



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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Governor

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Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM  
Acting Commissioner

**Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Council  
MINUTES of December 12, 2023**

**Members Present:** Dr. Navin Ariyaprakai (video), Dr. Maya Baas (video), Ms. Debra Bell (video), Ms. Kelly Boyd (video), Dr. Frank Castello (video), Ms. Marvella Cephas (video), Dr. Angela D'Alessandro (video), Dr. Lisa Drago (video), Dr. Ernest Leva (video), Dr. Mark McCollum (video), Dr. Neil Miele (video), Ms. Sonia Rita (video), Mr. Daniel Sullivan (video)

**Members Absent:** Dr. Jeanne Craft, Ms. Maureen Donnelly, Mr. John Napolitano, Dr. Nilesh Patel, Dr. Anderson Richard, Ms. Denise Serbay.

**Guests/Attendees:** Dr. Louis DiFazio (video), Dr. Richard Flyer (video)

**Dept. of Health:** Ms. Candace Gardner (video), Mr. Eric Hicken (video), Ms. Dana Johnson (video), Mr. Daniel Kazar (video), Ms. Fatima Manzoor (video), Mr. Colin Taylor (video)

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Council convened virtually on December 12, 2023, via GoToMeeting, 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/](http://www.nj.gov/health/ems/)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the September 2023 meeting were distributed to the members of the council via email before this meeting and were voted on for approval

*Motion to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes (Dr. D'Alessandro). Seconded (Mr. Sullivan). Approved (Unanimous)*

## **COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Chairperson's Report – Dr. Drago**

- Dr. Drago informed the council she attended the Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council meeting on December 11, 2023. Currently awaiting an update on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Protocols
- Dr. Drago attended the National Conference on EMS
  - Encouraged council members to consider attending future conferences and to present topics related to pediatric care that align with their passions
  - Congratulated Ms. Rita for presenting the Outstanding EMS Action by a Youth Award to the award nominee
- Assisted with reviewing and providing feedback for the Always Ready for Children Emergency Department (ARC-ED) application
- Emphasized to council members the importance of connecting with EMS agencies and completing the Always Ready for Children Emergency Medical Services (ARC-EMS) Application

### **OEMS Report**

- OEMS Update – Ms. Gardner
  - Provided the council with an update that the EMS Medical Director position is now closed and the Department is in the process of conducting interviews
  - Announced to the council the departure of Deputy Commissioner Hathi and introduced Acting Deputy Commissioner Greta Anschuetz as the new Acting Deputy Commissioner

- Welcomed Nicholas Seran and Ronald Hallam, who have joined the Office of EMS as Public Health Representative 2. They are now part of the Education, Licensure & Enforcement Department within OEMS
- Updated the council on the organization of the State Trauma Council Meeting, noting that efforts are ongoing to finalize the official council appointees
  - The focal point of the meeting centered around the Utilization of Advanced Life Support and the notification process to the Trauma Centers
- Informed the council that the Department is actively engaged in the process of issuing a waiver for non-emergent transportation, slated to commence in 2024
- EMSC Grant Program – Mr. Hicken
  - The EMSC State Partnership Grant is in year two
  - NJ EMSC Program has submitted a request for additional funding, citing a notable decrease in funds from \$190k to \$175k
- EMS Agency Survey – Mr. Hicken
  - The EMS Agency Survey is part of the Pediatric Readiness Survey conducted Nationally
    - New Jersey has been selected as one of the two states and one territory to conduct the survey field test aimed at identifying potential roadblocks to achieving successful response rates
    - The survey will be launched on January 4, 2024
    - Mr. Hicken and Dr. Castello engaged in an in-depth discussion concerning the Pediatric Readiness Survey, thoroughly examining its results
- The 2023 National Conference on EMS and Awards Program – Ms. Gardner
  - National Conference on EMS and the Awards ceremony was well received
    - Encouraged attendees to share recent pediatric heroism stories for consideration in the Outstanding EMS Action by a Youth Award

- The Conference drew over 850 participants, with 550 present at the Awards Ceremony
- The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Kaitlan Baston, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH)

### **Family Advisory Network (FAN) Report – Ms. Rita**

- Ms. Rita and Mr. Hicken diligently reviewed and provided feedback to enhance the New Jersey Department of Health Hospital Regulations. They incorporated more pediatric-focused language into the regulations pertaining to emergency departments and trauma centers
- Assisted in reviewing ARC-ED application requirements ensuring a more family-centered perspective in the application process

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **By-Laws**

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

#### **EMSC Appointment Update**

- No updates

#### **Improving Pediatric Acute Care through Simulation (ImPACT)**

- An emergency medical services (EMS) ImPACT pilot will be launched in the summer of 2024

#### **School Nurse Education Program**

- Mr. Taylor is working on the School Nurse Education Program
- The program will be launched in the spring of 2024

#### **Always Ready for Children**

- ARC-ED is in the final stages of preparation, with a planned launch in early 2024
- ARC-EMS is currently processing applications, and we foresee officially acknowledging the first agency in early 2024

## **NJ Interventions for Families**

- No report

## **Safe Transport of Children Committee (STC)**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Dr. Leva composed a letter addressing the language change in Janet's Law, which Dr. Drago will share with the group post-meeting.
  - The committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion about the optimal locations for AEDs in schools
- Dr. DiFazio presented his perspective on implementing the pediatric trauma levels concept in emergency departments to enhance pediatric patient care, seeking updates on the associated request
- The council collectively decided to extend an invitation to the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health for the EMSC Advisory Council Meeting scheduled in February 2024
- The EMSC Program is actively working on introducing the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Program to New Jersey. Mr. Hicken urged interested council members to contact Fatima Manzoor
  - Dr. Drago shared her past involvement with the SCAN Program and expressed willingness to provide information
- EMSC Staff participated in the Child Trauma Response Initiative (CTRI), utilizing data on crime, opioid overdoses, and death to identify the communities in critical need of resources to manage the pediatric trauma resulting from these events
- An in-depth discussion occurred regarding N.J.A.C. 8:43G-12.1 Emergency Department and Trauma Services, specifically addressing the addition and review of pediatric standards
  - Dr. Drago suggested Dr. Castello compile suggestions for updating the database changes, intending to forward them to the Commissioner

- Ms. Boyd recommended implementing tracking devices for children with special needs and emphasized the importance of emergency departments educating families about these tracking devices

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Dr. Flyer reiterated that making the ARC-ED and ARC-EMS program voluntary is a misconception. It is essential for the program to be actively implemented, with both Emergency Departments and EMS agencies being held accountable for the quality of care they provide

### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

- February 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS
- May 21, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Microsoft TEAMS
- 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 (Mr. Sullivan). Seconded (Dr. Drago). Approved (unanimous)*

This meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM