



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

SAM HURLEY
 DIRECTOR

Education Committee

Minutes

Wednesday

8 Jan 2020

0930-1230

DeChamplain Conference Room

I. Call to Order 0930

Members present: Dennis Russell, Stephanie Cordwell, Amy Drinkwater, Mike Drinkwater, Joanne Lebrun, Ben Zetterman, Steve Smith

Members Absent: Paul Froman, Leah Mitchell

MEMS Staff: Chris Azevedo, Sam Hurley, Marc Minkler, Jason Oko

Stakeholders: Rick Petrie, Aiden Koplovsky, David Mejia

II. Introductions/Public Comments:

- a. Motion by Ben Zetterman to adjust meeting hours 0900-1200. Motion seconded by Amy Drinkwater. Motion carried.

III. Acceptance of Minutes:

- a. November (tabled to January to give opportunity for review)
 - i. Motion by Joanne Lebrun to approve November meeting minutes as is. Motion seconded by Amy Drinkwater. Motion carried.
- b. December
 - i. Chris Azevedo will send the December minutes out to give Committee members an opportunity to better review them.
 - ii. Motion made by Dennis Russell to table acceptance of December meeting minutes until February’s meeting. Motion seconded by Mike Drinkwater. Motion carried.

IV. Additions to Agenda:

- a. None

● **Excellence** ● **Support** ● **Collaboration** ● **Integrity** ●

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V. State Update:

- a. Sam Hurley- The Data Coordinator Position and Licensing Agent position application periods both close today.
 - i. All members and others present are asked to please forward the position announcements to personnel as you see fit or who are interested.
 - ii. Maine EMS will be reviewing applications and doing candidate interviews within the next 3 weeks.
 - iii. Ideally, the goal is to have someone in each position by 1 March 2020. But, the ability to do so depends on the candidates.
- b. EMS-C
 - i. Marc Minkler shared two pediatric educational opportunities coming up.
 1. MMC Clinical Updates in Pediatric Practice 2020 conference Friday 17 Jan 2020. Pediatric CEH's as well as I/C credits are available for this conference.
 2. Foundations of Pediatric Preparedness, in Waltham MA, on 9 March 2020.
- c. Sam Hurley reports that a legislation resolve to establish a commission to look at how to acquire and develop college program adjuncts has been submitted to the state legislature
- d. Protocol Update after action report for 2019 is being completed. The MDPB has begun their process for the 2021 Protocol Update process by assigning section authors to begin reviewing each section of the protocols for potential changes and/or corrections.
- e. Rules Revisions- Chapter 8
 - i. Last week, the Rules Committee reviewed comments submitted regarding CEH's and the change to a 2-year licensing period.
 1. Largest concerns voiced were that the rote increase in the number of CEH's required per year for a 2-year licensing period would cause undue hardship.
 2. There were also many concerns regarding the change to a CEH licensure model that would align with the NREMT's NCCP model. The state licensing model would not be an exact parallel but would actually diverge on several points.
 - ii. Two transition timelines were shown by Chris Azevedo and Marc Minkler, that illustrated the scheduled changes in a timeline from current form to one that closely (but not exactly) models the NCCP model from National Registry, in November 2022.
 1. Challenges
 - a. Changing the rigid format of CEH requirements to make them more flexible and pertinent
 - b. Trying to obtain slightly higher number of required CEHs per year in 2 years, versus annual requirement over 3 years.

- c. Addition of verification of provider skills and practice competency
 - 2. This transition of licensure CEH models was discussed as far back as 2015 and was approved and recommended to the EMS Board.
 - 3. Chris Azevedo recommends all Committee members review NCCP documents from National Registry and ensure they have a comprehensive understanding of the program at that level.
 - a. Changing to an NCCP model will affect everyone at every level
 - i. Service leaders, Regional Coordinators, Medical Directors, EMS providers
 - ii. NREMT began the transition 8 years ago and the Maine EMS Rules revision has Maine EMS transitioning across 3 years- 2020, 2021 and 2022. It is likely this timeframe will change
 - b. Education Committee will need to:
 - i. Work on creating education for this process at each level
 - ii. Determine how much Maine varies from NREMT NCCP
 - iii. Determine how competencies will be verified and tracked in the system
 - iv. Determine how the state and local component requirements will be determined and completion verified.
 - c. Recommended strengthening I/C pool in Maine. Dennis Russell and Rick Petrie reminded all that Continuing Education does not require that con-ed instructors be I/C licensed. Discussion regarding future need to increase CEH opportunities with NCCP. There is currently a struggle to offer con-ed.
- 4. Joanne Lebrun expressed concern regarding skills verification with NCCP.
 - a. Training centers and skills workshops have been allowed in the past as skills verifications. Chris Azevedo advises this is incorporated into NCCP. Joanne states it most likely is still in the EMS Rules.
 - b. Minutes from April 2015 Education Committee meeting reflect that recommendation was made as far back as four years ago to transition to NCCP model for CEH's.
 - c. Joanne Lebrun asks for confirmation that NREMT does not require every provider to sit down with medical director to perform all required skills. Chris Azevedo confirms that they do not.

- d. The intention behind changing to a 2-year license cycle was to help providers that maintain NREMT certification as well as Maine EMS licensure.
- e. Asked about state/local component requirements for NCCP
 - i. Chris Azevedo advises that this is not yet set and will require Education Committee discussion with Maine EMS regarding how those requirements should be determined and tracked.
- f. Question regarding the table of CEH requirements for EMR on Chris's timeline sheet: Are the 24 required hours shown reflective of any combination of the topics shown, as long as they total 24 hours?
 - i. Mark Minkler answers yes, that is correct. The hours under the 2020 and 2021 periods can be any combination of topics as long as the hours total 24. This could technically amount to 24 hours just in Operations.
 - ii. Joanne noted that having "any combination of hours" might make it easier for providers to transition.
- g. Joanne Lebrun advises there should be a conversation regarding what "verification of skills" means and what the process looks like.
- h. Question asked regarding distributive education and CEH's and difference between NR requirements and what Maine EMS will require.
 - i. NREMT sets specific limits, whereas Maine EMS states that currently, everything except required skills hours can be distributive education. Under the Maine EMS NCCP model, it is likely that 100 percent of required CEHs will be allowable via distributive education.
 - ii. Chris Azevedo again emphasizes that it will be necessary to ensure providers know the differences between NR NCCP and the model Maine EMS uses for state licensure.
- 5. Chris Azevedo addresses concerns regarding verification of skills i.e., "should the training center or EMS service offer a skills verification course?"
 - a. Recommending some vetting of instructors.
 - b. Question asked: How do you define "qualified person" to verify skills for NCCP?

- i. There appears to be a lot of leeway with this verification
- ii. There is potential for confusion between Maine EMS CEH and NREMT recert.
 - 1. Maine EMS: any “appropriate” person can sign off on any provider
 - 2. NREMT: the physician medical director would need to sign off on ALS providers. However, skills checks can be delegated to training officers by the medical directors, who can sign off

VI. Old Business

- a. Committee Vacancies
 - i. Submissions
 - ii. Discussion of creating a process for filling vacancies.
 - 1. Following the process that QI committee used. This will be adopted as Education Committee process policy. Jason has process documents.
 - 2. Expectations of committee members
 - a. Attend 75% of meetings, live attendance, or call-in
 - i. If attendance drops, Committee chair is to have a conversation with individual regarding intent
 - ii. No call/no show vs excused or notified
 - b. EMS Board document bylaws and code of conduct and ethics used as a template for expectations (November draft- approved in December).
 - c. Joanne suggests that Regional position holders actually interact with those in the Regions. Jason Oko follows on with suggestion of job descriptions.
 - 3. Position qualifications to be discussed after current vacancies are filled.
 - a. Live or work in the Regions for regional positions
 - b. Work as designated for each position municipal or non-municipal service, College, at-large
 - c. Licensed or license not required?
 - 4. Jason discusses QI committee process for filling vacancies
 - a. Advertise position
 - b. Regions appoint rep for Regional positions. Education Committee does not do this.
 - c. Review applications
 - d. Interview and choose
 - e. Send letters to those who did not get selected.
 - f. Recommendations sent to Board Chair for confirmation

- 5. Next steps
 - a. Develop questions- Ben to work on questions. Keep in a document on the Google drive for committee access.
 - b. Google drive the application packages for Committee review
 - c. February- interview, send out interview times to each candidate.
- b. Protocol Updates
 - i. Update on MDPB process. They have begun by assigning section authorship. Groups will be working in parallel.
- c. Education mission, vision and values
 - i. Need to have this discussion next month
- d. Standardized CEH programs list revision
 - i. There is a subcommittee of the group that did this in the past
 - 1. Interest in continuing in same manner
 - 2. There is a form on website for submission of CEH standardization
 - a. Review of list every 3 years
 - b. March meeting
 - ii. Course updates- hrs, etc.

VII. New Business:

- a. AVOC- To be discussed at February meeting.
- b. PIFT
 - i. Suggestion by Joanne to bring Matt Sholl and Pete Tilney in for March (?) (and copy invite to EMS Board Chair) to discuss PIFT
 - ii. Google survey: What is the impact of not having an updated PIFT program?
 - 1. Sent out to Education Committee members
 - 2. Put results on agenda for Feb meeting
- c. Rules Updates
 - i. NCCP

VIII. Adjournment: Motion by Dennis Russell. Motion seconded by Ben Zetterman. Motion carried at 12:30.