



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM
Acting Commissioner

The New Jersey EMS Advisory Council MINUTES of July 24, 2023

Meeting called to order: July 24, 2023, 1:35 PM – Mr. Andy Lovell

Members Present

Dr. Alexander Kuc (Air Medical Advisory Committee), Dr. Cheng Wang (American College of Emergency Physicians), Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai (American College of Emergency Physicians), Mr. Alfred Lincks (Career EMT), Mr. Andy Lovell (Career Paramedic), Ms. Jennifer McCarthy (Career Paramedic), Mr. Michael Bascom (County EMS Coordinators), Mr. Joseph Burlew (EMS Communications Committee), Dr. Lisa Drago (EMS for Children), Dr. Stephen Vetrano (EMT Training Fund Committee), Dr. James Pruden (Immediate Past Council Chair), Mr. Gregory Scott (Medical Transportation Authority of NJ), Dr. Gerard Carroll (MICU Advisory Council), Richard Sposa (NJ Association of Paramedic Programs), Ms. Suzanne O'Hearn (NJHA), Mr. Roger Sarao (NJ Hospital Association), John Butterweck (EMSCNJ – Central), Joseph Walsh (EMSCNJ – Central), Ms. Paula Weiler (EMSCNJ – President), Ms. Barbara Platt (EMSCNJ – South), Mr. Mordechai Twerski (Volunteer EMT)

Members Absent

Dr. Albert Ritter (Air Medical Advisory Committee), Mr. Nelson Wiest (Career Fire Chiefs Association), Mr. Todd Bowen (Career Fire Chiefs Association), Dominic Parone (Emergency Nurses Association), Mr. Gregory Zanone (Emergency Nurses Association), Louis Sasso (EMS Communications Committee), Ernest Leva (EMS for Children), Howard Kaplan (Medical Transportation Authority of NJ), Dr. Mark Merlin (Immediate Past Council Chair), Dr. Barbara Schreibman (Mobile Intensive Care Unit Advisory Council), Dr. Howard Felderman (National Association of EMS Physicians), Dr. Joslyn Joseph (National Association of EMS Physicians), Mr. Mark Bober (NJ Association of Paramedic Programs), Dr. Diane Calello (NJ Poison Emergency Service), Dr. Bruce Ruck (NJ Poison Emergency Service), Mr. Tarcisio Nunes (EMSCNJ – North), Ms. Cynthia Reardon (EMSCNJ – North), Mr. Ken Weinberg (EMSCNJ – President), Bryan Platt (EMSCNJ – South), Mr. Licinio Carvalho (NJ State Police), Mr. John Phelan (NJ State Police), Mr. Craig Reiner (NJSP Emergency Telecommunications), Mr. Charles Mars (NJSP Emergency Telecommunications), Ms. Cynthia Kirchner (Public Member), Ralph Burgos (St. Barnabas Burn Center), Ms. Kathe Conlon (St. Barnabas Burn Center), Mr. Eli Rubin (Volunteer EMT)

New Jersey Department of Health

Ms. Dina Antinoro, Ms. Candace Gardner, Mr. Eric Hicken, Ms. Dana Johnson, Mr. Robert Karch, Mr. Dan Kazar, Ms. Fatima Manzoor, Ms. Kirsten Posselt, Mr. Logan Rafferty

Guest/Public Attendees

Ben Dafilou (PANJEMS), Chris Montera, John-Paul Couce, Robert Jester, Margaret Keavney, Mark Davidson, Michael Rizol, Ronald Murphy, Rodd Rapczynski, Scot Phelps

Roll Call – Robert Karch

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

*Motion to approve the March 2023 minutes (Ms. McCarthy) Seconded (Mr. Butterweck)
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. Alexander Kuc

- Discussed improving transport for patients with Impella devices
- The helipad at Cape May Regional Medical Center requires a fire department response for lighting. Discussions are ongoing to implement a standardized response

Basic Life Support (BLS) Sub-Committee – Dr. Gerald Carroll

- Dr. Timothy Satty will now be chairing the BLS Sub-Committee
- Discussed concerns with the NJ EMT reciprocity process

Training Fund – Dr. Stephen Vetrano

- The balance of the EMT Training Fund (EMTT), as of May 30, 2023, is \$4,304,496
- Projected revenue for the EMTTF for the next fiscal year is \$2M
- The NJ EMS Council of New Jersey annual conference and symposium was approved for \$15 per continuing education unit

Communications – Mr. Joseph Burlew

- Next-Gen 911 implementation is continuing
- Power Phone Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) and Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) are offering services to NJ
- There is an initiative to improve coordination between CAD systems among the Urban Area Security Initiative agencies to reduce dispatch errors and ensure that the appropriate units are being dispatched to assignments based on proximity

EMS for Children (EMSC) – Dr. Lisa Drago

- Dr. Lisa Drago will replace Dr. Ernest Leva as the chair of EMSC
- There have been several offerings of free CEUs for EMTs
- Met with the NJ DOH Commissioner to discuss the pediatric mental health crisis and a decline in pediatric immunizations
- Pediatric Readiness Surveys have been distributed to various stakeholders in and around the EMS community to assess their response to pediatric patients with regard to disaster preparedness
- There has been an increase in accidental exposures and overdoses involving cannabis
- Additional initiatives include Safe Transport of Children by EMS, Pediatric Mental Health Guidance, and EMS provider safety

Trauma Center Council

No Report

Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council (MAC) – Dr. Gerald Carroll

- Discussed anti-choking devices
 - The MAC supports the position statement published by the NJ Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)
- Updates to the interim NJ EMS Protocols were reviewed, voted on, and submitted to NJ OEMS

Specialty Care Transportation Unit (SCTU) Committee

No report

OEMS Report – Director Candace Gardner

- Thank you for a wonderful and successful EMS Week

- Welcomed Paul Jakubowski to OEMS, as a Public Health Representative
 - There will be additional positions for Mobile Integrated Health and a State EMS Medical Director posted in the near future
- Welcomed new Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Sejal Hathi
- Commissioner Judith Persichilli will be retiring in August of 2023
- The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) will now refer to the ALS Cognitive and Psychomotor examination as the ALS Performance Exam
- The Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) will be launching a voluntary Initial Advanced EMT Program accreditation on January 1, 2025
- Requests for Narcan Leave Behind supplies can be placed through the New Jersey Department of Human Services website
- When documenting the use of resources in electronic Patient Care Reports (ePCRs), ensure you are spelling REACH NJ as one word (REACHNJ). The Five Minutes to Health Program was developed to support EMS in understanding substance use disorder and provide recovery resources. If you need additional information, please contact Eva Nelson from the Office of EMS
- NEMSIS 3.5 is live, and all agencies should be compliant. This includes all fire departments providing first responder patient care in New Jersey
- The National Conference on EMS committee has finalized its selection of presenters. All selected presenters have been notified
- The SIM Competition for the National Conference on EMS is nearly full
- Nominations for the National Conference on EMS awards are open and scheduled to close on August 22, 2023
- Registration for the National Conference on EMS will open next month
- Dr. Drago has been appointed as the Interim Chair of the EMSC
- EMSC has been awarded a \$190,000 grant
- The Department's Clinical Corner, the first series of pediatric educational videos is in the final stages of approval
- Always Ready for Children – EMS Program was launched during EMS week. EMS agencies may apply for this voluntary program through the agency licensure system
- The Pediatric Readiness Survey was completed for the Emergency Departments

- The EMS Task Force will be assisting with the development of a pediatric readiness and disaster preparedness plan
- The Culture of Safety Committee has resumed meetings
- OEMS is currently working with the Attorney General's office and the new Office of Community Violence intervention on workplace violence prevention, intervention mental health awareness, injury prevention and surveillance strategy, and collaboration to de-escalate situations for EMS providers
- Agency Licensing and Inspections are configuring a new virtual inspection process
- Agencies with Trade Name starting with N through P are due for regulatory inspection by December 31, 2023
- Weekly inspections at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center will now be on Wednesday instead of Thursday
- Make sure that your agency vehicle graphics are regulatory compliant
- The Department has found numerous vehicles and agencies out of regulatory compliance posing safety concerns within the industry. Some of these concerns include:
 - Improper crew compliments
 - Unsecured vehicles with keys in the ignition,
 - Improper uniforms
 - Unkept uniforms
 - Open toe shoes
- Agencies found to be out of compliance will be issued a fine and all appropriate agencies notified
- Stretcher incidents continue to be a problem throughout the State
- The updated regulations are in the review process. Although the current regulations will be re-adopted for seven (7) years they will be repealed and replaced with new regulations once all approvals have been obtained
- If you are requesting anyone from the OEMS to attend an event, please make sure to submit a request at least 45 days prior to the date of the event
- The Department issued a position statement on anti-choking devices which are currently not approved for use on any EMS vehicle within the State

Discussion

- Mr. Lovell inquired of NJ OEMS as to the process for adding representatives to the NJ EMS Advisory Committee
 - Director Gardner advised that OEMS is looking to obtain clarity on the process of adding individuals to the council with Legislative Services

OEMS Education – Mr. Daniel Kazar

- New Certification/License Update and Education Class Update since January 1, 2023

ALS Credentials	BLS Credentials	Education Classes
84	1,073	3,047

- The EMT Training Fund Committee is continuing to evaluate the EMT Refresher reimbursement
- The OEMS will be routinely updating the list of agencies eligible for EMT Training Fund Reimbursement, found on the Department’s website
- Funding for the new fiscal year started on July 1, 2023
- The OEMS continues to receive incomplete training fund vouchers or vouchers that are not submitted in a timely manner, which significantly delays the processing of payment vouchers
- The next EMT-Instructor Screening will be announced in the next few weeks. Twenty of the 27 candidates are pending successful completion of the NREMT examination. The Department cannot move forward with their certification until all requirements have been met
- Initial EMT Programs in NJ currently have a collective first-time pass rate of 77%. Six (6) programs have a pass rate of greater than 80%
 - Safe-T EMS and Safety Training
 - RWJ Barnabas Health
 - Less Stress Instructional Services
 - Gloucester County EMS Training Academy
 - South Branch Emergency Services
 - Virtua Health
- Rowan College of Burlington County (RCBC) has been approved to conduct Initial EMT Education

EMS Task Force – Mr. Michael Bascom

- Been meeting with stakeholders to ensure that agencies and facilities are aware of the existence of healthcare facility evacuation plans and upcoming necessary updates to those plans

- Continuing to update multiple emergency plans
- Statewide vaccine distribution operations have been suspended
- The EMS Task Force grant application for fiscal year 2024 is being finalized
- Thanked the entire EMS Community for the support provided to the McCabe family, following the passing of H. Mickey McCabe

New Business

None

Old Business

- Mr. Gregory Scott of the Mobile Transport Association of New Jersey (MTANJ) asked Director Gardner “What NJ OEMS’ plan was to avoid the impending ambulance capacity and staffing crisis on January 1, 2024, when the first responder law sunsets, and hundreds of BLS units come off the street.”
 - Director Gardner advised that the NJ OEMS has proposed regulatory changes to alleviate the system stress. The industry should have developed short and long-term business plans to address their specific needs
 - Director Gardner noted that NJ OEMS is responsible for maintaining the health and safety of the public and in doing so the industry should:
 - Ensure proper education is provided and received by every provider
 - Ensure oversight of businesses and agencies within the industry
- Mr. Scott explained that the MTANJ has aggregated “staggering numbers of people who are not going to get moved” in reference to a potential shortfall of non-emergency transfers of patients for routine appointments and procedures. Mr. Scott said he would be happy to provide the Department with the data to support his claims
- Mr. Scott further explained that the position of his member agencies is that they will not be able to staff their vehicles to the traditional two EMT standard
- Director Gardner advised that she would be happy to meet with Mr. Scott where he could provide the supporting data and discuss his business plan
- Mr. Bascom noted that on behalf of the County EMS Coordinators are similarly concerned about staffing issues and would like to be part of the conversation

Public Comment

None

Meeting Schedule

- Currently scheduled for September 13, 2023, at the Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy at 10:00 AM

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 PM