliana Harnish, LCSW – Maine EMS Community Paramedicine Coordinator

From: Dennis Russell, M.Ed., ATC, NRP, CP-C

Operations Manager / Community Paramedicine Manager

United Ambulance Service

Date: February 26, 2026

Re: Waiver Request – Recognition of Prior Community Paramedicine Education Programs for Community Paramedicine Technician (CP-T) and Community Paramedicine Clinician (CP-C) Educational Requirements

Dear Members of the Maine EMS Board,

Pursuant to Chapter 13 of the Maine EMS Rules (Waiver of Rules), I respectfully request a waiver and/or formal recognition that the following previously delivered Community Paramedicine education programs satisfy the educational component required for Community Paramedicine Technician (CP-T) and Community Paramedicine Clinician (CP-C) licensure:

- United Training Center – Community Paramedicine Technician (CP-T) Programs
 - Hennepin Technical College – Community Paramedicine Program
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I. Background

Both the United Training Center CP-T programs and the Hennepin Technical College Community Paramedicine program were structured, competency-based educational programs developed to prepare paramedics and EMS clinicians for expanded community-based clinical roles.

These programs included comprehensive didactic instruction, structured clinical experiences, competency validation, documentation training, public health integration, chronic disease management, care coordination, and medical oversight. At the time of delivery, these programs were designed and conducted in accordance with nationally recognized Community Paramedicine standards and consistent with Maine EMS expectations then in place.

Participants completed these programs in good faith reliance on their validity and professional recognition within the evolving Community Paramedicine framework.

II. Rule at Issue

Current Maine EMS licensure requirements for CP-T and CP-C reference completion of Maine EMS-approved Community Paramedicine education aligned with the June 30, 2024, Education Standards, or education judged equivalent by Maine EMS.

Due to updated rule interpretation and reference standards, uncertainty has arisen as to whether graduates of these prior programs automatically meet the educational component of CP-T and CP-C licensure.

Absent Board action, affected providers may be required to repeat education that was comprehensive, competency-based, and substantively aligned with current standards.

III. Substantial Compliance with Current Standards

The prior United Training Center and Hennepin Technical College curricula included instruction and competency validation in:

- Role of the Community Paramedicine provider within the healthcare system
- Public health integration and social determinants of health
- Comprehensive patient history and physical examination across the lifespan
- Chronic disease management (including heart failure, COPD, diabetes, hypertension, and related conditions)
- Laboratory and diagnostic interpretation
- Identification of clinical red flags and escalation pathways
- Care coordination and interdisciplinary communication
- Documentation standards (including SOAP/SBAR and structured reporting)
- Behavioral health considerations and psychological support
- Clinical experience with defined competency requirements
- Quality assurance and evidence-based practice

These core domains reflect the intent and substance of the current Maine EMS Community Paramedicine Education Standards.

There are no material educational gaps that would justify duplication of training solely due to a transition in reference standards.

IV. Chapter 13 Determining Factors

Chapter 13 permits the Board to waive a rule where doing so would avert a significant injustice while preserving public safety and the integrity of Maine's EMS system.

In this case:

1. Reasonable Steps to Comply

Training centers and participants complied with Maine EMS standards as they existed at the time of program delivery.

2. Reliance on Valid Programs

Participants reasonably relied on the legitimacy and professional recognition of these programs when completing their education.

3. Significant Harm if Not Recognized

Failure to recognize these programs may:

- Create unnecessary barriers to licensure
- Undermine workforce development and retention
- Discourage advancement within Community Paramedicine
- Require duplication of education without a public safety benefit
- Increase financial burden on EMS services and individual providers who would be required to pay tuition, travel, time away from work, and administrative costs to repeat substantially similar education

Requiring repetition of compliant education would impose avoidable expenses on already resource-constrained EMS agencies and providers without measurable improvement in patient safety or competency.

4. Public Safety

Recognition of these programs poses no health or safety risk. Graduates have practiced under medical direction, maintained licensure in good standing, and participated in ongoing continuing education and QA/QI processes.

5. Regulatory Integrity

Granting recognition or waiver would not weaken standards but would acknowledge substantial compliance and continuity during an evolving regulatory framework. It would preserve the intent of the standards while avoiding unnecessary duplication and expense.

V. Request

I respectfully request that the Maine EMS Board:

1. Formally recognize that prior United Training Center CP-T programs and the Hennepin Technical College Community Paramedicine program satisfy the educational component required for Community Paramedicine Technician (CP-T) and Community Paramedicine Clinician (CP-C) licensure;
2. Grant a waiver under Chapter 13 affirming that these programs meet the educational requirement based on substantial compliance with current Maine EMS standards.

This request is made to ensure equitable application of standards, avoid unnecessary financial burden on EMS services and providers, preserve workforce stability, and maintain the continued advancement of Community Paramedicine services across Maine while fully protecting public safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Russell, M.Ed., ATC, NRP, CP-C

Operations Manager

Community Paramedicine Manager



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MAINE EMS - CHAPTER 13 WAIVER APPLICATION

1. Applicant Information

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Organization: United Ambulance Service

Address: 192 Russell Street, Lewiston, ME 04240

Phone: 207.777.6006 ext. 204

Email: dennis.russell@unitedambulance.net

Date of Submission: February 26, 2026

2. Rule for Which Waiver Is Requested

Chapter 19 - Community Paramedicine Licensure Education Requirement (Completion of Maine EMS-approved Community Paramedicine education aligned with the June 30, 2024, Education Standards or equivalent education.)

Programs for which recognition/waiver is requested:

- United Training Center - Community Paramedicine Technician (CP-T)
- Hennepin Technical College - Community Paramedicine Program (CP-T and CP-C)

3. Description of Relief Requested

The applicant respectfully requests that the Maine EMS Board:

- Formally recognize that the above programs meet the educational component required for CP-T and CP-C licensure.
- Grant a waiver under Chapter 13, affirming that these programs satisfy the educational requirement based on substantial compliance.

4. Basis for Waiver (Chapter 13 §1)

Granting this waiver would avert significant injustice while preserving public safety and the integrity of Maine's EMS system.

The referenced programs were competency-based and comprehensive. Requiring repetition of substantially equivalent education would not enhance patient safety.

5. Determining Factors (Chapter 13 §2)

A. Reasonable Steps to Comply

Training centers and participants complied with Maine EMS standards in effect at the time of program delivery.

B. Reliance on Valid Programs

Participants reasonably relied on the legitimacy and professional recognition of these programs.

C. Significant Injury or Harm if Not Waived

Failure to recognize these programs may create barriers to licensure and require duplication of substantially equivalent education.

Repetition would impose tuition costs, travel expenses, lost staffing hours, and administrative costs on EMS services and providers without a measurable public safety benefit.

D. Public Health and Safety Risk

Recognition poses no health or safety risk. Graduates have maintained licensure and practiced in accordance with Maine EMS requirements.

E. Regulatory Integrity

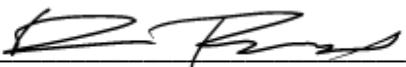
Granting this waiver would acknowledge substantial compliance while preserving regulatory intent.

6. Supporting Documentation Attached

Has been submitted to Maine EMS.

7. Certification

I certify that the information provided is accurate and submitted in good faith.

Signature:  _____

Printed Name: Dennis Russell, M.Ed., ATC, NRP, CP-C

Date: 02/26/2026