



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
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Commissioner

**New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Council  
March 9, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting called to order:** March 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m. – Robert Karch

**Roll Call** – Robert Karch

**Approval of Previous Minutes** – Motion to accept: Andy Lovell, Seconded: John Butterweck  
Passed **Yea: 13 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**

**Miscellaneous Updates** – Dr. Mark Merlin

- Next meeting Jun 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:00 am. The location for this meeting is to be determined, but it is anticipated that we will be in-person

**Legislative Update** – Zachary Raab

- The legislative report consisted of no new legislation. All pending bills were carried over from prior legislative sessions

**Air Medical** – No representative

- No Report

**BLS Subcommittee** – Andy Lovell

- Concerns about patients being transported in handcuffs. There has been pushback from local law enforcement on transporting patients with handcuffs in front, rather than behind, due to their reported staffing issues
- Group discussed supraglottic airway placement by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)

**Training Fund** – Dr. Stephen Vetrano

- Prior meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, was canceled due to lack of quorum, no report
- Dr. Vetrano asked the group if they were aware of a “new law” regarding leaving Narcan at home with instructions for treating opiate overdoses
  - Dr. Merlin stated that he was unaware, asked about the status of this matter
  - Dr. Vetrano advised, “it is now law”
  - Paula Weiler stated that the Emergency Medical Services Council of New Jersey has expressed concerns about associated costs for the volunteer agencies. Ms. Weiler asked why crews would be required to leave naloxone with the patient

- Dr. Terry Clancy clarified
  - The public law was introduced 7/2/2021
  - The law was discussed at the NJ EMS Council meeting in December
  - Tim Seplaki discussed this law with the Mobile Intensive Care Unit Advisory Council (MAC)
  - The law was discussed at the National EMS Conference in November by Dr. Adinaro at the opening and keynote speeches
  - Opioid-overdose related kits were handed out at the conference
  - Tim Seplaki and Eva Nelson have been working on getting resources out to stakeholders through the Five Minutes to Help program
  - The NJ Attorney General’s office and Operation Helping Hands provided opiate resource kits
  - Tim Seplaki explained that he is attempting to source funding for additional resource bags to support the providers in maintaining compliance with this law
- Dr. Merlin asked if the law applies specifically to Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance services or included others, such as law enforcement officers. Tim Seplaki replied that the law states “first responders shall” provide naloxone and that the law includes a definition of the first responder
- Dr. Clancy advised that the law can be found online and “currently there is no funding attached to this bill.” The search for funding is ongoing
- Mark Bober asked, on behalf of the New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs (NJAPP), if there was one single leave-behind document or template. Tim Seplaki replied that such a document is soon to be released
- Dr. Clancy advised that the law is currently in effect and has been since September 2021
- Tim Seplaki offered to answer any further questions on this matter after the meeting

**Communications - Joseph Burlew**

- The records for basic telecommunications and emergency medical dispatching certifications are being migrated onto ImageTrend. Charles Mars clarified that records had been maintained on an old Access platform, and out of concern for losing this data, the records are being moved onto an ImageTrend platform
- There are “a number of PSAPs that are using third-party software that isn’t covered under current regulations”
- Next-generation 911 is entering public comment period in the next two weeks

**EMS for Children (EMSC) – No representative**

- No report

**Trauma Center Council - Vacant**

### **MICU Advisory Council (MAC) – Dr. Barbara Schreibman**

- Next meeting is scheduled for 3/14/2022, where the new protocols will be finalized and submitted to OEMS for approval
- Will discuss proper PPE for EMS upon expiration of waiver
- There is a need to disseminate the Rapid Arterial Occlusion Evaluation (RACE) score more widely to emergency departments, to prevent confusion about field assessment of stroke patients
- Discussion about the volunteer paramedic law
  - Dr. Schreibman noted that this will change the way ALS care is provided in NJ
- Dr. Schriebman echoed earlier concerns surrounding the naloxone leave-behind law

### **Specialty Care Transportation Unit (SCTU) Committee - Vacant**

- No Report

### **OEMS – Dr. Terry Clancy**

- Introduced Kirsten Venezia, NJOEMS Nursing Consultant
  - Kirsten will be handling rapid sequence induction (RSI) review, SCTU committee, and clinical investigations
  - Kirsten will also be representing the NJOEMS on the stroke advisory committee
- NJOEMS has hired another nursing consultant who will be starting by the end of March
- Dr. Clancy announced some changes in department structure
  - Candace Gardner is now the Program Manager, and oversees the office's operational sections
  - Dan Kazar is the acting Chief of Education, Licensure, and Enforcement, and will be the point of contact for any issues with licensing and enforcement going forward
  - Eric Hicken is now the fulltime EMSC Coordinator
- Governor Murphy lifted the public health emergency on March 7, 2022
  - There is an appendix associated with this statement for current executive orders and waivers regarding EMS that are still in effect
- NJ P.L. 2021, c.477 modifies crewmember requirements for certain EMS units in NJ
  - This law only applies to the state regulated and licensed agencies that provide EMS service in NJ
  - NJOEMS does not regulate unlicensed volunteers, and therefore this law does not apply to those agencies
  - The regular COVID Impact Reports will no longer be published
  - NJ Executive Order 281 permits some gubernatorial powers to continue under the Disaster Control Act, and thus NJOEMS will be determining which of the COVID-19-related waivers still apply to the EMS community
  - National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) 3.5 is being rolled out and NJOEMS will be bringing in health data specialists to improve the quality of data gathered from electronic charts that are submitted by our EMS crews in NJ. Dr. Clancy requested that EMS providers contact their ePCR vendor to ensure that there are updates implemented to match the data generation and gathering needs of NEMSIS 3.5.

- Four NJ EMS agencies remain noncompliant with the state ePCR requirement, and are thus in violation of state law
  - Norma Alliance
  - Roxbury Fire Co. 1 First Aid Squad
  - Roxbury Fire Co. 3 First Aid Squad
  - Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance Corps
- This year's National Conference on EMS, hosted by NJOEMS, will be from November 3<sup>rd</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with a pre-conference day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. NJOEMS and the conference organizers will issue their call for speakers and accept annual EMS award nominations in March, 2022
- Dr. Clancy confirmed that the waiver imposing specific PPE requirements remains in effect
- The committee discussed the language in the volunteer paramedic law. Specifically not contacting medical control if standing orders are not exceeded, and how it would impact current, non-volunteer, paramedic agencies and units. Dr. Clancy explained that this is an ongoing discussion with the NJ Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance (OLRC), along with ongoing efforts to remove the standing orders for NJ EMS providers from NJ Administrative Code

**EMS Education, Licensure, and Enforcement – Daniel Kazar**

- NJOEMS will be issuing new state licensure decals starting March 17, 2022
- OEMS has seen an increase in injuries to providers and patients from stretcher-related incidents
  - Daniel Kazar requested that agencies review the manufacturer-recommended transport height vs. loading height of the stretcher(s) for the product they use
  - This includes a need to review procedures specific to powered stretchers and power loaders on ambulances
- All new vehicles seeking initial licensure by NJOEMS must submit a graphics sketch to the office prior to licensure, to ensure compliance prior to inspection
- Regulatory inspections for agencies with names beginning with the letters D through H are due in June 2022. NJOEMS is in the process of scheduling on-site inspections for large agencies, and will be taking a more regional approach to facilitate ease of inspection for all agencies in the near future. Agencies with names beginning with the letters I through L will be due in December 2022
- All agencies must enter their personnel and leadership roles into the NJOEMS ImageTrend licensure management system, in accordance with regulation
- All elective EMS class submissions must be done 30 days prior to the class start date
- Daniel Kazar reiterated that there are no extensions for the June 2022 certification cycle
- Daniel Kazar reiterated that all EMT certification renewals require 24 core hours, 24 elective CEUs, and a valid CPR certification from the start of the individual's certification to the expiration of that certification
- Additional EMT-Instructor candidate screenings will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Daniel Kazar reiterated that NJOEMS does not receive automatic notification from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) about test applications

or test results. All applicants must contact NJOEMS for test verification and validation of test results

#### **New Jersey EMS Task Force – Andy Lovell**

- The COVID-19 vaccine transfer program is winding down along with the pandemic
- At the time of this meeting, 530,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were transported around NJ by the NJEMSTF
- Bucky Buchanan has been hired full-time with the NJESMTF
- NJEMSTF is waiting for additional grant money to replace some of their aging physical assets
- NJEMSTF will be having an in-person meeting for all members on May 25, 2022

**Motion to Approve Committee Reports:** Motion by Andy Lovell, seconded by Dr. Steven Vetrano

#### **Public Comment**

- None

#### **New Business**

- Dan Kazar explained that new bylaws for all public council meetings must be voted on during this meeting with a roll call vote, according to guidance from OLRC. The bylaws have been updated to reflect ethics requirements and adherence to the mandates of the Open Public Meetings Act
- Ron Murphy asked about penalty actions associated with leaving naloxone behind with an overdose patient. He also inquired about guidelines for patient education associated with the leave-behind program
  - Tim Seplaki advised that penalties would be defined by the Attorney General's office
  - Tim Seplaki advised that OEMS is developing sample documentation for “teach back” of the layperson by first responders. This will be released soon
- Roll Call Vote to accept the updated bylaws: **Yea: 17 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**

#### **Old Business**

- None

**Next NJEMSC Meeting Will Be Held June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Location to Be Determined**

#### **Motion to adjourn: 11:00 a.m.**

- Motion: **Andy Lovell** Seconded: **Mark Merlin**
- Discussion: None
- Motion to accept: **Yea: 17 Nay: 0 Abstain: 0**