



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

152 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS

GOVERNOR



MICHAEL SAUSCHUCK

COMMISSIONER

J. SAM HURLEY

DIRECTOR

BOARD OF EMS MEETING

AUGUST 4, 2021

ZOOM

DRAFT

“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 providers. All members of this board should strive to promote the core values of excellence, support, collaboration, and integrity. In serving on this Board, we commit to serve the respective providers, communities, and residents of the jurisdictions that we represent.”

Board Members Present: Tim Beals, Brad Chicoine, Joe Conley, Laura Downing, Amy Drinkwater, Judy Gerrish, Joe Kellner, Rich Kindelan, Brent Libby, John Martel, Julie Ontengco, Dennis Russell, Steve Smith, Scott Susi Ex: Officio: Dr. Matt Sholl, Dr. Kate Zimmerman

Staff Present: Sam Hurley, Melissa Adams, Griffin Bourassa, Marc Minkler, Jason Oko, Chris Azevedo, Jessica Ricciardelli, A.A.G. Ron Guay

Stakeholders: Joseph C. Moore, Paul Marcolini, Steve Almquist, Benjamin Wallace, Eric Wellman, Joanne Lebrun, Sally Taylor, Peter Somerville, Jay Bradshaw, Lance Zeli, Chief MacDonnell, John Hoak, Christopher Pare, Chase Labbe, G. Gunning, Chris Montero, Kevin Curry, Aiden Koplovsky

CALL TO ORDER 9:31

1. Introductions
2. Disclosure of any conflicts of interest
None
3. Modifications to the Agenda
 - a. Additional EMD Rep for the Data Committee
 - b. IFT Committee
 - c. AVOC sunset date extension

4. Public Comments
None

5. Meeting Minutes
 - a. July 7, 2021

MOTION: To accept the meeting minutes from July 7, 2021 as amended.

Made by: Drinkwater; Seconded by: Russell

Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell, Smith, Susi

No: 0

6. Director's Report
Sam Hurley

We have some additional funding coming into the office, including, \$50,000 for COVID Training and Rural Health programing as well as \$35,000 to perform updates to the MEMSed system to include substance use disorder training.

We have submitted funding request for strategic planning. The RFP process should begin in September.

- a. Legislative Update
Medical Direction authorization to allow EMS clinicians to dispense medications. We are looking to make this a little broader so that we can include dispensing suboxone as part of the Community Paramedicine program.

LD 5 has a verb tense issue that we are working to change

We are currently working on language to include EMS as an essential service in Maine.

We are also working to allow MEMS to conduct research under an IRB with a FOIA exemption.

We are working to modify the Community Paramedicine language to remove the requirement for a physician referral and replace it with a standing order.

Maine EMS is requesting that the Board reconsider pushing out the sunset date for AVOC from Jan 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022 in an effort to give more rural services more time for budgetary considerations.

Committee Updates

Community Paramedicine
Jason Oko

CP Committee met last month and due to funding changes coming in, the group talked about the MOU process and the funding being received.

The Committee is advertising open positions and will be electing a Chair this month.

Maine EMS has purchased a CP module for MEFIRS, and we are currently working to get this set up.

QI Committee
Jason Oko

The QI Committee is currently working on next newsletter on Sepsis.

Dr. Sholl will be stepping down as Chair, therefore, there will be an election for a new Chair later this month. Dan Masselli has joined the Committee as the Southern Maine representative, John Powers is serving as the Mid Coast representative, Cheri Volta is the non-transport representative and Melinda Dyer is the EMD representative.

Data Committee
Darren Davis

The Committee is currently updating the NEMSIS data set with ImageTrend.

We are working on the RFI and scheduling vendor demonstrations. After those are completed, we will begin the RFP process.

Exam Committee
Chris Azevedo

The Committee is working through the hiring process for PSE Administrators and we will be electing a Chair this month.

Education committee
Chris Azevedo

The Committee did not meet in July. We are currently working on protocol updates and we continue to work on training center standard revisions.

The Office is undertaking development of policies and procedures as well as finding a method of publishing them.

EMS-C
Marc Minkler

The Committee is finishing with it's end of year reports and we are currently in the process of submitting the financial report. We are currently \$12,000 over budget, we will be requesting to carry that money over.

We continue to work with Wells EMS, Rockland Fire, Bath Fire and York Hospital on reviewing the effectiveness of the VR program.

Mr. Minkler is currently Co-chairing a committee to develop some national pediatric skills resources focusing on low frequency/high risk events.

Working on adding regional resources, including advisory committee minutes to be posted on our website.

EMD Committee
Melissa Adams

EMD met in July working in sub-groups on some projects that were presented to the Board earlier this year. We are currently working to introduce the 9-8-8 nationwide crisis line. DPS Communications Director Brodie Hinkley is on the statewide committee tasked by LD1306 to develop protocol and procedure for both direct access by individuals experiencing crisis as well as E911 transfer of appropriate callers to this resource.

Rules Committee
Griffin Bourassa

Working on getting the Rules Committee information together and we have scheduled a tentative date for the first meeting with the Committee

7. Medical Director report

a. MDPB
Dr. Sholl

The MDPB has been focusing on the protocols, MDPB released draft versions of all the protocols and published a summary change document. We continue to work with the Education Committee to develop education for the roll out of the protocols.

We continue to work on the Jackman Project. The MDPB has been meeting weekly to work on this and there have been a number of legal questions that have required review by the AG's office.

Dr. Sholl requested that a sub-committee be formed in anticipation of the Impact of Protecting Patient's Access to Emergency Medications Act. This is the DEA's attempt to include EMS in the acquisition of scheduled medications. EMS agencies may be required to apply for their own DEA license. This will require service level medical directors for oversight. This act will require detailed recordkeeping and security requirements for services.

The MDPB BLS representative stepped down so we will be reposting that position and forming an interview panel.

TAC
Dr. Zimmerman

The Committee met on the 27th and we have filled 2 of our 3 open positions. We still have an open stakeholder/public representative position and it will be reposted later this month. We have passed bylaws for the committee and we will be looking to elect a new Chair in January 2022.

8. Investigations

*MOTION: To accept Investigations Committee Minutes from the Mayth, meeting.
Made by: Conley; Seconded by: Beals
Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Conley, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish,
Kellner
No: (0)*

Case Summary 21-180: A service allegedly allowed unlicensed personnel to respond to emergency medical calls and make decisions about patient care.

The Committee recommends resolving this case by issuing a letter of guidance to stay on file for 4 years; emphasizing the importance of documenting every request for service with a patient care report, ensuring unlicensed personnel may not cancel an EMS response and continuing to work with Maine EMS staff to develop appropriate policies.

MOTION: To approve the Committees recommendation.

Made by: Russell; Seconded by: Conley

Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell, Smith, Susi

No: 0

Case Summary 21-188: A new applicant for an EMT license disclosed a criminal conviction for OUI in 2015.

The Committee recommends issuing the license, finding that the applicant is sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant the public's trust.

MOTION: To approve the Committee's recommendation.

Made by: Russell; Seconded by: Conley

Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell, Smith, Susi

No: 0

9. Old Business

- a. Workforce Recruitment and Retention Update
Griffin Bourassa

The Committee issued a survey to research vacancies and active recruitment methods. We received an average 70% response from services throughout the state. The data team is currently organizing the responses and the results will be brought to the committee at the next meeting.

UMaine Orono is actively conducting focus groups in their effort to develop their research on retention issues within the Maine EMS systems.

- b. IFT Update
Tim Beals

Mr. Beals stated that there is no consensus on the makeup of the Committee and the last time the Board discussed this matter, the only identified goal was to bring back recommendations for strategic planning. He is requesting that the Board

give the Committee more direction. We would like to get a better sense of membership of the Board and the direction that the committee should head in.

MOTION: To establish the IFT Committee with the positions of 1 EMS Board member, 2 MDPB members, 2 fire-based transporting agencies that provide IFT, two non-fire-based transporting agencies that provide IFT, one critical care representative, and when needed, the ability to bring in a hospital representative.

Made by: Libby; Seconded by: Gerrish

Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell, Smith, Susi

No: 0

c. Soliciting Stakeholder Engagement RE: Regions

Chair Kellner stated that he spoke with Director Hurley and Chair-Elect Libby to ensure that that prior evaluations of the EMS system i.e.: ASMI Report and MSTAR report are included in the upcoming strategic planning.

d. Dana Knight Waiver Request (Tabled): Mr. Bourassa states that the applicant wishes to revoke his waiver request and will be pursuing the NREMT re-entry.

e. Data Committee EMD Representative

The Data Committee is requesting the Boards permission to add an EMD position to the Committee.

MOTION: TO add an EMD representative position to the Data Committee.

Made by: Libby; Seconded by: Beals

Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell, Smith, Susi

No: 0

f. AVOC Extension

MEMS Office is requesting that the Board extend the sunset date of AVOC to June 30, 2022.

MOTION: To extend the sunset date for AVOC to June 30, 2022.

Made by: Beals; Seconded by: Kindelan

Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Downing, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell, Smith, Susi

No: 0

10. New Business

a. Contracting Related to Grand Funds

i. MOUs Sam Hurley

Director Hurley states that there is significant funding coming through MEMS through grants of which the manner in which the office can spend these grants is already decided. The Office is asking for the Board to approve MOU's or grants, where the spending is already defined so that the office doesn't continually have to come back to the Board to approve spending over \$10,000.

MOTION: To exclude spending grants/MOUs from the requirement for the Boards approval and informing the Board of any grants applied for and received.

Made by: Russell; Seconded by: Susi

Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell, Smith, Susi

No: 0

b. Listing of Existing Data Sharing Agreements

Jason Oko

The Data sharing agreements list was distributed to the Board for review. Mr. Oko stated that the office is in the process of managing that list in the SharePoint system and looking to update some of the expiration dates.

c. Chair Elect Discussions

Judy Gerrish

Ms. Gerrish states that there were three nominees for the Chair Elect position. The nominees are: Amy Drinkwater, Scott Susi, and Rich Kindelan. Each nominee was given a chance to speak about what they would bring to the position. The Board took an anonymous poll. Rich Kindelan won the majority of the votes and will be serving as Chair Elect.

Chair Kellner steps down as Chair with Brent Libby filling the position of Chair beginning with the next Board meeting.

d. Quality Assurance/Improvement Project

Director Hurley

The Director is requesting approval from the Board to spend \$30,000 to break up the RFP for QI into smaller projects in an effort to get the regions or other bidders to take on the smaller tasks.

MOTION: To authorize the Director to spend up to \$30,000 to meet the RFP requirements of the QA improvement project.

Made by: Libby; Seconded by: Russell

*Roll Call Vote (Yes): Beals, Chicoine, Conley, Drinkwater, Gerrish, Kellner, Kindelan, Libby, Martel, Ontengco, Russell, Smith, Susi
No: 0*

11. Other

- a. Items for next meeting agenda
- b. Next meeting date (September 1, 2021)

12. Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn

Made by: Russell; Seconded by: Drinkwater 12:21

- a. Next meeting date
August 4, 2021 @ 9:30 AM

13. Adjourn 2:44

MOTION: To adjourn

Made by: Russell; Seconded by: Conley