

**Aroostook Region V EMS Council Minutes**  
**111 High Street, Suite 1**  
**Caribou, ME 04730**  
**Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 09:00am**

**COUNCIL MEETING – Meeting was held via zoom due to COVID-19**

**Staff:** Chase Labbe, Regional Coordinator

**Attendees Present:** Chase Labbe, Regional Coordinator; Dr. Beth Collamore, Regional Medical Director; Andrew Gagnon, Vice President (Interim President); Percy Thibeault, Treasurer; Jessica Page, Secretary; Pat Long; Jon Cote; Jay Bradshaw, MAA; Leah Buck, NMCC; Melissa Adams, Maine EMS; Cody Fenderson, Regional QA; Matt Beil Sr; Scott Susi, Chief CFAD; Jesse Belanger; Ray Koppel; Lee Farley; Kurt Soucy; Josh Belanger; Mira Saucier

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FOLLOW UP
<b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from March 2021 meeting were reviewed. Jon Cote made a motion to pass the minutes as is. Jessica 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.</li> </ul>	Motion voted on and passes unanimously
<b>Financials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percy spoke on the budget for FY20- June 21. Fiscal Year closed budget was \$90,000 for the year. Region came out in the black with a revenue of \$4,990.69. Due to COVID the Regional budget saved on travel, due to attending meetings via Zoom. IRS form 990 is getting ready to be submitted for last year’s fiscal year budget. Motion made to accept this information by Pat, 2nd by Jon.</li> <li>Budget for this year is presented at \$87,636.00. Decrease in budget \$2,364.00. The TCAP fund did not have enough monies to cover liability insurance for students so money has been removed from the EMS budget to cover this, which will later be transferred back into the budget.</li> <li>Jessica requests a copy of the budget be emailed to all Council members. Percy reports that the Region has stopped giving copies of the budget unless it is requested. Mira requests that the budget be emailed out. Percy states “there are no secrets there it is pretty straight forward with our budget”. Chase states that he has no problems sending out this request. AJ requests</li> </ul>	<p>Last years budget discussion was accepted.</p> <p>June 21-22 budget was discussed. Chase Labbe will put a budget draft together to be dispersed to council members for review. This item will become an action item at the next meeting.</p>

	for budget to be dispersed for review and this item get tabled for the next meeting.	
<b>Old Business: Nominations Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are many Council positions that are currently open/termed. Jessica has reached out to those who have come to term, most have answered via email, a few have not.</li> </ul> <p>The following members would like to renew their terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mira Saucier</li> <li>- Percy Thibeault</li> <li>- Eric Cyr</li> <li>- Jessica Page</li> <li>- Jon Cote</li> <li>- Pete LaPlante</li> </ul> <p>There are numerous vacancies noted throughout the Region, the Council will be pushing word out to attract new members. An updated roster will be attached.</p>	Motions are made and the members discussed have been accepted as renewed and noted. Motion made by Percy, Seconded by Pat, so moved.
<b>Old Business: Bylaws Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bylaws have been drafted and have been dispersed and will be reviewed by the committee.</li> </ul>	It is requested that the Council reviews this document. This will be an action item for next meeting.
<b>New Business: Coordinator's Report</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinators Report with Updates : Presented by Chase</li> <li>Chase began his position on June 29<sup>th</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup> AREMS Region V moved to NMCC Washington Hall Campus.</li> <li>Chase has moved desktop files to Google Docs. He has also moved to QuickBooks Online.</li> <li>AREMS Website has undergone a huge update and is fully functional.</li> <li>The Region has received 27 office chairs as a donation. We have a surplus of 17 office chairs that are free to whichever department would need them.</li> <li>Covid-19 update: The Pandemic continues to change. Chase has sent out Memos, per the State, to re-iterate station masking and masking in public.</li> </ul>	Region V Website: <a href="http://www.aroostookems.org/">http://www.aroostookems.org/</a>

**Coordinator's report continued:**

- Many services have continued to not wear masks and the importance of masking is reiterated.
- Maine EMS is hosting an Emergency Board meeting at 1:30pm today regarding the Vaccine Mandates. There are many services that report that they have concerns that they will lose staff if this mandate passes as written. (See Bulletin- 2021-8-13-01)
  - Houlton/ Hodgeton Adult Community Education Center will be hosting an EMT Course beginning August 31<sup>st</sup>. Course information/flyer is available upon request.
  - Chase has been looking into potentially updating Region 5 Drug boxes. Some services in Maine have switched to the Thomas Drug Box System. This would move from the current cumbersome Plano 747 boxes that are in use. The Thomas Drug Box system is about \$130 for each system, and this is something that Chase would like each Department Head to look into and discuss with its Providers.
  - Maine EMS Region V Service contract was attached with this meeting's Agenda. Please review this document. This agreement is very Q/A focused.
  - Regional Q/A has focused on the Pandemic Protocols in the last month. Chase believes that there is opportunities for improvement within the Region in regards to following this protocol when it comes to Albuterol Nebs treatment and PPE.
  - Dr. Collamore reiterates that the masking in station policy was put out by Maine EMS and MDPB and has been in effect for over a year and at no point has it been removed. Dr. Collamore stresses the importance of adhering to this rule, to socially distance in the station, to eat separately, and to mask in the stations. The entire goal is to protect our EMS community.
  - Dr. Collamore reports that Maine EMS and MDPB support the Vaccine Mandate. Dr. Collamore is in support of the Vaccine Mandate because "it is the right thing to do."
  - Cody has noted a lack of PPE and lack of following the Pandemic protocol while doing QAs. Reports that he is seeing provider's giving albuterol neb treatments and not wearing appropriate PPE. Reports many providers not administering Epi, as the Pandemic Protocol requests. Cody reports that the

**Cody Fenderson:  
Regional Q/A update**

Bulletin:  
<https://www.maine.gov/ems/sites/maine.gov/ems/files/inline-files/20210813-ops-bulletin-re-vaccine-requirements-packet.pdf>

COVID-19 Protocol:  
<https://www.maine.gov/ems/protocols-resources/coronavirus>

<p><b>Maine EMS Board</b></p>          <p><b>State QA Board/ Education Committee Updates</b></p>	<p>only reason IM Epi should not be given in these instances is if the patient has an allergy to this medication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Documentation has been lacking in some reports as well.</li><li>• Dr. Collamore is seeing documentation of appropriate PPE when providers come into ER not wearing the PPE that is documented.</li><li>• Jessica requests that IM epi effects/uses in regards to the Pandemic Response protocol training be rolled out throughout out Region to allow providers to become more comfortable in utilizing this option.</li><li>• Nate Allen is not present for Maine EMS Board Update.</li> <li>• AJ reports that the biggest discussion points in the Exam meetings have been revolving around the lack of PSE administrators. PSE tests are difficult to hold in Aroostook County due to lack of administrators willing to travel to Aroostook. Aroostook County classes have been attempting to collaborate scheduling PSEs.</li><li>• AJ reports that the Education committee has a lot going on. AJ would like to bring to light that by 2025 AEMT programs will need to be accredited.</li><li>• The Community College EMS program has received an innovation grant that will allow all State EMS Programs to collaborate resources. Eric Wellman is now leading this Collaboration project.</li><li>• The PIFT program has not been looked at since 2006. Education is looking at updating this program and establishing what the future of the PIFT program will be.</li><li>• Education has been building the needed education updates for the upcoming protocol roll outs.</li><li>• Mellissa Adams adds that the board meeting earlier this Month the did approve the Suns update for the AVOC program out to June to allow more time for agencies to make a plan/budget for alternative programs.</li></ul>	
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<p><b>Dr. Collamore: MDPB update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There are committee vacancies in all of the Maine EMS Committees. If interested in these committees you may apply on the Maine EMS Committees website. Mellissa stresses that it would be very important to have representatives from Region 5 on Interfacility Transport Committee.</li> <li>● On top of continued Pandemic work the New Protocol work has continued. There will be a lot of changes at the EMT and AEMT levels during this rollout.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.maine.gov/ems/boards-committees">https://www.maine.gov/ems/boards-committees</a></p> <p><b>2021 Drafts</b> <a href="https://www.maine.gov/ems/boards-committees/medical-direction-practices-board/resources">https://www.maine.gov/ems/boards-committees/medical-direction-practices-board/resources</a></p>
<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Regards to Vaccine Mandate</b></p> <p><b>Jay Bradshaw Maine Ambulance Association</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scott Susi voices his concerns regarding the Vaccine Mandate rule being proposed by Maine EMS. He is in support, wholeheartedly of vaccinations. He reports that Maine will lose hundreds of Volunteer Firefighters because of this mandate. Scott has concerns over the verbiage of the Mandate in regards to who is medically exempt and what the ramifications of being medically exempt are, inclusive of being exempt from a booster.</li> <li>● Cody Fenderson reports that with this mandate he will lose half of his FT staff and half of his Paid Call staff. He reports that his ambulance service will struggle if becomes rule.</li> <li>● MAA will be approaching and furthermore presenting the legal side of the Vaccine Mandate.</li> <li>● For those ambulance services that have received more than \$10,000 of the Provider Relief funds there is a report due by the end of September. PRFreports.gov can be used as a resource for these reports.</li> <li>● CMS has recently come out with a notice that they are postponing the cost collection and reporting mandate to your fiscal year of 2022.</li> <li>● Private insurance carrier contracting will go into effect Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>. Maine EMS and MAA has worked hard to establish a “standard offer” language for ambulance services. If you are not in network for insurance carriers get in touch with that carrier to get in network. Standard offer for in network providers would be 200% of Medicare reimbursements or your current rate (whichever is less). Out of network will get 180% or your standard offer, whichever is less.</li> </ul>	<p>M.A.A. can be reached at (207) 209-3944, or <a href="https://www.the-maa.org/">https://www.the-maa.org/</a>.</p>

