



August 11, 2014

TO: Sponsoring Organizations for the CoAEMSP

FROM: Doug York, NREMT-P, PS, Chair, CoAEMSP Board of Directors

RE: Highlights from the CoAEMSP Quarterly Board Meeting – August 1-2, 2014

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Board of Directors met in Portland, Ore., on August 1-2, 2014. The highlights from the meeting:

1. **Program Actions.** Reviewed 57 programs for initial accreditation, continuing accreditation and progress reports. The next meeting, which is in November, is projected to have more than 100 programs on the agenda; the most in the history of CAAHEP accreditation.
 2. **By the numbers.** Currently there are **416 CAAHEP accredited** Paramedic programs and **260 programs** hold the **CoAEMSP Letter of Review (LoR)**. The LoR is the precursor to CAAHEP accreditation. An additional 12 programs are On Hold and do not hold either status. The CoAEMSP continues to receive new self study reports every month.
 3. **Workshops & Webinars.** CoAEMSP continues to sponsor workshops with the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) focusing on Evaluating Student Competency. In addition, the CoAEMSP offers Accreditation Workshops. The CoAEMSP is starting its planning for the 2015 workshops and webinars calendar.
 4. **CAAHEP Standards Revision:** The CoAEMSP, under the auspices of CAAHEP, invites its communities of interest to comment on the “Proposed Annotated CAAHEP *Standards* for EMSP”. The proposed Standards were released in July 2014; public comments intended for consideration by the CoAEMSP must be received **no later than December 31, 2014**.
View the document [here](#).
All comments **must be received through the [online survey](#)**.
- Each sponsoring organization of CAAHEP and the CoAEMSP is asked to endorse the proposed CAAHEP Standards, and will receive a separate communication requesting the endorsement.
5. **Bylaws.** The CoAEMSP is currently incorporated in Massachusetts; however, the CoAEMSP has initiated the process to dissolve it as a Massachusetts corporation and establish it as a Texas corporation. One step to achieve this is approving new Bylaws.
 6. **Alternative Pathway.** A concern was expressed by a sponsor of the CoAEMSP about potential candidates who might use an alternate pathway to claim graduation from a CAAHEP accredited program and gain entry into the NREMT examination process. To assist with ensuring only eligible candidates are accepted for the NREMT exam, the CoAEMSP will require programs to complete an addendum to the annual report to identify what each program requires for the courses it takes to be National Registry eligible and to list the courses it takes to obtain a certificate/degree from the program.
 7. **International Accreditation.** Received the first Self Study Report from an international based Paramedic program. The CoAEMSP Executive Committee and the Board of Directors are developing policies surrounding international programs, including the fee structure and the additional considerations that are necessary when reviewing programs located outside the United States.

CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights

August 1-2, 2014

8. **Elections.** Officer elections were held; each elected-candidate will assume the position January 1, 2015-December 31, 2016. The incoming officers are:

Chair: Tom Brazelton, MD, MPH, FAAP (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Vice Chair: Paul Berlin, MS, NREMT-P (International Association of Fire Chiefs)
Secretary-Treasurer: James Atkins, MD, FACC (American College of Surgeons)
Member-At-Large: Joe Mistovich, MEd, NREMT-P (National Registry of EMTs)9.

9. **Pediatrics.** A task force composed of CoAEMSP Board members and other experts in the field, are reviewing data currently available on pediatric patient encounters to identify the characteristics that make a graduate successful related to pediatrics.
10. **Distance Education.** The task force is looking at the role distance education is playing with Paramedic education. This includes students going out of state for any components of the program as well as students taking classes online.
11. **Interpretations.** The CoAEMSP continuously develops interpretations of the CAAHEP *Standards* to assist programs in applying the Standards. The recently approved interpretations include further clarifying the responsibilities of the Medical Director. [View the document here.](#)
12. **Social Media Policy.** The CoAEMSP currently uses Facebook and Twitter to engage with the EMS community. To protect the CoAEMSP and its staff and volunteers, a social media policy was crafted and approved. The social media guidelines are designed to help the agents of the CoAEMSP to avoid posts that are inappropriate, embarrassing, or legally compromising, including posts made in private, after work hours, and to close friends and family.

Our desire is for the CoAEMSP to maintain a solid reputation within the EMS community. We are confident that our staff, board members and site visitors possess a high caliber of integrity. However, to protect the CoAEMSP as well as you, it is crucial to remind everyone of the implications posts could have. In doing so, we believe it will help you avoid embarrassing and potentially incriminating situations.

13. **Next Meetings:**

2014: November 7 via web meeting

2015: February 6-7, location TBD; May 1 via web meeting; July 31-August 1, location TBD; November 6 via web meeting

CAAHEP = Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs

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

The **Mission Statement** for the CoAEMSP

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

The **Vision Statement** for the CoAEMSP

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