



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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www.nj.gov/health

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM
Acting Commissioner

The New Jersey EMS Advisory Council MINUTES of December 13, 2023

Members Present

Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai (American College of Emergency Physicians), Mr. Michael Bascom (County EMS Coordinators), Mr. Mark Bober (NJ Association of Paramedic Programs), Mr. John Butterweck (EMSCNJ – Central), Dr. Joslyn Joseph (National Association of EMS Physicians), Mr. Daniel Kazar (NJDOH), Dr. Alexander Kuc (Air Medical Advisory Committee), Mr. Alfred Lincks (Career EMT), Mr. Andy Lovell (Career Paramedic), Ms. Suzanne O'Hearn (NJHA), Mr. Dominic Parone (Emergency Nurses Association), Ms. Barbara Platt (EMSCNJ – South), Dr. Barbara Schreibman (Mobile Intensive Care Unit Advisory Council), Mr. Gregory Scott (Medical Transportation Authority of NJ), Mr. Mordechai Twerski (Volunteer EMT), Dr. Stephen Vetranio (EMTTF Chair), Mr. Douglas Weidanz (NJSP Emergency Telecommunications), Ms. Paula Weiler (NJSFAC – President)

Members Absent

Mr. Todd Bowen (Career Fire Chiefs Association), Mr. Ralph Burgos (St. Barnabas Burn Center), Mr. Joseph Burlew (EMS Communications Committee), Dr. Diane Calello (NJ Poison Emergency Service), Dr. Gerard Carroll (MICU Advisory Council), Ms. Kathe Conlon (St. Barnabas Burn Center), Dr. Lisa Drago (EMS for Children), Dr. Howard Felderman (National Association of EMS Physicians), Ms. Candace Gardner (NJDOH), Ms. Cynthia Kirchner (Public Member), Mr. Andrew Koehler (NJ State Police), Dr. Mark Merlin (Immediate Past Council Chair), Mr. Tarcisio Nunes (NJSFAC – North), Dr. James Pruden (Immediate Past Council Chair), Ms. Cynthia Reardon (NJSFAC – North), Dr. Bruce Ruck (NJ Poison Emergency Service), Mr. Roger Sarao (NJ Hospital Association), Mr. Louis Sasso (EMS Communications Committee), Dr. Cheng Wang (American College of Emergency Physicians), Mr. Nelson Wiest (Career Fire Chiefs Association)

New Jersey Department of Health

Mr. Eric Hicken, Mr. Timothy Seplaki

Guest/Public Attendees

Dr. Paul Comber (Cooper University Health Care), Dr. Stephanie Costa (Cooper University Health Care), Mr. Rick Hager (NJ Department of Children and Families), Ms. Idalmis Lamourt (NJ Department of Children and Families), Ms. Jennifer McCarthy (Career Paramedic), Mr. William Mosely, Mr. Brendan Stringfellow (RWJBH), Mr. Joseph Walsh (NJSFAC – Central)

PUBLIC NOTICE

“This is a formal meeting of the Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council. Adequate notice of this meeting has been published in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, c-10:4.10 of New Jersey entitled, “Open Public Meetings Act”. Notices were sent to the Secretary of State, who posted the notice in a public place. Notices were forwarded to 12 New Jersey newspapers, two New York newspapers, two wire services, and two Philadelphia newspapers.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the September 2023 meeting were distributed to the members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council via email prior to this meeting

*Motion to approve the September 2023 minutes (Dr. Vetrano) Seconded (Dr. Schreibman)
Approved (Unanimous)*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Update

Sent to the members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council via email prior to this meeting

Air Medical – Dr. Kuc

- Discussed arterial line placement for interfacility transfers
- There is a notable rise in scene requests within the Northern region of the state

	January 2022 – October 2022	January 2023 – October 2023
Scene Requests	1,477	2,190
Completed Missions	839	932
Interfacility Transports	1,616	1,687

Basic Life Support (BLS) Sub-Committee

No Report

EMT Training Fund – Dr. Vetrano

- EMT Training Fund balance is \$5,342,110.50
- A motion was passed to request the Commissioner of the Department of Health to review the financial impact of increasing the number of EMS providers that would be eligible to utilize the Training Fund under Bill A3772

Communications

No Report

EMS for Children (EMSC) – Mr. Hicken

- The Department will be offering online education on December 18, 2023, from 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM. Please monitor your email inbox for more information and additional class offerings
- EMSC has identified topics of interest within the school nursing community and are currently in the process of identifying speakers to offer school nurse education in early 2024
- Three OEMS staff from the EMSC section have been Nationally Certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technicians and will be conducting child safety seat inspections through-out the State
- New Jersey will be conducting the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment in January 2024 in conjunction with the University of Utah and the Federal EMSC program for all licensed agencies. Agencies will be notified via email when the assessment has been opened
- Always Ready for Children launched this year. All licensed and unlicensed agencies are encouraged to participate

State Trauma Council – Dr. Porter

- State Trauma plan draft was reviewed, and it was determined that four sub-committees will be created to review different areas
 - Finance
 - EMS
 - Definitive Care Facilities
 - System Wide Evaluation/Quality Assurance
- Discussed the development of standardized language for EMS trauma alerts

Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council (MAC) – Dr. Schreiber

- Currently, all but four ALS agencies have started using the ALS protocols. 100% compliance is anticipated by January 31, 2024. There have been discussions to update the protocols annually

OEMS Report – Mr. Kazar

- The Department has posted the position of EMS Medical Director and is in the process of conducting interviews
- Dr. Hathi has departed from her role as Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health
- Welcomed new Acting Deputy Commissioner, Greta Anschuetz
- Welcomed Ronald Hallam and Nicholas Seran to OEMS, as Public Health Representatives

- EMS conference had over 869 attendees. The Awards Ceremony had more than 550 guests and included nominees from Ohio and Florida
- Culture of Safety/Safety Committee has started meeting again and will be focusing on mental health, lifting and moving, and re-evaluating lights and sirens/emergency transport. Anyone interested in participating contact Colin Taylor from OEMS
- DOH is working on implementing a waiver of 8:40 for non-emergent transportation to take place in 2024. More information will be provided in the near future
- Proposed all councils/committees develop a recruitment, awareness, and preparedness plan (at our last quarterly meeting) Does anyone have any updates, ideas, or proposals?
 - EMS Day Camp
 - Career Day
 - High School recruitment
 - Possible funding – incorporate opioid use, recognition, treatment etc.

OEMS Education – Mr. Kazar

- The Department will be implementing a regionalized approach for agency licensure. Each region will have a designated OEMS staff contact
- OEMS Investigators have noted an increase in unsecured vehicles. It is crucial to ensure that all vehicles are securely locked to mitigate any potential risks
- OEMS Investigators have identified instances of non-compliance with regulatory and statutory crew-member requirements across multiple agencies
- Agencies starting M-Z, are due for renewal by December 31, 2023
- When hiring staff, please make sure that you are verifying their credential
- There will be changes to the inspection sites which include the following:
 - Burlington Fire Academy will be open every other week
 - Cape May Fire Academy will be opening Quarterly
 - Ocean County Fire Academy, to be open on the opposite weeks of Burlington Fire Academy
- When taking education classes, please vet that your instructor is in fact an instructor. This can be completed by going to the www.njems.us and verifying credential

- OEMS is continuing to evaluate the Training Fund Eligibility list. A revised list will be published in the near future
- New Certification/License Update and Education Class Update Since January 1, 2023

ALS Credentials	BLS Credentials	Education Classes
130	1,921	5,789

- The Department received 35 applicants for the Fall instructor screening session. In addition, there are 14 instructor candidates currently completing the alternative pathway process and 12 awaiting hours
- Upcoming Instructor Screenings, please take note of the day and time changes
 - Saturday, March 23, 2024 – 8AM - Gloucester
 - Sunday, April 21, 2024 – 8AM - Bergen
 - Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – 1PM – East Brunswick
- The Department is not issuing extensions for the December 31, 2023, certification cycle

EMS Task Force – Mr. Bascom

- Continue to seek funding to replace outdated equipment
- Conducted a full-scale exercise on October 20, 2023 – October 23, 2023, at Hunterdon Medical Center
- Working with the Department of Health on creating a template for pediatric surge plans
- Provided support to three hospitals in response to ransomware attacks

New Business

- Department of Children and Families presented on psychological and social-emotional needs of children and families that are impacted by medical emergencies
- Ms. McCarthy
 - Discussed creating a data collection sub-committee. All who wish to join this sub-committee, please email Mr. Lovell. Further details will be discussed during the March 2024 meeting
- Dr. Schreibman
 - Discussed moving the September 11, 2024, meeting to September 18, 2024
- Mr. Lovell

- Discussed making meeting accessible virtually for Guest/Public Attendees. Additional discussion is scheduled for the March 2024 meeting

Old Business

None

Nomination Committee

- Nominations are uncontested
 - Seconded: Barbara Platt
 - A single ballot was cast by the Secretary
 - The 2024 EMS Advisory elections include:
 - Vice Chairperson: Dr. Vetrano

Public Comment

- Will Mosley spoke about Rural EMS Operational Rapid Assistance Program

Meeting Schedule

- March 13, 2024, at 10:00 AM location TBD
- June 12, 2024, at 10:00 AM location TBD
- September 25, 2024, at 10:00 AM location TBD
- December 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM location TBD

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Dr. Stephen Vetrano) Seconded (Ms. Jennifer McCarthy) Approved (Unanimous).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM