



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360
www.nj.gov/health

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM
Commissioner

The Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council (MAC)
MINUTES of September 23, 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. Andreia Marques-Baptista (Capital 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. Timothy Satty (University Hospital), Dr. Barbara Schreiber (Englewood Health), Mr. Richard Sposa (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), Mr. James Fox (Holy Name), Ms. Michelle Kobayashi (Hackensack Meridian Health – HUMC), Mr. Thomas Lavagna (Virtua Health), Mr. Alex Lewinsky (Capital Health), Mr. Stephen Napoli (AtlantiCare), Mr. Art Samaras (Atlantic Health System & CentraState Healthcare System), Ms. Ingrid Santucci (Valley Health System)

Mobile Intensive Care Unit EMS Educators Present:

Mr. Matthew Bremy (Valley Health System), Mr. Steven Cohen (Robert Wood Johnson – Jersey City), Mr. Keith Elmer (Capital Health), Ms. Nicole Ferrarella (University Hospital), Mr. Bruce Graham (Virtua Health), Mr. Mark Jeffries (AtlantiCare), Mr. Ronald Murphy (Cooper University Health Care), Ms. Deborah Paglianite (Saint Clare's Health), Mr. Kevin Pohlman (Holy Name), Mr. Geoffrey Roberts (Inspira 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. Albert Ritter (Atlantic Health System & CentraState Healthcare System)

Mobile Intensive Care Unit Directors Absent:

Mr. Mark Chapman (Inspira Health), Mr. John Cronin (Saint Clare's Health), Mr. Joshua Otero (Robert Wood Johnson – Jersey City), Mr. Anthony Raffino (Robert Wood Johnson Health Network), Mr. Rick Rohrbach (Cooper University Health Care)

Mobile Intensive Care Unit EMS Educators Absent:

Mr. Robert Bertollo (St. Joseph's Health), Mr. Michael Geisler (Englewood Health), Mr. David Petersen (Atlantic Health System & CentraState Healthcare System), Mr. Alex Rosario

(Hackensack Meridian Heath –HUMC)

New Jersey Department of Health:

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

Guests/Public Attendees:

Dr. Michael Barden (Robert Wood Johnson Health Network), Dr. Paul Comber (Cooper University Health Care), Mr. Ben Dafilou (PANJEMS), Dr. Lisa Drago (Cooper University Health Care), Dr. Garrett Forosisky (Inspira Health), Dr. William Haussner (Hackensack Meridian Heath – HUMC), Ms. Julia Kulesa (Union College of Union County), Mr. Wallace Maines (Atlantic Cape Community College), Mr. Jeff McBride (Hackensack Meridian Health – JFK), Dr. Scott Pasichow, (University Hospital), Dr. John Porter (Trauma Center Council), Mr. Evan Schwarz (Hudson County Community College), Mr. Matthew Streger (Keavney & Streger, LLC),

The Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council convened on September 23, 2024, at the NJOHSP with a call to order at 10:00 AM by Dr. Gerard Carroll

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is a formal meeting of Mobile Intensive Care 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 MAC via email prior to this meeting

Motion to approve the June 2024 minutes (Dr. Wong) Seconded (Dr. Schreibman) Approved (Unanimous)

Buprenorphine Program Status

- Dr. Carroll
 - Three Paramedic Programs in New Jersey are participating in this program with two anticipated to be live within six months
 - Any agency wishing to participate in the program, please contact Dr. Carroll

COMMITTEE REPORTS

New Jersey EMS Advisory Council

None

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

- Responded to OEMS' request to further define the definition of "patient contact" and ALS coercing BLS providers
- Completed a position paper on best practices for blood being carried on ALS units

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

- Met on September 12, 2024, to discuss the New Jersey expanded BLS scope of practice and the new FDA approval for intranasal epinephrine
 - Anyone interested in joining a working group regarding intranasal epinephrine, please contact Dr. Satty

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

- EMS Council of New Jersey announced the Gold Cross is no longer publishing printed copies of their magazine. Electronic examinations are being discussed and material will be distributed at the following meeting for review
- Questioned pre-encumbered funds

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

- Made recommendation to lower TXA administration age to 1 years old
- Discussed EMD guide cards in New Jersey and their lack of inclusivity towards pediatric patients
- 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

Education Committee

None

NJ Air Medical Program – Dr. Kuc

- Met on September 3, 2024, to discuss push-dose vasopressors and management of peri-intubation hypotension

New Jersey EMS Task Force (Task Force)

None

Trauma Council - Dr. Porter

- State trauma guidelines are 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

OEMS Report – Mr. Kazar

- 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 and 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

New ALS Credentials – 2023 Final Numbers

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

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

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

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 - August 30, 2024

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

Discussion

- Open discussion on the new AMU dispatch policy

New Business

- Open discussion on intranasal epinephrine

Old Business

- a. Protocols
 - Protocol committee continues to move through the old version. Please send recommendations to Dr. Carroll, in an effort to vote on them at the next meeting
- b. Blood Products
 - Draft Blood Product protocols were discussed. Corrections will be made, and formal vote will take place during December's meeting

Nomination Committee

Dr. Carroll

- Being formed to preside over the elections scheduled for December's meeting. Contact Dr. Carroll if you wish to be on the nomination committee or would like to nominate someone as an officer on the Executive Council

Public Comment

None

Meeting Schedule

- December 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM location, NJ OHSP

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Dr. Drago). (Mr. Cohen) Seconded (Mr. Cohen). Approved (Unanimous)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM