



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

The Advisory Council for Basic and Intermediate Life Support Services
MINUTES of March 1, 2023

Members Present: Mr. Steve Cohen, Ms. Candace Gardner, Ms. Rowena Madden, Mr. Daniel Misa, Mr. Roger Sarao, Dr. Stephen Vetrano, and Ms. Paula Weiler

Members Absent: Sgt. Licinio Carvalho, Dr. William Felegi, Mr. Frank Setnicky, Mr. Greg Scott

Guests/Attendees: Ms. Margaret Keavney and Ms. Barbara Vaning

Dept. of Health: Ms. Judy Faulkner, Ms. Victoria Holmes, Ms. Dana Johnson, Mr. Daniel Kazar, Mr. Colin Taylor,

The EMT Training Fund Advisory Council convened on March 1, 2023, at Mercer County Fire Academy "Capt. John T. Dempster Sr." Fire Training Center in Classroom A, with Dr. Vetrano's a call to order at 10:05 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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Introduction of the new Assistant Commissioner, Ms. Dana Johnson

The committee inquired about the ability of the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) Finance Department to present an in-person breakdown of the fund's financial status.

Assistant Commissioner Johnson advised that this would be logistically difficult and encouraged other ideas

Discussion regarding the increase of the reimbursement rate ensued, with hesitation to increase the reimbursement rate due to increased testing costs, current fund status, and stagnant fund sourcing

The committee requested each quarterly report be included with the financial report to track fiscal trending.

Ms. Gardner clarified that one of the committee's priorities should be developing a contingency plan in the event the fund is depleted

Ms. Madden asked OEMS to put together a list of solutions on how to resolve financial issues and present them to the committee. Ms. Gardner advised that the committee is responsible for coming up with ideas and solutions to make recommendations to the Department

Mr. Kazar explained the updated method for how reimbursement requests are processed, noting that agencies are now notified when OEMS receives and processes the voucher for payment with finance.

Some training fund eligible agencies are requesting and submitting for reimbursement directly to their agency because they paid the instructor directly. The Department provides reimbursement to the agency/individual educator who registered and verified the completion status of the education.

The committee asked if the reimbursement process could go electronic. The Department fully supports this idea which will be evaluated based on competing priorities.

Dr. Vetrano requested a "Best Practices" document for EMT Training Fund Reimbursement be written and distributed

Dr. Vetrano requested Ms. Weiler to speak to her constituents about the appropriate reimbursement process

The November 29, 2022, financial report was rectified and shared with the group via email, immediately following the last meeting

Balance as of November 29, 2022: \$3,985,787.00

Balance as of February 27, 2023: \$4,283,595.00

Motion to approve the November financial report (Dr. Vetrano). Seconded (Mr. Cohen). Approved (Unanimous)

*Motion to approve the February financial report (Mr. Cohen). Seconded (Mr. Sarao).
Approved (Unanimous)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from the June 2022 meeting were distributed to the members of the committee via email prior to this meeting and were voted on for approval

*Motion to approve the June 2022 meeting minutes (Mr. Misa) Seconded (Ms. Weiler)
Approved (Unanimous)*

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION AD HOC COMMITTEE:

Dr. Vetrano reported that a letter was put together by members of the committee which was submitted to the Governor’s office. Ms. Gardner advised that a subcommittee must submit recommendations/proposals to the council, who must subsequently vote to submit the recommendation/proposal to the Commissioner. Dr. Vetrano clarified that the Medical Transportation Association drafted a letter regarding recruitment and retention that was submitted to the Governor’s office, not the sub-committee on behalf of the EMTTF committee

Mr. Kazar reported on the training fund survey, in which only two programs responded (Atlantic Health and Mercer County Fire Academy)

The committee concluded that the current training fund reimbursement rates are not sustainable, though no specific solutions have yet to be developed

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

OEMS Report – Ms. Candace Gardner

- Welcomed Colin Taylor, to the Office of Emergency Medical Services, EMS for Children program as a Public Health Representative
- 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
- The National Conference on EMS call for speakers and awards nominations is open, go to the website (www.nationalemsconference.com) to submit a proposal
 - Please be on the lookout for children under age 16 who have done something heroic or lifesaving so they can be recognized at the conference
- The Department is seeking to establish a Pediatric Care Coordinator to be integrated into every New Jersey Emergency Department and EMS agency
- The online pediatric-focused education offered by the EMS for Children program has reached approximately 700 providers
- To maintain membership on the EMTTF committee, additional information such as a CV/resume and letter of support from your respective organization is required. Ms. Holmes will send a reminder out and collect this information.
- Ethics training and outside activity documentation are due
 - Appointments and open positions on the EMTTF committee were discussed
 - Ms. Johnson advised that records show 13 members should be appointed to the EMTTF committee but only 5-6 members attend regularly, which is an issue that needs to be addressed quickly
- The regulations for public access Epi-Pen education are going to live within OEMS

OEMS Education, Licensing, and Enforcement (ELE) – Mr. Daniel Kazar

- Please review social media policies and advise crews to use caution with social media
- OEMS will no longer accept attestations from education agencies/providers who do not adhere to regulatory time frames for roster/attendance
- EMS Consulting Services has been approved to conduct an Initial EMT Education program at Delran Emergency Medical Services
- EMT Instructors Candidates:
 - 11 are being tested Saturday, March 4, 2023

- 4 candidates are completing the final 60 hours
- 3 pathway candidates have been approved
- In 2021, 19 new EMT Instructors were certified
- In 2022, 20 new EMT Instructors were certified
- The re-entry process for an EMT requires successful completion of Refresher classes A, B, and C and the National Registry assessment examination
- Reportable events: If you believe something needs to be reported to OEMS, report it. (See something, say something). OEMS will determine if further action is required
 - Mr. Cohen inquired if there is a place where someone without a login can report to OEMS
 - Someone who does not have an ImageTrend login can report anything to OEMS at www.nj.gov/health/ems under Educational Unusual Occurrences or the “Contact Us” form
 - Licensed Agencies can report through their ImageTrend account, or via email to ems@doh.nj.gov
- The following classes have been re-evaluated for continuing education credits:
 - CPR and ICS 400 = No CEUs
 - ICS 200 and 300 = 8 CEUs
 - Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMD) is still being re-evaluated

EMS Council of New Jersey

- Introduced documentation to request approval for reimbursement at \$15 dollars per CEU for the 2023 symposium.
 - Mr. Sarao requested the 2022 final report
- The committee was advised that the 2023 reimbursement cannot be voted on without being first being added to the agenda. This item will be placed under Old Business for the next meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Vanning suggested that Mental Health for First Aid be added as a recommended class for initial education. The Department fully supports this initiative

Meeting Schedule:

- September 6, 2023, at 10:00 AM @ the Mercer County Fire Academy
- December 6, 2023, at 10:00 AM @ the Mercer County Fire Academy
- March 6, 2024 @ 10:00 AM location TBA

The Mercer County Fire Academy is located at
350 Lawrence Station Road
Lawrenceville NJ 08648
Classroom A

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting (Dr. Vetrano) Seconded (Ms. Weiler). Approved (Unanimous).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM