



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PO BOX 360
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0360

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

**New Jersey Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council
March 14, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Schreibman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call – Zachary Raab

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2021 meeting:

- Motion: **First:** Dr. Stiefel **Seconded:** Dr. Felderman
 1. Discussion: None
 2. Motion to accept: **Yea:** All **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

MICU Future Planning Committee

Dr. Schreibman:

- Dr. Schreibman thanked Ronald Murphy, Steven Cohen, Dr. Wang, and Dr. Carroll for their participation in creating the New Jersey Statewide Protocols.
- The New Jersey Statewide Protocols were approved at December's meeting, but there was a need for some changes. The changes were made and distributed to all members.
- Dr. Schreibman requested a motion to approve the updated New Jersey Statewide Protocols.
- Motion to vote on approving the updated New Jersey Statewide Protocols and present them to OEMS made by Dr. Klebacher.
 - **Seconded:** Dr. Stiefel
 - Discussion:
 - Dr. Vetrano stated that as the Medical Director of the New Jersey EMS Task Force he endorses these protocols.
 - Motion to accept: **Yea:** 15 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0 **Absent:** 3

Bylaw Update

Dr. Schreibman:

- Article 4, Section 2 of the bylaws needs to be updated in order to comply with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, c. 231, (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.). The current language of 3 weeks (15 business days) notice for a Special Meeting is not in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Thirty (30) days of public notice is required.

- Motion to approve the bylaw changes: **First:** Dr. Felderman **Seconded:** Dr. Stiefel.
 1. Discussion: None
 2. Motion to accept: **Yea:** 18 **Nay:** 0 **Abstain:** 0.

Medications and Therapeutics

Dr. Wang:

- Presentation was made discussing updates with the coronavirus.
- Discussion: None.

Stroke RACE Score

Dr. Schreibman:

- The RACE Score is required to be in the pre-hospital setting but Emergency Department staff are not familiar with the RACE Score. Dr. Schreibman requested that MAC speak with their Emergency Departments to educate their staff on the RACE Score.

Volunteer Paramedic Law and Naloxone Leave Behind Law

Dr. Schreibman:

- This law was approved during the month of January 2022 and signed into law. It was passed in the New Jersey State Assembly 77 to 0 and in the New Jersey State Senate 38 to 0.
- A volunteer paramedic can work in New Jersey under Medical Direction.
- A volunteer paramedic can arrive in a private vehicle and start advanced life support care prior to a second paramedic arriving on location.
- The law also allows paramedics to perform advanced life support care if they are following standing orders.
- Discussion ensued.
 - Ms. Gardner, from OEMS, stated that OEMS is currently reviewing the language, but for right now all MICU programs should continue with their current practices. Additionally, the OEMS is actively working with the Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance (OLRC) on a rule amendment to remove the standing orders from regulation and adopt the updated standing orders. There is no timeframe for this, but is a high priority in the office.
 - Mr. Newman from Virtua Health asked if we are still contacting medical command or if the current standing orders are removed from regulation and statute? How does the change in N.J.S.A. 26:2K impact how MICU programs are operating today?
 - Ms. Gardner stated that the OEMS is waiting for legal guidance.
- During March's New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Council meeting the council spoke about a law that requires EMS leave Naloxone behind, information about substance usage disorder treatment, and sterile needle exchange programs, to someone that is believed to be suffering from an opioid overdose and this individual does not go to the hospital. Additionally, this is an unfunded mandate.

- A Legislative Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council Committee is being formed. Dr. Baldino will be on the committee, if anyone else is interested in joining the committee they should contact Dr. Baldino or Dr. Schreiberman.
- Discussion ensued.

New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Council

Dr. Vetrano:

- The Communication Committee stated that they are moving their training records to a platform hosted by ImageTrend.
- Discussion: None.

Buprenorphine and Agitated Delirium

Dr. Carroll:

- Presented an update on the EMS Buprenorphine program and Agitated Delirium.
- Discussion ensued.

BLS Sub-Committee

Dr. Carroll:

- Agitated Delirium was discussed.
- The committee will look into developing a pilot program to allow BLS pre-hospital care providers to use a supraglottic airway during cardiac arrest prior to ALS care provider arrival only.
- Discussion ensued.

JEMSTAR

Dr. Carroll:

- Discussed the position statement about Appropriate Air Medical Services Utilization.
- The next meeting is scheduled for this afternoon.
- Discussion: None.

New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs

Mark Bober:

- Richard Sposa will be filling the Vice President's role and thank you to Nicole Curly, who stepped down as part of the Trinitas EMS merger with RWJ Health Network.
- 30th annual Leading Edge enrollment is open and accepting applicants. It will be held on a virtual platform.
- Sent a letter to the New Jersey OEMS for interpretation of the Volunteer Paramedic Law.
- A lot is happening in the legislative branch in regard to EMS as the industry has made them aware they are in crisis. This has drawn their attention to helping solve the crisis. Please reach out to your hospital's government affairs group to tell them about the industry's needs.
- Discussion: None.

EMT Training Fund Advisory Council

Steve Cohen:

- No meeting due to lack of quorum.

Education Committee

Steven Cohen:

- Statewide 39 students graduated from paramedic programs in 2020 and 2021.
- There are 182 students currently enrolled in New Jersey Paramedic Programs, in various stages of course completion.
- There are 80 expected graduates for 2022 in the state's paramedic programs.
- There are 62 expected graduates for 2023 in the state's paramedic programs.
- Discussion: None.

EMS for Children

Dr. Drago:

- Eric Hicken has been appointed to support the EMS for Children Program (EMSC) in New Jersey full-time.
- Dr. Leva, the Acting Chairman of EMSC has added an ad-hoc committee to help define pediatric emergency departments.
- EMSC continues to participate in the Always Ready for Children Program. The program looks at emergency departments' pediatric readiness.
- Working on developing a voluntary EMS recognition program that will highlight pediatric education, pediatric competencies, and the use of pediatric equipment.
- Working on an EMSC Newsletter and EMSC Clinical Minute. If anyone has anything they would like to contribute please reach out to Eric Hicken.
- EMSC pediatric performance measure #2 looks at the creation of a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator for EMS organizations. Performance measure #3 looks at competencies with pediatric-specific equipment.
- EMS for Children Program is working with the Improving Pediatric Acute Care Through Simulation (ImPACT) program, through a collaborative effort with Yale University, Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania, and Virtua Health to release an EMS version of the ImPACT program in 2022.
- Continue to work with the Safe Transport for Children, they have released interim guidance which is on the OEMS website.
- New Jersey continues to lead the National Association of State EMS Officials safe transport committee. They are currently looking at crash test standards for manufacturers when developing pediatric passenger restraint systems for ambulances.
- EMSC continues to work with Safe Kids New Jersey to give out over 500 car seats in New Jersey.
- Looking to restart the EMSC school nurse program in the fall of 2022.
- The survey for EMSC for pediatric readiness went out. If your organization did not receive the survey or your organization is having trouble filling it out, please reach out to us.
- Discussion: None.

New Jersey EMS Task Force

Andy Lovell:

- Still assisting the New Jersey Department of Health with the transportation for COVID vaccinations around the state. More than 500,000 dosages have been transported.
- An additional State Planner, H. Bucky Buchanan, was added through grant funding.
- Looking for an additional part-time State Planner.
- Waiting to hear back from the Governor's Office on funding to replace some of the outdated assets.
- On May 25, 2022, there is a statewide meeting for the New Jersey EMS Task Force.
- Working on replacing the County EMS Coordinator and the New Jersey EMS Task Force radios.
- Discussion: None.

OEMS

Candace Gardner on Behalf of Dr. Clancy:

- Introduced Kirsten Venezia, new Nursing Consultant within OEMS. She will be working with many of you in the near future on multiple initiatives. Our second nursing consultant will begin at the end of this month. Eric Hicken will be the full-time EMSC Coordinator and Daniel Kazar is the Acting Chief of Education, Licensure, and Enforcement.
- Public Health Emergency has been lifted effective March 7, 2022. The only waivers that remain in effect are for paramedics to work inside of healthcare facilities and for EMTs and Paramedics to be able to administer COVID-19 vaccinations.
- P.L. 2021, c.477 temporarily waives crewmember requirements effective January 18, 2022. This is for the regulated community. The P.L. does not apply to the non-regulated community. Essentially if there is a license placed on your vehicle by OEMS, the P.L. applies to you.
- COVID Impact Report will cease. Thanks to everyone who participated so that we could have a pulse on what was happening statewide.
- The OEMS is working closely with ePCR vendors on transitioning to NEMSIS 3.5 (more to come).
- Working with vendors to ensure proper element mapping. EMS agencies please email your ePCR vendor and ask them to ensure your updated demographic file has been sent in your state export. We are finding a lot of missing or outdated provider/clinician information.
- There are four known agencies that are non-compliant with ePCRs: Norma Alliance Fire and Rescue, Roxbury Fire Co. #1 First Aid Squad, Roxbury Fire Co. #3 First Aid Squad and Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance Corps.
- Planning has begun for the 2022 EMS Conference.
 - November 3 - 5, 2022.
 - Preconference November 2, 2022.
- Call for Speakers will open this month. If you are interested in presenting, please visit the website.
- EMS Award nominations are open and being accepted through August 23, 2022.

- Simulation team registration is open. This will remain open until spots are filled (10 ALS/10 BLS).
- Vendor/Sponsor registration is open.
- Save the date cards are printed and available.
- Discussion:
 - Mark Bober asked about the approval of the appointees for the State Stroke Committee.
 - Ms. Gardner stated that she does not believe that the OEMS received anything about this, but she will look into it.
 - Dr. Schreiberman asked if the process for approval for BLS agencies to administer albuterol is still on hold.
 - Ms. Gardner stated there will be no additional approval until there is a regulatory change.

OEMS Operation and Education Report

Daniel Kazar:

- On Thursday, March 17, 2022, a new license decal will be implemented. This will replace the round license decal that is currently being utilized. It is a smaller square and is similar to the color of the New Jersey State flag. They will be issued upon successful completion of inspections, rather than having to wait for them to be received in the mail. Please be on the lookout for a more detailed email in the coming weeks.
- We have seen an uptick in stretcher incidents, where patients and providers have experienced injury. Please review the operation guidelines with your staff for all stretcher makes and models, as well as the power loading equipment. Additionally, please review the heights at which a patient is to be transported. Patients should not be transported in the loading position of the stretcher, the highest height.
- Prior to new vehicles being scheduled for inspection, a schematic of the vehicle's graphics must be submitted to ensure regulatory compliance. New vehicles will not be scheduled for inspection until this is complete. This is to include the height and dimensions of all lettering.
- Agencies with trade names starting with D through H are due for regulatory inspections by June 2022. The OEMS is in the process of scheduling on-site inspections for large agencies and will be taking a regionalized approach to the remaining agencies. Please make sure that your vehicles are compliant, prior to inspections. I through L are due by December 31, 2022.
- Ensure your agency's account in the ImageTrend LMS is up to date with the required regulatory positions (i.e. Medical Director, etc.).
- A reminder that CEU class submissions are to be completed at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the class.
- There are no extensions granted for the June and December 2022 certification cycles.
- Please remind your EMT providers that the requirements for renewal are 24-Core Refresher hours, otherwise known as Refresher A, B, and C, 24 Elective CEUs,

and a Valid CPR card, taken after the start of your certification cycle and completed prior to your expiration.

- Contrary to popular belief, OEMS does NOT receive an automatic notification that someone has successfully completed their NREMT examination. Upon successful completion of your examination, please email ems@doh.nj.gov with your name and six-digit EMS ID, for your results to be entered into the New Jersey system. Please monitor your account for changes to your latest credentials.
- Next upcoming screenings for EMT Instructor candidates will be on March 19th and April 19th.
- Discussion: None.

New Business

- None.

Old Business

- None.

Public Comment

- None.

The next meeting will be June 13, 2022.

Motion to adjourn: **First:** Dr. Stiefel **Seconded:** Dr. Felderman.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.