



*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  
*Commissioner*

The New Jersey EMS Advisory Council  
MINUTES of March 13, 2024

***Members Present***

Mr. Michael Bascom, Mr. Mark Bober, Mr. Joseph Burlew, Mr. John Butterweck, Ms. Sue DeWitt, Mr. Andrew Koehler, Mr. Alfred Lincks, Mr. Andy Lovell, Ms. Suzanne O'Hearn, Mr. Dominic Parone, Ms. Barbara Platt, Dr. John Porter, Dr. Timothy Satty, Dr. Barbara Schreibman, Mr. Gregory Scott, Dr. Stephen Vetrano, Mr. Douglas Weidanz, Ms. Paula Weiler

***Members Absent***

Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai, Dr. Kimberly Baldino, Mr. Todd Bowen, Mr. Ralph Burgos, Dr. Diane Calello, Dr. Gerard Carroll, Ms. Kathe Conlon, Dr. Lisa Drago, Dr. Joslyn Joseph, Ms. Cynthia Kirchner, Dr. Alexander Kuc, Dr. Mark Merlin, Mr. Tarcisio Nunes, Dr. James Pruden, Dr. Albert Ritter, Mr. Eli Rubin, Dr. Bruce Ruck, Mr. Roger Sarao, Mr. Mordechai Twerski, Mr. Nelson Wiest

***New Jersey Department of Health***

Ms. Candace Gardner, Mr. Dan Kazar, Ms. Kirsten Posselt, Mr. Christian Rios, Mr. Timothy Seplaki

***Guest/Public Attendees***

Mr. Nicholas Camisa, Ms. Emelin Corado, Mr. Weston Davis, Dr. Alec Glucksman, Dr. John Halperin, Mr. Scott Prykanowski, Mr. Richard Sposa, Mr. Brendan Stringfellow

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

"This is a formal meeting of the EMS 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 December 2023 meeting were distributed to the members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council via email prior to this meeting.

*Motion to approve the December 2023 minutes (Dr. Vetrano) Seconded (Mr. Bober) Approved (Unanimous)*

## **Presentation**

- Dr. John Halperin
  - Presented on “Stroke Care” and utilization of RACE Score
- *Motion to recommend to the Department that RACE training is incorporated into EMT initial and refresher education (Dr. Vetrano) Seconded (Ms. Platt) Approved (Unanimous)*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Legislative Update – Mr. Kazar

- New Jersey Senate Bill 2435
  - Discussion ensued

### Air Medical

No Report

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

- Standardized language for EMS trauma alerts can be utilized at this time
- Recommended oral Tylenol and Ibuprofen to be included in the next protocol update

### EMT Training Fund – Dr. Vetrano

- No official financial report available currently

### Communications – Mr. Burlew

- Statewide Communication Interoperability Planning and Development meeting will take place on April 11, 2024
- Communications regulations are currently awaiting review
- All-hands IMT Comm L training will be conducted in Atlantic City, April 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, during the Incident Management Team Program. Those interested in participating, please reach out to Mr. Burlew
- There is currently a grant through the UASI EMS sub-committee, which allows for information sharing between communication centers throughout the State. The anticipated completion date for this is August 2024
- *Motion to set a sub-committee to review and update EMD guidecards which would include personnel inclusive of BLS, ALS, and Physicians with a background in Trauma and Neuro (Mr. Burlew) Seconded (Mr. Bober) Approved (Unanimous)*

## EMS for Children (EMSC)

No Report

## State Trauma Council – Dr. Porter

- Trauma centers are aware of standardized language for EMS trauma alerts and education is being rolled out

## Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council (MAC) – Dr. Schreibman

- Discussion ensued about MICU's carrying whole blood
- All MICU's have implemented the ALS interim protocols
- *Motion made that the EMS Advisory Council endorse the MAC's recommendation for pre-hospital blood administration (Dr. Vetrano) Seconded (Mr. Parone) Approved (Unanimous)*

## OEMS Report – Ms. Gardner

- 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
- And by 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 Manzoora at [Fatima.Manzoora@doh.nj.gov](mailto:Fatima.Manzoora@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.
  - 62 Agencies have applied
  - 41 have been approved
  - 10 have been denied
  - 1 Agency Rescinded their Utilization
  - Awaiting additional documentation of 10
  - The waiver was extended, as we only received 18 of the 62 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 Jersey Task Force – Mr. Bascom

- Dr. David Adinaro and Mr. Robert Saunders have been added as members to the Board of Directors
- Attempting to identify a sustainable source of funding to keep the program operational

- Under a deliverable through the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), the Task Force has developed a template and approach to support Pediatric Surge Preparedness in anticipation of the next HPP five year grant cycle (2024-2029)

### **New Business**

*Motion to make the Culture of Safety a permanent sub-committee of the EMS Advisory Council (Mr. Bober) Seconded (Ms. Platt) Approved (Unanimous)*

### **Old Business**

None

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Meeting Schedule**

- **June 12, 2024**, at 10:00 AM location, NJ OHSP
- **September 25, 2024**, at 10:00 AM location, NJ OHSP
- **December 11, 2024**, at 10:00 AM location, NJ OHSP

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Dr. Vetrano) Seconded (Mr. Burlew) Approved (Unanimous)  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM