



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY  
Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM  
Commissioner

The Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council (MAC)  
MINUTES of March 11, 2024

**Medical Directors Present:**

Dr. Kimberly Baldino (St. Joseph's Health), Dr. Joshua Bucher (Robert Wood Johnson Health Network), Dr. Gerard Carroll (Cooper University Health Care), Dr. Mark Dreier (Valley Health System), Dr. Howard Felderman (Hackensack Meridian Health – JFK), Dr. Brett Greenfield (AtlantiCare), Dr. Ronald Klebacher (Virtua Health), Dr. Amy Ondeyka (Inspira Health), Dr. Stephanie Ortega (Saint Clare's Health), Dr. Shaun Patterson (Hackensack Meridian Health – HUMC), Dr. Michael Prendergast (Hunterdon Health), Dr. Albert Ritter (Atlantic Health System & CentraState Healthcare System), Dr. Timothy Satty (University Hospital), Dr. Barbara Schreibman (Englewood Health), Dr. Cheng Wang (Robert Wood Johnson – Jersey City)

**Mobile Intensive Care Unit Directors Present:**

Mr. Mark Bober (Hackensack Meridian Health – JFK), Mr. Dennis Castro (St. Joseph's Health), Ms. Michelle Kobayashi (Hackensack Meridian Health – HUMC), Mr. Thomas Lavagna (Virtua Health), Mr. Alex Lewinsky (Capital Health), Mr. Stephen Napoli (AtlantiCare), Mr. Anthony Raffino (Robert Wood Johnson Health Network), Mr. Rick Rohrbach (Cooper University Health Care), Mr. Art Samaras (Atlantic Health System & CentraState Healthcare System), Mr. Richard Sposa (Englewood Health)

**Mobile Intensive Care Unit EMS Educators Present:**

Mr. Steven Cohen (Robert Wood Johnson – Jersey City), Mr. Bruce Graham (Virtua Health), Mr. Mark Jeffries (AtlantiCare), Mr. Keith Elmer (Capital Health), Mr. Ronald Murphy (Cooper University Health Care), Ms. Deborah Paglianite (Saint Clare's Health), Mr. Richard Schlosser (Hackensack Meridian Health – JFK), Mr. Keith Shipley (Hunterdon Health), Mr. David Stangreciak (University Hospital), Mr. Neil Thorn (Robert Wood Johnson Health Network), Mr. Kevin Webb (St. Joseph's Health),

**Medical Directors Absent:**

Dr. Timothy Lancaster (Holy Name), Dr. Andreia Marques-Baptista (Capital Health)

**Mobile Intensive Care Unit Directors Absent:**

Mr. James Brady (University Hospital), Mr. Kenneth Bullwinkle (Inspira Health), Mr. John Cronin (Saint Clare's Health), Mr. James Fox (Holy Name), Mr. Joshua Otero (Robert Wood Johnson – Jersey City), Mr. Christopher Ryan (Hunterdon Health), Ms. Ingrid Santucci (Valley Health System)

**Mobile Intensive Care Unit EMS Educators Absent:**

Mr. Robert Bertollo (St. Joseph's Health), Mr. Matthew Bremy (Valley Health System), Mr. Michael Geisler (Englewood Health), Ms. Patricia Lutz (Inspira Health), Mr. David Petersen (Atlantic Health System & CentraState Healthcare System), Mr. Kevin Pohlman (Holy Name), Mr. Alex Rosario (Hackensack Meridian Health – HUMC)

***New Jersey Department of Health:***

Ms. Candace Gardner, Mr. Eric Hicken, Ms. Dana Johnson, Mr. Dan Kazar, Mr. Logan Rafferty, Mr. Christian Rios, Mr. Timothy Seplaki

***Guests/Public Attendees***

Dr. Paul Comber (Cooper University Health Care), Dr. Stephanie Costa (Cooper University Health Care), Mr. Ben Dafilou (PANJEMS), Dr. Lisa Drago (Cooper University Health Care), Dr. Garrett Forosisky (Inspira Health), Mr. Michael Hoopes (Virtua Health), Mr. Jeff McBride (Hackensack Meridian Health – JFK), Dr. Scott Pasichow, (University Hospital), Dr. John Porter (Trauma Center Council), Dr. Todd Rapczynski (Inspira Health), Mr. Matthew Streger (Keavney & Streger, LLC), Dr. Stephen Vetrano, Dr. Tung-Lin Yuan (University Hospital)

The Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council convened on March 11, 2024, at the NJOHSP with a call to order at 10:01 AM by Dr. Gerard Carroll

**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, c10:4.10 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 December 2023 meeting were distributed to the members of the MAC via email prior to this meeting

Motion to approve the December 2023 minutes (Dr. Barbara Schreiber) Seconded (Mr. Thomas Lavagna) Approved (Unanimous)

**Presentation**

- Dr. Comber
  - Presented “EMS & Blood”
  - Anyone interested in forming a sub-group to further discuss the potential implementation of whole blood, please email Dr. Carroll

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**New Jersey EMS Advisory Council - Mr. Lovell**

- Meeting scheduled for March 13, 2024, has been relocated from NJOHSP to AAA Eastern Headquarters
- During the December 13, 2023, meeting, Dr. Vetrano was re-elected as Vice Chairperson for the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council

- Data collection sub-committee has been created. Mr. Bober is the ALS representative for that committee
- Discussed making the Culture of Safety/Safety Committee a permanent sub-committee

New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs (NJAPP) – Mr. Bober

- Leading Edge will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024, from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM at The Adventure Aquarium. Call for speakers is open and subject matter experts are encouraged to inquire

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

- Discussed adding Tylenol and Ibuprofen to the BLS scope of practice
- BLS sub-committee asked for clarification from Trauma Council on whether they can begin using standardized language for EMS trauma alerts

Trauma Council - Dr. Porter

- Standardized language for EMS trauma alerts can be utilized at this time

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training Fund – Mr. Cohen

- 2024 EMS Council of NJ Symposium reimbursement was approved
- Discusses New Jersey Senate Bill 2435

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) – Dr. Drago

- Pediatric Pre-Hospital Readiness Survey as well as the Always Ready for Children voluntary recognition program are now live. Everyone is encouraged to participate as we seek 100% compliance
- EMSC & Special Projects will be conducting an online education class on Thursday, May 9, 2024, to recognize Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day, and on Monday, May 20, 2024, for EMSC Day

NJ Air Medical Program – Dr. Kuc

	<b>2023</b>
<b>Scene Requests</b>	2,585
<b>Completed Missions</b>	1,076
<b>Cancelled Scene Requests</b>	1,296
<b>Interfacility Transports</b>	2,032

- Pre-hospital pain trial, which includes a double-blind study comparing Ketamine versus Fentanyl for traumatic patients in compensated shock now has inclusion criteria for air medical patients

## New Jersey EMS Task Force (Task Force) – Mr. Lovell

- Annual statewide meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2024

## OEMS/DOH

- The office is excited to share that a part time consultant medical director has joined our team to further strengthen our medical oversight, provide expertise and support while we await the hiring of a full-time medical director.
- Kelly Anderson-Thomas (MPH, MS) has been named the New Deputy Commissioner for Public Health Services.

## Conference & Awards Ceremony

- The Office is pleased to announce the call for speakers for the 2024 National Conference on EMS is open now through April 15, 2024.
- Feedback received from previous conferences highlighted the need for interactive and cutting-edge presentations. As a result, the conference committee will give preference to novel and innovative topics that promote interaction
- Nominations for the 2024 EMS Awards Program is open now through August 20, 2024. Please nominate early, and don't forget the youth
- Any questions please contact Tim Seplaki at [Timothy.Seplaki@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Timothy.Seplaki@doh.nj.gov)

## EMSC & Special Projects

- EMS Online Education
  - Next online class is Thursday, March 14, 2024, from 0945-1100
  - Keep an eye on your email for future free CEU opportunities
- Culture of Safety/Safety Committee
  - The committee continues to meet monthly focusing on:
    - Mental Health
    - Lifting and Moving
    - Re-evaluating lights and sirens/emergency transport
    - EMS provider safety
    - Reviewing and updating all previous guidance documents
  - Anyone interested in participating please contact Colin Taylor at [Colin.Taylor@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Colin.Taylor@doh.nj.gov) or [emsc@doh.nj.gov](mailto:emsc@doh.nj.gov)
- Narcan on School Buses

- Following several medical emergencies, on a school bus, requiring administration of Narcan we are working with the Department of Education to place Narcan on every school bus
- Andy the Ambulance
  - This is an injury prevention and EMS education program, available to in public events. Requests should be sent to [emsc@doh.nj.gov](mailto:emsc@doh.nj.gov)
- Always Ready for Children for EMS
  - This program recognizes EMS agencies, regardless of licensure status, who excel in pediatric readiness by meeting certain requirements. For additional information contact Fatima Manzoor at [Fatima.Manzoor@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Fatima.Manzoor@doh.nj.gov) or [emsc@doh.nj.gov](mailto:emsc@doh.nj.gov)
- Always Ready for Children for the ED
  - This program recognizes emergency departments who excel in pediatric readiness by meeting certain standards. This program is in the final approval stages and should be launched soon
- National Pediatric Readiness Assessment
  - The New Jersey EMSC program is currently engaged in this initiative as a pilot state, in collaboration with North Carolina and the Mariana Islands. As part of a nationwide initiative, the focus is on evaluating the preparedness of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies in handling pediatric patients. In New Jersey, a total of 212 licensed EMS agencies have been invited to actively participate in this assessment. The comprehensive evaluation is set to conclude at the end of March 2024
  - The remaining states and territories are poised to launch the national effort in May 2024, marking a collective and coordinated step forward in this vital initiative
- EMSC Advisory Council
  - The next EMSC Advisory Council meeting will be on May 21, 2024, more information can be found on the Department's website or by emailing [emsc@doh.nj.gov](mailto:emsc@doh.nj.gov)
  - The advisory council is currently seeking a family representative with no medical background. All interested individuals can email [emsc@doh.nj.gov](mailto:emsc@doh.nj.gov) with the subject line "FAN"
- EMSC Day
  - EMSC Day this year is May 22, 2024
  - A complimentary pediatric education session will be offered, and registration links will be distributed via email

- Car Seat Safety
  - EMSC in collaboration with Safe Kids South Jersey is purchasing over 250 car seats for use during child passenger safety seat inspections and other child passenger safety events
  - If you are interested in hosting a child passenger safety seat event please email your request to [emsc@doh.nj.gov](mailto:emsc@doh.nj.gov)

#### State Trauma Council

- A meeting was convened on February 12, 2024, with facilitation by State Trauma Director Dr. John Porter.
- It was emphasized that EMS agencies are encouraged to adhere to ACS guidelines and inform receiving facilities, especially trauma centers, about the National Field Triage color category assigned to their patients.
- The session fostered productive dialogue covering topics such as regulations, finances, ACS level trauma centers, and comprehensive discussions around associated data, including the trauma registry.

#### Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

- Facilitated a stakeholder and regulatory listening session focusing on N.J.A.C. 8:46, also known as the Public Epi or Epinephrine Access and Emergency Treatment Act. The Department is tasked with promulgating regulations to establish written standards and application procedures for the approval of educational programs ensuring the safe administration of an epinephrine auto-injector device.
- Currently, we are actively engaged in stakeholder meetings and collaborative workgroups with our interdepartmental partners for Mobile Integrated Health. Upon completion of these meetings and workgroups, meetings with external stakeholders will commence

#### OEMS Education – Mr. Kazar

- Regional representatives within OEMS have been established. Please be on the lookout for an email in the very near future as to who your regional representative from OEMS will be. This individual will allow for your agency to have a direct contact within OEMS to handle new vehicles, reportable events and to address any inquiry as it relates to agency licensure.
- Agencies A-L renewals are due in December
- As a reminder, unless you have been approved to utilize the waiver, ALL licensed BLS ambulances are to be staffed by two (2) EMTs.
  - 60 Agencies have applied

- 37 have been approved
- 9 have been denied
- 1 Agency Rescinded their Utilization
- Awaiting additional documentation of 13
- The waiver was extended, as we only received 18 of the 60 that applied, prior to the original expiration date of January 31, 2024
- No patient shall be transported in the front seat of a MAVO
- 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
- Agencies are reminded that you have every right to audit your staff for renewal requirements, and in fact, it is encouraged
- Providers are reminded to exercise caution when using lights and sirens while operating emergency vehicles
- We continue to notice Instructors and CEU Instructors not entering students into their rosters. Please be reminded that this is a regulatory requirement
- Instructor Screening Scheduled for:
  - Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Gloucester
  - Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – Bergen
  - Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – RWJ East Brunswick
  - All coordinators have been notified and we continue to await applications
- For Reciprocity and ALS Endorsements, please make every effort to utilize the [reciprocity@doh.nj.gov](mailto:reciprocity@doh.nj.gov) email. This allows for better organization, which will facilitate a timelier response
- The Department is not issuing extensions for the June 30, 2024, certification cycle
- Inactive requests will be completed by the end of June
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – NREMT Presentation on New Examination

ALS Credentials – 2023 Final Numbers

Reciprocity	Initial	MICN	Inactive – Active	MICN Reciprocity	Total
46	44	26	12	9	137

ALS Credentials – January 1, 2024 – Present

Reciprocity	Initial	MICN	Inactive – Active	MICN Reciprocity	Total
8	21	7	0	2	38

BLS Credentials – 2023 Final Numbers

Reciprocity	Initial	Challenge	Re-Entry	Total
98	1,780	33	44	1,955

BLS Credentials – January 1, 2024 - Present

Reciprocity	Initial	Challenge	Re-Entry	Total
17	338	7	7	369

**ALS NEW Active to Inactive – 2024**

Total = 65  
Avg. Age = 48  
Avg. Years of Service = 18

**New EMT Instructors**

2021 = 19  
2022 = 20  
2023 = 22 (includes provisional)  
2024 = 11 (includes provisional)

**New Business**

- Dr. Carroll
  - If any corrections need to be made to the new protocols, please email Dr. Carroll in preparation for the next revisions

**Old Business**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Meeting Schedule**

- June 3, 2024, at 10:00 AM location, NJ OHSP
- September 23, 2024, at 10:00 AM location, NJ OHSP
- December 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM location, NJ OHSP



**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Dr. Schreiber) Seconded (Mr. Bober) Approved (Unanimous)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM