



Chairperson
Lisa A. Drago, DO, FAAP
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician

**New Jersey Emergency Medical Services
for
Children Advisory Council**

**Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Council
MINUTES of March 18, 2025**

Members Present: Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai, Dr. Maya Baas, Ms. Kelly Boyd, Ms. Maureen Donnelly, Dr. Lisa Drago, Dr. Neil Miele, Ms. Sonia Rita, Mr. Daniel Sullivan

Members Absent: Ms. Debra Bell, Dr. Frank Castello, Dr. Jeanne Craft, Dr. Angela D'Alessandro, Dr. Louis Difazio, Dr. Ernest Leva, Dr. Mark McCollum, Mr. John Napolitano, Dr. Nilesh Patel, Dr. Anderson Richard, Ms. Denise Serbay, Ms. Marvella Cephass

Guests/Attendees: Dr. Joseph Gallagher, Dr. David Kelly, Mr. Timothy Kortenhaus, Ms. Darlene Shelton, Dr. Adam Sivitz

Dept. of Health: Mr. Daniel Kazar, Ms. Fatima Manzoor, Dr. Novneet Sahu, Mr. Colin Taylor

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Council convened virtually on March 18, 2025, via Microsoft Teams, with a call to order at 10:00 AM by Dr. Drago

CORRESPONDENCE

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the December 2024 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 2024 meeting minutes (Dr. Ariyaprakai). Seconded (Mr. Sullivan). Approved (Unanimous)

INTRODUCTIONS

All the new attendees introduced themselves

COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson's Report – Dr. Drago

- Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council (MAC) Meeting Updates
 - Cooper Trauma will conduct a trial on the use of trauma gel in the trauma bay and report findings at the June MAC meeting
 - Dr. Drago is seeking input from anyone with experience using trauma gel, particularly in pediatric cases
- Pediatric Protocols
 - Protocols are revised regularly, and EMSC aims to contribute to pediatric-related questions
 - MAC formed an adult and pediatric protocol committee, EMSC representatives, including Dr. Drago, will join the committee
- Federation International Football Association (FIFA)
 - Dr. Drago informed that soccer events are coming to New Jersey by the summer of 2025
 - Discussion on dual-mark kits for EMS use at soccer events
 - Dr. Drago will join the committee to ensure pediatric dosing and administration are properly addressed
- New Jersey EMS Council Meeting Updates
 - Next meeting scheduled for March 19, 2025, no report available
- Culture of Safety Meeting
 - Discussion on dispatch guide cards with a pediatric focus
 - Need for a concrete plan to address pediatric aspects
- Race, Poverty, and Neglect Subcommittee

- Progress in changing child abuse and neglect reporting in the state
- Formation of two subcommittees
 - Liability Committee
 - Education Committee
- Disaster Response Collaborative
 - Four specific pediatric emergency focus areas identified
- Upcoming Pediatric EMS Education Initiative
 - Gloucester County EMS Symposium will host its first all-pediatric EMS Education Day
 - Dr. Drago will attend and support this initiative
- Pediatric Readiness & Designations
 - Dr. Drago sent an email to the Commissioner over a week ago with questions about the stakeholders' meeting and progress on pediatric readiness designations
 - Awaiting Response

Department of Health – Division of Disaster Preparedness, Resiliency, and Emergency Medical Services (DPREMS) – Mr. Kazar

- OEMS Update – Mr. Kazar
 - No update
- The 2025 National Conference on EMS and Awards Program – Ms. Manzoor
 - Call for speaker is now open

Family Advisory Network (FAN) Report – Ms. Rita

- No update

Office of Disaster Resilience (ODR) EMSC – Ms. Manzoor

- EMSC Grant Program – Ms. Manzoor
 - Pending notification of the upcoming award
 - Funding will be 48% for this year which will start April 1st
- National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) assessment
 - Data expected from the University of Utah's EMS Data Center has not been released
 - PPRP notified the next Emergency Department Assessment will be in 2026
- N.J.A.C. 8:43G-12.1 Emergency Department and Trauma Services (Addition and Review of Pediatric Standards)
 - Updates to Emergency Department and Trauma Services regulations submitted and are currently going through an approval process
 - Once published for public comment they will be shared with the council
- Emergency Department Database
 - No update
- Improving Pediatric Acute Care through Simulation (ImPACT) ED/EMS
 - No update
- Always Ready for Children
 - Emergency Department
 - The program has been approved working on creating the application on ImageTrend
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - Recognized the River Road Rescue Squad in February for meeting all the requirements for the program

- Injury Prevention Program – Andy the Ambulance
 - The schedule has been filling up fast and we will need to deny request in the near future
- Safe Drug Storage Bag
 - Looking for an adequate funding source
- Safe Transport of Children Committee (STC)
 - Ms. Manzoor informed everyone the committee is looking for a funding source to initiate Phase 2

NEW BUSINESS

Danny Dose Alliance Presentation - Ms Shelton

- Ms. Shelton, founder of Danny's Dose, shared insights on emergency medical care for individuals with rare conditions requiring specialized medications. She highlighted challenges in EMS administration of patient-carried medications, stemming from limited protocols and provider restrictions
 - **Background & Advocacy Efforts:** Inspired by personal experience with hemophilia in her family, Ms. Shelton founded Danny's Dose to bridge gaps in emergency care for rare disease patients
 - **Legislative & Policy Changes:** Since 2017, 19 states have updated legislation or EMS scope of practice to allow paramedics to administer patient-carried medications. New Jersey has interim guidelines under review
 - **Patient Preparedness & Education:** Families are encouraged to carry emergency orders, use medical alert identifiers, and utilize emergency alert headrest covers for clear identification in emergencies
 - **Collaboration with EMSC & Rare Disease Organizations:** Emphasis on connecting New Jersey EMS for Children with the state's Rare Disease Advisory Council to improve education and protocols
 - **Development of Disease-Specific Treatment Guidelines:** *Danny's Dose* has launched initiatives to create standardized treatment guidelines

for high-risk rare conditions, beginning with adrenal insufficiency and bleeding disorders

- Ms. Shelton offered to provide resources, guidance, and connections to enhance emergency preparedness for rare disease patients in New Jersey

OLD BUSINESS

Hospital Stakeholder Meeting

- No update

By-Laws

- No updates reported

EMSC Appointment Update

- No updates reported

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Sullivan inquired about the Always Ready for Children EMS (ARC-EMS) application process and requirements, noting difficulty in finding New Jersey-specific information online
 - Ms. Manzoor clarified that licensed agencies apply through ImageTrend under the applications section. Unlicensed agencies can contact the department for assistance in creating an ImageTrend account
 - Monthly education emails include relevant (ARC-EMS) information, and additional details, including a PDF of the criteria, can be provided upon request

MEETING SCHEDULE

- June 17, 2025, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS
- September 16, 2025, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS
- December 16, 2025, 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 10:45 AM