



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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Commissioner

**Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Council
MINUTES of February 20, 2024**

Members Present: Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai (video), Dr. Maya Baas (video), Ms. Kelly Boyd (video), Dr. Frank Castello (video), Dr. Angela D'Alessandro (video), Dr. Lisa Drago (video), Dr. Ernest Leva (video), Dr. Neil Miele (video), Ms. Sonia Rita (video), Mr. Daniel Sullivan (video), Ms. Maureen Donnelly (video), Ms. Denise Serbay (video)

Members Absent: Ms. Debra Bell, Ms. Marvella Cephas, Dr. Jeanne Craft, Dr. Mark McCollum, Mr. John Napolitano, Dr. Nilesh Patel, Dr. Anderson Richard.

Guests/Attendees: Dr. Louis DiFazio (video), Dr. Richard Flyer (video), Ms. Jenna Ferlazzo (video), Mr. Bobby Goyal (video)

Dept. of Health: Mr. Eric Hicken (video), Ms. Fatima Manzoor (video), Mr. Timothy Seplaki (video)

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Council convened virtually on February 20, 2024, via Microsoft Teams, with a call to order at 10:00 AM by Dr. Drago.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the December 2023 meeting were distributed to the members of the council via email before this meeting and were voted on for approval

Motion to approve the December 2023 meeting minutes (Dr. Drago). Seconded (Dr. Leva). Approved (Unanimous)

COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson's Report – Dr. Drago

- Dr. Drago informed the council that the Department of Health's Commissioner will not be attending the meeting. However, a request for the May 2024 meeting has been submitted
- Dr. Drago acknowledged Dr. Flyer for sharing pediatric readiness at the round table discussion
- The Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Program is currently being discussed with the New Jersey American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
 - The SCAN Program is no longer funded
 - The New Jersey EMSC Program is actively researching the necessary steps to update the curriculum and ensure its availability statewide
- Dr. Drago informed the committee that Mr. Hicken attended a National Association of State EMS Officials (NAEMSO) meeting where the creation of strategic plans for the EMSC program were discussed
 - Dr. Drago mentioned that she has been reviewing strategic plans from other states and requested to include this topic on the upcoming agenda

OEMS Report

- OEMS Update – Mr. Hicken
 - No change reported for new hires at the Office of EMS
 - There are currently two open positions for the Civil Service Title of Public Health Representative 2 EMS, the job description can be found on the Civil Service Website
- EMSC Grant Program – Mr. Hicken
 - The EMSC State Partnership Grant year two application was submitted in December
 - The application is under review, pending approval
- EMS Agency Survey – Mr. Hicken
 - New Jersey, along with North Carolina and the Mariana Islands is currently conducting the 2024 National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness

Project (PPRP) Assessment. This assessment encompasses all licensed agencies that respond to 911 requests

- New Jersey has a response rate of 50%, with ongoing efforts to achieve a 100% response rate
- An EMSC State Partnership Townhall meeting was attended by Ms. Manzoor, Mr. Edwards from North Carolina, EMSC Data Center (EDC) Partners, and EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC)
 - The pilot states were given an opportunity to share their experience(s)
 - Mr. Hicken received several emails commending the exemplary performance and national recognition of the New Jersey EMSC Teams
- The 2024 National Conference on EMS and Awards Program – Mr. Seplaki
 - 2024 Call for Speakers will open on March 1, 2024
 - The conference will be held at Harrah's in Atlantic City, New Jersey
 - Preconference is scheduled for November 19, 2024
 - The main conference is scheduled for November 20 – 23, 2024
 - This year's focus is on interactive and innovative topics, with a specific emphasis on topics related to EMSC
 - Mr. Hicken shared the link for the call for speakers and award program nominations
 - Any Outstanding EMS Action by a Youth should be submitted as early as possible at www.nationalconferenceonems.com

Family Advisory Network (FAN) Report – Ms. Rita

- Ms. Rita and Mr. Hicken dedicated extensive time to review and offer feedback on N.J.A.C. 8:43G-12.1 Emergency Department and Trauma Services, aiming to enhance the New Jersey Department of Health Hospital Regulations. Their efforts included integrating more pediatric-focused language into the regulations concerning emergency departments and trauma centers

- The recommendations are currently under review
- Ms. Rita will be collaborating with Children's Specialized Hospital regarding car seat distribution
 - The collaboration aims to address the issue of families being denied transportation due to the lack of proper car seats for their children

OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws

- Mr. Hicken is working on updating the by-laws

EMSC Appointment Update

- No updates

Improving Pediatric Acute Care through Simulation (ImPACT)

- Mr. Hicken shared that the EMSC program is collaborating with Yale University, CHOP, and other institutions to develop a pilot program for emergency medical services (EMS)
- The EMS ImPACT pilot program will be launching in June 2024
 - New Jersey will be one of the pilot states for the program

School Nurse Education Program

- Mr. Taylor has had a few meetings with the Department of Education regarding the School Nurse Education Program
- The program will be launched in the spring of 2024

Always Ready for Children (ARC)

- ARC-Emergency Department (ED) is currently under review with the communications department
- ARC-EMS conducted a Q&A session for the program, which sparked a great discussion

- Some providers have started the ARC-EMS Initial Application process

Janet's Law

- Dr. Leva highlighted a recent incident of cardiac arrest at a school and emphasized the importance of AEDs in saving lives, especially on the athletic field
- Dr. Leva requested support from the committee
- Dr. Drago requested clarification on the process for inviting the Department of Health's Commissioner to the EMSC Advisory Council Meeting
 - Mr. Hicken advised the council of the process for arranging a meeting with the Commissioner outside of the regular meeting
 - Dr. Drago suggested compiling a list of discussion topics for the upcoming meeting with the Commissioner
 - Dr. Leva proposed discussing:
 - Janet's Law
 - Guidelines on Pediatric Emergency Department Care
 - Dr. Drago assigned Mr. Hicken to make meeting requests for both the upcoming EMSC Advisory Council May Meeting and a separate meeting with the commissioner, including the specific discussion topics

Safe Transport of Children Committee (STC)

- Mr. Hicken updated the committee on the progress of phase one (1) for car seat crash testing, indicating that it is reaching its conclusion. Anticipated plans include commencing phase two (2) in 2024 which is expected to progress more rapidly

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Manzoor reminded the group of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on May 9, 2024, and EMS for Children's Day on May 22, 2024, inviting participation from those interested in speaking about these topics for the EMSC Online Education Program

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Ferlazzo shared information about the upcoming Leading Edge conference tentatively scheduled for May 13, 2024, seeking presenters, particularly on pediatric topics like congenital heart defects

MEETING SCHEDULE

- May 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS
- September 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS
- December 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Dr. Drago). Seconded (Mr. Sullivan). Approved (unanimous)

This meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM