



State of New Jersey  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
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PHILIP D. MURPHY  
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY  
Lt. Governor

KAITLAN BASTON, MD, MSc, DFASAM  
Acting Commissioner

The Advisory Council for Basic and Intermediate Life Support Services  
MINUTES of December 6, 2023

**Members Present:** Mr. Steve Cohen, Mr. Daniel Kazar, Mr. Andrew Koehler, Ms. Rowena Madden, Ms. Barbara Platt, Mr. Roger Sarao, Mr. Frank Setnicky, Dr. Stephen Vetrano

**Members Absent:** Mr. Adam Beder, Mr. William Felegi, Ms. Candace Gardner, Mr. Daniel Misa

**Guests/Attendees:** Mr. Gregory Scott, Ms. Paula Weiler

**Dept. of Health:** Ms. Judy Faulkner, Mr. Ronald Hallam, Mr. Christian Rios, Mr. Nicholas Seran

The EMT Training Fund Advisory Council convened on December 6, 2023, at Mercer County Fire Academy "Capt. John T. Dempster Sr." Fire Training Center in Classroom A, with a call to order at 10:00 AM by Dr. Vetrano.

### **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). Notice was also posted to the Department's website at [www.nj.gov/health/ems](http://www.nj.gov/health/ems)."

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

In the current fiscal year, 54% of EMTs who participated in refresher classes in New Jersey were eligible for the Training Fund.

The cost of the NREMT examination recently increased to \$104

The EMT Training Fund balance as of December 6, 2023: \$5,342,110.50

*Mr. Cohen made a motion to recommend the Department conduct an analysis on the cost to the*

*fund to reimburse initial, refresher, and elective CEUs for the number of eligible people, if NJ A3772 were to pass. The motion also recommended a corresponding increase in the existing funding stream. (Ms. Platt) seconded the motion, and the motion was put to vote. Motion approved unanimously*

*Motion to approve the December financial report (Ms. Platt). Seconded (Mr. Cohen). Approved (Unanimous)*

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from the June 2023 meeting were distributed to the members of the committee via email prior to this meeting and paper copies were distributed at the beginning of the meeting for reference

*Motion to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes (Mr. Setnicky) Seconded (Ms. Platt) Approved (Unanimous)*

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Platt announced that the Gold Cross is looking for new publisher. Discussed the possibility of moving the magazine to an electronic version

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Discussed Bill A3772 which would increase the number of EMS providers that would be eligible to utilize the Training Fund

### **OEMS Report – Mr. Kazar**

- EMS Medical Director position was posted. The Department is in the process of conducting interviews
- Dr. Hathi has departed from her role as Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health
- Welcomed Greta Anschuetz as Acting Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health
- Welcomed Ronald Hallam and Nicholas Seran to of the New Jersey Department of Health
- EMS conference had over 869 attendees. Awards ceremony was well attended with more than 550 guests including nominees from Ohio and Florida
- This year marked the first awards ceremony where the Commissioner was in attendance. Additional dignitaries in attendance included Director Doran from Homeland Security, Lieutenant Colonel DeMaise from the NJSP, and Assistant Commissioner Johnson. This marks a new level of support for EMS

- EMSC & Special Projects will be conducting their next online education class on Monday December 18, 2023, from 10:45 AM – 12:00 PM. Please monitor your email for future free CEU opportunities
- Culture of Safety/Safety Committee has started meeting again and will be focusing on Mental Health, lifting and moving, and re-evaluating lights and sirens/emergency transport. Anyone interested in participating contact Colin Taylor
- EMSC has identified topics of interest within the school nursing community and are currently in the process of identifying speakers to offer school nurse education in early 2024
- Staff successfully completed the National Child Passenger Safety Technician program
- DOH is working on implementing a waiver of 8:40 for non-emergent transportation to take place in 2024. More information will be provided in the near future
- Proposed all councils/committees develop a recruitment, awareness, and preparedness plan (at our last quarterly meeting) Does anyone have any updates, ideas, or proposals?
  - EMS Day Camp
  - Career Day
  - High School recruitment
  - Possible funding – incorporate opioid use, recognition, treatment etc

OEMS Education – Mr. Kazar

- The Department will be implementing a regionalized approach for agency licensure. Each region will have a designated OEMS staff contact
- OEMS Investigators have noted an increase in unsecured vehicles. It is crucial to ensure that all vehicles are securely locked to mitigate any potential risks
- OEMS Investigators have identified instances of non-compliance with regulatory and statutory crew-member requirements across multiple agencies
- Agencies starting M-Z, are due for renewal by December 31, 2023
- When hiring staff, please make sure you are verifying their credential
- There are changes to the inspection sites, encompassing the following modifications:
  - Burlington Fire Academy will be open every other week
  - Cape May Fire Academy will be opening Quarterly
  - Ocean County Fire Academy, to be open on the opposite weeks of Burlington Fire Academy

- When taking education classes, please vet that your instructor is in fact an instructor. This can be completed by going to the [www.njems.us](http://www.njems.us) and verifying credential
- OEMS is continuing to evaluate the Training Fund Eligibility list. A revised list will be published in the near future
- New Certification/License Update and Education Class Update Since January 1, 2023

ALS Credentials	BLS Credentials	Education Classes
130	1,921	5,789

- The Department received 35 applicants for the Fall instructor screening session. In addition, there are 14 instructor candidates currently completing the alternative pathway process and 12 awaiting hours
- Upcoming Instructor Screenings, please take note of the day and time changes
  - Saturday, March 23, 2024 – 8AM - Gloucester
  - Sunday, April 21, 2024 – 8AM - Bergen
  - Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – 1PM – East Brunswick
- The Department is not issuing extensions for the December 31, 2023, certification cycle

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Mr. Scott
  - Voiced that the survey language may not be inclusive to all providers
  - Discussed benefits to become an EMR and the potential career advancement to becoming an EMT via a potential bridge program

**Meeting Schedule:**

- March 6, 2024, at 10:00 AM location TBD

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn the meeting (Ms. Platt) Seconded (Mr. Cohen). Approved (Unanimous).*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 AM