



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
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Lt. Governor

[www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health)

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA  
Commissioner

**Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Council  
MINUTES OF March 10, 2023**

**Members Present:** Ms. Debra Bell (phone), Ms. Kelly Boyd (phone), Dr. Frank Castello (video), Ms. Marvella Cephas (Video), Dr. Angela D'Alessandro (Video), Dr. Ernest Leva (video), Dr. Neil Miele (video), Mr. Dan Sullivan (video), Mr. Jason Vitaliano (video)

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

**Guests/Attendees:** Dr. Lisa Drago (video), Dr. Richard Flyer (video), Mr. Todd Rapczynski (video)

**Dept. Of Health:** Mr. Eric Hicken (video), Ms. Dana Johnson (video), Mr. Daniel Kazar (video), Ms. Fatima Manzoor (video), Mr. Christian Rios (video), Mr. Colin Taylor (video)

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Advisory Council convened virtually on March 10, 2023, via GoToMeeting, with a call to order at 10:00 AM by Dr. Leva

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

*Motion to approve the March 2023 meeting minutes (Dan Sullivan). Seconded (Debbie Bell). Approved (Unanimous)*

**COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Chairperson's Report – Dr. Ernest Leva**

- Dr. Leva met with the Commissioner and discussed the Commissioner's plan to reassess pediatric readiness in emergency departments (ED)
- Dr. Leva requested maintenance of records of all the pediatric readiness assessments conducted with each ED
- Dr. Leva requested the council's Preference Statement Guideline for Children in Pediatric Emergency Departments be forwarded to the Commissioner and to prioritize it for discussion at the upcoming scheduled meeting

- Dr. Leva attended the NJ EMS Advisory Council Meeting held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, and requested the council's support for the Preference Statement Guideline for Children in Pediatric Emergency Departments
- Dr. Leva also informed the NJ EMSC Advisory Council of the effort to update Janet's Law and improve access to AEDs in school sports
- Dr. Leva discussed the workforce shortage challenges and was informed about the Retention and Recruitment workgroup looking for solutions in both short and long-term
- Dr. Leva informed the group that he will be attending MICU Advisory Council Meeting on March 13, 2023
- Dr. Leva shared details regarding three significant suggestions by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) for improving ED care for kids
  - Improve the Emergency Information Form (EIF) that provides rapid access to a health summary for children with special health care needs.
    - Dr. Leva offered to write a grant for the development of an electronic application to supplement the EIF.
    - Jason Vitaliano suggested looking for an application that can be integrated with numerous healthcare record platforms
  - Direct admissions to the hospital that don't require being admitted through the ED
  - To address ED overcrowding the following were recommended:
    - medical homes
    - extended hours for outpatient services
    - family enrollment programs like CHIP
    - fully funded mental health services
- Dr. Leva requested the Department contact the NJ Hospital Association to determine if they have a way of accessing pediatric patient medical records of treatment received across any acute care hospital in New Jersey

### **OEMS Report - Eric Hicken**

- OEMS Staffing
  - Colin Taylor has joined the Office of EMS and joined EMSC Team
  - The OEMS is still conducting interviews for open positions

- EMSC Grant
  - New grant starts on April 1, 2023
  - Anticipate getting the Notice of Funding Award (NOFA) soon
  - Anticipate a grant funding increase from \$130K to \$205K
  - There are multiple new performance measures the program will be tasked to accomplish in the grant cycle
- 2023 EMS Agency Survey
  - 100% of New Jersey's EMS agencies responded to the pediatric readiness survey
  - Results of the survey will be available in 4 months to give us an understanding of where NJ stands with pediatric readiness
  - The results of the survey will provide a resource to improve the care of the pediatric population statewide
  - Detailed discussion on how the results of the survey will be disseminated and how the results will improve care and operations
- The 2023 National Conference on EMS and Awards Program
  - The 2023 call for speakers is open
  - The 2023 Sim Competition registration is open
  - Nominations for the 2023 EMS Awards ceremony are open
    - The Department requests any Outstanding EMS Action by a Youth to be submitted as soon as possible at [www.nationalemsconference.com](http://www.nationalemsconference.com)
- Safe Kids Partnership – Car Seats
  - 600 car seats have been delivered and will be utilized throughout the state
  - An ongoing collaborative effort with Safe Kids Organizations throughout New Jersey will distribute car seats during child passenger safety seat inspection events
- Culture of Safety Committee
  - Re-organization of the Culture of Safety Committee is ongoing
  - Will help us focus on areas in which we can improve safety throughout the state with our EMS or prehospital agencies

- EMSC Online Education
  - Approximately 800 people registered for each class out of which 200-300 have attended
  - Classes cover various topics focusing on pediatrics

### **OEMS Education – Daniel Kazar**

- OEMS has issued 345 EMT initial certifications and 30 new paramedic certifications since 1/1/2023, which is a combination of initial and reciprocity from other states into New Jersey
- As of 2022 there were 23,142 active EMTs in the state of New Jersey, of which 11,132 were found on at least one ePCR
- OEMS has approved 584 EMT refresher classes and 813 elective CEU classes at the EMT level since 1/1/2023
- OEMS is conducting EMT instructor screening throughout the state.
- The NREMT has increased the examination fee for the initial EMT certification from \$98 to \$104
- OEMS has seen an increase in the number of individuals applying for EMT re-entry
- OEMS has been seeing delays in submission for EMTTF reimbursement. This is causing a backlog and does not allow for an effective evaluation of available funds
- To assist with the promulgation of regulations, multiple stakeholder meetings were conducted across the state over the past few months
- Transition from NEMSIS to 3.4 to 3.5 is in progress
  - The deadline for transition is March 31, 2023
  - Agencies should work directly with their electronic patient care report (ePCR) vendor to complete the transition
- Epinephrine will be readily available to the community in their first aid boxes like bleeding control kits and Narcan
  - Dr. Flyer requested to see if there was a way to find how many EMT resigned

### **FAN (Family Advisory Network) Report – Jason Vitaliano**

- Reported on the Family Engagement in Systems Assessment Tool (FISAT) established by Family Voices. This is a tool that allows different entities to evaluate FANs and their involvement within EMSC
  - The tool will be beneficial for evaluating FANs for the upcoming grant period, as

one of the performance measures

- Informed committee about the upcoming All Grantee and FAN Meeting in September and that he would be interested in attending if the grant can fund it

### **SUB-COMMITTEE & AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Janet's Law – Dr. Ernest Leva**

- Discussed the current law and suggested changes that need to be implemented
  - AED should be at the athletic field instead of being within reasonable proximity for easy access
- Requested the council to advocate for the change in the language of the current law
- Requested to add the topic to the agenda for the upcoming meeting with the commissioner

#### **Reorganization of EMSC Advisory Council – Eric Hicken**

- The appointment/reappointment process is ongoing
- Dr. Leva agreed to step down as chair due to his high clinical demands which are making it difficult for him to participate and represent EMSC at other State Council meetings
  - The interim chair for the council will be appointed in the next 2 months
- Formal elections will take place at the December meeting
- Dr. Leva thanked the members of the council for allowing him to lead the council for many years and for their continued commitment

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **EMSC Appointment Update**

- EMSC Program is going to be gathering the necessary information and documents to recommend appointments through formal Department channels. Once submitted will take approximately nine (9) months to complete

#### **EMSC By-laws**

- By-Law committee reviewed and made edits to the EMSC by-laws

### **EMSC Newsletter**

- The newsletter is still on hold

### **EMSC Clinical Corner**

- Fatima has been working with Dr. Sacchetti and creating video content for the clinical corner
- Clinical corner with a online video series is under development
- Dr. Sacchetti created a few short videos as samples

### **CPR Quality Project**

- Dr. Leva requested to get some state data to evaluate the need for some quality improvements
- Eric requested Dr. Leva to send an email to clarify what information he is looking to obtain

### **EMS Pediatric Protocol Update**

None

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

- Scheduled to go to Virtua Health Marlton Emergency Department on March 30 for the simulation program
- Data collected from the simulation program gets entered into a national database to see how children are cared for throughout the country
- ImPACTS for EMS providers is in the final stages of development
- Currently there are 4 more states including New Jersey with an ImPACTS program in place
- Low pediatric volume agencies will be the first to participate in the program

### **Always Ready for Children Program (ED/EMS)**

- Some of the requirements are:
  - Successful completion of the pediatric readiness assessment
  - Measure weights in kilograms

- Have a designated Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC)
- Pediatric education for staff
- Interfacility guidelines and agreements
- Pediatric readiness survey for the emergency department is ready to be launched

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

- School nurse education program will resume in fall 2023
- Currently, conducting a survey to identify topics of interest for nurses

#### **Telemedicine Project - Dr. Richard Flyer**

- It was recommended Dr. Leva bring the topic up at the upcoming MAC Advisory Meeting
- Assistant Commissioner Johnson informed the committee that the office is currently looking at different plans throughout the state post-pandemic and believes it is the right time to review this project

#### **NJ Interventions for Families – Brenda Braun (ENA)**

None

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

- The purpose of the committee is to create guidelines and standards for safely transporting pediatric patients
- NASEMSO signed a contract with the federal government to secure funds to start the project
- All 3 phases of testing, when fully funded, will be approximately \$3.2 million
- The testing will be complete in the next 4-5 years

#### **Cannabis Overdoses and Poisoning Education and Prevention**

- There has been a surge of overdoses since cannabis has been decriminalized and can be used for recreational purposes in the state
- The EMSC Program is developing Overdose Prevention Programs and working with New Jersey Poison Control Center

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

- June 8, 2023, at 10:00 AM @ the NJ DOH 55 N. Willow Street (Room 112) Trenton, NJ 08618
- September 7, 2023, at 10:00 AM location TBD
- December 14, 2023, at 10:00 AM location TBD

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn the meeting (Dr. Leva). Seconded. Approved (unanimous)*

Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM