



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

The Advisory Council for Basic and Intermediate Life Support Services
MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING
December 1, 2021

Members Present: Mr. Adam Beder (video), Mr. Steve Cohen (video), Dr. William Felegi (video), Ms. Candace Gardner (video), Ms. Rowena Madden (video), Mr. Daniel Misa (video), Ms. Barbara Platt (video), Mr. Roger Sarao (telephone), Mr. Frank Setnicky (video), and Dr. Stephen Vetrano (video).

Members Absent: Sergeant Licinio Carvalho, Dr. Terry Clancy

Guests/Attendees: Mr. John Bush, Mr. Philip Drangula, Mr. Bryan Fischberg, Mr. Ron Murphy, Mr. Tarcisio Nunes, Mr. Chuck McSweeney, and Ms. Jamie Wood.

Dept. of Health: Mr. Daniel Kazar, Mr. Eric Hicken, and Ms. Victoria Holmes.

The EMT Training Fund Advisory Council convened virtually on December 1, 2021, via the GoToMeeting platform hosted by OEMS with a call to order by Mr. Adam Beder at 10:06am. Mr. Beder was elected by, majority vote, the members to act as Chairperson of the Committee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

“This is a formal meeting of The Advisory Council for Basic and Intermediate Life Support Services. 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).”

Due to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 public health emergency, this meeting was converted into a virtual meeting. Consequently, a notice was posted on the New Jersey Department of Health website advising the public to contact the Department for additional information regarding meeting access. This process will remain available should it be needed in the future.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There are no minutes from the September 1, 2021, meeting. The September 2021 meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Members were informed prior to this meeting via email.

COMMUNICATIONS / CORRESPONDENCE:

Ms. Victoria Holmes, new hire of the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), will take over the position of Secretary for the Advisory Council for Basic and Intermediate Life Support Services. Candace Gardner will remain involved with the council under her new job title, Program Manager. Mr. Daniel Kazar will be taking over for Ms. Gardner as the Acting Chief of Education and Licensure.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The SFY22 balance as of November 30, 2021, is \$5,214,858.

Motion to accept the financial report. Seconded. Approved. (Unanimous)

OLD BUSINESS

Eric Hicken: gave report on behalf of Dr. Vetrano who is chair of the Retention and Recruitment Ad Hoc Committee:

- Developing a waiver request for instructor to student ratio's to increase the number of students who could be taught at one time.
- Discussion regarding EMT-Instructor alternate pathways took place. There are several pathways that providers should consider if they are interested in becoming an EMT-Instructor.
- A resolution was passed by the League of Municipalities regarding Emergency Medical Services (EMS) being an "essential third service".
- Many questions have been asked about the 1:1 waiver. The waiver will remain in effect until January 11, 2022.
- Discussion took place regarding improving reimbursement in terms of speed of payment and ease of use of the reimbursement system.
- Abuse of the 911 system is causing increased burnout.
 - Discussed starting a public campaign regarding when the public should call 911.
- There is an all-around need to increase private Basic Life Support (BLS) services.

Steve Cohen:

- Suggested Public Service Announcements to be done to increase recruitment.
- Recruitment is a noteworthy problem across the nation.

Ms. Barbara Platt on behalf of the EMSCNJ:

- The 2021 Emergency Medical Services Council of New Jersey (EMSCNJ) Symposium was a success.

- The EMSCNJ has not received all the vendor invoices.
- Total preliminary income: \$21,194.80 which equates to \$16.62 per Continuing Education Unit (CEU).
 - The EMTTF committee approved reimbursement at \$15.00 per CEU.
 - The symposium attendance and number of CEU's awarded was approximately 20% less than the 2019 symposium.

Motion to provisionally approve the financial report pending Ad Hoc committee review of the symposium line items., Seconded. Approved (7 Yes, 2 Abstentions).

- Additional notation: The ADHOC Committee is to schedule a meeting as soon as all expenses are received.

Ms. Candace Gardner on behalf of OEMS:

- The 2021 National Conference on EMS was a great success
- OEMS has employed new staff members primarily assigned to the education department.
 - Mr. Robert Karch, who is currently away on military duty, will be taking over EMT reciprocity and other certification renewal modalities.
 - Ms. Victoria Holmes will be taking over EMT Initial/Refresher/CEU (Elective) approvals.

OEMS is in the process of hiring several nurses to serve on the clinical side of the department.

- Initial and EMT Refresher Reimbursement.
- The NREMT examination fee increased to \$98.00, which contributes to a financial deficit.
 - The committee must remain fiscally responsibility while finding other measures to offset any future fees associated with increased reimbursement.
 - Examination fees.
 - Increased utilization/acceptance of the fund.

Ms. Barbara Platt:

- We are losing the ability to have EMTs use training fund as many training centers are not accepting the training fund form as method of payment.
- The process of submitting the training fund form and voucher for payment is causing issues with training centers being paid in a timely manner.

Ms. Rowena Madden:

- Same issues that have been discussed in the past keep resurfacing and need to be examined more closely.
 - Response from Mr. Adam Beder:
 - The Council does not have the power to change how things are being done.
 - Suggested changing the value contributed to the fund through each moving violation.

Dr. William Felegi:

- Discussed Gold Cross magazine CEUs.
 - Will be reviewed by Mr. Kazar to ensure Gold Cross gets proper attention.
- Thinks this topic should be fully presented regarding strategy for CEU education and its value.

A recommendation was made to elect a vice chair at the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

- **Where:**
 - To Be Determined (TBD)
- **When:**
 - March 2, 2022 @ 10:00am
- **Future Meetings:**
 - June 1, 2022 @ 10:00am
 - September 7, 2022 @ 10:00am
 - December 7, 2022 @ 10:00am

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:26am.