



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 September 25, 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), Ms. Sue DeWitt (NJSFAC – North) (Alt), Dr. Lisa Drago (EMS for Children), Dr. Joslyn Joseph (National Association of EMS Physicians), Mr. Andrew Koehler (NJ State Police), 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. Scott Prykanowski (NJ Office of Emergency Telecommunications Systems) (Alt), Dr. Barbara Schreibman (Mobile Intensive Care Unit Advisory Council) (Alt), Mr. Gregory Scott (Medical Transportation Authority of NJ), Mr. Mordechai Twerski (Volunteer EMT), Mr. Joseph Walsh (EMSCNJ – Central) (Alt), Mr. Douglas Weidanz (NJSP Emergency Telecommunications), Ms. Paula Weiler (NJSFAC – President)

Members Absent

Mr. Michael Bascom (County EMS Coordinators), Mr. Todd Bowen (Career Fire Chiefs Association) (Alt), Mr. Ralph Burgos (St. Barnabas Burn Center), Mr. John Butterweck (EMSCNJ – Central), Dr. Diane Calello (NJ Poison Emergency Service), Dr. Gerard Carroll (MICU Advisory Council), Ms. Kathe Conlon (St. Barnabas Burn Center) (Alt), Ms. Emelin Corado (NJ Department of Highway Traffic Safety) (Alt), Ms. Cynthia Kirchner (Public Member), Dr. Alexander Kuc (Air Medical Advisory Committee), Dr. Mark Merlin (Immediate Past Council Chair), Mr. Tarcisio Nunes (NJSFAC – North), Mr. Bryan Platt (EMSCNJ – South) (Alt), Dr. James Pruden (Immediate Past Council Chair) (Alt), Dr. Albert Ritter (Air Medical Advisory Committee) (Alt), Mr. Michael Rizol (NJ Department of Highway Traffic Safety), Mr. Eli Rubin (Volunteer EMT) (Alt), Dr. Bruce Ruck (NJ Poison Emergency Service) (Alt), Mr. Roger Sarao (NJ Hospital Association) (Alt), Mr. Louis Sasso (EMS Communications Committee) (Alt), Mr. Richard Sposa (NJ Association of Paramedic Programs) (Alt), Dr. Stephen Vetrano (EMTTF Chair), Mr. Ken Weinberg (NJSFAC – President) (Alt), Mr. Nelson Wiest (Career Fire Chiefs Association)

New Jersey Department of Health

Ms. Cassandra Angelo, Ms. Candace Gardner, Mr. Eric Hicken, Mr. Dan Kazar, Ms. Rita Masiello, Mr. Christian Rios, Mr. Timothy Seplaki, Mr. Nicholas Seran

Guest/Public Attendees

Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai (American College of Emergency Physicians) (Alt), Ms. Emily Blumenstyk (Culture of Safety Committee), Ms. Jennifer McCarthy (Career Paramedic) (Alt), Mr. Bill Rosen

(Culture of Safety Committee), Dr. Timothy Satty (National Association of EMS Physicians) (Alt), Mr. Gregory Zanone (Emergency Nurses Association) (Alt)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is a formal meeting of 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 the state of New Jersey entitled Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was sent to the Secretary of State who posted the notice in a public place. Notice was also provided electronically on the Department's website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the June 2024 meeting were distributed to the members of the New Jersey EMS Advisory Council via email prior to this meeting.

Motion to approve the June 2024 minutes (Mr. Lincks) Seconded (Dr. Schreiber) Approved (Unanimous)

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 – Dr. Satty

- Discussed the BLS scope of practice update and the new FDA approval for intranasal Epinephrine
 - Will conduct research on intranasal Epinephrine and report back to MAC with findings
- Anyone interested in joining a working group with regard to Intranasal Epinephrine, please contact Dr. Satty

EMT Training Fund

None

Communications – Mr. Burlew

- CAD project continues to move forward

EMS for Children (EMSC) – Dr. Drago

- Discussed pediatric protocol updates
- Made recommendation to lower the age for administration of pre-hospital blood and TXA to 1 years old
- Discussed EMD guidecards in NJ and their lack of pediatric patient inclusivity
- Will be participating in TEN-4 Day on October 4, 2024
- Discussed becoming an affiliate for Project Adam
- Always Ready for Children program is still open. Hillside EMS and HUMC MICU have met criteria and received approval

State Trauma Medical Director – Dr. Porter

- Education is still being conducted for field triage guidelines
- State trauma draft for guidelines is nearing completion. Council will meet in November 2024 and is looking to send final guidelines to the Commissioner of Health by December 2024 or January 2025

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

- Discussed the pre-hospital Buprenorphine program
- Sub-committee continues to work on draft blood product protocols. Anyone who has feedback may email Dr. Carol
- Discussed AMU dispatch policy change

OEMS Report – Ms. Gardner

- OEMS is in the process of conducting interviews for multiple positions ranging from regulatory officer, program manager, to public health representatives
- The division name has been officially changed from the Division of Public Health Infrastructure Laboratories and Emergency Preparedness (PHILEP) to DPREMS – the Division of Disaster Preparedness, Resiliency and Emergency Medical Services. Laboratory and Local Public Health will be their own divisions
- The division is also restructuring to enhance the goals and better align resources with division's mission. As part of this process, six members of the OEMS team are transitioning to new roles where they can focus more on their expertise and responsibilities
 - Tim, Rita, and our newest addition, Cassandra Angelo, have joined forces with other division personnel to form the new Office of Data Analytics, Resources, & Infrastructure Quality Assurance

- Eric, Fatima, and Colin have teamed up with the Office of Disaster Resilience to strengthen our collaboration with hospital coalitions, emergency preparedness initiatives, and grants related to emergency services for children

Conference & Awards Ceremony

- Registration for the National Conference on EMS is open. Register by September 30, 2024, to take advantage of the lowest prices of the year
 - The pre-conference will include an Inaugural Refresher Day sponsored by Hackensack Meridian Health scheduled to take place on November 19, 2024
 - Additional pre-conference date is Wednesday November 20th
 - The main conference on November 21st through the 23rd
- Nominations for the 2024 EMS Awards Program (November 22nd) have closed, and the EMS Council's awards committee have selected the winners
- Any questions contact Tim Seplaki @ Timothy.Seplaki@doh.nj.gov

ALS/BLS Scope of Practice Waivers

- Waiver was issued to authorize agencies to expand the BLS scope of practice to include:
 - Albuterol, CPAP, PEEP, Glucometers
 - Recommendations for revisions and ease of implementation are welcome and being taken into consideration as we are in the process of drafting a revision for version 2.
- OEMS is working with the Public Health and Environmental Laboratories to draft and simultaneously issue a waiver to the paramedic's scope of practice to authorize blood transfusion along with blood bank waiver adding paramedics as transfusionists

Reciprocity challenges for ALS & BLS

- In particular, regarding educational programs that are taken online without any clinical/field
- Misunderstanding on who sets the standards
- Discussed at length during state officials meeting – Eastern Region and NASEMSO are looking to develop/share standards

Regulations

- No update for OEMS regulations but we are confident you will be happy with the results

- 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

Projects

- Working to find funding to create a Public Awareness campaign for EMS and utilization of 911
- Continue to work with State Psychiatric Facilities to develop awareness, education, and standardized approach for on-site medical care, transfer, and utilization of 911 system

Stakeholder Engagement Meetings

- OEMS is finishing up the final external stakeholder meetings for the development of the mobile integrated health program. The feedback we have received has been very positive
- Every program that will be applied for and implemented will be different – no two programs will be alike as the communities they serve are vastly different. We are looking to create a flexible framework that allows the programs to:
 - Get off the ground
 - Learn from their experiences (good and bad) to make necessary changes
 - Allow growth and change as medicine changes and as the communities within their service area change.

Issues

- OEMS has received reports of potential systemic issues regarding patient contact, coercion/intimidation of BLS to recall ALS. Asked agencies if they had a policy and definition for patient contact? Have staff members been educated? Requested agencies to develop a standardized definition and position – best practice.
 - NJAPP created a subcommittee to work on language that may be useful for the industry to utilize – We know this is not an easy task as there are never one size fits all
 - NJAPP drafted a few definitions for the MICU Advisory Committee to review and potentially adopt as best practice

EMTTF

- S2435/A3537 – P.L. 2024 c. 68 signed by governor – changes the eligibility for use of the fund
- Reimbursement delays due to instructor's failing to complete rosters

Policy Update

- The air medical unit (AMU) dispatch protocol is being updated. Based on 30 months of data showing state AMUs are generally faster than private ones, the dispatch system will now prioritize aircraft by estimated arrival time rather than geographic proximity, effective November 1, 2024
- REMCS will also change the dispatch policy for standby requests to identify and assign an aircraft to “standby” status. Note that this does not restrict the AMU to that standby
- Questions can be directed to Logan Rafferty

OEMS Education – Mr. Kazar

- Background check process/system is still under development
- Refresher program outline is in the process of being updated
- National push for development of student minimal competencies at the EMT level. We encourage initial programs to develop

ALS Credentials – 2023 Final Numbers

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

ALS Credentials – January 1, 2024 – August 30, 2024

Reciprocity	Initial Paramedic	MICN	Inactive – Active	MICN Reciprocity	Total
38	44	22	4	4	112

BLS Credentials – 2023 Final Numbers

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

BLS Credentials – January 1, 2024 - August 30, 2024

Reciprocity	Initial	Challenge	Re-Entry	Total
88	1,378	24	82	1,572

New Jersey Task Force – Ms. McCarthy

- Re-awarded HPP grant funding for 2025 cycle
- Continue to look for State and Federal funding to update fleet
- Annual full-scale exercise will be conducted on October 25, 2024 – October 27, 2024

Written Organizational Report

First Aid Council - Ms. Weiler

- On September 14, 2024, the council dedicated the 9/11 EMS memorial, located in Keansburg, New Jersey, to the EMT's and Paramedics who lost their life on that day

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

- Completed position paper on best practices regarding blood being carried by ALS units

Culture of Safety – Ms. Blumenstyk

- Focusing on lifting and moving body mechanics and lights and sirens usage

New Business

None

Nomination Committee – Mr. Lovell

- Please contact Ms. McCarthy if you wish to be on the nomination committee

Old Business

- Guidecard Update
 - Review and update in progress

Public Comment

None

Meeting Schedule

- December 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM location, NJ OHSP

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Ms. Platt) Seconded (Dr. Schreiber) Approved (Unanimous)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM