



Highlights from the Program Directors Focus Group (PDFG) Meeting
January 25, 2024, 2:00P-3:30P Central Time

The Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP) Program Directors Focus Group (PDFG) met via Zoom on January 25, 2024, for its quarterly meeting. The highlights from the meeting follow.

1. **Reviewed the PDFG Meeting Minutes and CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights.**
 - a. **PDFG Meeting Minutes** (October 12, 2023).
 - b. **CoAEMSP Board Meeting Highlights** (November 3, 2023).
2. **CoAEMSP Surveys.**
 - a. **Paramedic Program Director Survey** – Robust response from Program Directors produced themes centered on common misunderstandings about the accreditation process, identification of helpful resources (CoAEMSP website and staff, experienced Program Directors, ACCREDITCON), and the request for checklist tools and additional resources to ease the process and alleviate the workload on Program Directors. CoAEMSP will share the results soon.
 - b. **CoAEMSP Experience Survey** – Launched January 2024 and active, this survey focuses on Program Director feedback on experience with the accreditation process.
3. **Announcement Highlights.**
 - a. **ACCREDITCON.** PDFG members are eligible for discounted ACCREDITCON-2024 conference registration in appreciation for service on the PDFG.
 - b. **Poster.** NAEMSP Annual Meeting poster presentation on January 11, 2024, in Austin, TX, titled: *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Paramedic Educational Programs in the United States* utilized data from the CoAEMSP Annual Report.
 - c. **Annual Reports.** The 2022 Annual Report was emailed out with associated webinars occurring January 25 and January 31.
4. **Presentations.**
 - a. **Gina Scarboro, Executive Director, CAAHEP** – Presentation titled: *Understanding the Role of CAAHEP in Relation to Federal, State, and Quality Assurance Agencies* addressed how CAAHEP and CoAEMSP fit in the broader structure for regulation and quality assurance. Discussion followed regarding the

accreditation cycle timeline, with PDFG members indicating a desire to lengthen the timeline for programs with continuity.

- b. **Paul Rosenberger, Examinations Content Manager, NREMT** – Presentation titled: *National Registry Examinations* focused on the National Registry examinations development life cycle and how new examination items are determined to be reliable and valid. The presentation additionally showcased the new TEIs (technology-enhanced items) and examination developments occurring at the National Registry. Discussion included the preparation of vendors to model the new types of questions, recommendations to simulate these question types in the classroom, and other health science professional examinations using TEIs.
5. **Social Media Platforms.** The PDFG members recommended LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, and Podcasts as avenues for CoAEMSP to utilize for information sharing. Discussion included some benefits and drawbacks of other platforms and the challenges of varying individual capabilities and institutional policies.
6. **Virtual Site Visits.** Conversation commenced that, while virtual site visits will remain a tool, CoAEMSP is moving toward more on-campus site visits based on feedback received.

Next Meeting: 2024: April date TBD web meeting