



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Council
June 8, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: June 8, 2022, 10:07 a.m. – Dr. Mark Merlin

Roll Call – Robert Karch

Approval of Previous Minutes –

- Motion by: **Andy Lovell**, Seconded: **Barbara Schreiberman**
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept: **Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**

Miscellaneous Updates – Dr. Mark Merlin

- Next meeting September 14th, 2022, at 10:00 am. The location for this meeting will be the Middlesex County Fire Academy

Legislative Update – Zachary Raab

- Confirmed that all attendees received the legislative update via email

Air Medical – Dr. Albert Ritter

- No report
- The next meeting will be after next the MICU Advisory Committee meeting

BLS Subcommittee – Andy Lovell

- The next meeting of the BLS Subcommittee will be this afternoon, June 8th, 2022
 - Dr. Merlin inquired if there were any specific agenda items that would be of interest or concern for the NJEMSC
 - Conversation continues regarding law enforcement methods of patient restraint and supraglottic airway devices for BLS providers
 - Dr. Merlin asked if the supraglottic airway device conversation would result in a recommendation to NJOEMS for their adoption
 - Andy Lovell clarified that the recommendation would go to the MICU Advisory Committee as well as NJOEMS
 - Dr. Merlin asked if Hunterdon County still conducted a BLS advanced airway pilot program
 - Andy Lovell replied that that program is no longer in existence

Training Fund – Dr. Stephen Vetrano

- Presented the financial report
 - Dr. Merlin inquired as to the total, noting the \$5.6 million seems to be a higher total than in years prior, which Dr. Vetrano confirmed to be the case and asked if there has been discussion on increasing reimbursement from that fund
 - Dr. Vetrano replied that there have been recommendations for increasing EMT refresher program reimbursement from the EMTTF subcommittee to NJOEMS
 - Candace Gardner explained that reimbursement for basic classes is currently \$1500 per student, and that the more recent reimbursement discussions have centered around refresher training classes
 - Candace Gardner further explained that such an increase has yet to be evaluated, as the community has not provided a number to NJOEMS for the desired new reimbursement rate for those refresher classes
 - Candace Gardner explained that the EMTTF is running in a deficit despite the large balance
 - Dr. Merlin asked if the deficit was a result of a large amount of debt associated with “other things”
 - Candace Gardner explained that the deficit is a result of an increased number of invoices to the fund, as well as an increase in National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam fees
 - Dr. Merlin asked if any recommendation to increase reimbursement would be sent to NJOEMS as the final approval, or if the recommendation would need to be passed on to elsewhere
 - Candace Gardner replied that the recommendation would have to be submitted to NJOEMS, and then would move to the Department’s chain of command including Treasury for approval

Communications - Joseph Burlew

- The 988 mental health crisis emergency phone number is going to go live following upcoming directives from the state Attorney General
 - 988 is intended to reduce workload on EMS and law enforcement for non-emergent mental health calls by providing parallel call-screening to the 911 system
 - Screeners will be trained to determine the caller’s specific needs
 - Callers can be put in contact with appropriate therapists
 - If the screener determines a potential immediate risk, the call can be sent back to the 911 system
 - The second phase of 988 rollout will see the provision of some form of transportation for callers to brick-and-mortar treatment facilities other than hospitals
 - The third phase of 988 rollout will be to send providers directly to callers in need
 - This system is planned to go live at an undetermined date in the fall of 2022
 - The State Attorney General has not spoken to law enforcement representatives regarding this program prior to this meeting of the NJEMSC

- Other states have been working to implement this system, in accordance with federal direction
- Dr. Merlin asked where the funding for this system was derived
- Joseph Burlew replied that federal money would pay for the system
- Oversight in New Jersey would be performed by the Department of Community Affairs – Division of Mental Health
- Surveys regarding Next-Generation 911 were sent to every Public Safety Answering Point from the Office of Emergency Telecommunications
 - Rollout of the Next-Generation 911 system would start in 2025 with Bergen County, followed by Essex County, then the rest of New Jersey

EMS for Children (EMSC) – No representative

- No report

Trauma Center Council - Vacant

- No report

MICU Advisory Council (MAC) – Dr. Barbara Schreiberman

- Provided a brief update of the pending standing orders
 - The pending standing orders are awaiting regulation updates to allow for the replacement of the current standing orders
- The next MAC meeting will be the week following the meeting of the NJEMSC
- Made note of legislation pending before the NJ Assembly Health Committee, and discussion ensued

Specialty Care Transportation Unit (SCTU) Committee - Vacant

- No report

OEMS – Candace Gardner

- Dr. Terry Clancy has left NJOEMS to take on the role of Director of Public Health and Safety for Somerset County
 - Ms. Gardner is therefore the Acting Director of NJOEMS until such time as a new Director is selected
 - Daniel Kazar has been officially promoted to Chief of Education, Licensure, and Enforcement
 - Ms. Gardner introduced the other members of NJOEMS to the committee
 - Additional staff is being hired, and interviews are ongoing
- Ms. Gardner provided some details for the National EMS Conference in November 2022
 - The call for speakers has closed
 - The agenda is expected to be published in August
 - Nominations for awards, applications to compete in the Sim Games, and vendor spaces remain open
- Timothy Seplaki and Eva Nelson from NJOEMS are working with electronic patient care report (ePCR) vendors to transition to NEMSIS 3.5 protocols
- Many agencies are missing provider and clinician demographic data in ImageTrend

- Agencies should reach out to their ePCR vendors to ensure that updated information is provided to NJOEMS
- Noted that Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance Corps is the only agency in New Jersey that is non-compliant with the State mandate to submit electronic patient care reports
- The naloxone leave-behind law went into effect on September 2, 2021
 - NJDOH is working with the AG's office and the Department of Human Services to support this law
 - Packages to support this effort, including written resources, are being generated to provide to first responder agencies
 - Any questions or concerns can be directed to Timothy Seplaki
- Provided EMS for Children updates
 - The Department hopes to publish a newsletter over the summer, along with video education for providers on EMSC topics
 - Car seat testing and school nurse education are initiatives that NJOEMS intends to focus on in the fall of 2022
 - 100% of NJ EMS agencies returned the EMSC survey conducted by NJOEMS
- Provided an update on pending regulation changes
 - All development of regulations flows from NJOEMS through the DOH Chain of Command, including the legal department, prior to public comment
 - NJOEMS cannot discuss specifics of these regulations prior to that approval
 - NJOEMS is working to remove language from the current regulations that inhibits the ability to implement standing orders that were previously voted on and approved by the MICU Advisory Committee
- Advised the NJEMSC that if a member of the body intends to take a stance on a legislative matter in public as a representative of the NJEMSC, they must request approval through DOH
- Dr. Schreiberman inquired about the timeline for release of the new regulations
 - Candace Gardner replied that the intent is to have the current draft of regulations submitted by June 30th, 2022
- Dr. Merlin asked whether Dr. Adinaro would be making the decision as to who would be taking the role of Director of NJOEMS, and what the timeline would be for such a decision
 - Candace Gardner replied that there was no timeline at present and that Dr. Adinaro would be part of the conversation regarding the next Director but would not have sole authority in that decision
- Dr. Merlin asked the representatives of the EMS Council of NJ if they had communicated to Teaneck VAC the need to submit their charts
 - TVAC has been advised and their explanation was that their call volume was too high to complete electronic charts
 - Paula Weiler advised that the mayor of Teaneck has been contacted regarding this matter

EMS Education, Licensure, and Enforcement – Daniel Kazar

- Discussed the Operations aspect of NJOEMS
 - The Mansfield inspection site will be closing, with a new site opening at Burlington County Fire Academy (BCFA)

- Union County Fire Academy (UCFA) inspection site is expected to open soon
- Additional regional inspection sites will be at Bergen County EMS Academy (BCEMSA), Morris County Fire Academy (MCCFA), and Cape May County Fire Academy (CMCFA) with less availability than BCFA and UCFA, which will be weekly
- Agencies whose names begin with D-H need to be inspected by the end of June 2022
- Agencies beginning with I-L must be inspected by the end of December 2022
- Vehicles ought to be in good condition, ready for inspection, in compliance with NJOEMS regulations and 29 CFR requirements prior to coming to inspection
- Submit all questions on inspections and licensing to Lisa Kahle
- Submit questions about ImageTrend to Zachary Raab
- All agencies must submit director and medical director contact information into ImageTrend
- Stretcher-related incidents continue at levels elevated above years prior, and NJOEMS recommends that agencies review the safe operation of their stretchers with their staff
- Logan Rafferty and Lisa Kahle will be contacting New Jersey air medical units for inspections
- Discussed the Education aspects of NJOEMS
 - NJDOH is not issuing extensions for the 2022 renewal cycle
 - There will be updates to NJOEMS websites to increase user-friendliness
 - Updates regarding EMT-Instructors:
 - Approximately 40 new instructor certifications have been issued in the past two years, with 6 in the past year
 - Screenings will occur in mid-September or after the EMS Conference in Gloucester County, Middlesex County, and Bergen County
 - Elective CEU classes must be applied for at least 30 days prior to the projected start date
 - Students must be marked as successfully completed to obtain CEU credit
 - Canned courses, such as ICS classes, will be reviewed for CEU value and updated by the end of 2022
 - Agencies are responsible for determining if a non-NJ EMT who holds an NREMT, NY, or Atlantic Council state certification(s) can practice under their auspices
 - After completing a renewal application, the issuance of the renewal card is automated. If the renewal is not automatically processed, there is an issue with the renewal application
 - Refresher classes are published and available, even if the course is marked Restricted; typically, those classes can be applied for on the training centers' websites
 - NREMT exam verifications and validations are not automated, individuals must contact NJOEMS for matters related to the process
 - Social media discussions regarding NJ certification processes are frequently misleading and are causing individuals to miss requirements to renew their certifications, please contact NJOEMS with any questions

New Jersey EMS Task Force – Andy Lovell

- The Task Force continues to aid in moving vaccine supplies as needed around New Jersey
- Submitted a grant request to fund assets used in their operations

Motion to Approve Committee Reports:

- Motion by: **Mark Bober**, Seconded: **Barbara Schreibman**
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept: **Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**

Public Comment

- None

New Business

- Dr. Merlin explained that his term will be ending this year, and thus the Committee will need to elect a new chair, with a nominating committee to be formed at the September meeting

Old Business

- None

Next NJEMSC Meeting Will Be Held September 14th, 2022, at the Middlesex County Fire Academy

Motion to adjourn: 11:19 a.m.

- Motion: **Andy Lovell** Seconded: **Barbara Schreibman**
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept: **Yea: All Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**