

December 4, 2023

TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP
CoAEMSP Board Members

FROM: Lori Burns, MSN, RN, Chair, CoAEMSP Board of Directors
George W Hatch, Jr., EdD, EMT-P, LP, FAEMS Executive Director, CoAEMSP

RE: Highlights from the CoAEMSP Board Meeting – November 2-3, 2023

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met in Oklahoma City, Okla., November 2-3, 2023. The highlights from the board meeting follow.

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 35 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation, and progress reports.
2. **By the Numbers.** At the time of the meeting, there are 764 programs that hold a status. This is up 8 programs since the last quarterly meeting.

641 CAAHEP accredited Paramedic programs and
123 programs that hold the **CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR)**; the LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation.

For a current list of Paramedic programs, visit [here](#).

3. **Finance.** Reviewed the preliminary first quarter-end financials for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2023.

In the next quarter a special workgroup comprised of board members and staff members will take a deep dive into the budget, identifying efficiencies, and projecting at least five years out.

4. **Data.** The strategic plan has spurred activity in the data and research arena. Presented the research paper written by the CoAEMSP and NREMT, *Medical Director Resource Deficiencies in Paramedic Programs*. NAEMSP selected this research poster as one of the top 3 presentations submitted for the annual meeting in 2024.
5. **Program Director Focus Group (PDFG).** Members of the PDFG provide expertise and insights to the CoAEMSP Board of Directors, especially relating to day-to-day operational aspects of CAAHEP accredited and CoAEMSP Letter of Review paramedic programs. Members of the group are volunteers and will serve for one year. The PDFG is not a governing body, does not set policy, and does not participate in accreditation decisions. Applications for the 2024-25 PDFG will open in the spring of 2024.

Highlights from the recent meeting include discussing the NREMT examination. Concern for student adaptation to new examination and how to educate/train students in preparation for the exam. Invited Dr. Paul Rosenberger from NREMT, to talk about the examination and Dr. Gina Scarboro, CAAHEP Executive Director, to talk about the relationship between the CoAEMSP, CAAHEP, and CHEA. Participants shared their concerns about recruiting and retaining faculty.

CoAEMSP [posts summaries of the PDFG quarterly meetings](#).

6. **Election Results.** Elections for board seats and two executive committee positions were held. The executive committee term is 2 years; the board seat is for 3 years.

Board Members:

AAP – Susan Fuchs, MD (first term)
ACC – Meera Kondapaneni, MD (second term)
IAFF – Tom Henderson, EMT-P (first term)
NAEMSP – Ingrid Bloom, MD (first term)
NAEMT – D Troy Tuke, BSN, RN, NRP (second term)
Public Member – Reneé Barrett, PhD, MPH (second term)

Executive Committee:

Treasurer: David Becker, MA, EMT-P (IAFC)
At-Large: Shira Schlesinger, MD (ACEP)

7. **Voluntary Accreditation Services for AEMT Programs.** To advance the recommendations of the 2019 [National EMS Scope of Practice Model](#) and the 2021 [National EMS Education Standards](#), CAAHEP plans to launch a voluntary programmatic accreditation at the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) level by January 1, 2025, and the CoAEMSP will provide the accreditation services.

CoAEMSP conducted a national survey with program directors of AEMT programs. The survey represents the first real measure of interest in voluntary AEMT accreditation. The results indicate many AEMT Program Directors are both familiar with accreditation and its benefits and interested in seeking voluntary accreditation. You may read the survey results at www.coaemsp.org/aemt.

8. **IDEA Working Group.** Met with the NREMT about collecting and reporting on data related to demographic makeup of EMS students in CAAHEP-accredited and CoAEMSP Letter of Review programs to improve recruitment, retention, and diversity among student populations.
9. **ACCREDITCON.** The evaluations were positive for the 2023 event and provided constructive considerations for future ACCREDITCONs. Registration is open for the 2024 event, which will be held May 29-June 2, in Oklahoma City. Site selection for the 2025-2029 is well underway.

As a sponsoring organization of CoAEMSP, you are invited to exhibit. The booth space is complimentary. If you would like to exhibit, please email jennifer@coaemsp.org. This year we had four of the CoAEMSP sponsors and CAAHEP joining us, including AAP, NAEMSE, NAEMT, NREMT. In 2024, we have commitments from AAP, NAEMSE, NAEMT, NREMT, and CAAHEP.

10. **Policies and Interpretations for Programs.** Policy manual was reviewed and proposed edits as they pertain to providing accreditation services to AEMT programs and accreditation services to international programs. CoAEMSP gained approval from CAAHEP to offer accreditation services to international programs. The CoAEMSP Policy Manual with changes is available [here](#). The CoAEMSP Interpretations of the CAAHEP Standards is available [here](#).
11. **Quality Improvement & Site Visits.** The CoAEMSP is increasing its cadre of site visitors; therefore, has opened the site visitor application period. The next Site Visitor Workshop will be held at ACCREDITCON-2024. Other initiatives include: continuing with quarterly Conversations with Site Visitors; streamlining the documents and evidence requested for the site visit; developing a list of What If?, which are questions from reviewing the Site Visit Reports and writing the Site Visit Findings Letters; developing the *Site Visitor Quick Reference Guide*; and editing the *Site Visitor Manual*. Finally, the committee reviewed the evaluations completed by site visitors, program directors, and deans following the site visit.

12. Strategic Plan. Reviewed the Strategic Plan, with the status of completed or in progress action items:

Goal #1: Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation

- Established a framework and operational timeline (business case) to provide accreditation services to AEMT programs
- Developing the process elements to operationalize voluntary accreditation services to AEMT programs

Goal #2: Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents

- Explore existing capabilities (other installations) and those with accreditation management system vendors to learn "what is out there"

Goal #3: Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process

- Establishing a working group to evaluate current offerings

Goal #4: Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces

- Implemented town halls on a quarterly basis
- Engaging expertise to develop a comprehensive plan taking into consideration
- Refreshing the logo
- Monitoring and evaluating all current communication activities
- Evaluating in-person interactions to optimize communications
- Investigating new communications opportunities

Goal #5: Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience

- Reviewed policies to ensure alignment with CAAHEP's new policy
- Submitted to CAAHEP the CoA International Review Application (CIRA) Evaluation and were approved to provide accreditation services outside the United States and its territories

13. Next Meetings:

2024:	February 2	web meeting	2026:	February 6	web meeting
	May 1-2-3	Seattle		April 29-30-May 1	TBD
	August 2	web meeting		August 7	web meeting
	November 6-7-8	TBD		November 4-5-6	TBD
2025:	February 7	web meeting	2027:	February 5	web meeting
	April 30-May 1-2	Minneapolis, MN		May 5-6-7	TBD
	August 1	web meeting		August 6	web meeting
	November 5-6-7	TBD		November 3-4-5	TBD

Communication Protocols for the CoAEMSP

The Board has adopted protocols that permit more predictable, consistent, and deliberate communications with sponsors about the work of the Board. **CoAEMSP provides official updates via the Board Highlights to sponsors 30 days following each Board meeting.**

CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

CAAHEP is a programmatic postsecondary accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and carries out its accrediting activities in cooperation with its Committees on Accreditation. CAAHEP currently accredits over 2000 educational programs in 31 health science professions. [caahep.org]

CoAEMSP = Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions

The **Mission Statement** of the CoAEMSP

The mission of the CoAEMSP is to advance the quality of EMS education through accreditation.

The **Vision Statement** of the CoAEMSP

CoAEMSP is recognized as the leader in evidence-based standards for accreditation.

The **Core Values** of the CoAEMSP: **CLARITY**

- Commitment:** Dedication of time, talent, and resources toward the achievement of CoAEMSP's mission.
- Leadership:** Inspiring others to advance the vision and goals of the CoAEMSP.
- Accountability:** Advancing the mission of the CoAEMSP with integrity, honesty, professionalism, and high ethical standards.
- Respect:** Honoring the perspective of any individual or organization.
- Integrated:** Carrying out the work of the CoAEMSP in collaboration with EMS stakeholders.
- Quality:** Consistently meeting or exceeding established standards and expectations in all CoAEMSP activities.

The **Goals** of the CoAEMSP

1. Expand accreditation services with the implementation of voluntary AEMT accreditation.
2. Develop an overarching data management strategy that results in efficiency and value for staff and constituents.
3. Develop resources and programs to support (new) program directors with the accreditation process.
4. Launch a communications program that promotes and strengthens relationships through a variety of targeted interfaces.
5. Provide accreditation services for paramedic educational programs globally, taking deliberate action to market our services to an international audience.

