



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM
Commissioner

Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Council
MINUTES of May 21, 2024

Members Present: Dr. Maya Baas (video), Dr. Frank Castello (video), Dr. Angela D'Alessandro (video), Dr. Lisa Drago (video), Ms. Sonia Rita (video), Mr. Daniel Sullivan (video), Ms. Maureen Donnelly (video), Ms. Denise Serbay (video)

Members Absent: Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai, Ms. Debra Bell, Ms. Kelly Boyd, Ms. Marvella Cephas, Dr. Jeanne Craft, Dr. Ernest Leva, Dr. Mark McCollum, Dr. Neil Miele, Mr. John Napolitano, Dr. Nilesh Patel, Dr. Anderson Richard.

Guests/Attendees: Dr. Louis DiFazio (video), Dr. Richard Flyer (video), Ms. Jenna Ferlazzo (video)

Dept. of Health: Ms. Judy Faulkner (video), Ms. Candace Gardner (video), Mr. Eric Hicken (video), Ms. Fatima Manzoor (video), Ms. Kirsten Posselt (video), Mr. Timothy Seplaki (video), Mr. Nicholas Seran (video), Mr. Colin Taylor (video)

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Council convened virtually on May 21, 2024, via Microsoft Teams, with a call to order at 10:00 AM by Dr. Drago

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is a formal meeting of The Emergency Medical Services for Children 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, two Philadelphia newspapers, and WNET (non-commercial educational public television). Notices were posted to the Department's website at www.nj.gov/health/ems/

CORRESPONDENCE

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the February 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 February 2024 meeting minutes (Dr. Drago). Seconded (Ms. Rita).
Approved (Unanimous)

COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson's Report – Dr. Drago

- Dr. Drago wished everyone a Happy EMS Week and acknowledged the contributions of all members
- Dr. Drago informed the council that she met with the First Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Children and Families regarding the SCAN (Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect) program. The SCAN class no longer exists, and discussions are underway for Mr. Hicken and Dr. Drago to be a part of the Race, Poverty, and Neglect workgroup
- Dr. Drago informed that Ms. Manzoor and Dr. Drago attended the informational and networking session for the Ten-4 Faces Day and told everyone that New Jersey would be taking part in the upcoming Ten-4 Faces Day in October
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Qc5lc60Jds>
- Dr. Drago informed everyone that the Disaster Network Collaborative will be ending in June
 - Three hospitals from New Jersey participated in the ten-month Q&I collaborative
 - Hackensack Meridian Hackensack University Medical Center
 - Cooper University Health Care
 - St. Joseph's Health

- The next collaborative will be starting in September 2024. Dr. Drago encouraged more New Jersey hospitals to participate
<https://emscimprovement.center/news/childrens-mental-health-crisis-join-emscs-next-qi-collaborative/>

OEMS Report

- OEMS Update – Ms. Gardner
 - Ms. Gardner wished everyone a Happy EMS Week
 - The Office of EMS attended the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) Annual meeting last week
 - Dr. Navneet Sahu has joined the OEMS as a part-time consultant medical director
 - The new Deputy Commissioner for Public Health Services, Kelly Anderson Thomas
 - Ms. Gardner updated everyone regarding organizational changes. The Office of EMS, which currently resides within the Public Health Infrastructure Laboratories and Emergency Preparedness Division (PHILEP), will soon undergo a restructuring. The new division will be named the Division of Disaster Preparedness, Resiliency, and Emergency Medical Services (DPREMS)
 - The transition is expected to be finalized sometime in July
 - Multiple positions will be posted and hired to assist with regulatory requirements. Other duties and positions assigned to the office, along with the Mobile Intergraded Health (MIH) positions, will range from regulatory officers to nursing consultants and paramedics
 - The National Registry visited New Jersey to meet with the paramedic program directors regarding the new examination process. As of July 1, 2024, the psychomotor examination will be discontinued. More information and sample questions are available on the National Registry's website
 - New Jersey is ranked number one for first-time pass rates for both EMT and paramedic levels. This is a significant accomplishment, and educators should be acknowledged for their efforts

- EMSC Grant Program – Mr. Hicken
 - In March, we were awarded partial funding of \$83,352. It appears there may be additional funds, but we have not received clear answers from HRSA as to the actual dollar amount
 - The budget has been approved, and funds are with HRSA, but the processing and distribution have been slow for all states and territories that applied
- The 2024 National Conference on EMS and Awards Program – Ms. Gardner
 - The conference and awards ceremony will occur from November 19th to November 23rd, and the award ceremony is scheduled for November 22nd. Please save the dates
 - The nominations will be accepted until August 20th
 - Speaker proposals are currently under review. Speakers will be informed soon if their submissions are selected for the 2024 conference

Family Advisory Network (FAN) Report – Ms. Rita

- Ms. Rita informed everyone she was invited to attend Tuesday's Child Trauma Response Initiative (CTRI) pilot training program. The training program is designed to teach law enforcement and other first responders early identification, communication, and intervention for trauma and children and families affected by Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws

- Mr. Hicken is working on updating the by-laws

EMSC Appointment Update

- No updates

Clinical Corner

- No update

Improving Pediatric Acute Care through Simulation (ImPACT)

- Mr. Hicken shared that the ImPACTs EMS is in its final stages of rolling out
 - Inspira Health will be the first to participate

School Nurse Education Program

- The program will be launched in the Fall of 2024

Always Ready for Children (ARC)

- ARC-Emergency Department (ED) is currently under review by hospital licensing
- Some providers have started the ARC-EMS Initial Application process

Janet's Law

- Dr. Flyer informed a letter was sent to Senator Vitali. Currently, they are still waiting for a response back

Safe Transport of Children Committee (STC)

- Mr. Hicken updated the committee on phase one (1) progress for car seat crash testing, indicating that it is reaching its conclusion. Anticipated plans include commencing phase two (2) in 2024, which is expected to progress more rapidly

NEW BUSINESS

National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP) assessment – Ms. Gardner

- New Jersey achieved a 100% response rate. New Jersey was one of the test states that participated in the assessment

N.J.A.C. 8:43G-12.1 Emergency Department and Trauma Services (Addition and Review of Pediatric Standards) – Ms. Gardner

- N.J.A.C. 8:43G hospital licensing regulation updates are in progress. The most recent version, including recommendations from the EMSC program, was returned with comments and is under review. It should be completed and back to hospital licensing by the end of this week
- Dr. Costello asks about the enforcement of a regulation regarding the requirement for pediatric coordinators in emergency departments. He points out that hospitals with coordinators perform significantly better in pediatric care than those without
 - Mr. Hicken informed him there is no additional movement to enforce the regulation more than is already happening
 - The current regulation mentions the need for a pediatric liaison (physician or nurse), and they are updating the terminology to Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator
 - The EMSC program is contacting the hospitals to identify who is identified to be the liaison for each emergency department
 - The Always Ready for Children Emergency Department program, which focuses on pediatric readiness in emergency departments, is currently under review by hospital licensing and legal teams. This program aligns with national standards and regulations. Once launched, emergency departments will be evaluated every two years to ensure compliance

Emergency Department Database

- No update

EMSC Program Strategic Plan

- Dr. Drago stated the strategic plan is currently under review. She has been reviewing other states and collecting data Mr. Hicken suggested creating a sub-committee for the program

Co-sleeping

- Mr. Hicken emphasized that co-sleeping is still a problem in the state. He informed the committee Ms. Manzoora has reached out to a few people and gathered educational material to give out to families and caregivers

- Extensive conversation took place discussing the topic and its importance

Tranexamic Acid (TXA) Discussion

- Dr. Drago introduced the topic of TXA use in pediatric trauma. She recalled that the issue was previously discussed in 2018 and early 2019 when the MAC had reached out about TXA use in Pediatrics. At that time, the decision was made to lower the age of TXA use in trauma cases to 13 years old for EMS providers
- Dr. Drago mentioned that there was not a lot of pediatric data available back then. Recently, Mr. Hicken pulled data from 2021, showing that patients under 13 had received TXA in the field, even though it wasn't part of the protocol. Such administration was based on medical direction calls
- Dr. Drago informed that the discussions have resumed with the MAC and trauma specialists to consider lowering the age limit for TXA use below 13 years. Although there is still limited data, a recent article in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery suggested that TXA might be considered for pediatric trauma within three hours of injury without age restrictions
- Dr. Drago requested input from attendees, especially those from trauma centers, regarding their experience with TXA use in pediatric patients

Safe Drug Storage Bag

- Mr. Hicken stated there is an ongoing struggle to secure safe drug storage bags. He recently contacted Florida's EMSC program, which has a similar solution. They are expected to send contact information for their supplier
 - Mr. Hicken has been exploring the potential use of OD2A funds to finance the bags, though approval is still pending. He is also seeking less expensive alternatives

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No Comment

MEETING SCHEDULE

- September 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS
- December 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Dr. Drago). Seconded (Mr. Castello). Approved (unanimous)

This meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM