



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 June 12, 2024

Members Present

Dr. Kimberly Baldino (American College of Emergency Physicians), Mr. Mark Bober (NJ Association of Paramedic Programs), Mr. Joseph Burlew (EMS Communications Committee), Mr. John Butterweck (EMSCNJ – Central), Dr. Lisa Drago (EMS for Children), Ms. Candace Gardner (NJDOH), Dr. Joslyn Joseph (National Association of EMS Physicians), Mr. Daniel Kazar (NJDOH), Mr. Alfred Lincks (Career EMT), Mr. Andy Lovell (Career Paramedic), Mr. Dominic Parone (Emergency Nurses Association), Ms. Barbara Platt (EMSCNJ – South), Dr. John Porter (Trauma Center Council), Mr. Roger Sarao (NJ Hospital Association), Dr. Barbara Schreibman (Mobile Intensive Care Unit Advisory Council), Ms. Paula Weiler (NJSFAC – President)

Members Absent

Mr. Michael Bascom (County EMS Coordinators), Mr. Todd Bowen (Career Fire Chiefs Association), Mr. Ralph Burgos (St. Barnabas Burn Center), Dr. Diane Calello (NJ Poison Emergency Service), Dr. Gerard Carroll (MICU Advisory Council), Ms. Kathe Conlon (St. Barnabas Burn Center), Ms. Emelin Corado (NJ Department of Highway Traffic Safety), Ms. Sue DeWitt (NJSFAC – North), Ms. Cynthia Kirchner (Public Member), Mr. Andrew Koehler (NJ State Police), Dr. Alexander Kuc (Air Medical Advisory Committee), Dr. Mark Merlin (Immediate Past Council Chair), Mr. William Mosley (NJSP Emergency Telecommunications), Mr. Tarcisio Nunes (NJSFAC – North), Mr. Bryan Platt (EMSCNJ – South), Dr. James Pruden (Immediate Past Council Chair), Dr. Albert Ritter (Air Medical Advisory Committee), Mr. Michael Rizol (NJ Department of Highway Traffic Safety), Mr. Eli Rubin (Volunteer EMT), Dr. Bruce Ruck (NJ Poison Emergency Service), Mr. Louis Sasso (EMS Communications Committee), Dr. Timothy Satty (National Association of EMS Physicians), Mr. Gregory Scott (Medical Transportation Authority of NJ), Mr. Richard Sposa (NJ Association of Paramedic Programs), Mr. Mordechai Twerski (Volunteer EMT), Dr. Stephen Vetrano (EMTTF Chair), Mr. Douglas Weidanz (NJSP Emergency Telecommunications), Mr. Ken Weinberg (NJSFAC – President), Mr. Nelson Wiest (Career Fire Chiefs Association)

New Jersey Department of Health

Mr. Eric Hicken, Mr. Logan Rafferty, Mr. Christian Rios, Mr. Timothy Seplaki, Mr. Nicholas Seran

Guest/Public Attendees

Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai (American College of Emergency Physicians), Mr. Steve Cohen (RWJBH), Ms. Elizabeth Falcon (NJ Department of Transportation), Ms. Jennifer McCarthy

(Career Paramedic), Mr. Scott Prykanowski (NJ Office of Emergency Telecommunications Systems), Mr. Bill Rosen (Culture of Safety Committee), Mr. Joseph Walsh (EMSCNJ – Central), Dr. Bill Wang (RWJBH), Mr. Gregory Zanone (Emergency Nurses Association)

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 March 2024 meeting were distributed to the members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council via email prior to this meeting

Motion to approve the March 2024 minutes (Mr. Parone) Seconded (Mr. Bober) Approved (Unanimous)

Presentations

- Mr. Marc Pellegrino
 - Presented “Standardized Active Violence Event Response (NJSAVER)”
- Mr. Robert Pomykala
 - Presented “Traffic Incident Management” (TIMS)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Update – Mr. Rios

- Legislative update was distributed to the members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council via email prior to this meeting

Air Medical

None

Basic Life Support (BLS) Sub-Committee

None

EMT Training Fund

None

Communications – Mr. Burlew

- UASI grant which would allow information sharing between communication centers throughout the State has been renewed for three years.

EMS for Children (EMSC) – Dr. Drago

- Always Ready for Children program is live, all are encouraged to participate
- Met with NJ Task Force to help revamp the NJ Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) program
- National Disaster Collaborative will conclude in June 2024
- Attended Trauma Response Initiative program which is a pilot program that discusses substance use disorder and adverse childhood experiences to identify any potential correlations

State Trauma Council – Dr. Porter

- Diversion language has been added to State Trauma Plan
- State Trauma Plan draft is almost complete and will be voted on during the next Trauma Council meeting
- Discussed pre-hospital needle chest decompression errors

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

- Discussed blood being carried on ALS Ground Units
- Presentations on “NJ EMS Blood Protocol” and “Stroke Care” were provided

OEMS Report – Ms. Gardner

- OEMS will be looking to post and hire into multiple different positions ranging from regulatory officer, nursing consultants, paramedics etc.

Conference, Awards Ceremony, and SIM

- Save the Dates, November 19th through 23rd
- Speakers have been selected. The selections were made based on last year’s feedback to change things up. Sessions will focus on interactive and cutting-edge presentations.
- Over 360 proposals for 100 spots – all-time record
- Nominations for the 2024 EMS Awards Program is open through August 20, 2024.
- 8 Teams registered

Data

- OEMS is working on data quality issues
- NEMSIS 3.5 additional fields –
 - edisposition.32 is causing a lot of confusion at the crew level. Level of Care provided per protocol:
 - Many are not reporting at all – which affects the overall aggregate reporting of ALS vs BLS
 - Multiple incidences where BLS documents and reports ALS procedures
 - Some agencies are still sending 3.4 data – check your forms/check with your vendor

Opioid

- Naloxone leave behind - agencies can get free naloxone through DHS
- Opioid bags with treatment/recovery are being distributed to County EMS Coordinators quarterly
- The Department is working to implement a pilot program MATTERS project

NREMT met, in person with all Paramedic Programs

- There will no longer be a psychomotor examination
- New Advanced life support examination will be launched on 7/1/2024 – sample questions can be viewed at www.nremt.org
- Announced more individuals certified than ever before
 - No shortage – Distribution of providers is the issue
- NJ has the #1 pass rate Nationally (EMT & Paramedic)

Issues with Reciprocity

- Online educational programs are being taken without any clinical or field hours, competencies, or required portfolio
- This issue was discussed at length during state officials meeting – Eastern Region and NASEMSO are looking to develop/share standards

Regulations

- No update for OEMS regulations but the Department is confident the industry will be happy with the proposed changes

- Recommendations for language in 8:43G were suggested to enhance the education and care provided to pediatric patients
- When all regulatory changes/updates have been published and adopted they will set the landscape for the future, streamline the process for protocols, new skills and scope
- Scope of practice advancement for BLS – under construction for Albuterol, CPAP, PEEP, and glucometry
 - Glucagon is not being included in the advancement
 - Glucagon is not in the national scope of practice for BLS
 - The depth and breadth of education at the different provider levels is part of the challenge
 - Data and evidence are necessary to prove the need
- Whole blood waiver for all mobile intensive care programs is forthcoming. The Department will be rescinding the current aeromedical waiver and implementing a new waiver for all

Projects

- Researching mechanisms to obtain funding to create a Public Awareness campaign for EMS and utilization of 911
- OEMS is working with State Psychiatric Facilities to develop awareness, education, and standardized approach for on site medical care, transfer, and utilization of 911 system.
 - Policies for use to form a consistent approach
 - Pilot – hope to later utilize with other local facilities (Extended care facilities/nursing homes)

Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

- OEMS has completed stakeholder meetings and collaborative workgroups with our interdepartmental partners for Mobile Integrated Health. In process of scheduling meetings and workgroups with external stakeholders

Issues

- OEMS has received reports of potential systemic issues regarding patient contact, coercion/intimidation of BLS to recall ALS
- OEMS charged the MICU Advisory Council with the responsibility of coming up with a universal definition and policy to be utilized as an industry best practice when defining what constitutes a patient contact

EMSC & Special Projects

- Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment
 - The New Jersey EMSC program completed this assessment 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. NJ EMSC assisted in setting the groundwork for the remaining states and territories which was launched in May 2024.
 - NJ's EMSC team and all NJ EMS agencies a 100% response rate for the agencies who met the assessment criteria. NJ continues to set the bar high for others across the nation and they should be applauded
- Always Ready for Children EMS is a free program that highlights the readiness of EMS agencies to care for critically ill and injured children. If your EMS agency is interested in participating in this free program call or send an email to emsc@doh.nj.gov
- Free Monthly Education – in addition to electronic announcements, classes and registration information will now also be on the EMSC landing page on the EMS website

OEMS Education – Mr. Kazar

- New NREMT ALS certification exam begins on July 1, 2024
- Agencies A-L renewals are due in December
- Regional representatives within OEMS have been established. These individuals 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.
- OEMS Investigators have noticed an increase in unsecured vehicles. It is crucial to ensure that all vehicles are securely locked to mitigate any potential risks
- As a reminder, unless you have been approved to utilize the BLS Non-Emergent Staffing Waiver, ALL licensed BLS ambulances are to be staffed with two (2) EMTs
- OEMS will be holding an instructor meeting on June 13, 2024, for all instructor levels
- OEMS continues to notice Instructors not entering students into their class rosters. Please be reminded that this is a regulatory requirement and offenders will be held accountable
- Paramedic Inactive requests will be completed by the end of June. If the Paramedic that is going inactive wants to obtain their EMT certification for one (1) year, they may apply at the same time they apply for inactive status. All Paramedic Inactive requests are to be completed online in the providers NJEMS account
- Background check process is being finalized. All providers will need fingerprints upon

initial rollout

- Paramedic Students can start RSI beginning with the first day of field internship so long as the Medical Director, Clinical Educator, Preceptor and Student agree and the student has met minimal competency
- Since January 1, 2024, OEMS has approved 1,656 CEU classes which does not included classes that were reviewed and/or denied
- Since January 1, 2024, OEMS has approved 1,039 Refreshers classes which does not included classes that were reviewed and/or denied
- The Department is not issuing extensions for the June 30, 2024, certification cycle

New ALS Credentials – 2023 Final Numbers

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

New ALS Credentials – January 1, 2024 – March 1, 2024

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

New ALS Credentials – January 1, 2024 – Present

Reciprocity	Initial	MICN	Inactive – Active	MICN Reciprocity	Total
31	34	14	2	3	84

New BLS Credentials – 2023 Final Numbers

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

New BLS Credentials – January 1, 2024 – March 1, 2024

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

New BLS Credentials – January 1, 2024 - Present

Reciprocity	Initial	Challenge	Re-Entry	Total
34	845	16	43	938

EMT Instructors

2021 = 19

2022 = 20

2023 = 22 (includes provisional)

2024 = 21 (includes provisional)

New Jersey Task Force – Ms. McCarthy

- Continues to regularly work with legislators for sustainable funding
- Ongoing training is being conducted with Metlife Stadium and Bergen OEM in preparation for Copa America and FIFA
- Working on pediatric surge plan
- Received \$400,000 grant which will be used to replace outdated equipment

New Business

Motion to have BLS units secure their vehicle while ALS is retrieving their equipment after arriving to the ED (Mr. Burlew) Seconded (Mr. Cohen) Approved (Unanimous)

Motion to remove Excited delirium from EMD guide cards (Dr. Joseph) Seconded (Mr. Cohen) Approved (Unanimous)

Old Business

- All members advised to complete and submit ethics documents and outside activity questionnaire

Public Comment

None

Meeting Schedule

- 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 (Mr. Cohen) Seconded (Mr. Bober) Approved (Unanimous)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM